

Sweetheart Connection

SWEETHEART SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation

Get to Know Judy Edwards

To know her is to love her. When you think about Judy Edwards, words like vibrant, energetic, curious, smart, and sassy come to mind. She will tell you she is always looking to get herself in trouble but really, she is just living her life, her way.

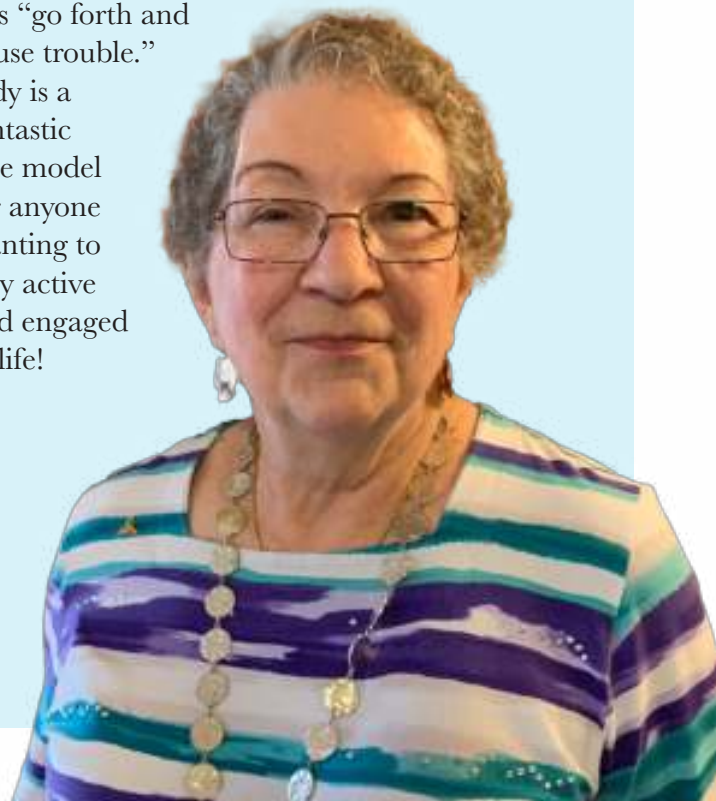
Judy loves to travel. She recently returned from a trip. She often tags along with great friends Lary and Barb for her adventures. She traveled to South Carolina and the surrounding areas. Here are just a few of the places they visited: Paula Deen's Family Kitchen, Ripley's Aquarium, and Brookgreen Gardens. She went on a Pirates Voyage Dinner & Show, Grand Strand Model Railroad Club, and the awesome Biltmore Estate. She is ready and eager for the next trip!

Judy currently has an apartment at Fox Run Estates, a vibrant senior community. She states they have a club for every interest under the sun. She frequents the UFO club (unfinished objects) and the yarn crafters, where she makes baby blankets and hats for a local neo-natal unit. She also makes hats and scarves for the homeless.

She has a long Masonic history. Her husband, Dale (now passed), was a past Grand Master and very involved in Masonry all over Michigan. She is the secretary of Farmington OES Chapter #239, Secretary at Madison Court #1 Armaranth, and Treasurer at Northville Woman's Club. Judy is also active in her church and of course enjoys spending time with her family.

In her earlier years, her motto was "never go to bed angry." Nowadays, it is "go forth and cause trouble."

Judy is a fantastic role model for anyone wanting to stay active and engaged in life!



Sharing Smiles

among other things!

It all started with a simple outreach phone call to one of our Masonic Sweethearts in June of 2021.

Aubrie Terwilliger, although new to her position as a Member Care Specialist in our Live Better at Home program, has had many conversations with members of our Masonic family during her role as the Michigan Masonic Home's Admissions Manager. But this time, the phone call and conversation was different. This time, the conversation wasn't in response to a crisis or concern about someone needing nursing care; the conversation was just a friendly Masonic "Hello, how are you doing?" It was a reminder that the Masonic family was thinking about her and wanted to help if there was anything the Masonic widow/Sweetheart needed. What happened next was just the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Mary's husband passed away in April of 2021. They had been married for 56 years and lived a long full life together having had three children. Her husband was very active in his Masonic lodge, and Mary had been a member of the Order of Eastern Star. As they grew older together, raised their family, and watched their children start families and lives of their own, their involvement within their Masonic life also shifted and changed. Not as active as they once were, their Masonic

experiences were still very important to them, finding themselves "passing the torch" on some of the responsibilities they once had.

It wasn't until after Mary's husband passed that she shared she was reminded that her Masonic family still loved her and wanted to be there for her. This phone call was one example of how the fraternal support is always there for her.

Aubrie and Mary chatted on the phone during this initial phone call for over thirty minutes! Aubrie learned about Mary's children, her niece that visits weekly, and her little dog who she could hear barking in the background. Mary shared that she is still very "spry" and enjoys spending time in her garden, and was just finishing watering her green bean and tomato plants. She was also finishing up greasing some gears on her tractor! Needless to say, Mary did not have any current needs that she shared during this phone call. Aubrie learned that her finances, although tight, were enough to help her keep paying the bills. Mary's health was in order except for some medications that she takes daily. She cooks for herself, and keeps the house, although her nephew comes to help cut the lawn and plow her drive and sidewalks when needed. She can still drive, get to the stores and her doctor appointments, attend church, and anywhere else she needs to go. She did say this year was tough with COVID and she has limited herself getting out and being around others, but looked forward



to the summer and hopefully the end of the pandemic. She shared with Aubrie that she misses her husband terribly, but it helps to talk about their life they shared together, and she loves to remember him.

Aubrie listened to some of the stories and had asked if there was anything she could do for Mary. Mary declined any assistance, as she indicated that she had things covered for now. She was interested in learning more about services or resources she could use to help her stay in her own home for as long as possible, as well as what was involved if she ever decided she wanted to move to Alma and live at the Michigan Masonic Home. However, Mary indicated she didn't need any of this right now.

Aubrie and Mary decided they would keep in touch with a "simple" monthly phone call to check in, listen to Mary's memories of her husband, enjoy some laughs, and even learn about the Michigan Masonic Home admission process, so when the time comes, she was prepared. Aubrie and Mary have been chatting once a month for about six months now, and Mary continues to say

she is doing well and doesn't need anything, but looks forward to Aubrie calling every month!

Aubrie is a Member Care Specialist with the Fraternity's Member Care department, also referred to as the Live Better at Home program. In addition to Aubrie, the team also includes Patti Nowak, MSW and Jessica Fleming as another Member Care Specialist. This team partners with the lodges to provide information, referrals, support, and care to our Masonic family. This year alone they have completed over 5,500 calls and have assisted over 400 members, widows, and family members. Whether it is a simple check in or helping to find resources to assist with Medicare benefits, financial concerns, housing, or long term care planning, this staff can help you find the answers you need to address a situation or problem you are facing. Or, as in Mary's case, simply reaching out to share a monthly Masonic smile!

Let us know if you would like to speak to Aubrie, Jessica, or Patti! We look forward to hearing from you. For more information, call the Member Care line at (800) 321-9357.



Aubrie Terwilliger

Patti Nowak

Jessica Fleming



Michigan Masons partner with **GreenPath Financial Wellness** to offer **Financial Counseling** to **Our Masonic Members**

The Michigan Masons are partnering with GreenPath Financial Wellness, a leading national nonprofit organization, to provide access to free, one-on-one financial counseling, debt management services, and financial education resources.

Through the partnership, GreenPath counselors will assess an individual or family's entire financial picture and identify options that make it easier to plan for a financially healthy future. Caring, certified experts deliver debt counseling to help people manage credit card debt and other consumer debt. GreenPath's housing counseling includes foreclosure prevention services, home buyer preparation assistance, and reverse mortgage counseling. GreenPath counselors also provide student loan counseling.

Those we serve who might be concerned about their financial picture are now in a better position to make informed decisions for a bright financial future. Whether it's credit card debt, unexpected loss of income,

or meeting housing payments, it's important to remember you're not alone. GreenPath's financial counseling is free, confidential, and designed to help ease financial stress. "The Michigan Masonic family now has access to caring, judgement-free counseling that strengthens financial wellness at every step of the financial journey," said Kristen Holt, President and CEO of GreenPath Financial Wellness.

About Greenpath

GreenPath Financial Wellness is a national nonprofit organization that provides financial counseling, education, and products to empower people to lead financially healthy lives. Working directly with individuals and through partnerships since 1961, GreenPath has assisted millions of people with debt and credit management, homeownership education, and foreclosure prevention. Headquartered in Michigan, GreenPath, along with its affiliates, has more than 50 locations across the United States. GreenPath is a member of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC) and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA).

For more information, visit www.greenpath.com/michigan-masons or call the Masonic Member Care line at (800) 321-9357.



Happy New Year! As we look back, take stock of 2021, and plan what is important to us and our family for 2022, please consider a Living Will and Durable Financial Power of Attorney.

An **Advance Healthcare Directive (AHCD)** is a legal document that specifies your wishes for end-of-life healthcare and who should make healthcare decisions on your behalf if you are unable to do so. It is also known as a living will, advance directive, or medical directive. This important document helps to reduce stressful guesswork for your loved ones.

A **Durable Financial Power of Attorney (DFPA)** is a document that lets you appoint someone (known as your agent) to manage your finances for

you if you ever become unable to do so yourself. The name is made up of three parts: First, the authority you grant to your agent is called the “power of attorney.” Second, a “financial” power of attorney is one that grants authority over financial matters; it is different from a “healthcare” power of attorney, for example, which grants authority to make medical decisions. Finally, a “durable” power of attorney is one that remains in effect even after its creator become physically or mentally incapacitated.

It is never too early to make sure these documents reflect your wishes and the best interests of those you love. These smart, simple, and free resources are from our partner FreeWill. Visit **freewill.com/michiganmasons** to get started today.

Making Plans
to Help You *Today Tomorrow*

If you know a Masonic widow who would like to join the Sweethearts Society, please call (800) 994-7400.



PLEASE CONTACT:
Theresa Quezada
Development Officer
& Sweethearts Society
Coordinator
(800) 994-7400

Fill out and return this card to become a member
of the Sweethearts Society and mail to:
Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation
1200 Wright Avenue, Alma, MI 48801

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Date of Birth _____

Husband's Name _____

Husband's Lodge Name and # _____

Key Contact:

Name _____ Relationship _____

Contact # _____

Lost touch of your husband's lodge? Need help reaching out? Call the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation Office at (800) 994-7400 and we would be happy to help you reconnect!

Supporting

Your Husband's

LODGE CHARITY ACCOUNT

As a widow of a Mason, you hold a special place within the Michigan Masonic family. You supported your husband throughout his life, and we want you to remember the Fraternity is here to support you. It has been a long and eventful couple years... how are you doing?

The Fraternity has several complimentary programs that can provide help to you if you find yourself needing a little assistance. Please don't hesitate to call Live Better At Home at (800) 321-9357. Our dedicated staff has hundreds of resources at their disposal and will work with you to resolve many issues. You are not alone! We are here for you and are only a phone call away.

As we continue to navigate through this turbulent time, many are thinking how they can be caring and supportive of others. A great way to show your concern for others and to remember, honor, or memorialize your beloved husband is with a donation to his lodge's Michigan Masonic Lodge Charity Account.

Each Michigan Masonic lodge now has a Charity Account used to support their favorite charities, Brothers and Sisters who need help, or scholarships (the account can be used for any charitable purpose). Any donation to this lodge account will be invested and used to expand the account so the lodge can do more to support its members and the communities in which they reside.

When completing your donation please specify "Lodge Charity Account" and the lodge name or number, or call the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation at (800) 994-7400.





Visit your
Grand Lodge Store

Looking for the perfect gift for a Brother or a treat for yourself? Your Grand Lodge Store is open and products are available to help you represent your favorite Fraternity!

Interested in catching up on Masonic reading or listening to lectures on CD? We have a variety of products available to enrich your Masonic experience. Visit **michiganmasons.org** to view our list of products today!

1. Go to michiganmasons.org.
2. Click on "Store" on the top right.
3. View all items for sale by clicking on "more products" on the right hand side.
4. "Gift items" will show you logo products for sale.

Add items to your cart and checkout using ShopPay or PayPal on our secure website!

shop Pay

PayPal



1200 Wright Avenue
Alma, MI 48801

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Questions or Comments?



PLEASE CONTACT:

Theresa
Quezada

Development Officer &
Sweethearts Society
Coordinator

(800) 994-7400

MASONIC VILLAGE ESTATES

Are you looking for a vibrant community of seniors who enjoy the comforts of home, without the hassles of home ownership? Located in Alma on the Masonic Pathways campus, beautiful landscaping surrounds this safe and secure neighborhood of independent living duplexes. We are now accepting applications.

Call today to schedule a tour!

(800) 321-9357



Our goal for the Sweetheart Newsletter is to offer information for creating a healthy, independent, and financially secure lifestyle. None of the articles, content or interviews should be seen as medical, financial, or legal advice. Everyone's situation is unique, so it is critical that you contact your doctor before making any changes to your diet, exercise routine, or medical plan. Likewise, only your financial advisor is qualified to give you financial advice. Please consult a licensed expert before following any of the suggestions contained in this newsletter.

For information on the Masonic Sweethearts Society and how you can benefit from this free program, call the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation at (800) 994-7400 or visit www.mmcfonline.org.

