

As I write this the 98<sup>th</sup> Supreme Session is history, we have new Supreme Temple officers, and we are celebrating a new beginning in Daughters of the Nile. It is also the day before Father's Day and as I reflect on my dad, I realize the legacy he left me.

My dad joined the Masons in 1960 and the Shrine in 1961. Shortly after he joined the Shrine my mother was invited to join Daughters of the Nile. Their lives soon became centered on Masonic activities and they instilled a desire in me to become part of the Masonic family as well.



My mother introduced my husband to the Shrine by taking us to a Shrine Circus and shortly thereafter he became a Master Mason and Shriner. I joined Qadesh Temple in 1986 and when my daughter joined in 1995 we were a three generation DON family. Unfortunately, my mother passed away that same year and was unable to witness me becoming Queen and my husband becoming Potentate of El Zaribah Shrine.

My point in all of this family history is that each member of Daughters of the Nile has a special gift. We are all eligible to create legacies to carry out our mission and keep our organization vibrant and growing. To be eligible for membership in DON, potential members may be a legacy that is they can be related by birth or marriage to a Daughter of the Nile. Shriners and Master Masons also create legacies. A legacy, according to our ritual, may be the mother, sister, wife, or daughter of a Master Mason or Shriner. In 2005 it was estimated that there were about 2 million Master Masons in North America. Just think how many legacies there are out there just waiting to be invited to join Daughters of the Nile! How many potential members do you know who haven't been asked or maybe have been but said they didn't have time. Propose her anyway! Fill out that proposal and submit it to your Temple. My grandmother always said, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained."

Being a member of the Masonic Family means having an extended family to share in your dreams, hopes, sorrows, and commitments. It seems to me in our busy lives it is important to take the time to stop and let others share their dreams, sorrows, and commitments with us. And where better than at a Stated Session, Unit or Club meeting, or while working together for the Children in the Shriners Hospital system!

Bobbie Balthazor, Past Queen