

# Washington Amaranthian Dispatch

December 1, 2024



*From the Grand Royal Matron, aka "M",*

**Thank You!** I want to take the time to thank everyone who attended, organized, and donated to our Diabetes Research Benefit. It was such a well-planned, fun evening, with nattily dressed people for such a good cause. I didn't even mind going to jail to raise more funds for Diabetes.

I haven't shared this story with many, but I would like to now with you. I have been a member of Amaranth since Valentine's Day 1978. I was happy to be a member, enjoyed learning a new ritual after being in Job's Daughters and appreciated the opportunity to be social with great people. I spent most of my time as Musician in my Court until I went in the line over 20 years later. I did not attend group meetings as I was either away at college, starting my career, getting married or raising a family. Frankly, I didn't know why I should find the time to attend.

Since my first trip to the Throne, I have held 9 different Grand Offices. I learned a lot and grew a lot. After 3 different "quick trips" to the station of RM, I finally was able to go through the entire 4 years in the line in my Court and that was with HL Donna and SK Bill. I was one of our group's officers and traveled to several installations and Ovs. But not once did I grasp the total impact that Amaranth had on Diabetes research until May 11, 2021, the day I joined the Grand Line. For some reason, it finally sunk in. We are Amazing! We have done AMAZING things through research grants! This fundraising is important! I found my emotions getting the best of me as I started to share this aspect of our order with friends who were curious about this organization I belonged to, or with strangers who asked what I did, and as I was retired, what I did was Amaranth. This is OUR FOREMOST PHILANTHROPY!

I know Each of your Courts were asked to help raise money for Diabetes Research. This happens in many other jurisdictions. Not in ours, at least not until now. But in reality, our fund raising should not just happen at the Grand Court level. Wherever this fundraising happens though, we need to find ways to raise money from outside our organization. Our members give so much of themselves already. These were my thoughts when I visited Colorado Grand Court and heard about their successfully built-up-over-time 5-K walk. SK Brian embraced this as I did. We came home with a plan, texting each other on the plane on our way home. I believe we have a chance to make this a much bigger event that can raise awareness, and funds that are much needed, outside of our membership. I hope I can continue to be involved with the planning of this fundraiser as there is great potential in this endeavor.

**Why Kindness?** Kindness makes the world a better place. Acts of kindness can uplift your spirit in so many ways, as does being **empathetic**, **compassionate**, generous, and considerate. Being kind is all about your genuine intentions to help everyone around you feel safe, comfortable, and understood. It's about giving without expecting anything in return. **True empathy** comes when you're able to step out of judgment and understand from the other person's point of view. **Compassion** takes it one step further. Translated from its Latin origin, the word literally means "to suffer with." You not only feel and understand someone's pain, you're also moved to help alleviate it.

**Kindness in Amaranth.** So, what does kindness look and sound like in Amaranth? It is the member helping set up the court room even though it may be someone else's responsibility. It is accepting others' ideas or plans even if it means doing something different than you have always done or not doing it how you think it to be done. It's calling the member who could not be at the meeting and letting them know they were missed. It is knowing when you should speak up in the court room and knowing when it would be more appropriate to wait until afterwards. Tone of voice is also so important when expressing thoughts and ideas, even when disagreeing!! Or should I say, **ESPECIALLY** when disagreeing! These are the times it may be hardest to be kind for some, but also when kindness is most necessary.

***J.R.R. Tolkein wrote:***

**"I have found that it is the small everyday deed of ordinary folks that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love"**

***The Hobbit.***

## **Upcoming Events:**

December 7 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	Rhododendron Court OV Dinner following
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Group Christmas Party & Brunch Bremerton Court OV

December 25<sup>th</sup>



***Wishing all the Merriest of Christmases and a Happy and Prosperous New Year,***

***HL Andrea***



Dear Members of the Order of the Amaranth, Grand Court of Washington,

As we approach the end of 2024, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for making this year truly wonderful. Your dedication, support, and camaraderie have been the cornerstone of our success, and I am profoundly grateful to be part of such an extraordinary community.

As your Grand Royal Patron, I extend to you many blessings and warm wishes, no matter where this holiday season takes you. I hope it is filled with the love of family and friends, and that you find yourself in good health and high spirits. This is a time for reflection and togetherness, and I encourage you to cherish these moments with those you hold dear.

I also urge you to reach out to our members who we haven't seen in a while. A simple invitation or a kind reminder that they are on our minds can make a world of difference. Let's remind them that they are still a cherished part of our Order and that their presence is missed.

This year has brought renewed hope for growth within our Order. Many courts have shared exciting news about new individuals expressing interest in joining us. This is a testament to the strength and appeal of our community. I encourage you to share our many activities with your other Masonic, church, and community groups. You never know who might be looking for exactly what we offer—a place of friendship, service, and shared values.

Honored Lady Michelle and I are eagerly looking forward to the upcoming Official Visit and Group meeting, as well as our Grand Court Holiday party. I hear there are some fun activities planned, and I can't wait to spend more time with each of you. These gatherings are opportunities to strengthen our bonds and create lasting memories together.

May this holiday season bless and keep you, and may the New Year ring in many new opportunities for us to grow and thrive together. Your commitment and enthusiasm are what make our Order so special, and I am excited for all that we will achieve in the coming year.

With warmest wishes,

SK Brian Wheeler, OO7

Grand Royal Patron  
Order of the Amaranth, Grand Court of Washington



Happy Holidays WA Amaranth!

I can't believe it's already December, I lost two weeks of November to bed rest. I thank you all for your well wishes, and I'm sorry to have had to miss the Diabetes Benefit. I was glad to send Ashley and Justine in my stead, thank you for making them feel so welcome and comfortable. They had a great time! FYI, we'll be using the week we won in Leavenworth as a Hanson Family Vacation, and I'm so happy to be able to provide that bonding time for the kids and grandkids.

I'm excited to report that we've started our Two Steppin' Through the Ritual zoom classes. These zooms are open to ALL MEMBERS. There are seven more classes this winter and we encourage you to see which class fits your needs and your schedule. The next class is on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. These are meant to be casual classes where you are encouraged to ask questions from the comfort of your living room.

On November 9, we enjoyed the Bee-Tea at Capitol court followed by the OV and then our 3<sup>rd</sup> Ways and Means Class, Glass Fusing with HL Lee Heydlauff. Now that's not something you get to do every day. What a fun experience! Thank you to all who attended, we made \$280 to Ways and Means that afternoon.

Our next Ways and Means Class will be the Microsoft Basics Class. Please be on the lookout for more information in the Mid-Month Blast from HL Camille. We are creating a survey to determine what the membership needs to make this the best possible class for everyone.

Dress and vest information for the 2025-26 year is slowly getting out to everyone. If you have any questions about how to make the custom order for your dress, please don't hesitate to contact me. The dress can be found on Amazon, Item # HL000781BAA Officers, Representatives and AGLs are wearing Red, Royal Matrons and Patrons are wearing Navy Blue.

I hope to see everyone, especially you Two Steppers and Stetsons, at the next few Group Meetings. Big plans are being made, and I would love you all to have a say in the upcoming events. December's Group Meeting will be our Holiday Party and Bremerton's OV. It would be really wonderful to see a good number of sideliners. The Hallmark Girls have been outnumbering the Bond Boys at the OVs... common out and show your support!

Finally, as the Holidays approach, enjoy your friends and family. Take time to listen and then respond. And even if you disagree, be sure to be kind to one another.

HL Lori Hanson, Grand Associate Matron





### **Greetings from Papa Stetson**

I hope that everyone had a fantastic Thanksgiving, celebrated with family and friends and plenty of turkey, and **FOOTBALL**.

Now that Thanksgiving has come and gone for another year, we can set our sights on the coming holidays, a very special time of the year.

During this time we still need to remember that a few of the Amaranth Courts have meetings and other functions. Please try to attend and support these Courts that are active this time of the year.

Again I would like to invite one and all to the Group meeting and Holiday Party, at 10am along with Bremerton's OV at 2:00pm.

I hope that everyone has a  
**Very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays  
And Best of the New Year to you Partner**



**GAP Jack**



## November Adventures with the Grand Conductress

Hello Washington!

November is a month that we are thankful. No one is more thankful than I am. I was absolutely blessed with the best group of women to work beside for the Diabetes Research Benefit. While I can't tell you how much we raised this year (we're waiting for that special announcement sometime in February), I can tell you it was a whole lot of fun!!! I would like to thank the following HLs for all the work that they did for this years DRB: Michelle Wheeler, Tonia Alderman, Sonia Thorkildsen, Diana Alderman, Lee Heydlauff, Angela Heydlauff, Diane Rice, Melody Dorning, Erica Dorning, Suzanne Johnson, Julie Dieu and Mary Beasley. But I have an extra special thank you to give. Ann Phelan, you were not on our committee but I couldn't have been more blessed to have your help. Ann was absolutely a tremendous amount of help at the event. Thank you so much, Ann, for everything.

December is coming quickly and group meeting is at Bremerton Court on the 14th. We will have our Grand Court Christmas Party with games, fun and a gift exchange, starting at 10 am. Santa will have a workshop table of gifts to purchase, so you don't miss a shopping day. Lunch is by donation. There will be ham, potatoes, salad, rolls, oh and veggies.....lol. We will have Christmas cookies and after the OV at 2 pm, there will be refreshments. Bremerton Court's Official Visit is Christmas at Hogwarts, so be sure to bring your wand. There will be sweets from Honeydukes and fun for all.

Speaking of Christmas, I hope to get my tree up early this year. I was a bit late last year so here's to an early decorating day at my house! I love the twinkling lights and the pine tree smell.

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and I hope all your wishes come true.



HL Jenny



Oh Wow, Its November! This year is just flying past.

It was a relatively quiet month for our Amaranth schedule: We had an Official Visit at Lakewood Court the first Saturday. Group, High Tea, Official Visit, and we played with glass at Capitol Court the second Saturday. Rhododendron Court held a two-day bizarre and we had the Diabetes Benefit Dinner at Titlow Lodge the third weekend. Richmond Court's Official Visit happened on their usual meeting date, the third Thursday of the month. Bremerton Court will hold their Christmas bizarre the fourth Saturday. Alki Court will close out the month by having their bizarre on the 30 th.

Still looking for Associate Conductresses at group! We have a lot to do and we need you at group to do it. We need to get acquainted with each other, pick a name for our group, come up with a fund raiser, and start planning our year. December's group meeting will be our Christmas Party. It will be held at 10:00am at Bremerton Court on the 2 nd Saturday. Hope to see all of you there!!!

Oh, and I found him, the man-hunt is finished! We need to plan his reveal.

Hope you have a great Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Brenda Pedersen, Grand Associate Conductress





Event newsletter articles and flyers need to be in by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Dispatch articles are needed by December 27th.

Have a Great Holiday Season!

Camille



***Grand Court  
Christmas  
Party***

**10:00 am**

**Saturday, December 14th  
Bremerton Court**

  
**White Elephant Gift exchange  
Fun Activities for all**

  
**11:30 Special Christmas  
Lunch by donation**