



Meccazette



Auxiliary to the Imperial Court Daughters of Isis
1908 - 99th Year

Mecca Court No. 2, Daughters of Isis
Washington, D.C.

Cecelia E. Jones, Illustrious Commandress

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End of a Century!

Election of Officers Tonight!

At tonight's meeting the administration of Illustrious Commandress, *Cecelia E. Jones* comes to a close. She and the Divan close a very important chapter in the history of Mecca Court No. 2. This year concludes the first 99 years of our outstanding Court and leap frogs us into the next administration. The successes of this administration will be recorded in the history book and will linger longest in sweet memory of Ill. Comm. Jones. Let us congratulate her on her tenure and be poised at attention toward the next century.

Calendar of Events!

DECEMBER 2007

- 11 - Mecca Court Election of Officers, 7:30 PM, Ballroom.
- 12-14 MWPHGL 159th Annual Grand Session
- 18 - RHGA Election Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 24 - GOVERNMENT HOLIDAY
- 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY
- 29 - MWGM Inaugural Address, 10:00 AM, Photos and Reception to follow.

Black History Fact Today!

1926, Blues singer Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton was born in Montgomery, AL.

Good News and Other Blessings!

The 115th Annual Grand Session of Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter concluded on Saturday, December 1, 2007, with GWM *Dianne Marshall Streat* being re-elected as Grand Worthy Matron along with the other elected Grand Chapter Officers. The new kids on the block are Grand Trustee's *HPC Martha L. Beasley* and *Dt. Brenda Hardaway*. Congratulations to one and all!

Correction to last month's good news: *PMAGM M. Ethel Howard* had eight jurisdictions in attendance. The state which was not included was Massachusetts.

Your Health and Safety!

By *HPIC Thelma J. Tyler*

What is Sickle Cell Disease?

It is an inherited disease of the red blood cells which can cause attacks of pain, damage to the vital organs and can lead to an early death. The disease effects the protein in the red blood cell called hemoglobin. The disease occurs when a person inherits two sickle cell genes (one from each parent) or a combination of one sickle cell gene plus any one of several other abnormal hemoglobin genes.

Hemoglobin in the red blood cells carries oxygen from the lungs to every part of the body. Normal red blood cells are round and flexible. When oxygen is released by the red blood cells of a person with sickle cell disease, the abnormal hemoglobin forces the cell to become distorted and rigid. The cell often resembles a farm tool called a sickle. The sickle cells tend to become trapped and to be destroyed in the liver and spleen. This results in a shortage of blood cells or a condition called anemia. The person can become pale, short of breath and become tired easily.

Precautions

Infants and children with sickle cell disease are vulnerable to severe bacterial infections that cause meningitis and blood infections. Early diagnosis and treatment can reduce the risk of infections and death. In 1987, the National Institute of Health recommended that all states screen newborn babies for sickle cell disease. Daily treatment with antibiotics at two months to five years old reduces the risk of more serious infections. It is also important that babies and children with sickle cell disease receive all of the regular childhood vaccinations.

What causes the pain in sickle cell disease?

At times the distorted sickle cell becomes stuck in the tiny blood vessel, the cells pile up and block the blood supply to nearby tissues. This leaves the tissues without oxygen causing inflammation and pain.

How do you get sickle cell anemia?

You inherit the abnormal gene from both parents who may be carriers with sickle cell trait or parents with sickle cell disease. You can not catch it. You are born with the sickle cell hemoglobin and it is present for life.

Who has sickle cell?

Sickle cell is in many nationalities including African Americans, Arabs, Greeks, Italians, Latin Americans and Native Americans. All races should be screened at birth.

How can one be treated?

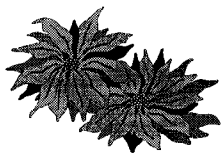
Your doctor or local sickle cell foundation can do a simple blood test called the hemoglobin electrophoresis. This test will tell if you are a carrier of the trait or if you have the disease.

What is the sickle cell trait?

A sickle cell trait person carries one sickle hemoglobin-producing gene inherited from their parents and one normal hemoglobin gene.

What are the complications?

1. Pain
2. Strokes
3. Increased Infections
4. Leg Ulcers
5. Bone Damage
6. Yellow Eyes (Jaundice)
7. Early Gallstones
8. Lung Blockage
9. Kidney Damage
10. Painful Erection
11. Blood Blockage (spleen/liver)
12. Eye Damage
13. Anemia
14. Delayed Growth



Legend of the Poinsettia

Dr. Joel Poinsett, who was the first ambassador to Mexico, brought the bright red star-shaped flower to the United States. Hence, it was named as Poinsettia. It is also known as 'Flame Leaf' or 'Flower of the Holy Night'. The legend related to this favorite Christmas flower is Mexican too. However, there are two versions of the story. In one version, the two small children of the story are known as Maria and her little brother Pablo; while in another

version, two cousins are mentioned by the names of Pepita and Pedro. Whatever be the names, the story goes like this:

There was once a brother-sister pair who was very poor. They lived in a village and they had barely enough to eat two full meals a day. As the Christmas time approached, festivities, parades and parties in the village attracted the children. The gaiety of the season in itself was quite charismatic. Moreover, a large manger scene was being set up in the village church and all the children were eager to go to Baby Jesus and give him the best present. Maria and Pablo also wanted to give expensive presents to the Holy Child that He will love. While all children were discussing, what they think is best for the baby and what they will buy as the gift for Him, Mario and Pablo knew that they had no money to buy the presents and had nothing that they could gift to the child.

Yet, they could not let go of the temptation to see the baby just once and give something to Him. On Christmas Eve, Maria and Pablo set out for church a little earlier than others to attend the service. Since they had nothing to give to the child, they thought of plucking some weeds that was growing along the roadside to make a soft bed for Baby Jesus and decorate his crib. While they were still decorating the crib of the Baby, other children also arrived. Now, children can be very cruel when it comes to teasing and making fun of others. Maria and Pablo were almost in tears for shame and helplessness when a miracle occurred. Suddenly, the weeds burst into bright red petals that looked like stars and were so beautiful that everyone was awed by their beauty. Everybody realized and said that a gift of love is dearer to Jesus than the most expensive presents that money could buy. Ever since then, Poinsettia flowers have become favorites for Christmas decorations.

A new born King to

See....

*Remember the reason for
the Season!*



Happy Holidays!!!