

Chickadee Chatter

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Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

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25, 50, 75, 100 Years Ago

In 1995-1996 Sister Margaret L. (Dyer) Coombs and Brother Ronald G. (Pete) Forrest were in the midst of their term as Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. Their theme for the year was *Ships of Peace*. Their aim was to spread peace and harmony and to increase the membership. The Grand Officers were known as *Navigators*. The Grand Escorts were *The Crew*. The Deputies were *Guiding Lights*. The travelers were *Butterflies*. The Grand Representatives were *Beacons of Light* and the Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons were *Golden Anchors*. At their session held at the Bangor Auditorium there were 110 chapters present with 760 eligible voters. (Remember then you had to be a Past Matron or Past Patron to vote.)

In 1970-1971 Sister Elizabeth B. Hilton and Brother Stanley V. Maragus were serving in the Grand East. Their theme was *Our Faith In God*. Their session was held at the Augusta Armory with 169 Chapters represented and 1,160 registered voting delegates. The proceedings does not have an index so it is interesting to locate items. There was a special ceremony for Brother Stanley M. (Red) Whitney for serving as a Member of the Ella Maude Lander Brady Cancer Research and Education Committee of the General Grand Chapter ... thus how our Cancer Committee has been named ever since.

In 1945-1946 Sister Elvina W. Greeley and Dr. Burnham E. Sewell were serving in the Grand East. Their session held at the City Hall in Portland was the *Peace Session* and there were 164 Chapters present with 992 voting delegates. During the elections all non-voting delegates moved to the balcony. The previous year had been the *War Emergency Session* with only fifty-three members in attendance. Sister Elvina inspected seventy-three chapters her year.

In 1920-1921 Sister Emma B. Howe and Brother Henry H. Gray were serving in the Grand East. Their session was held at the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple in Portland. Per Capita was twenty-five cents. There were 156 Chapters represented with 582 voting members.

Climbing the Musical Scale

DO – Do not worry over things that may never happen, and even if they happen, worry will not help. Do count your blessings before you count your cares.

RE – Radiate good will and a spirit of benevolence. Like laughter, it is infectious and makes yourself, as well as others, feel better.

ME – Mete (spread) kindness, understanding, tolerance, and forgiveness generously. You reap as you mete.

FA – Far-reaching things are the therapeutic benefits of spiritual thinking. You become as you habitually think. Resentment, hatred, spite, envy, and vengeance pack radioactive fall-out that gnaws at your vitals. They are self-consuming.

SO – Sow the seeds of love, friendship, empathy, and helpfulness. These hardy seeds take root in the crustiest ground.

LA – Laugh at yourself now and then. He who can laugh at himself is less apt to be at war with himself. Laugh at yourself, even if you don't feel like laughing.

TI – Teach yourself awareness and appreciation of all the wonders of nature. Thank God daily for the precious gift of life. Genuine gratitude and discontent are never found together.

DO – Do not expect someone else to open the door to happiness for you. You must do it yourself. You alone have the key. Turn it. Author Unknown

Quickie Questions (Answers on page three)

1. In initiation the Conductress tells us to what three things our Order is dedicated. What are they?
2. What prerequisite of a religious nature is required of a petitioner?
3. How many Landmarks of the Order are there?
4. Where can the Landmarks of the Order be found?
5. Where is the Little Red School House?

Our Pages Throughout the Year

This year has blank pages, all new, all fresh with waiting wonder; lightly covered with refreshing dew like the roses, violets, and lilies of the valley are kissed with dew in our garden of peace and love. As each season in the garden approaches, the pages unfold to reveal a beautiful world.

Our year begins in Spring – a time of revival and renewal as each sprig of grass and flower bud appears. The skies are blue and clear and the warming day breezes whisper of earth's promises fulfilled. We enjoy the beauty of a Spring day when tiny blades of grass cover the meadow with a cloak of green velvet and the purple violets burst forth to fill our hearts with gladness. These modest little blossoms remind us of the fidelity of Adah. We can rest assured that our lives will be blessed if we appreciate the fidelity of our family and friends. The emblem of the sword and veil teaches us to be faithful to our convictions of right and duty and fidelity will be present in our lives.

As Summer days appear, another page turns. The world is full of abundance, with nodding lilies and the glorious color of flitting butterfly wings. The butterfly is a living example that we should exemplify, for it spends all its time giving beauty and joy to others. The golden grain developing in the summer fields reminds us of the love Ruth showed for her mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth's virtue of patience reaped rewards as she gathered grain by grain in the fields. So we will reap happiness by patient industry. The sheaf is the emblem of Ruth's station and reminds us that our smallest deed of kindness to others, in the end will reap for us a bounteous reward.

Our pages now turn to a season of Indian Summer – a time of long days – a time to enjoy the full-blown beauty of a growing season completed. The gentle breezes waft the fragrance of roses all around, mingled with the clean fresh smell following the sudden silvered rain. The shimmering white clouds in the skies of Indian Summer remind us of the clear white light which emanates from the pure and upright heart of the noble Queen Esther who was not only heroic in her purpose, but risked her life for her people. White is a virtuous color and is appropriate to Queen Esther whose sincere and unselfish thoughts for the welfare of others made her life an example for all mankind. The crown and scepter denotes Esther's loyalty and defines her courageous efforts on behalf of others.

Autumn approaches with waving fields of ripened grain and tasseled corn – a time of harvest, of gathering in the fruits of summer's bounty. The bird songs wane as they prepare for their migration to warmer climates and the many hued flowers set their seeds with hope of a returning Spring. The trees are painted in orange, yellow, and red – a flaming display before they sleep through the winter. Martha's beautiful color of green is still evident in the hillside evergreens and is a color most appropriate for her station as the evergreen is a symbol of life everlasting. The broken column, the emblem of Martha's station teaches us the lesson of a trustful faith that gives us courage to go through the seasons of our lives – some full of trial, others steeped in joy – with an unwavering belief in a life after the grave, more glorious than can be imagined.

And now the final page is turned and our garden is cloaked in the stillness that is Winter, blanketed in the cold air as if waiting – waiting for the world to awake once more. If you look closely, you can still see bright red berries amid the bare branches and the flit of a merry scarlet cardinal breaking the still quiet. Our garden is not dead, only sleeping. The station of Electa is the station of love – and has as its color the beautiful red – the color of blood, but also traditionally the color of bravery. The Electa Lady was called upon to endure persecution but held steadfastly to her Christian faith. The cup of hospitality and loving kindness is the emblem for this station. It tells us that whatever our lot in life may be, the love and compassion we have for our fellow man, and their love for us, relates a story of triumph over wrongs, and in the end brings happiness.

Our pages are now folded and the seasons in our garden have gone full circle – Winter's stark lack of color to Spring's awakening, the Summer's notorious beauty to Autumn's bounty. Nature's beauty is all around us, above us, and beneath our feet, in this garden of peace and love.

Let us look with anticipation to a year of unity and harmony and may our prayers rise up for a year abounding in love one toward the other.

The Three W's

1. Wash your hands
2. Wear a mask
3. Watch your distance

Devotional Corner

Twenty Twenty-One has just begun. I love the New Year, mostly because I love the air of change it tends to bring with it.

Usually when we think of change, we classify it as either good or bad. I'd like to challenge that way of thinking. Change is always for the better.

Life does change, but if we trust God, we know He promises that life is always changing for the better, right?

That's what it says in Romans 8:28. He is always working things for our good. Now I know that many people struggle with this verse.

How can I say that death, job loss, and cancer are for the better? (And of course Covid-19) The short answer is, our perspective on the definition of good is very human and it's rather limited.

We see circumstances from our own lens. We see good or bad based on how it affects us instead of how all of the pieces of the puzzle fit together. But life's circumstances are more like icebergs than glaciers.

You only see the tip of what God is doing in a given situation. And you may never see the depth of the entire iceberg (or situation).

So I'd like to issue you a challenge. As life changes over the next few days, months, and years, purpose yourself to embrace it with a thankful attitude. Remind yourself that change is always for the better. Because God is only and always good.

Quickie Answers

1. Charity, Truth, Loving-Kindness, Ritual - page 54
2. A belief in a Supreme Being, Ritual - page 162
3. Twelve, Ritual -Pages 162 and 163
4. In the Ritual, Ritual - Pages 162 and 163
5. Richland, Mississippi

Friends = Snowflake

Every friend is like a snowflake. Each sparkles in a different way. Some are playful, some are refined. But, unlike fragile snowflakes that fade when the sun appears, friends grow more beautiful with every passing year!

Happy New Year - Time

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

Afternoon	Dusk	Night
Age	Eternity	Pendulum
AM	Happy New Year	PM
Biennium	Hourglass	Second
Calendar	Midnight	Stars
Century	Millennium	Sun
Date	Minute	Twilight
Dawn	Month	Watch
Day	Moon	Week
Decade	Morning	

Web Site

The Maine Order of the Eastern Star's web site is: <http://www.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, the newsletters, 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.

Chickadee Chatter

Chickadee Chatter is the newsletter that will be published during the 2020-2021 year and distributed currently through *Star News* and on the web site. If you'd like items printed in it, email it to corleybyras@gmail.com or send it by snail mail to Corley Anne Byras, 72 Smith Street, Unit 4, Augusta, ME 04330.

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.

What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year. Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on. Last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another voice. 2021 is a New year, new plans, new memories to be made. Happy New Year to all!

New Year's Trivia

1. The first ball to be dropped in New York's Times Square happened in what year?
 - a. 1908
 - b. 1925
 - c. 1938
 - d. 1962
2. The first time that January 1st was celebrated as the beginning of a new year was in 153 B.C. when the Romans moved the first month of their calendar back to January. For what reason did the Romans do this?
 - a. To coincide with elections of the two highest ranking Republic positions.
 - b. To honor the god, Janus, god of beginnings and transitions.
 - c. More sacred sheep were born in January than in February.
 - d. To honor Tobasco, god of hangover relief.
3. What famous Frank was born in Bayonne, New Jersey, on January 1, 1938?
 - a. Entertainer Frank Sinatra, Jr.
 - b. Actor Frank Langella.
 - c. Football player and coach, Frank Beamer.
 - d. Head of the barley cereal syndicate crime family, Frankenberry.
4. In 1583, what event returned January 1st as the observation of the New Year in Europe?
 - a. A severe earthquake in Portugal on that date that miraculously took no human victims.
 - b. Papal fear surrounding a dire prediction by seer John Dee.
 - c. The institution of the Gregorian Calendar.
 - d. The 67-year-old Queen of Spain took her first bath.
5. On January 1, 1788, the Pennsylvanian Quakers did what?
 - a. Disavowed Quakerism.
 - b. Emancipated their slaves.
 - c. Officially denounced the Amish as heretics.
 - d. Opened the Quaker Oats company.
6. The lyrics of the now-traditional New Years song "Auld Lang Syne" began as a poem set to the tune of a much older Scot folk ballad. Who wrote the poem?
 - a. John Keats
 - b. Robert Burns
 - c. Lord Byron
 - d. Dr. Seuss
7. On January 1, 1971, what kind of commercials were banned from American television?
 - a. Anti-free labor union ads.
 - b. Ads for cigarettes.
 - c. Anything relating to or suggestive of illegal drug paraphernalia.
 - d. Car sale ads that feature a dealer's annoying and untalented children.
8. On New Year's Eve, 1985, this celebrity died in a controversial plane crash. Who was this celebrity?
 - a. Wendy's "Where's the beef?" commercial icon, Clara Peller.
 - b. TV newscaster David Brinkley.
 - c. Radio disc jockey legend Wolfman Jack.
 - d. Entertainer Rick Nelson.
9. The symbol of "Baby New Year" evolved out of what?
 - a. From customs in the reign of Elizabeth I, who had the court midgets lead celebrations on New Year's Day.
 - b. Back to the ancient Greek tradition of escorting a baby throughout the villages in honor of Dionysus, god of wine.
 - c. From the ancient Hungarian Day of Remembrance of the Infants (honoring babies who had died the previous year).
 - d. Out of remembrance for the young victims of the Great Minnesota Baby Juggling Catastrophe of January 1, 1928.
10. On January 1, 1962, who failed to pass an audition for Decca Records?
 - a. Liberace
 - b. The Jackson Two
 - c. Comedian George Carlin
 - d. The Beatles
11. The tradition of eating black-eyed peas on New Year's Day is believed to do what?
 - a. Bring prosperity for the next year.
 - b. Return loved ones from war.
 - c. Bring a year of peace into a household.
 - d. Relieve constipation.
12. In some parts of the U.S., eating pancakes with butter, syrup, and whipped cream on New Year's Day indicates what?
 - a. You plan to make a marriage proposal in the coming year.
 - b. You are turning your back on regrets of the last year.
 - c. You are having breakfast at Shoney's or Denny's.
 - d. A diet probably wasn't part of your New Year's resolution.