

# A Walk in the Woods

Volume 25 No. 3

September 12, 2026

Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

Dafcy R. Merrill, Worthy Grand Matron

Calvin F. Hall, Worthy Grand Patron

## Event to Benefit Youth

Mark your calendars for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship, food, fun, and fundraising on Saturday, September 26, at the Auburn Masonic Hall, 1021 Turner Street, Auburn. All proceeds will benefit Maine Rainbow and DeMolay.

Schedule of Events: 10:30–11:30 a.m. – Social Time, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. – Lunch, 12:30–2:00 p.m. – Program and Activities

Enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by Charles and Lynn Izzi featuring soups, sandwiches, and dessert for \$20 per person.

The afternoon will feature plenty of exciting activities, including: Silent Auction, the return of Heads or Tails (\$5 entry to play), Basket Raffles provided by the Even-Numbered Districts Raffle, Quilt Auction, the ever-popular sleuthing game, "What Am I?" Come enjoy fellowship while supporting our youth organizations. Invite your friends and join us for an afternoon of fun and generosity!

Reservations are required by September 12. Please make checks payable and mail to Martha Ellis, 20 Reynolds Lane, Burnham, ME 04922

## Massachusetts in Maine Exchange

The Massachusetts in Maine Grand Family Exchange will be held Saturday, October 3, at Star Light Chapter #203, 573 Main Street, Westbrook.

Schedule of Events:

- 9:30 a.m. – Registration
- 10:30 a.m. – Rehearsal
- 11:45 a.m. – Lunch
- 12:40 p.m. – Group Photos
- 1:00 p.m. – Degrees

The lunch menu is sandwiches, salads, dessert, and beverages. Please reserve by September 23 by mailing reservations with \$20 payment made out to Star Light Chapter #203 to Rebecca S. Bibber, PGM, 2 Independence Drive, Westbrook, ME 04092-4535.

## "Moose, Dragonflies & Ghosts... Oh My!"

Save the Date! Make plans now to join us for a memorable International Weekend on October 30-31 in beautiful Freeport, Maine. This year's theme, "Moose, Dragonflies & Ghosts... Oh My!", promises a weekend filled with fellowship, fun, and special memories as we gather to celebrate our international friendships and enjoy all that Maine has to offer.

The weekend headquarters will be the Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport. A block of rooms has been reserved at special rates for those attending. Please reserve your room under the group name "Grand Chapter of Maine." Room rates are \$199 per night for Double, Queen, King, or King Deluxe. For reservations, contact the Hilton Garden Inn at 207- 865-1443.

Be sure to mark your calendars now and plan to join us for this exciting weekend of fellowship and fun!

## Zoom Membership Sessions

The General Grand Chapter Public Relations Committee is offering a series of Worldwide OES Round Tables focused on helping members strengthen how we tell the OES story in an ever-changing communication environment.

The two-hour Zoom sessions will provide practical guidance, current best practices, shared ideas, and opportunities for members to learn from one another.

- October 3 — Sharing the OES Story on Social Media. What to post, when to post, and how to build connection.
- December 5 — Making the OES Story Findable. Websites, search, AI, and digital visibility.

Members may attend either session or both. Registration is open to all OES members worldwide and is free. Each session on Zoom is from 4 – 6 pm Mountain Time. Learn more and register at <https://oestools.org/home/ggc-marketing->

## An Autumn Devotional

There is something sacred about autumn in Maine. The mornings grow crisp. The fields give up their harvest. Apples fill the orchards, pumpkins rest in the fields, and gardens offer their final abundance before winter. Across the hills, the leaves begin to change — green becoming gold, orange, and crimson. And then, slowly, beautifully, they let go.

The trees remind us that change is not always a loss. Sometimes it is part of God's good design. The leaves do not cling forever to what they have been. They change when the season changes. They release what they can no longer carry and trust the branches to hold them through the coming winter.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." — *Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Maine's autumn teaches us to notice the gifts of the season we are in. The harvest reminds us that growth takes time. The changing leaves remind us that beauty can be found even in transition. The shortening days remind us to treasure the light.

Perhaps you, too, are in a season of change. Maybe something is coming to an end. Maybe you are being asked to let go of something familiar. Maybe you are waiting for a new season that has not yet arrived.

Look to the trees. They do not panic when the leaves change. They do not fight the coming winter. They simply remain rooted. And perhaps that is the invitation for us: to remain rooted in God while everything around us changes. As the fields are gathered and the leaves fall, may we give thanks for what has been. May we receive the blessings of today. And may we trust God with what comes next.

## Quickie Questions (Answers on back)

1. What virtue is associated with Adah in the Order of the Eastern Star?
2. What color is traditionally associated with Adah?
3. What symbol is associated with the Point of Adah?
4. Adah is traditionally associated with which Biblical story?
5. What does the Point of Adah primarily teach?

## Autumn Word Search

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

Acorn  
Apple  
Autumn  
Barn  
Breeze  
Chestnut  
Cider  
Corn  
Cozy  
Crops  
Farm

Football  
Gather  
Gourd  
Gratitude  
Harvest  
Hayride  
Leaves  
Maize  
Migration  
Mushroom  
November

Oak  
October  
Pumpkin  
Scarecrow  
September  
Squash  
Sunflower  
Sweater  
Thankful  
Wind

## 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, various forms, and a listing of the meetings in Maine etc.

## A Walk in the Woods

*A Walk in the Woods* is the newsletter that will be published during the 2026-2027 year and distributed by the Deputies shortly after Grand Families or statewide events about seven times a year. If you'd like items printed in it, email it to [corleybyras@gmail.com](mailto:corleybyras@gmail.com) or send it by snail mail to Sister Corley Anne

## Star News

Please email items to be posted on *Star News* to [corleybyras@gmail.com](mailto:corleybyras@gmail.com) and to receive the *Star News* please send your email address to the same email.

# The Harvest Season

**Worthy Matron:** Sisters and Brothers, autumn has come to Maine. The days grow shorter, the air grows crisp, and the forests take on their glorious mantle of red, gold, orange, and russet. The harvest has been gathered. The fields have given their bounty. The leaves, having served the tree through the seasons, now release their hold and return to the earth. In this season of change, we are reminded that life is a continuing journey of growth, service, gratitude, and renewal. Tonight, we gather our thoughts around the five Star Points and consider the lessons they offer us as we enter the season of harvest and prepare for the quiet months ahead.

**Worthy Patron:** Just as a Maine farmer gathers the fruits of the summer's labor, may we gather the lessons of our own lives: the kindness we have received, the wisdom we have gained, the friendships we have made, and the opportunities we have had to serve. May this ceremony remind us that every season has its purpose—and that in the falling of the leaves, there is beauty, promise, and preparation for new life.

**Adah:** In autumn, the first frost reminds us that change cannot be postponed forever. The growing season ends, the fields are cleared, and the earth prepares for rest. So, too, life sometimes asks us to step forward into uncertainty. My lesson is courage. Courage is the flame that burns when the path ahead is not yet clear. It is the strength to face change, to endure difficulty, and to remain faithful to what is right. The autumn leaves do not cling forever to the branches. They surrender to the season, trusting that the tree will endure. May we have the courage to release what must be released, to face what must be faced, and to continue forward with faith.

**Ruth:** Autumn is a season of gathering. Apples are picked, gardens are harvested, and families and friends come together around tables filled with the fruits of the earth. My lesson is devotion. Devotion is not measured only by great deeds. It is found in steady faithfulness—in showing up, lending a hand, keeping a promise, and standing beside another through every season. The harvest reminds us that what we gather in autumn is the result of what was planted, tended, and cared for throughout the year. May our devotion to one another be constant. May we plant kindness, nurture friendship, and harvest a chapter filled with love and service.

**Esther:** When the leaves turn gold and the afternoon sun grows low, the Maine landscape seems to glow with a quiet radiance. My lesson is faith. Faith is the light we carry when the days become shorter. It is the confidence that darkness is not the end, and that every season moves toward another. The bare branches of winter already exist within the autumn tree. The

promise of spring is present even when the earth appears still. May our faith give us strength in times of uncertainty. May it help us see light where others see only shadows, and hope where others see only endings.

**Martha:** Autumn calls us to prepare. Wood is stacked, homes are made ready, and provisions are gathered for the cold months ahead. My lesson is service. Service is preparation made useful. It is the helping hand, the warm welcome, the meal shared, the task completed, and the quiet work done for the good of others. As we prepare our homes and communities for winter, may we also prepare our hearts to serve. There is always someone who needs encouragement, companionship, assistance, or simply the knowledge that they are not alone. May our hands be ready to help, our hearts ready to give, and our lives ready to serve.

**Electa:** In Maine, when autumn has passed and the leaves have fallen, the evergreen remains. The pine, the fir, and the spruce keep their color through the cold and snow. They remind us that some things endure even when the world around us changes. My lesson is love. Love is the evergreen virtue. It does not depend upon the season. It remains when circumstances change, when paths divide, and when life brings hardship. Love is the foundation of friendship, the heart of compassion, and the bond that unites us as members of this Order. May our love for one another endure through every season of life.

**Worthy Matron:** The autumn season teaches us that there is beauty in every stage of life. The leaf is beautiful when it is green, beautiful when it turns gold, and beautiful when it returns to the earth. May we, too, embrace every season of our journey. May our chapter be like a Maine autumn—rich in color, generous in harvest, grateful for its blessings, and beautiful in every season.

## September

- 14 – Aldworth #39, Milo, 7 pm, Official Visitation with the DDGM, Potluck Supper 6 pm, Come get the traveling gavel!
- 14 – Molunkus Valley #95, Sherman, 7 pm, Stated Meeting, Refreshments 5:30 pm
- 14 – Fireside #103, Clinton, 7 pm, Ruth/Esther/Martha Trivia Honoring these stations, Social Hour/Refreshments at 6 pm
- 14 – Pleasant River #159, Buxton, 7 pm, Heart Presentation by Brett Jervis, GGCCM, 6 pm Potluck Supper
- 15 – Madonna #144, West Kennebunk 7 pm, Honoring Star Points, Ceremony by the Grand Star Points
- 15 – Almeda #149, Guilford, 7 pm, A visit from the Signing Sisters, 6 pm ESTARL Supper
- 15 – Pondicherry #192, Bridgton, 7:30 pm, Friendship Night, Donation Community Center, Potluck theme: Football Tailgate

- 15 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, Official Visitation with DDGM #2, ESTARL Potluck Supper 6:30 pm
- 16 – Felicity #195, Orland, 7 pm, Grand Chapter Charities, 6 pm Supper
- 17 – Pioneer #11, Brunswick, 7 pm, honoring our Grand Representatives
- 17 – Bethlehem #36, Pittsfield, 7 pm, Barnyard Trivia Night!
- 17 – Lily of the Valley #157, Weeks Mills, Our Labors
- 18 – Irene #97, Ellsworth, 7 pm, Our Order, Potluck Supper at 6 pm
- 21 – Electa #2, Bowdoinham, 7 pm, Official Visitation with our DDGM
- 21 – Arbutus #19, Liberty, 7 pm, Landmarks and Obligation, Program by Carrie Mancini, 6 pm Supper
- 21 – Tuscan #148, Bangor, 7 pm, Official Visitation, Potluck 6 pm
- 21 – Mountain View #197, Buckfield, 7 pm, 911 Program, Supper 6 pm
- 22 – Mt. Zircon #142, Mexico, 7 pm, Star Point Night, 6 pm Supper
- 22 – Millwee #198, Orrington, 7 pm, Grandparents Month (Honor Grandparents and Great-Grandparents) ESTARL Supper, 6 pm
- 23 – Beacon #202, Damariscotta, 7 pm, Official Visitation, Come get Henry
- 24 – Riverside #123, Orland, 7 pm, Landmarks and Obligation, Bring School Supplies, 6 pm Supper

- 12 – Aldworth #39, Milo, 7 pm, Past Matrons and Past Patrons, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 12 – Molunkus Valley #95, Sherman, 7 pm, Service Dog Program, Supper 5:30 pm
- 12 – Fireside #103, Clinton, 7 pm, Holiday Trivia by Alice Stinson and Newcomb Stevens
- 12 – Pleasant River #159, Buxton, 7 pm, Official Visitation, OES Games, 6 pm Potluck Supper
- 13 – Lakeside #60, Wales, 7 pm, Thanksgiving, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 13 – Elm Vale #105, Harrison, 7:30 pm, Mission Working Dogs Donation Tucker House Bridgton, Supper 6:30 pm
- 14 – Ivy #16, Warren, 7:30 pm, Harvest Cookie Swap
- 14 – Minerva #74, Madison, 7 pm, Landmarks and Obligation Night, ESTARL Dinner, 6 pm
- 14 – Harbor View #136, Deer Isle, 7 pm, Official Visitation with the DDGM
- 15 – Pioneer #11, Brunswick, 7 pm, Honoring our Masons
- 15 – Bethlehem #36, Pittsfield, 7 pm, Honoring Star Points, ESTARL Potluck Supper at 6 pm
- 15 – Lily of the Valley #157, Weeks Mills, Past Grand Matron and Patrons
- 16 – Irene #97, Ellsworth, 7 pm, ESTARL Supper 6 pm, with Service Dog Speaker
- 19 – Electa #2, Bowdoinham, 7 pm, Grand Representative Night and Halloween Celebration
- 19 – Arbutus #19, Liberty, 7 pm, Honor Night for Past Grands and Present Grands, ESTARL Supper 6 pm
- 19 – Tuscan #148, Bangor, 7 pm, Halloween Boo, Potluck 6 pm
- 19 – Mountain View #197, Buckfield, 7 pm, International Headquarters, Supper 6 pm
- 20 – Madonna #144, West Kennebunk 7 pm, Honoring Life Members, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 20 – Almeda #149, Guilford, 7 pm, Annual Apple Festival when a new Apple Queen is chosen, 6 pm Potluck
- 20 – Pondicherry #192, Bridgton, 7:30 pm, Service Dog Program, Donation Maine Paws for Veterans, Potluck theme: Casserole Dish
- 20 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, Halloween
- 21 – Felicity #195, Orland, 7 pm, Official Visitation with the Worthy Grand Matron, 6 pm Supper
- 27 – Mt. Zircon #142, Mexico, 7 pm, Honor Veterans, 6 pm Supper
- 27 – Millwee #198, Orrington, 7 pm, Halloween, 6 pm Supper
- 28 – Beacon #202, Damariscotta, 7 pm, Feed The Hungry/Halloween

## October

- 1 – Keystone #78, Solon, 7 pm, Lord's Prayer Program by Muffy, pie auction to support the general fund
- 2 – Ruth #14, Sanford, 7:30 pm, Honoring My Officers
- 2 – Primrose #152, Belfast, 7:30 pm, Honor Night/ESTARL, 6:30 pm Ham Dinner
- 3 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 1 pm, Massachusetts in Maine Exchange
- 5 – Mystic #69, Litchfield, 7 pm, Keeping Yourself Busy (Sharing Hobbies)
- 6 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, Grand Star Point Night
- 6 – Queen Esther #10, Augusta, 7 pm, Honoring Grand Representatives, Past and Present, Potluck Supper 5:45 pm
- 7 – Messalunskit # 170, New Sharon, 7:30 pm, Happy Halloween
- 8 – Pine Cone Chapter #26, Auburn 7 pm, Honoring the Conductresses, 5:30 pm Social Hour
- 8 – Annette #184, Saco, 7:30 pm, Official Visitation with WGM
- 9 – Rumery #46, Addison, 7 pm, Halloween Fun, Potluck 6 pm
- 9 – Abenaki #116, Readfield, 7:30 pm, Halloween Star Point Night

## Quickie Answers

- 1. Fidelity
- 2. Blue
- 3. The Sword and Veil
- 4. The story of Jephthah's daughter
- 5. The importance of fidelity and keeping one's promises