

**Inaugural Address**  
**Diane L. Hearn, 115<sup>th</sup> Grand Worthy Matron**  
**Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter**  
**Order of the Eastern Star-Prince Hall Affiliation**

January 3, 2009

First giving all honor and praises to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1-2.

Let us pray:

Oh heavenly and merciful Father God, I come before You at this time to say thank You for this day and to thank You for the bountiful blessings You have unselfishly bestowed upon me. Let me be worthy. I pray for your continued guidance in all I say and do as I enter into the beginning of this administration. I ask for patience and wisdom as I seek to perform the duties of this office and lead this Grand Chapter during the year. Lead me, guide me and I ask that You will instill in me all that is necessary to perform this astounding but pleasant task. I know not of tomorrow, I walk by faith today. Tomorrow is in Your hands and I know You will direct my way, for with You I shall endure. Father God, please know that I know I never could have made it without you. Thank you, Father.

Dear Lord I ask that You strengthen me physically and mentally so that I am able to carry out and accomplish this mission. Heavenly Father, I ask that you bless everyone here assembled and keep us wrapped in Your loving arms of protection and care. Bless those who were not able to be with us today and I ask a special blessing for the sick and distressed members of our organization and our families. Touch them, heal them and let them know that earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal. These and all blessings I ask in the name of Your son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Most Worshipful Grand Master David A. McWilliams, Sr., Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master McKinnon Myers, Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters, Right Worshipful and Worshipful Brethren of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Grand Worthy Patron Leonard L. Young, Associate Grand Matron G. Delores Ellerbe, Associate Grand Patron Howard Bethea, Past Grand Worthy Matrons, Past Grand Worthy Patrons, Present and Past Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter Officers, Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Sisters, Brothers, Family and Friends: Good Morning.

I am extremely grateful and thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as the 115<sup>th</sup> Grand Worthy Matron of the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter. I earnestly express my deep appreciation and gratitude for this honor and I assure you I shall sincerely strive to be worthy of your confidence and trust. As we begin a new Eastern Star year, I want each of you to know I am committed to the principles, philosophy, values and beliefs of our Order and strongly embrace the high ideals, noble deeds and aspirations of our founders

which have been handed down to us. We go forth “Building Our Future, Respecting Our Past.”

I thank my husband, Worshipful Assistant Grand Marshall Percy L. Hearn, Meridian Lodge No. 6, for his affiliation that afforded me the opportunity to join Gethsemane Chapter No. 3, in 1988, under the leadership of the late Past Matron Sophia J. Brown. The first office I held was OES Flag Bearer, I was so excited and happy for the appointment, but from the bottom of my heart I can truly say being elected as your Grand Worthy Matron is one of the happiest and proudest moments of my life. I feel it is appropriate to thank my vouchers, Past Master Jimmie White and Past Grand Lecturer Sandra R. Alford, for had they not felt I was worthy, none of this would be a reality.

To my beloved Chapter, Gethsemane Chapter No. 3, I thank you for giving me my start and for being there for me. I am especially grateful for the kindness you show me, the happy times we share, the hope you give me, your generous spirit, support and the encouragement you continually offer to me. I pray and ask for your continued support as I, along with the Grand Worthy Patron and all of my sisters and brothers strive to maintain the legacy left by the past Leaders of this prestigious Grand Chapter.

I passionately move forward today with wholesome anticipation of a new beginning. It is my desire that we come together as one to create a loving and kinder fellowship in our Order. One caring act by each of us everyday, will accomplish this. A smile, a kind word, a helping hand, an attentive ear, a polite “how are you,” or just a kind “good morning or good evening, could be just what our sister or brother needs. I am not a mathematician, but just one good deed per day would be 365 good deeds in a year and when you factor in each of us doing that times our membership that would make in excess of 511,000 good deeds a year. Let us overcome the things that divide us and concentrate on the things that bond us together as Sisters and Brothers in service. As your elected leader, I pledge to be humble, honest, courteous, respect each of you, respect confidentiality, and to perform the duties of my office to the best of my ability, and I ask that each of you will do the same. One mind, one body equals unity. Unity is our new watchword.

We do not have to reinvent the system but we do have to work diligently to improve and nurture it. We, as sisters of the Order, are noble women whose virtues are molded after the five heroines of our great Order: Adah, for exemplifying respect to the binding force of a vow; Ruth, for her devotion to religious principles; Esther, for her fidelity to kindred and friends; Martha, for undeviating faith in the hour of trial and Electa, for illustrating patience and submission under wrong. These are the principles we are taught to emulate in our daily lives and in so doing let our light so shine that others might see our good work as we continue “Building Our Future, Respecting Our Past”.

Now is the time for each of us to search our hearts and ask ourselves, am I meeting the requirements of my membership obligations? Am I giving enough of myself to my Chapter? Sisters and Brothers stand up and be counted in meeting those obligations and the goals of the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter. Our team is only as strong as we make it. For the 2009 Administration, I seek your undeviating support and ask that we

work closely together through love, peace, respect, understanding, unity and dedication to strengthen our Grand Chapter and our Subordinate Chapters that we all might be on one accord and enhance our service to each other and our community. This Jurisdiction has a rich history of good work. We must demonstrate a united effort to reinforce our fraternal bonds and bring new life to our individual Chapters. Each of us must reaffirm the vows we made when we were initiated into the Order, to bring our organization to the heights that were initially designed by the wisdom and love of our first Grand Officers and reclaim our members who have become discouraged and weary. This can be accomplished if we reach out to them by being united, “One Mind, One Body Equals Unity.” Most importantly, remember through Christ all things are possible. Therefore, we must put and keep Christ foremost in all our endeavors.

During his Inaugural Address Most Worshipful Grand Master McWilliams stressed the importance of family relationships. He stated that if we spend too much of our time with our lodges and chapters and too little time at home, our homes begin to crumble. This year I have decided to institute a “team” concept for visitations at Chapter Inaugurals, Birthdays and Showers. There will be three (3) teams headed by Associate Grand Matron Ellerbe, Grand Conductress Murray and Associate Grand Conductress Bessellieu. A meeting was held on December 23<sup>rd</sup> with the elected and appointed officers of the Grand Chapter to assign them to their respective team. Although there are team assignments for the above stated meetings, all officers are welcome to attend any chapter meetings they desire. All Grand Chapter officers are to attend The Georgina Thomas Grand Chapter visitation to the subordinate Chapters.

#### Phyllis S. Byrd Youth Fraternity - Our Future

Part of Isaiah 11:6... States “and a little child shall lead them. Proverbs 22:6 states “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Our Youth Fraternity Directress, Assistant Directresses, Parents, Sponsors and members meet each third Saturday of the month to train our future leaders. It is true it takes a village to raise a child and we must all do our part. If you have children, grandchildren or you are the caretaker of a child between the ages of 3 to 17, enroll them in our Youth Fraternity.

Our support of these young people should never cease. Please send complimentary tickets for your activities so they will have exposure and first hand education about our Order of the Eastern Star. Let us unite and do what we can to encourage and strengthen our Youth Fraternity.

I invite you to join the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon as we witness the Inaugural Program of the Phyllis S. Byrd Youth Fraternity. In support of our youth there will be no other Eastern Star activities scheduled during their Inaugural, Birthday or any other special activities. All Junior Matrons are encouraged and required to participate in all of the Youth Fraternity meetings and activities. Now please permit me to introduce to you the Phyllis S. Byrd Youth Fraternity along with their Directress Barbara Wells, Assistant Directresses, Parents, Guardians and Sponsors. I present to Princess Matron Kayla Williams and Prince Patron Yao-Rikondja Dyson.

Thank you for your attendance today. It is our responsibility to prepare our youth for the future, to make sure they have the fortitude and knowledge they will need to succeed. Junior Past Grand Worthy Matron Dianne M. Streat said there are *“Two great things we can give our children: one is roots, the other is wings.”*

### Community Outreach

To promote better recognition and involvement in our community. The Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter will continue to observe Community Day. This year we hope to team with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and hold Community Day on September 19<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Health Fair. Hopefully, this joint endeavor will be advertised and the community, family, sisters and brothers will participate to make it a success. Most Worshipful Grand Master McWilliams, the Grand Chapter will support your planned Organ and Tissue Donation program. Many of the members of the Eastern Star are already card carrying donors. We have already started working on ways to excel in our scholarship program; we will do our best to help the Prince Hall family reach its projected goal of \$100,000. We will use your words, *“Remember, we are their future, they can only be our future if we prepare and position them to succeed”*, as our inspiration to meet this goal.

In addition, there will be other outreach programs and activities sponsored by the Jr. Past Matrons of the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter. As in the past, the Worthy Matrons of 2009 are asked to report their community outreach hours to the Grand Chapter so they can be properly recorded. We will continue to give Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, provide clothing to the needy and continue to volunteer as tutors. We will also support the NAACP. We need everyone to participate in these projects, Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Officers, members, family and friends. Our success depends on each of us being involved. Remember we are a charitable organization.

This Administrations plans to continue the Annual 5K Breast Cancer Walk established by Past Grand Worthy Matron Margaret Anderson in 2001. It will be held on October 3, 2009. PM Beverly Medlock will serve again as Chairperson of this activity. There will be various activities planned throughout the year that you will receive more information on later. Please support these activities to further the research for the cure.

To the Past Grand Worthy Matrons of this Grand Chapter, thank you for leaving such a remarkable and impressive legacy to follow. I realize that you understand the need to bridge the gap between saying and doing. You understand the need to have the confidence of your peers and the support of the sisterhood to be a successful leader. You understand the need to lean not on your own understanding but to seek Divine guidance in all your undertakings. I solicit your guidance and support to preserve our great legacy for we are all servants working for the betterment of our Order. The name I have chosen for you is *Luminaries*. It means star, leading light. You are the leading lights that guide our paths.

I also want to recognize and thank all our Past Grand Worthy Patrons for all of their hard work and assistance to the Grand Chapter and for your words of encouragement to me.

Worthy Matrons of 2009, The Ciannas, heavenly winged angels. I am delighted to be working with you this year. I am grateful to have you on this team and thank God for you. As you lead your Chapters remember that peace, unity and cooperation begins with you, your Chapter and its members are the foundation of our Order.

Elected and Appointed Grand Chapter Officers I solicit your thoughts, your ideas, your energies and your cooperation as we enter this new administration. Each of you brings a distinctive talent to this Grand Chapter that will enhance our success and promote our growth. Please do not hesitate to share your talents with us.

Associate Grand Matron G. Delores Ellerbe - My Big Sister, Mira No. 4. Thank you for everything, your encouragement, your thoughtfulness, your assistance, for just being you and for being my "Best Bud." It is indeed an honor for me to work with you along with the other officers during this 2009 Administration to shape the future of this Grand Chapter and let peace and harmony prevail.

Grand Worthy Patron Leonard L. Young, I deem it an honor to share the East with you. I solicit your support and your participation in meeting our goals for 2009. I know we can and will succeed if we work together. Please know that when you need a shoulder to lean on, someone to confide in, or just want or need to vent I am here for you. I want to also thank your family for sharing you with this Grand Chapter.

Most Worshipful Grand Master David A. McWilliams, Sr., it is a pleasure to serve as Grand Worthy Matron with you. I pledge to you the best of all I have to give, my energy and my support. Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter is committed to supporting your goals and visions for this jurisdiction. I look forward to a harmonious and successful year.

Your humble servant,

Diane L. Hearn  
Grand Worthy Matron 2009

My Scripture: I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth.  
Psalm 121:1-2.

Theme: Building Our Future, Respecting Our Past

Hymn: In The Garden

Motto: “One Mind, One Body Equals Unity”

Colors: Purple (all shades) and Mauve

Flower: African violet

Words to live by: Positive thinking is the soil in which dreams grow

Words to live by: You are just as important as you make other people feel