

EUREKA GRAND CHAPTER



Bits & Bytes

OCTOBER 2023

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



PREMIER EDITION

FRATERNAL GREETINGS TO YOU, ONE
AND ALL!

THIS MONTHLY PERIODICAL
INTENDED TO BOLSTER KINSHIP,
EXCHANGE NEWS AND INFORMATION
AND FURTHER SISTERLY TIDINGS
THROUGHOUT OUR GREAT
ORGANIZATION.

ENJOY AND COME BACK OFTEN!





Grand Officers



Sister

Mildred A. Lloyd

WORTHY GRAND MATRON

Brother

Jason M. Jackson, Sr.

WORTHY GRAND PATRON

2023-2025

Sis. Yvette Holcomb-Evans
Associate Grand Matron
Bro. Donald C. Hardaway
Associate Grand Patron

Sis. Trina Vinson
Grand Conductress
Sis. Monica Holmes
Associate Grand Conductress

SALUTATIONS TO
MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER
ROLAND G. SIMON, GRAND MASTER
OF PRINCE HALL MASONS
STATE OF ILLINOIS



Greetings. We heartily welcome you to the launch of the new and improved EGC Bits & Bytes Newsletter.

First and foremost, along with the newly elected and appointed Grand Officers, we are honored to do the work of God, mankind, and this Grand Chapter by upholding the tenets of our beloved Order: truth, charity, and loving-kindness. It is our sincere hope that you will join us in our great efforts to be SERVANT LEADERS! Together, we can make and see the differences resulting in effective change.

Next, we are very excited to bring back the newsletter and that Sister Delana Henry of Rebecca D. Boone #128 has graciously accepted to be the Editor-in-Chief. In addition to the website (which will be

available soon), the newsletter is another way to communicate and share the news of Eureka Grand Chapter and your Chapter and its happenings. Please email articles to egcnews7@gmail.com.

We encourage all members to contribute to this newsletter as often as possible. Good works are happening all over this state. We know that you are involved with these happenings. Showcasing these works can inspire other members to join in and participate. Remember, our goal is Charity. When we help the community we ultimately help ourselves.

Lastly, we hope that you will use this publication in the positive manner it is intended for. Please visit it every quarter to stay informed about what is happening in the jurisdiction. We firmly believe that through the communication of ideas, we can and will make this Grand Chapter stronger and better.

*Sister Mildred A. Lloyd, Worthy Grand Matron
Brother Jason M. Jackson, Sr., Worthy Grand Patron*



WORTHY GRAND MATRON ADDRESS

August 1, 2023

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11-12

To Most Worshipful Bro. Roland G. Simon, Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons, State of IL, and Its Jurisdiction, to Bro Jason M. Jackson, Sr., Worthy Grand Patron, to the Elected Grand Chapter Line Officers, to the Honor Circle, to the Elected and Appointed Grand Chapter Officers, to the 2023 PRJ Diamonds of Grace Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons Club, the 2023 Associate Matrons and Associate Patrons Club, the 2023 Conductresses and Associate Conductresses Club, Officers and Members of the Subordinate Chapters, Visitors and to my Family who has traveled to see this moment.

Greetings

I sincerely appreciate the confidence, support, and loving-kindness you have shown by electing me as the 68th Worthy Grand Matron of Eureka Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, State of IL, PHA. I pray for God's blessings upon us all as we move forward. I promise to serve and uphold the Laws and Rules of our Beloved Order. It is my sincere hope that every member will try to be a SERVANT and LEADER!

In the words of Rev. Clay Evans and the AARC Mass Choir, "As I look back over my life, and think things over, I can truly say I have been blessed" within this organization. My journey began in 1989 while riding the CTA bus home from work, I was ear-hustling. I overheard a conversation between two women talking about the good works of Eastern Stars. Once I arrived home, I asked my grandmother about the organization. She was not a member but knew of a member that I have known since I was a little girl, Sis. Zola Payne, PM of Silver Link Chapter #139. Once my grandmother spoke with Zola, the next thing you know I was given a petition to fill out, investigated, and was initiated in the winter of 1989.

As I stood as Worthy Matron in 1992, I was amazed at my fraternal mom, Sis. H Lorraine Jeter, PWGM, because she was ALWAYS busy. She was all over the place, and her fraternal children traveled with her. At that time, I never thought about seeking the office of Worthy Grand Matron. Now here we are, 31 years later, and here I am. Although my grandmother, mother, and Sis. Jeter is no longer with us to see this great accomplishment I know in my heart they are all smiling at me with joy.

I am excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, and I have confidence that this will be a year of inspiration and hope for success, as we continue to move forward in a positive direction. However, I cannot do it alone. It will take the effort of every one of us.

Together, we can be effective by working harmoniously. The plans for this administration are to uplift, inspire, and work to move this organization forward never forgetting those that have come before us. The success of our organization will be the result of everyone working together. To the Honor Circle, you are the Foundation, to the Elected Grand Chapter Officers, you are the Leaders, to the Appointed Grand Chapter Officers, you hold the torch, and to the members, you are the VIPs.

As I look at each of you, I see beautiful, splendid, amazing sisters and brothers who hold so much power and add immense value to this order. Even though we all come from diverse backgrounds and specialize in a variety of areas, two things unite us. A steady belief that we are stronger together, and the willingness and curiosity to constantly learn and innovate. That is the key to unlocking our full potential, and it is what we look for in

everyone who joins us. We will strive for greatness, and we will have an amazing time doing so. Incorporating change. Change can be uncomfortable. We must be courageous to push the boundaries. Always doing it this way may no longer work, and we may need to step out of our comfort zone and practice agility.

Therefore, I ask you to join me in playing double dutch. Which one will you be, the person trying to get in the rope, who is ready to leap in and try? Or are you the person standing on the side just watching not wanting to do it?

There are so many sisters and brothers who have contributed to my foundation in Eureka Grand Chapter and to you, I say thank you. I would like to especially thank those who enabled me to get on this journey to the Grand East, Sis. Sandra D. Smith, Past Worthy Grand Matron, for shining bright like a diamond in our workplace and encouraging me to come back to the order, once I took a hiatus for caring for my pride and joy, my son Jarrell. Thank you, Sis. Paulette Brown, Past Worthy Grand Matron for my first Grand Chapter appointment to Assistant Grand Secretary. I want to thank Sis. Zandra A. Prince, Past Worthy Grand Matron for allowing me to work side by side with her to learn the role of Grand Secretary, Sis. Priscilla R. Jackson, for being my rock and inspiration and I want to thank Sis. Stephanie E. Atwood, Past Worthy Grand Matron, because you saw some things in me that I did not see in myself that helped put me here today.

To MW Bro. Roland G. Simon, Grand Master. You vowed with the previous administration the brothers would assist the sisters wherever needed. I pray under this administration we have the same bond. It will be an honor and privilege to work side by side with you to continue the progression of this order together. Thank you for being there to listen and counsel me when needed.

To Bro. Jason M. Jackson, Sr., Worthy Grand Patron. I thank you so much for taking this journey with me as we work to move Eureka Grand Chapter forward. You and I have a great working relationship and both of us have great ideas on how to move this organization forward, it is time to plan and execute. To Sis. Irene Jackson, what can I say about you? You have been an inspiration to me and have always cared for me as part of your family. I thank you for that as well as thank you for helping me with the design of the sash.

To my wonderful chapter, Silver Link Chapter #139. I cannot thank you enough for your words of encouragement and enlightenment. Even when I got disappointed and discouraged, these sisters and brothers encouraged me to hang in there, especially Sis. Pleshette Hamb-Murphy, Stacy L. Holloway, and Sis. Jennifer Johnson for constantly keeping me on point.

To all the members, thank you in advance for working with this administration and continuing to show your dedication to this great order. We must let our light shine so others may see our great work and want to become a part of our great organization. And we must put God first to accomplish any degree of success. Each of us has been blessed in some way with a gift, let us use these gifts to bless the organization. We must rise to the challenge as we go forward this year. Let's make it a great one!

To my fabulous, outstanding, loving family, those who are here, my son, my brother, my sister, my goddaughter, and my grandbabies, and to those who are not here especially my dad, who is ill, again, I thank you for taking this journey down here to Springfield. I thank you for being on my listening board and offering your advice from an unfamiliar perspective. Thank you for understanding and loaning me to Eureka Grand Chapter for the next two years.

Motto: We Rise by Lifting Others.

Theme: SMILE – Stars Making an Impact through Leadership and Empowerment.

Scripture: Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Colors: Royal Blue and Gold.

➤ Royal blue denotes royalty, and dependability, and gives us insight to look at the bigger

picture.

- Gold denotes uplifting, enlightening, and inspiring and gives us the confidence to reach our potential.

Charities: Autism & Sickle Cell.

Flower: Calla lily which is a symbol of admiration and appreciation.

The meaning of the sash:

- **Top of sash:** Who does not love flowers? These flowers are a representation of the five heroines we strive to emulate, the blue violet, symbolizing modesty and humility, the yellow jasmine, symbolizing friendship and prosperity, the white lily, symbolizing purity, new beginnings, and hope, the green fern, symbolizing faith and immortality and the red rose, symbolizing deep, enduring love.
- **Bottom of sash:** My motto is "We Rise by Lifting Others." This is effective when done with love and inspiration. Our relationships with others will improve greatly when we become an encourager instead of a critic. God blesses our lives when we choose to bless others.

Therefore, in keeping with the tradition of my fraternal mom, Sis H. Lorraine Jeter, PWGM, she had 50 stars on her sash representing she was the 50th Worthy Grand Matron. In continuing her legacy, this sash has stars representing light, guidance, and hope. These stars are within the rim of my favorite color royal blue.

- The hands are a representation of lifting each other. We are living in a self-serving and self-obsessed time with negativity. To distinguish this order in this world, we should continue to focus on building each other up. Two ways this can be accomplished:
- The heart symbolizes love. We should always remember "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."
- The starbursts symbolize inspiration. Inspirational people can come from all walks of life and have different personalities, but they all have one thing in common. The ability to motivate others to achieve great things by showing what it means to achieve it themselves. A truly motivational person is someone who can motivate others without even trying. Therefore, we should all strive to inspire others.

I thank God for the opportunity to serve as your 68th Worthy Grand Matron for the Jurisdiction of Illinois. I want to thank you for electing me to lead our Grand Chapter. I look forward to sharing my gifts and talents with the Order that I love so much. I will continue to be the servant leader who emulates the traits of our beloved five heroines.

In closing, please remember to "use your smile to change the world, but no matter what happens, do not let the world change your smile," so let's continue to **SMILE!**

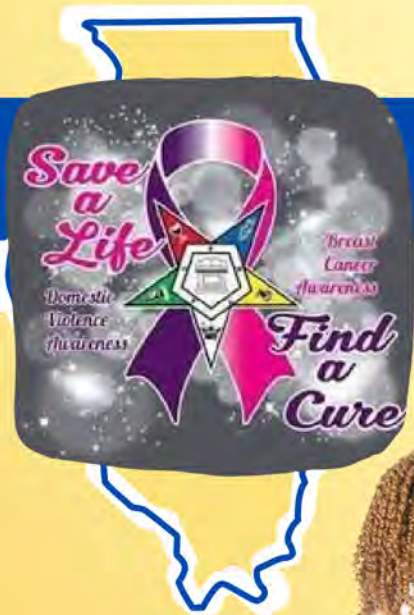
Fraternally Submitted,

Mildred A. Lloyd

Sis. Mildred A. Lloyd

68th Worthy Grand Matron

2023 GRAND STAFF



GET TO KNOW US!

Every month we will feature an interview with an grand officer to let you get to know them a little better. Hope you enjoy.



WGM Mildred A. Lloyd

1. **Do you have a history of family members that was in the order?** I do not have any family members in the order.
2. **How would you handle conflict among members of the order?** First, I would find out what the source of the conflict is with all parties involved. Defining the cause of the conflict will enable me to understand how the issue occurred. Talk to each member involved in the conflict, listening actively to all parties to air out their views regarding the issue, not taking sides or being judgmental. After clarifying the source of conflict, talking to all parties, and investigating the situation, sit down with all parties and discuss the common ways we can execute to meet the common goal: managing and resolving the matter at hand. Some conflicts cannot be resolved overnight. But at least trying to come together for a resolution would be a good start.
3. **How do you keep yourself motivated during times of uncertainty?** Remembering my purpose and lots of praying to ensure I'm on the right track.
4. **What qualities did you look for in an individual to appoint your grand officers?** The qualities I look for in appointing a grand officer include whether the member seems motivated to want to work. The member should want to add value to the team and not just sit on the team for the title only. The member must be visible and attend Eureka Grand Chapter events.
5. **What suggestions do you have to motivate Sisters and Brothers to be more active members?** New programs have been formed to keep all members motivated to do something to stay active. If there is something you don't see, recommend a program, and discuss the pros/cons of the cause to see if it's feasible for Eureka Grand Chapter to do.

HAPPY
Birthday



Worthy Grand Matron

Sister Mildred A. Lloyd



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Velma J. Thames Youth Fraternity, Chicago Attends the National Black Prosecutors Association Youth Conference



HYATT CENTRIC MAGNIFICENT MILE
AUGUST 13-18, 2023

For 40 years, the National Black Prosecutors Association (NBPA) has been the only professional membership organization dedicated to the advancement of blacks as prosecutors.

The mission of the NBPA is reflected in the organization's commitment to the recruitment of blacks within the prosecutorial arm of the legal profession. A further goal is to recruit, train, and mentor young aspiring lawyers for leadership roles in the years ahead.

Chicago Specific Event Highlight included the Youth Conference and Luncheon. Hosted in conjunction with local organizations and schools, the NBPA brings together a diverse group of students between the ages of 8 – 18. During the day-long event, the NBPA empowers students regarding life skills and decision-making. NBPA also educates them on the criminal justice system and related career opportunities.

The Velma J. Thames Youth Fraternity, Chicago, attended the NBPA youth conference, where they had the opportunity to engage in various informative and interactive sessions.

A panel of prosecutors shared their experiences and explained how they began their careers in the field, enlightening the youth about their journeys.

The youth actively participated in a breakout session where they engaged in a mock trial, with everyone having the chance to express their views on whether they believed the defendant to be innocent or guilty.



This was a wonderful experience for the Youth Fraternity. Thank you to the WGM, the parents, and most importantly NBPA for inviting us to your conference, it was truly amazing!!!



Meet the Mother and Father Advisor of the Velma J. Thames Youth Fraternity, Chicago



Sister Cearmease Evans, Grand Director
Mother Advisor



Brother Nicholas Bell
Father Advisor



Sister Velma Juanita Thames
Past Matron of Eureka #87
She was appointed as Grandmother Advisor
of the Youth Fraternity by Sis. Anna Marie
Cooper, PWGM.
The Velma J. Thames Youth Fraternity named
in honor of the late Velma J. Thames,
continues to uphold her legacy of
empowering our youth.

Eureka

Grand Chapter

Matters

Double Dutch

**Like the game of Double Dutch, somebodies got to rise,
Jump into that inner circle, somebodies got to try.
There is a history in Double Dutch, just like this organization,
The Dutch brought this game in,
Like Prince Hall Affiliation.**

**And you were chosen, to be the Queen of this game,
And those who follow you, will remain true to your reign.
In the game of Double Dutch, the ropes are eggbeater fashion,
Be quick on your feet, continue your compassion.**

**You were born into this game, Sister Jetta, had it right,
Sister Smith, Brown, Prince, Jackson, and Atwood,
Is going to keep your light shining bright.**

**Always remember, your Brothers will have your back,
Most Worshipful Brother Roland G. Simon will always see to that.**

**Grandmama brought you to us, Sister Zola brought you in,
If it wasn't for your ear-hustling on the bus, how could this game begin?**

**You have a great support system, Silver Link is forever true,
Your PHA Family got your back, wouldn't you agree with me, Grand Boo?**

**You have the best Worthy Grand Patron sitting by your side,
And all your Line Officers ready to serve with dignity and pride.**

**You have Committees ready to jump into the ropes,
Subordinates' Chapters ready to leap.**

**You are the Queen of this Double Dutch game,
Childish Gabino said, don't go to sleep.**

**In the game of Double Dutch, someone has to try.
Keep jumping into that circle my Sister,**

Then let us see you Fly.

**On Behalf of Rebecca D. Boone, Chapter #128,
As I Remain, Sister Donna R. Gordon Stuff from the Heart**

News Around



On Saturday, September 23rd, the Beyond Wacker Drive Team arrived at the Chatham Avalon Food Pantry, located at 8601 South State Street at 6:30 a.m., dressed in their red BWD t-shirts, and set out to complete their first initiative of "MOVING FORWARD TO GIVE BACK" by volunteering as a group. Their task was to pack bags of food items for needy families in the community. The Chatham Food Pantry distributes cans of vegetables, bags of pasta and rice, a variety of hearty fruits and vegetables, eggs, milk, and meats to families each weekend. The team, along with volunteers from Eureka Grand Chapter, were welcomed with coffee, donuts, and open arms as they worked together to quickly get items ready for the large number of clients who can visit the food pantry twice per month to get the items they need. The BWD team began with a prayer led by Brother Anthony Shaw, Sr, Northern Light #28, and greeted the families while assisting them with appropriate food choices. They had a fulfilling, great morning and represented Eureka Grand Chapter very well. They plan to continue assisting the food pantry monthly, as the center is always in need of helping hands.

If you would like to assist Beyond Wacker Drive with its community initiative, please reach out to the Grand Director, Sister Tracy L. Lashley at (708) 778-1950.

News Around

Eureka Grand Chapter Sisters
Celebrate with the MWPHGL
Prince Hall Americanism Day



News Around ILLINOIS

On Saturday, September 30th, Silver Star Chapter #74 along with Henry Brown Lodge #22 volunteered at the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's in Peoria, IL. There were a total of 772 walkers.



News Around

MWPHGL

1st District Cookout





News Around



Opening of Schools of Instruction in All Districts

Congratulations to Sister Stacy A. Holloway, Grand Lecturer, Sister Emma Allen, and Sister Delana Henry, Assistant Grand Lecturers for a successful and informative opening of the School of Instruction for the 1st and 2nd District, Sister Latorya Simon, District Deputy Grand Lecturer and Sister Brianne Silas, Assistant District Deputy Grand Lecturer for the 3rd District and Sister Chanta Love, District Deputy Grand Lecturer and Sister Brandi Moore, Assistant District Deputy Grand Lecturer for the 4th District.
Job Well Done in all Districts!!!!



News Around



Eureka Grand Chapter Visits Minnesota Jurisdiction

The 98th Annual Grand Communication of Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Jurisdiction of Minnesota convened on September 21st. Members of Eureka Grand Chapter accompanied Sister Mildred A. Lloyd, WGM, and Brother Donald Hardaway, AGP for their visitation.



News Around



Pride of Harmony #144 participated in the Lupus Walk on 9:23:23

WISH YOU WERE HERE

Send us notices and pictures of sisterly works from you and/or your chapter and let us love on you here!



egcnews7@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

TOILETRIES and more DRIVE

Sponsored By Beyond Wacker Drive Team

- Toothbrushes
- Mouthwash
- Dental Floss
- Deodorant
- Pocket size Kleenex
- Men's T-shirts (L or XL)

ITEMS ACCEPTED:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Bar Soap
- Toothpaste
- Men's underwear (L or XL)

- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Body Wash
- Lotion
- Toilet Paper
- Socks

ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF

by

LOCATION

MWPHCL
809 E 42nd Place, Chicago IL
10 AM TO 12 pm



Sis. Mildred A. Lloyd, WGM

MW Bro. Roland G. Simon, Grand Master

Sunday
October 22, 2023

EUREKA GRAND CHAPTER, O.E.S., IL, PHA

Family Fitness FRIGHT FEST

Classes offered:
 Kids Basketball Camp
 Chair Aerobics
 Line Dancing
 Mobility Training
 Walking/Jogging Group
 Bike Ride
 Resistance Training
 Family Swim (in Chicago)
 Meal Prep/Plan Ideas

Ellis Park, 3520 S. Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago, IL 60683 Springfield Racquet and Fitness Center, 3725 Chatham Road, 62704

Saturday, October 28, 2023

Noon to 4pm

Costumes encouraged

\$20
Ticket
Donation

Please contact the Directors if you have questions or concerns
 Sis. A'Donna Murray, 312.669.0683 or Sis. Felicia Randle, (618) 531-7498

Sis. Mildred A. Lloyd, WGM

Bro. Jason M. Jackson Sr., WGP

MW Bro. Roland G. Simon, Grand Master

OCTOBER

Eureka Grand Chapter
CHARITY COMMITTEE

AFKY TAPPLE

FUNDRAISER

SEPT 24 OCT 24, 2023



Support Eureka Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star in our efforts to raise money for our Grand Charity Committee for Autism Awareness

Peanut, Plain, Sprinkle - \$2.25 ea

Triple chocolate - \$2.75 ea

Please see any member of the Charity Committee to place an order.

In Chicago, visit: www.ourorder.org

In Illinois & Iowa, contact: www.ourorder.org

Bro. Jason Jackson, Grand Master

1001 E. 42nd St., Chicago, IL

Orders MUST BE PREPAID & apple pick up will be available weekly at 809 E. 42nd Place, Chicago, IL, unless other arrangements have been made.



UPCOMING EVENTS



The Velma J. Thames Youth Fraternity is excited to showcase their talents as they proudly present their production of The Wizard Of Oz!!!

Get ready family to come out and support OUR youth as they continue to let their light shine before men.

We are inviting all youth to participate in our casting call for extras. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting opportunity, as it will be coming to a theater near you in the year 2024!!!



If your youth would like to participate in this play, please contact Sis. Chmeara Evans, Producer, (773) 842-0371.

Friday, Oct 27th
2nd District School of
Instruction

Keystone Lodge

7:00pm

1112 Kane St., Aurora, IL

 **Breast
Cancer** 

Awareness Month

Wear **PINK** to represent BUT don't
forget your Skirt and white
handkerchieff!!

Judgment-free
zone

Knowledge

Fun

Sis. LaShaundra Humphries DDGL
Sis. Kimberly Webb ADDGL

Sis. Mildred A. Lloyd, WGM Bro. Jason M. Jackson, Sr., WGP

M.W. Bro. Roland G. Simon
Grand Master

— 🔍 +



2023 GRAND STAFF

HELP US GROW!

This newsletter is a work in progress and labor of fraternal love. Some things will be great, some things could be better. We strive to give you the best product possible. Your feedback helps make that happen. Let us know what you liked, what you didn't and/or what you'd simply like to see more/less of. Send us information for the good of the group and we will do our best to produce a high-quality product for your enjoyment, as well as for your information. So be sure to check back with us every month - you never know what grand idea might be featured next...it might be yours!

2023-2025 REPORTING COMMITTEE

Sis. Delana Henry, Grand Director Reporter
Sis. Sonya Clements, Deputy Grand Director Reporter
Sis. Irene Jackson, Deputy Grand Director Reporter
Sis. Tiffany Matthews, Deputy Grand Director Reporter
Sis. Heather L. Smith, Deputy Grand Director Reporter
Sis. Regina Yoakum, Deputy Grand Director Reporter
Bro. Brian Beatty, Deputy Grand Director Reporter
Bro. Tyrone Jackson, Deputy Grand Director Reporter

Scripture:

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

-1 Thes. 5:11

Motto:

*We Rise by
Lifting Others*

Theme:

*Stars Making an
Impact through
Leadership and
Empowerment*



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