



# Suburban 740 News

Volume XLIX  
Number 49



October — November  
2009

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## NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!

Notice to all Suburban 740 Master Masons. There will be a special election held on October 15, 2009 at our stated meeting at 7:30 for the office of Senior Deacon, and any other office which may become vacant. Please attend and support your lodge.



## From the Master Mark Galloway



Hello brothers, so very glad to talk to you in this newsletter because that means we have gotten a new duplicator machine. Because of the great flood of 2009 which erased the basement at the lodge, our duplicator machine went to the dumpster. It just could not be saved. But by the time you read this we have bought a new one. We also had to buy a new folding machine and a tabber. The post office will not allow us to use staples anymore as they get jammed in their machines so we have to use the small round tape tabs to keep the newsletter together while it is making it's way through the postal equipment. This all costs a lot of money but lucky we had some insurance. Thanks to brother PM Joe Marshall, PM Bill Harvey and others, the basement is once more looking like it used to before the flood.

The last family night was well received with a great meal and a harmonica group giving us some super entertainment. The picnic this year was held at the lodge and it was catered by "Franks". It was a good thing I decided to hold it indoors as it poured buckets. Who knew it would rain in Sept.? We had chicken, pork chops green beans and corn on the cob and potatoes salad. All seemed to have a good time. Bro PM Bernice Pitts brought his "corn hole" game which was a fun game to play.

It won't be long till Grand lodge is here again and a new Grand Master will have been elected. If Grand Master Todd Eastham has 1/2 the year brother Herman Forrester had, it will be a good one. I think Brother Herman was an excellent Grand Master. One who did a lot for Masonry in KY.

Don't forget our Past Masters and awards night the 5th Thursday in Oct.(Oct 29th) Bring the family as it will not be a reg. meeting night. Bro Joe Marshall usually cooks that night so I know we are in for a treat.

Now that our elevator is fixed, you have no excuse to miss lodge-see you Thursday.

Mark Galloway  
Master  
Suburban 740

## Have You Met?

### Billy Baker

By Bill Harvey, P.M.

This month I would like for you to met one of our hard working brothers here at Suburban. He is none other than Billy Baker, better known to many as "Bill".

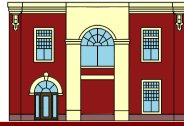
Billy was born near Hazard, KY in his grand mothers house and lived there till he left for Louisville at 8 years of age.

He attended Ahrens Trade School in Louisville and majored in Machine Shop. He started painting at 15 years of age while still in school. Bill also worked at General Electric for about a year. His painting career (working as a contractor) started in 1971 and ended with his retirement in 2009.

Bill met his lovely future wife, Sandra Bell, along the way and they were married in 1965. They have a daughter and a son. Michelle is 21 and lives at home. His son Richard is married and he and his wife have given Sandra and Bill one grand daughter and one grand son.

He joined George Washington Lodge in 1985 and then demitted to Suburban Lodge in 2004. I'm glad to say that I was on the investigating committee when he petitioned Suburban Lodge. He joined





the Scottish Rite and Kosair Temple in 1986.

Bill really enjoys the hustle and bustle of working the French Fry line at our Fish Stand. He told me he really enjoys the fellowship with his Masonic brothers and also knowing that our hard work helps supply donations to such groups as Kosair Childrens Hospital, Crusade for Children and other needy groups..

Bill is very helpful around our Lodge when painting is needed and is currently prepping and painting our basement doors after our recent flood.

I'd like to say in closing that Bill Baker has been a credit to Masonry and to Suburban Lodge in particular. I knew the first time I met him he would be a life long friend. He is friendly with everyone he meets and is just a great person to be with each week. Thank you Bill for your friendship and helpfulness whenever it's needed.

### "A sight to behold" - Brother George Washington's gavel

On Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, the Grand Lodge of Kentucky officers participated in the symbolic act of laying the cornerstone at the new national headquarters for the American Sons of the Revolution located on Main Street here in Louisville. I felt very fortunate, along with your Master, to have been invited to witness this historic event. The current headquarters building is at 4<sup>th</sup> and Kentucky Sts in Louisville. Much research went into obtaining a larger building in order to have the needed space the new place will afford.

As the building has no actual cornerstone, a brass plaque was installed on the southwest corner of the building front. Since it was raining quite hard, all activities were moved inside. Most Worshipful Grand Master Herman Forrester dedicated the cornerstone with corn, wine and oil. It was really an impressive ceremony.

To me, the thing that made the ceremony most enjoyable was the fact that Bro. George Washington's gavel that he used to lay the Capitol Building cornerstone was on display for all to see. It was made from a piece of white marble from the material used in building the Capitol. The handle is of cherry wood and there is a golden metal covering one side of the head, which is engraved with writing about the gavel.

What was extremely enjoyable was the fact that I was allowed to hold the gavel. First you have to don a pair of white gloves and then you hold the gavel with both hands. It did send a chill up my back holding a gavel that eleven presidents have used setting cornerstones across America.

I understand that it took quite some time to get permission to bring the gavel to Louisville and it was quite expensive for the travel and security of said gavel. So I was really impressed that Kentucky Masonry was accorded this once in a lifetime honor. Please see the article about the history of this American icon elsewhere in this newsletter.

Bill Harvey, Sr.



### The George Washington Gavel

One of the most visible aspects of the Masonic fraternity is its long tradition of ceremonially laying the cornerstones of many public and private buildings. This tradition contains great meaning for Masons, and ties the fraternity closely to many cities around the country, including Washington, DC.

The historic George Washington Gavel was among the Masonic implements used by Worshipful Brother George Washington when he performed the ceremonial cornerstone laying for the united States Capital building on September 18, 1793 as Worshipful Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 of Virginia. Also participating in the ceremony were Lodge No. 9 of Maryland (now Potomac Lodge No. 5) and Lodge No. 15 of Maryland (now Federal Lodge No. 1, F.A.A.M., of DC).

The head of the Washington Gavel is made of the same Maryland marble originally used in the interior of the Capitol, and its handle is crafted of a dark, native American cherry of unique grain. It was made specifically for this purpose by one John Duffy, who also made the other Masonic tools used that day. John Duffy was a silversmith by trade, and was married to a daughter of

President Washington's gardener; he is also reputed to be a member of the President's mother Lodge, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 of Virginia.

The ceremonies of the day were carried out with great care and solemnity, and were well attended both by Masonic and civic leaders. Newspaper accounts of the event recall a grand procession from the north shore of the Potomac River in what is now Georgetown to the site of the Capitol, with spectators cheering every step of the way. Although the Capitol was at the time a simple hole in the ground in the middle of a forest, the dignity afforded to its cornerstone spoke volumes about the hope that it represented. To wit, President Washington's closing prayer follows:

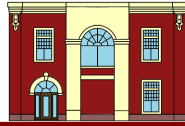
"Certainly my dear brethren, it must be as grateful to you as it is to me, to possess the great pleasure of laying this corner stone, which we hope, expect and sincerely pray to produce innumerable corner stones; and that on every one of them, may spring immense edifices. We fervently pray to the Great Grand Master of Heaven, earth and all things, of his infinite wisdom, strength, goodness and mercy, to grant. So may it be."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, President Washington gave the silver trowel he used to his own Lodge, Alexandria-Washington No. 22 of Virginia; and presented the Gavel to the Worshipful Master of Lodge No. 9 of Maryland, Valentine Reintzel. It is likely that the Gavel was given to Lodge No. 9 because it was the older of the two Maryland Lodges participating in the ceremony.

Most Worshipful Brother Reintzel, who in 1811 became the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free And Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia, retained personal possession of the Gavel until his death in 1817. At that time his family returned the Gavel to Lodge No. 9, then and now known as Potomac Lodge No. 5, F.A.A.M. of the District of Columbia, and it was kept locked with the other possessions of the Lodge at its regular meeting place until 1922. On 18 December 1922, it was moved to Riggs National Bank (now PNC), where it has remained since.

(The above was taken from an article on the Internet, <http://www.potomac5.org/gavel.php>)





Coming Events

October 2009

- 1 Lodge Meeting.....7:30PM
- 2 SOUTHERN STAR OES INSTALATION OF OFFICERS DINNER.....6:00PM Installation to follow
- 3 FISH FRY.....10AM To 8PM
- 5 DeMolay Meeting.....7:00PM
- 6 Hall Association Meeting.....6:30PM
- 8 Lodge Meeting.....7:30PM
- 10 FISH FRY.....10AM To 8PM
- 12 Rainbow Meeting.....7:30PM
- 13 Suburban Social Club Meeting...7:00PM
- 15 Lodge Meeting .....7:30PM
- 17 FISH FRY.....10AM To 8PM
- 19 DeMolay Meeting.....7:00PM
- 20 Southern Star OES.....7:30PM
- 22 Lodge Meeting.....7:30PM
- 23 Southern Star Social Club.....6:30PM
- 24 FISH FRY.....10AM To 8PM
- 26 Rainbow Meeting.....7:30PM
- 27 York Rite Meeting.....7:30PM
- 29 LODGE Past Master And Awards Night.....7:30PM
- 31 FISH FRY.....10AM To 8PM

November 2009

- 2 DeMolay Meeting.....7:00PM
- 3 Hall Association Meeting.....6:30PM
- 5 Lodge Meeting.....7:30PM
- 7 FISH FRY.....10AM To 8PM
- 9 Rainbow Meeting.....7:30PM
- 10 Social Club Meeting.....7:00PM
- 12 Lodge Meeting.....7:30PM
- 14 FISH FRY.....10AM To 8PM
- 16 DeMolay Meeting.....7:00PM
- 17 Southern Star OES.....7:30PM
- 19 Lodge Meeting.....7:30PM
- 20 Southern Star Social Club.....6:30PM
- 21 FISH FRY.....10AM To 8PM
- 23 Rainbow Meeting.....7:30PM
- 24 York Rite Meeting.....7:30PM
- 26 Thanksgiving Lodge Dark
- 28 LAST FISH FRY OF YEAR....10AM To 8PM

December 2009

- 1 Lodge Meeting.....7:30PM
- 5 DeMolay Meeting.....7:00PM



Suburban Lodge Stats

Entered Apprentices:	None
Conferred by	N/A
Fellow Crafts:	None
Conferred by	N/A
Master Masons:	None
Conferred by	N/A
Plural Members:	None
Reinstatements:	None
Demits:	None
Petition for Degrees:	None
Petition for Affiliation By Transfer:	None
Elected to Membership :	Donald Lashbrook

Sick and Prayer List

**Kathleen Vincent** under going treatments  
**Jack Riddle**, Had the flu and his Mother In Law very ILL  
**Randy Smith** Sister still taking treatments  
**Tom Mercer** Lost his father Kermit, who was a 56 year Member of Suburban 740.  
**Randall Bell** I recovering from knee surgery  
**JoAnn Wells**, doing much better  
**Gary Harris**, improving  
**Wayne Craby**, Had the Flu  
**Pat Boone**, Had the Flu

In Memory of...

H. DONALD SMITH 8/9/2009

Brother Smith was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> Day of July 1913 in Geauga Ohio. He was received his Entered Apprentice Degree on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of December 1954,

He was passed the degree of Fellow Craft on the 13<sup>th</sup> Day of January 1955, and raised to the the Sublime degree of Master Mason on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 1955, all in Suburban Lodge 740 F&AM.

He was a faithful member for 55, years, having completed the designs upon his

trestle board Brother Smith laid down the working tools of his busy life and entered that celestial Lodge above on the 9<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2009.

He is sadly missed by his children other family members and many friends. No Masonic Services were conducted.

KERMIT MERCER 9/10/2009

Brother Mercer was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of December 1918 in Graham Kentucky He was received his Entered Apprentice Degree on the 10<sup>th</sup> Day of September 1953,

He was passed the degree of Fellow Craft on the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of February 1954, and raised to the Sublime degree of Master Mason on the 15<sup>t</sup> day of April 1953, all in Suburban Lodge 740 F&AM.

He was a faithful member for 56, years, having completed the designs upon his trestle board Brother Mercer laid down the working tools of his busy life and entered that celestial Lodge above on the 10<sup>th</sup> Day of September 2009.

He is sadly missed by his children other family members and many friend Masonic Services was conducted.



Rowland's Ramblings

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NUMBER 5

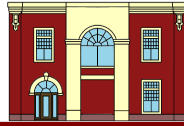
By Joe Roland, P.M.

I'm tired! My wife and I have just returned from our high school reunion in Harlan County, Kentucky. It was my 65<sup>th</sup> and my wife's 60<sup>th</sup> reunion. We drove hundreds of miles and stayed several days visiting places where we grew up and reminiscing about the "good ole days", when we were young and carefree and life was so much simpler.

We enjoyed our visit, and renewed some old friendships with people we had not seen for several years. It was fun, but something just didn't feel right. Then it slowly dawned on me — of course, we had moved away from Harlan County more than fifty years ago. Everything had changed. It wasn't supposed to be exactly like I remembered it from years ago.

Highways that were once two lanes were now three and four lanes. Many of the small towns that I remembered had been bypassed by new roads. Where





was Wallins, where I attended elementary school? It had been bypassed. Even the county seat at Harlan had been bypassed. And where were Brookside, High Splint, and Louellen? They weren't even there any more. The hundreds of houses that dotted those communities had all been torn down. Some entire communities were gone, and new ones had sprung up. New shopping malls and theaters occupied hundreds of acres that had once been farm land. New supermarkets were there. Walmart was there. Fast food restaurants were everywhere. With the building of new roads modernization had taken over the entire county.

Whoa! What happened to the high school at Everts, where my wife and I graduated in the nineteen forties? The beautiful, new, red brick building with hundreds of kids running in the halls and slamming lockers was a gutted shell now. It had stood in the way of progress, and along with three other high schools in the county had been closed. A huge, ultra modern, multi-million dollar complex that would accommodate all the students from the four old schools had been built. It wasn't the nineteen forties and fifties any more.

But I think I got my biggest shock when I saw that the building where I had operated my dry cleaning business after returning from the Marine Corps in World War II had been demolished, I couldn't believe it. I loved that old building. I had spent eleven years of my life there, and now it was an overflow parking lot for Everts city hall, and the police and fire departments. How could they do this to me?

The Everts Congregational Christian Church where Eva and I got married more than 60 years ago was the only thing that hadn't changed much. It was a big, beautiful building then, and it's a beautiful building now. A new entrance had been built, and it is now a United Methodist Church, but we loved the church, and renewed our marriage vows there at our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary ten years ago.

With the decline of the coal industry many people left Harlan county many years ago, and went to work in other states. Many of those people have retired now, and have moved back to spend their leisure years in the beautiful mountains of Harlan County. Today there are million dollar homes in Harlan County. A couple of homes even have helicopters parked on pads behind their houses, and they hop over to Knoxville, Tennessee or to another airport to board jets for longer trips. The mountains have become retirement escapes for them.

The mountains of Harlan County are simple beautiful. The scenery changes with the seasons, and every season is beautiful. Multi-colored wild flowers dot the hills and mountains in the spring. Snow blanketing everything in the winter makes the scenery a postcard picture.

Modern transportation and technology have made almost any place easily accessible now. We can live in the quiet country and still have the convenience of the city at our fingertips. Traveling to another country has become as easy as traveling to another state. Live in the beauty of the mountains and have the convenience of the city only a couple of hours away? Sure you can. And more and more people are doing it.

I love the mountains and I have drawn up elaborate plans to build a palatial summer home in Harlan County, nestled in a beautiful valley between Pine Mountain and Big Black Mountain, where the scenery is unequalled. And of course my private helicopter will be sitting ready for flight on the pad in the back yard, in case I want to catch a ball game in St. Louis or visit the aquarium in Cincinnati, or maybe zip back to Louisville to get the tooth brush I forgot.

Unfortunately my plans are temporarily on hold now because of a single item I neglected to include when I was drawing the plans up. I'm a few dollars short of the two million I'll need to realize my dream. But there is still hope. Send donations to [jerowland@insightbb.com](mailto:jerowland@insightbb.com).

## Suburban 740 Newsletter

Sponsored by Suburban Masonic Lodge #740 F&AM and published bi-monthly. All members and friends are invited to submit items of interest for publication.

Please send copy, in digital format, on or prior to the 3rd Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November to: Jack Riddle-Editor or email to

[jack@ancientcraftmasonry.com](mailto:jack@ancientcraftmasonry.com)

Newsletter due date for next edition:

**11-17-09**

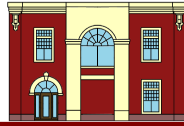
## Master's Trip To Mexico

Recently this summer, I went on vacation to Cancun, Mexico. We decided to take a day trip to Chichen Itza, which is the ancient Mayan ruins. We boarded a nice coach for the hour drive. The tour guide was explaining his ancestors were Mayan but he had been educated in the USA. A very knowledgeable man. I noticed he was wearing the same kind of ring as I, the Square and Compass. When we exited the bus I gave him the masons handshake and a big smile came upon his face. We talked for a bit and then the guided tour started. About 1/2 way through the tour he said to me, when the guided tour is over there will be free time and at that time I have something to show you. When the time came he said leave your family for a bit and follow me as I have something to show you which no one else will understand or appreciate. He took me around to a place tourists weren't allowed to go but since he was a guide we were allowed behind the locked gate. There he showed me a stone monument which had been erected in 1957 by the Masonic lodge of Cancun to commemorate Chichen Itza. There were all kinds of Masonic emblems on it like the square and compass and the lodge jewels. He invited me to attend his lodge that week but time did not permit.

Francisco was a very nice man and I enjoyed the company of a brother while so far from home. It really is true that you can find a welcome hand from a brother where so ever disbursed about the globe.

Mark Galloway  
Master





**UPDATE ON BASEMENT....**

As most of you are aware on August 4<sup>th</sup> as we refer to it now as the Great Flood of 09, the basement here at the lodge took a direct hit and had 5 foot of water. We lost several old records going back to 1902, but we were able to recover many others. It's going to be a long process of drying them out and refilling them. I have them at home in my deep freeze, and we are taking them out a bag at a time and drying them slowly.

It has been 3 weeks now and we have started rebuilding the basement offices back and hope to be back in operation by the first of October. Some have expressed their concerns about us going back to the basement with our offices but this may never happen again, and we are using this experience to learn from our mistakes. Such as, all important file and equipment will be stored on the second floor. All we can do at this point is hope to minimize our losses if it were to happen again.

Suburban Lodge is strong and we will survive this, as I hope many of our members who had flooding damages such as our Master Mark Galloway. We are doing the restoration of the basement our selves in order to save some money. Insurance covered most of the damage, such as the \$8,850.00 repairs to the elevator and the \$10,000.00 clean up, and \$5,000.00 to the lost of the newsletter equipment. We have received some donations from some of the members that will be used to replace computers and office equipment. I would like to thank all who have pitched in to help with this effort.

(Go to the lodge web page and view the photos of the Flood of 09.)

Fraternally Thine

Joe Marshall  
Secretary.




Do your part to conserve by going green! If you have access to the Internet, you can get the our newsletter from our website, at [www.Suburban740.org](http://www.Suburban740.org). You can also sign up to the announcement list so that you are notified when the next newsletter is available. In addition, if you wish to get the newsletter online exclusively, please let me know so I can remove you from the paper mailing list.

You can contact me at [jack@ancientcraftmasonry.com](mailto:jack@ancientcraftmasonry.com) or 502-417-8339.



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# Southern Star Ray OES Newsletter



## 2009 Dues Notice

Dues for 2009 are due prior to August 1, 2009. I want to thank those of you who have sent me your dues. There are only 51 one of our 276 members who still owe dues! If you do not have a 2009 dues card, please send me your dues as soon as you can.

By vote of the Chapter on December 16, 2008, **2009 Dues are \$24.00.** Southern Star exempts members from dues who are at least 90 years old or who are living in a Nursing Home. If you believe that you qualify for this exemption, please let me know.

If you have not attended Chapter recently, come see us on the third Tuesday each month. We would love to see you. The meetings begin at 7:30. If you are unable to attend the meetings, you are still welcome to bring your family and a covered dish to our Social Club, which meets at 6:30 on the Friday following the third Tuesday. We have a great time visiting with each other over a hearty pot luck meal which is followed by a very short business meeting.

Debbie Ballinger, Secretary  
Southern Star #154  
4305 Gaudet Road  
Louisville KY 40299  
502-267-6616

## MEMBERSHIP

Did you know that Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both men and women may belong? If you are a Mason, or a female relative of a Mason, we would love for you to join us at Southern Star. If you are interested, or if you would like some more information, please call

me at 267-6616.

Debbie Ballinger, Secretary

## THE AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOD!

I am sure that many of you have heard that on August 4 the basement of the Lodge was flooded with 5 feet of water and sewage. While all of our paraphernalia was safely upstairs, our old Chapter records were in a file cabinet in the basement. As soon as the water was pumped out, Rick and I went over and picked up the old petitions, minutes, ledgers and other old files. At this time, we have dried all of the petitions and there are only 12 that are not legible. The minutes that were taken on April 11, 1911 (the first meeting when Southern Star was instituted) have dried beautifully. Soon I will begin the process of scanning all of the old minutes into the computer and saving the documents on a CD. Remembering that there was sewage on these papers, after scanning, they will be sealed in plastic bags and stored.

I want to thank the Lodge for notifying us as soon as there was a problem allowing us to salvage our most important history. We appreciate each member of the Lodge and the support that you give our Chapter. We wish you well in restoring the basement.



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Sept 24 – Crescent Hill #265 Installation of Officers** – Louisville DeMolay Commandery Asylum; Installation 7:00 p.m. – Refreshments after the meeting – Gerri Fromme AM; Tom Tichenor AP

**Sept 24 – Harmony #273 Installation of Officers** – Okolona Lodge; Installation 7:00 p.m. – Linda Miracle AM; Bobby Woodruff AP

**Sept 26 – Queen Esther #1 Installation of Officers** – Reeves Masonic Hall; Refreshments 12:30 p.m.; Installation 2:00 p.m. – Delores Williamson AM; Mel Dukas AP

**Sept 26 – Shively Star #566 Installation of Officers** – Reeves Masonic Hall; Installation 7:00 p.m. – Refreshments served after Installation Sherri Dutschke AM; Bill Rader AP

**Sept 28 – Middletown #319 Installation of Officers** – Middletown Lodge; Installation 7:30 p.m.

**Oct 1 – Evening Star #374 Installation of Officers** – Parkland Lodge; Dinner 6:00 p.m.; Installation 7:00 p.m.

**Oct 2 – Southern Star #154 Installation of Officers** – Suburban Lodge; Pot Luck Dinner 6:00 p.m.; Installation 7:00 p.m. – Jo Vest AM; Mike Shuffitt AP

**Oct 2 – Brilliant Star #153 Installation of Officers** – Sunset Lodge; Installation 7:00 p.m. – Mary Petty Incoming WM Bill Petty Incoming WP

**Oct 5 – Purity #116 Installation of Officers** – Robinson Lodge; Dinner 6:30 p.m.; Installation 7:30 p.m.; Dessert after Installation – Martha Garcia AM; Vic Garcia AP

**Oct 6 – Rising Sun #415 Installation of Officers** – Crescent Hill Lodge; Installation 7:00 p.m. – There will be a short meeting, followed by Installation and refreshments afterward – Charlene Bush AM; James Jackson AP

**Oct 7 – Bright Star #16 Installation of Officers** – Sunset Lodge; Installation 7:00 p.m.

**Oct 14 – Oct 17 – Grand Chapter**

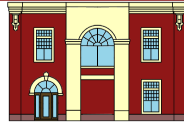
**Oct 24 – Rising Sun #415 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chili & Game Day** – St Andrew United Church of Christ; Time – 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Cost - \$5; There will be games on hand or bring your own. Shares on Theme Baskets, Table prizes. Menu – Chili, Salad, Corn Bread, Dessert & Beverage

**Nov 14-District 2-School of Instruction**

**Nov 21-District 9-School of Instruction**



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# Southern Star Ray OES Newsletter



## From the Conductress

Greetings to all,

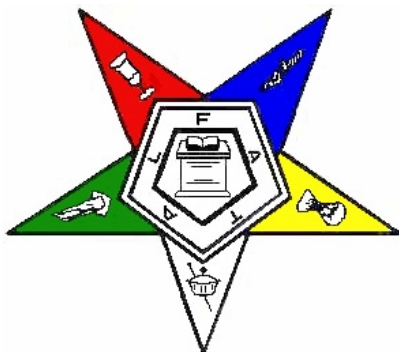
My year as Conductress is coming to a close and a new year with new beginnings will commence in October in the West. Where has the year gone? We have had a good year for Ways and Means. We have raised nearly \$800.00 (hopefully, by the time you receive this newsletter). I would like to take this opportunity to thank YOU for all your support with your time, your talents, your donations and most especially your prayers as we have worked together to make this a good year. We need your continued support as we work together to help our chapter grow. We have a wonderful fellowship. Please come and join us and see firsthand what's happening. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. We do have an elevator for those who are unable to climb the stairs. If you need a ride to chapter all you need to do is let someone know. There are "No Endings, only New Beginnings".

Gail Perry  
Conductress

## Southern Star Social Club Report

Well, it's getting that time of year when it's time to change Officers in our Social Club. We were due to have an election of Officers at our last meeting in September, but we were so short of members present that it was agreed to have the election in October. We had seven members present and surprisingly we had a good amount of food to eat. Several of our members were out due to various reasons, but we hope to be back in full force soon. Sisters and Brothers, I have enjoyed being your President and I hope that you haven't been disappointed in my leadership this year. It is a fun office to hold, even though it is challenging at times. I hope that our numbers will grow in the future. Please feel free to join us on the Friday following the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. We just greet, eat and meet for a short amount of time. So, come on out and be a part of the fun of Southern Star Social Club.

Karen Harvey  
President  
Sou. Star Social Club



## Order of the Eastern Star History of the Order

The history of the Order of the Eastern Star is divided into three Eras:

1. The First Era extended from 1850 to 1866, under the leadership of Dr. Rob Morris, Poet Laureate of Masonry.
2. The Second Era extended from 1866 to 1876, under the leadership of Robert Macoy of New York.
3. The Third Era extends from 1876, when the [General Grand Chapter](#), Order of the Eastern Star, was established to the present time.

Of these eras, the first is perhaps the most important as it prepared the way for the other two.

The real origin of the Order of the Eastern Star, like Masonry, will always be shrouded in mystery. Many researchers believe it had a French origin as early as 1703. By some, this is claimed to be the first inception of "Female Masonry" or "Androgynous Degrees" -- (degrees for both men and women).

There appeared at this time, to be a demand for "Side Degrees" or Degrees conferred on ladies, and quite a list sprang up -- "Heroines of Jericho", "Danger in the Dark", "Tall Cedars of Lebanon", etc. These were extensively used but soon fell into decay for lack of lasting worth.

As to the real origin of the Eastern Star degrees in its Initiatory form, there is not the least shadow of doubt that the honor belongs to Dr. Rob Morris and its real origin comes under the First Era.

Dr. Morris had traveled many years. He had written many books on Masonry which are valued references in many Masonic Libraries.

Never quite satisfied that all the good in Masonry should be confined to men, Dr. Morris felt that Masonry should be for the whole family. But by the laws of that Ancient Order, women are not eligible for its degrees. Knowing he could not change the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, Dr. Morris sought some method by which women could share with the Masonic Brother the same inspiration that "prompts man to noble deeds."

Although he harbored these feelings for years, it wasn't until 1850, while confined to his home after an accident, that Dr. Morris fully developed the Eastern Star Degrees in their present initiatory form.

During this time, he carefully thought out the symbolism and significance of the floor plan and the corps of officers. He conferred the degrees upon his wife and daughters, and some neighbors, presumably having an idea to clothe the ladies with certain words or signs whereby they might make themselves known to Master Masons.

These signs and so-called mysteries of the Order were communicated freely to all Master Masons and their relatives. Dr. Morris and other prominent Master Masons gave many lectures and conferred the degrees on many ladies throughout the nation.

(From <http://www.easternstar.org/oeshistory.htm>)

