

Feel the Beat

"Did You Feel the Beat" last week-end from Nashville, Tennessee? Well, you should have. The wonderful Montana Drummers started off the official weekend events on Friday night with their usual colored drum sticks and enthusiastic beat. Afterwards, there were many Units delivering all sorts of entertaining performances. Billie Davis, PSQ, was the emcee and introduced two patrols, two beautiful signing performances, a glorious solo, Dancing Raisins, a piano solo, a vocal solo, a skit, more raisins(?), Past Supreme Queens "singing," and a finale performance from the Drummers. I may have inadvertently left off some others too. There was audience participation, and a wonderful monetary collection of \$500 was taken up and presented to the new Temple as its first donation to the Foundation as a chartered Temple. The Membership and Public Relations Committee combined with the Action team to relay how they had "heard it through the grapevine" that a new Temple was being chartered. And, it was, too! However, these generic raisins bore no resemblance to real Sun Kist variety that also appeared.

Saturday morning, the Chartering Ceremony was conducted. There was laughter, tears and excitement as all of the members of Dynasty Amenna No. 164 assembled around the altar and the official charter was presented by the Supreme Queen Cathy Carol Rose. Kathleen Turner, PSQ, was the presiding officer for the ceremony, and the stations were filled by Elective Supreme Officers, Past Supreme Queens and Past Queens. Many presentations of Stepping Stones to Happiness and other certificates were made to the new Temple.

Once the Chartering Ceremony was completed, a Ceremonial of Initiation was held with the new Temple Officers presiding. Seven new princesses were created in a lovely emotional ceremonial. There were 12 Past Supreme Queens, 2 Elective Supreme Officers, 6 Supreme Appointive Officers, 42 Supreme Appointees, 18 Queens, 56 Past Queens, 5 Princesses Royal, 6 Princesses Tirezah, 1 Princess Badoura and some 50-plus Ladies of the Household in attendance, along with 7 Directors of the Foundation Board. Many Nobles had traveled with their ladies, which is always nice.

Friday found the Supreme Queen and a large group of ladies having lunch at the Opryland Gaylord Hotel. Nobles of Al Menah Shrine graciously transported us downtown. Their encouragement and support of the new Temple is tremendous and unending.

Following the Ceremonial, a banquet was held. Once again, we "felt the beat" as the Drummers led the very long line of head-table guests into the banquet room. Kathleen Turner, PSQ, did an amazing job of emceeing the banquet and making all of the many introductions. Cathy Carol Rose, Supreme Queen, was most gracious with her remarks. The Grand Master of Masons in Tennessee brought greetings. Jim Cain, Imperial Assistant Rabban, spoke glowingly about the generous donations and continuing support of the Daughters of the Nile, expressing his sincere thanks on behalf of Shriners International. His lady Patsy is the Honorary Junior Past Queen of the new Temple. Our two organizations working closely together is a beautiful thing indeed.

All Past Supreme Queens who had attended the Instituting and/or the Constituting Ceremonies were presented with Honorary Memberships, which were greatly appreciated. What a special honor! The attendees seem to appreciate the "entertainment" provided by these ladies on Friday night. They even requested an encore!

Once again, the "Heart of the Nile" assembled in Nashville for another exciting weekend devoted to the chartering of a new Temple. The baby Temple is now full grown. The members of Aromaz Dynasty No. 163, Irondale, Alabama, are to be congratulated for all the work they did in getting the job done, and they are definitely NOT the baby anymore!

I hope you all are "Feeling the Beat" as we are beginning another Temple year with the Installation of our 2017 Officers. Remember that this is the year of "Yes." If we truly "believe" and say "yes," then our Temples WILL "Grow, Gather and Give." We ALL must do our part. We are a TEAM. I'm counting on YOU.

Alyce Thomas, PSQ

Chairman, Supreme Temple Membership and Public Relations Committee