

The Piper

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Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

Lorena M. Fenlason, Worthy Grand Matron

Peter A. Stinson, Worthy Grand Patron

Great Aunt Minnie's Automobile

– Author Unknown

Years ago Aunt Minnie decided that it was time she owned an automobile. Very few families had them then, especially maiden ladies, but one friend after another joined the ranks of motorists until it was more than she could stand.

When she went to the weekly meeting of the sewing circle she was left completely out of the conversation. Now the talk was about horsepower where once it was about flower gardens and pies. At the Ladies Aid Society there was some mention of the Bible, foreign missions, and the preacher's wife, but there was more and more talk about miles per gallon or how to repair a puncture. So Aunt Minnie decided to buy an automobile. She went to the dealer and said, *I'll take that one*, wrote a check for the full amount and told him to deliver it in a few weeks. She then went to a contractor to order a garage built to house the automobile.

The garage was built and the new automobile was delivered. The salesman informed her that he was ready to give her some driving lessons. That day was not convenient for the first lesson so she asked him to drive the automobile into the garage and promised to let him know when it would be convenient for her to begin driving.

Day after day passed without Aunt Minnie calling the salesman. Weeks rolled by and so did the months. At the end of the year she bought a new license but never got around to taking her first driving lesson. Years passed and at the beginning of each one, she bought a new license but never moved her car. This continued until the day she died.

Poor old Aunt Minnie never realized the pleasures she missed. The automobile was paid for. The streets were there and she helped to pay for them, too, but the automobile remained in the

garage. The only pleasure she obtained from the automobile was in her ability to tell her friends she owned it.

Aunt Minnie was a screwball, but don't be too hard on her until after you have looked in the mirror. Did you write a check for your Eastern Star initiation fees as Aunt Minnie wrote one for her automobile? Did you take the Degrees just as Aunt Minnie had a garage built? Do you pay your dues each year just as she bought the license for her automobile? Do you let your membership sit in the garage and rust like that automobile? If you do Hi! Aunt Minnie!

Grand Family Reception

The Heart and Soul Grand Family Reception will be held at Jeff's Catering, 15 Eventcenter Way, in Brewer on July 29th. The cost for the noon meal is \$23 and includes a buffet with stuffed chicken breast and honey glazed ham. Reservations may be made by mailing checks to Charles Izzi, 80 Belmont Avenue, Randolph, ME 04346. All monies/reservations should be received by July 22nd.

Come and celebrate our Grand Family for a wonderful day of entertainment and tributes.

The 2023 Fall Event

Set aside Saturday, October 7 for the annual Fall Event for Charity hosted by Genesta Chapter #73 at the United Masonic Hall, 65 Baribeau Drive, Brunswick.

There will be a dinner at noon along with entertainment, basket drawings, fifty-fifty drawing, and much fellowship and fun.

Reservations at \$25 are due by September 15 to either Sisters Ruth P. Holden, 227 Waldoboro Road, Jefferson, ME 04348 or Martha P. Ellis, 20 Reynolds Lane, Burnham, ME 04922.

The American Soldiers

by Robert Loys Sminkey, Commander, U.S. Navy, retired,

Duty, Honor, Country—the code of conduct and chivalry of those who guard this beloved land, an ideal so noble that it arouses the sense of pride, and yet humility, an expression of the ethics of the American man and woman at arms.

Duty, Honor, Country – these three words build courage when courage seems to fail; regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith; create hope when hope seems forlorn.

The American man and woman at arms, above all other people, pray for peace for they must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.

Duty, Honor, Country – the unbelievers say these are but words, a slogan or flamboyant phrase, every demagogue, every cynic, every hypocrite will try to downgrade them to the extent of mockery and ridicule.

The code which these words perpetuate embraces the highest morals and will withstand the highest of any ethics or philosophies ever published for the uplift of mankind.

Around a thousand campfires, or a hundred battlefields, listening to the bewitching melody of faint bugles blowing reveille to far off drums beating the long roll.

This is the story of the American man and woman at arms, their name and fame is the birthright of every American citizen. In their youth and strength, their love and loyalty, they gave all that mortality can give. They have never failed us. Were they to do so, a million ghosts in olive drab, brown khaki, blue and gray, would rise from their white crosses, thundering these magic words: Duty, Honor, Country.

Quickie Questions

(answers on last page)

1. If the Flag of the United States is presented at a Chapter meeting, when is it presented?
2. If it going to be presented, where should it be prior to the presentation?
3. When the American Flag is presented does it go through the Labyrinth?
4. Is the Flag placed on the left or the right of the dais?
5. Can a chapter sing a song other than *The Star Spangled Banner* at its regular chapter meetings following the *Pledge of Allegiance*?

Patriotic Words

I C E C R E A M E A B S
J N E C C I N C I P R D
U S D U E F A G R E D N
L K G E L E T I H W O S
Y R P A P B H T Y I E T
E O R S L E A R T S G R
U W I U I F N A E J D I
C E D K E U R D L M E P
E R E R O A A N E O L E
B I O C L R P Q R N P S
R F S C A S T A R S C T
A U E P A C I R E M A E
B D V W C M O D E E R F
Y L A Y O L I B E R T Y

America	Independence	Pride
Barbecue	July	Red
Blue	Liberty	Stars
Declaration	Loyal	Stripes
Fireworks	Parades	USA
Flag	Peace	White
Forefathers	Picnic	
Freedom	Pledge	
Ice Cream		

Star News

Please email items for posting on *Star News* to corleybyras@gmail.com and to receive the *Star News* please send your email address to the same email.

Website

The Maine Order of the Eastern Star's website is maineoes.org – this is the place to go to when you want information about our Order in Maine. Current Grand Officers, Chapters and addresses for them, various forms, and a listing of the meetings in Maine etc. Sister Kathy Williamson is the Web Administrator and her email is kackyw@gmail.com.

The Piper

The Piper is the newsletter that will be published during the 2023-24 year and distributed currently through *Star News* and when Grand Family events are held it is given to the DDGM's. If you'd like items printed in it, email it to corleybyras@gmail.com or send it by snail mail to Sister Corley Anne Byras, 72 Smith Street, Unit 4, Augusta, ME 04330

Harmony, Love, Unity Bring Peace

Harmony, love, unity – three powerful words to live by. Life does begin each morning. Each morning a new door is opening to a new world – all past days are gone, beyond reviving.

This day is veiled in mystery. May we face this new day with love for one another, united in a spirit of harmony, to work for the betterment of our Order in this place. How wonderful it is, how pleasant when God's people live in harmony. For harmony is as precious as fragrant oil. Harmony is refreshing as the morning dew.

As we view our emblems may we think a moment about our heritage; let us remember how that heritage has shaped and protected all who served the conflicts in which our country has been engaged. For without their faith, constancy, hope, and fervent determination, we would not be here. Let us pray that we all have the same faith, constancy, hope and fervent determination.

Adah's sword and veil remind us that we must keep faith with those that serve and will serve in the cause of peace, that their sacrifice is not in vain and that their memory is honored with dignity. Adah teaches that harmony results from honesty and moral responsibility to promises made.

Ruth's sheaf reminds us of the need to be constant in our respect and gratitude for the sacrifices made to preserve our way of life. Her lesson is one of duty, a lesson we learn from those who gave and continue to give so much in the cause of peace.

Esther symbolizes light, purity, and joy, and reminds us of sacrifices made for us to keep the world from darkness that we may continue to experience the joy of freedom and peace.

The broken column symbolizes hope and immortality, reminding us that sacrifices made by others in the past, restored hope to a world threatened with evil. We are assured that those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in past conflicts and those who are now the innocent victims of evil, are assured immortality.

The fervency of Electa speaks to us of the determination and commitment of our service men and women to the cause of peace. Electa taught us to love one another, and that there is no greater love than to give one's life for another.

If we have harmony, believing in ourselves and in each other, we have a firm foundation ... a unity of purpose ... all of us working together in harmony can accomplish our goals to make our Order grow and stand strong as a symbol of good throughout the world.

Worthy Grand Matron's Special Project

One of the best kept secrets in Maine's Eastern Star is how much fun working together at the Worthy Grand Matron's Special Project can be.

It's a time when member's throughout the state journey to be together, dressed casually with only the thought of working together and enjoying being in the company of Sisters and Brothers, many of whom they may only see each other at either a Grand Family or the annual Grand Chapter Session held in May. Plus absolutely no reservations are needed.

Simply ask two or three members to travel with you to the Bangor Masonic Hall at 294 Union Street in Bangor. Arrive about 9 a.m. for coffee and light refreshments and by 10 a.m. be ready to peel labels and stuff envelopes.

Sisters Hazel Rumney and Jane Ritchie are co-chairs of this event and Sisters Bonnie Lyons and Lynette Ramsey will make certain you have fantastic refreshments.

New Project

There's a new community project that Sister Lorena M. Fenlason, Worthy Grand Matron and Brother Peter A. Stinson, Worthy Grand Patron have asked the Subordinate Chapters to develop.

Their letter states "So often when a family faces a disaster such as a car accident, home fire, or anything that may put such fear in a child; they often need a distraction to help them alleviate this fear."

They have suggested that Chapters have bags with activity books, coloring books, crayons, pencils, reading books and especially a stuffed animal in them for the appropriate age group the bag is made for. They could be given to the Red Cross, local fire department, or police to distribute. Then at May's Grand Chapter Session, results of this project will be shared.

July

- 4 – Queen Esther #10, meeting in Augusta, 7 pm, Red, White, and Blue *No Quorum expected*
- 5 – Messalunskit #170, New Sharon, 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting, 6:30 pm pot luck
- 7 – Somerset #80, Stratton, 7:30 pm, Star Point Night, dinner is beans and hot dogs
- 10 – Aldworth #39, Milo, 7:30 pm, Something Special, 6:15 pm ESTARL supper
- 10 – Molunkus Valley #95, Sherman, County week, 5:30 pm supper, 7 pm meeting, street dress
- 11 – Lakeside #60, Sabattus, 7 pm, 4th of July Celebration
- 11 – Elm Vale #105, Harrison, 7:30 pm, Finnish Music, Cookout at 6:30 pm
- 12 – Minerva #74, Madison, 7 pm, *My Country Tis of Thee*, 6 pm pot luck supper
- 12 – Josiah H. Drummond #91, Unity, 7:30 pm, BBQ/ESTARL
- 12 – Lunar #126, Presque Isle, 7 pm, County Week, BBQ at 5:45
- 12 – Harbor View #136, Deer Isle, 7 pm, Happy 4th of July, Landmarks and Obligation, 6 pm supper
- 13 – Somerset #80, Stratton, 7:30 pm, Grand Chapter report with beans and hot dogs supper, 6:30 pm
- 14 – Rumery #46, Addison, 7:30 pm, Fourth of July
- 14 – Abenaki #116, Readfield, 7:30 pm, ESTARL - picnic supper at 6:15 pm, (Summer dresses/no jackets, short sleeve shirts)
- 17 – Arbutus #19, Liberty, pm, 7:30 pm, Celebrating America
- 17 – Mountain View #197, Buckfield, 7 pm, ESTARL Supper, 6 pm
- 18 – Golden Sheaf #114, New Gloucester, 7 pm, Bring a Member Night
- 18 – Almeda #149, Guilford, 7:30 pm, Official Visitation with the GC, 6:15 pm pot luck supper
- 18 – Pondicherry ##192, Bridgton, 7:30 pm, Honor America
- 19 – Ivy #16, Warren, 7:30 pm, Official Visitation, Ice Cream Social
- 19 – Felicity #195, Orland, 7 pm, Honoring Chaplains, Marshals and Organists, 6 pm ESTARL supper
- 20 – Lily of the Valley #157, Weeks Mills, 7:30 pm, Official Visitation with AGC
- 25 – Millwee #198, Orrington, 7 pm, Official Visitation with the AGC
- 26 – Beacon #201, Damariscotta, 7 pm, Past and Present Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron Night
- 27 – Riverside #123, Orland, 7 pm, Honoring Veterans, 6 pm supper
- 29 – Heart and Soul Grand Family Reception, Jeff's Catering, 15 Eventcenter Way, Brewer, 11 am Social Hour

August

- 1 – Queen Esther #10, meeting in Augusta, 7 pm, ESTARL Picnic Supper
- 1 – Sarah Orne Jewett #176, South Berwick, 7:30 pm, Honoring Chaplain and Marshal

- 2 – Messalunskit #170, New Sharon, 7:30 pm, Official Visitation, 6:30 pm pot luck
- 3 – Keystone #78, Solon, 7 pm, Guest Officers Night
- 7 – Mystic #69, Litchfield, 7 pm, Official Visitation
- 8 – Lakeside #60, Sabattus, 7 pm, Official Visitation with the AGC
- 8 – Elm Vale #105, Harrison, 7:30 pm, Promises and Light
- 9 – Minerva #74, Madison, 7 pm, All About Dads, pot luck supper 6 pm
- 9 – Josiah H. Drummond #91, Unity, 7:30 pm, Star Point Night
- 9 – Lunar #126, Presque Isle, 7 pm, Stated meeting
- 9 – Harbor View #136, Deer Isle, 7 pm, Official Visitation by WGM, 6 pm supper
- 10 – Martha Washington #15, Waterville, 7:30 pm, Summer Social Ice Cream Bar
- 10 – Somerset #80, Stratton, 7:30 pm, Grand Star Point Night, Dinner is sandwiches and s'mores, 6:30 pm
- 14 – Aldworth #39, Milo, 7:30 pm, Official Visitation with the AGC, 6 pm pot luck supper
- 14 – Molunkus Valley #95, Sherman, 7 pm, Back to School, street dress
- 15 – Almeda #149, Guilford, 7:30 pm, BBQ and Ice Cream Sundaes, 6:15 pm pot luck salads
- 15 – Pondicherry #192, Bridgton, 7:30 pm, Honor Past and Present AP & DDGM, Star Point Ceremony
- 16 – Ivy #16, Warren, 7:30 pm, Music Night, Salad Supper at 6:15 pm
- 16 – Felicity #195, Orland, 7 pm, Honoring Warders and Sentinels, 6 pm supper (collecting school supplies)
- 17 – Lily of the Valley #157, Weeks Mills, 7:30 pm, Old Family Treasures
- 21 – Electa #2, Bowdoinham, 7 pm, Honor night for the 2011-2012 Grand Family, Wear Blue, Dragonflies or Black Labs!
- 21 – Arbutus #19, Liberty, 7:30 pm, Landmarks and Obligation Night
- 21 – Mountain View #197, Buckfield, 7 pm, Official Visitation with the GC, 6 pm supper
- 23 – Beacon #201, Damariscotta, 7 pm, Landmarks and Obligation Night
- 24 – Riverside #123, Orland, 7 pm, Honoring Star Point-Ruth, 6 pm supper

Quickie Answers

1. After the opening when the Conductress and the Chaplain have returned to their stations. (Ritual Page 43)
2. In the West.
3. Yes, pausing briefly behind the altar.
4. Right
5. Yes, but at an Installation of Officers the Ritual states it is to be the National Anthem thus *The Star Spangled Banner* is sung. (Ritual Page 97)