

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Volume 24 No. 7

March 14, 2026

Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

· Rebecca G. H. Thompson, Worthy Grand Matron

Jon R. Thompson, Worthy Grand Patron

Summarizing the Candidate Letters

The following members have submitted letters declaring their candidacy for an elected Grand Officer at *The Rhythm of the Spirit* Grand Chapter Session, to be held in May.

Sister Kim E. Pettengill is a candidate for Grand Secretary. She is a member of Queen Esther Chapter #10, Augusta and a dual member of Lily of the Valley Chapter #157, Weeks Mills. Sister Kim is currently serving as Grand Secretary, with a focus on modernizing our processes, decreasing expenses, and increasing efficiency and overall savings.

Sister Patty M. Carter is a candidate for Grand Secretary. She is a member of Irene Chapter #97, Ellsworth, and a dual member of Millwee Chapter #198, Orrington. She joined the Order in 1976 and has served as Worthy Matron six times. Her Grand Chapter service includes Grand Adah, District Deputy Grand Matron of District #14, and she is currently serving as a Star Assistant.

Sister Judith Van Norman is a candidate for the office of Associate Grand Conductress. She joined Millwee Chapter #198, Orrington in 1982 and is a dual member of Fireside Chapter #103, Clinton. Her service includes Grand Esther, District Deputy Grand Matron for District #16, and she is currently serving as Grand Representative of Washington in Maine.

Brother Brian S. Farrington is a candidate for Grand Sentinel. He joined Abenaki Chapter #116, Readfield, in 1992 and is a dual member of Lily of the Valley Chapter #157, Weeks Mills. He is currently serving as Worthy Patron of both chapters and has previously served the Order as Grand Warder and Grand Representative of Nebraska in Maine.

Seven Conversations Every Chapter Should Have Each Year

Once a year, chapters benefit from taking time to talk about their future. These seven questions can help guide that discussion.

1. Why do we exist as a chapter?

Reflect on the purpose and values of the Order of the Eastern Star.

2. What are we doing well?

Identify traditions, programs, and activities that strengthen the chapter.

3. What could we improve?

Discuss meeting structure, communication, and participation.

4. How can we grow membership?

Consider ways to increase visibility and encourage invitations to potential members.

5. How do we care for our members?

Ensure members feel supported, remembered, and appreciated.

6. What programs would inspire us next year?

Plan meaningful and educational programs that keep members engaged.

7. What goals should we set for the coming year?

Choose one or two realistic goals to guide the chapter's efforts.

The Rhythm of the Spirit
Grand Family
Ivy Chapter #16, Warren
May 2, 2026

Everyone Can Have a Rainbow

We usually see a rainbow after a rainstorm. Rainbows are formed by two simple yet powerful elements: sunlight and drops of moisture in the air. Often, we must be observant to see one. We spend so much time looking at the effects of the storm around us that we forget to look up and notice the beautiful colors of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.

Beginning with the outer, or top, arc, the colors are always arranged in the same order.

Although it can be hard to see — and even harder to understand — our lives are also aligned in patterns and a kind of order. Often, we must look carefully for the rainbow that follows the storm. It will be there, but we have to search to find it. As members of the Order of the Eastern Star, we know that life can be stormy. We face illness, dementia, loss, and heartache — both our own and that of those we love. Yet our Order teaches us to walk in light, to practice faith, hope, charity, and loving service. In doing so, we help one another find the rainbow after the storm.

We are surrounded by rainbows every day — in the kindness of a Sister or Brother, in a listening ear, in a hand held, in a prayer offered. These are the living rainbows God places among us.

Remember, a rainbow needs both sunlight and moisture. And sometimes that moisture is tears — tears of hope, courage, relief, caring, thankfulness, faith, and love. When we share those tears and that light with one another, we become part of the rainbow ourselves.

Quickie Questions (answers on page three)

- 1. Who founded the Order of the Eastern Star?**
A. Albert Mackey B. Albert Pike
C. Rob Morris D. George Washington
- 2. What shape is used as the primary emblem of the Order?**
A. Circle B. Square
C. Triangle D. Five Pointed Star
- 3. What book is placed upon the altar in an Eastern Star Chapter?**
A. Book of Mormon B. Torah
C. Quran D. Holy Bible
- 4. What is one major purpose of the Order?**
A. Political influence
B. Social networking
C. Charity and service
D. Business development
- 5. What organization is the Order affiliated with?**
A. Rotary International
B. Freemasonry
C. Knights of Columbus
D. Elks Lodge

Think Spring

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

Baseball	Garden	Rainbow
Bees	Grass	Raincoat
Blooms	Iris	Robin
Buds	Kites	Sap
Bulb	Ladybug	Seeds
Butterfly	Lamb	Showers
Caterpillar	Lilacs	Spring
Chick	Mud	Sunshine
Crocus	Nest	Tulips
Daffodils	Outdoors	Umbrella
Egg	Puddle	Windy
Flowers	Rain	

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.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Fair Winds and Following Seas is the newsletter that will be published during the 2025-2026 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 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 and to receive the *Star News* please send your email address to the same email.

The Rhythm of the Spirit

133rd

Annual Grand Chapter Session

May 17, 18, 19, and 20, 2026

Rainbow Star Point Ceremony

Worthy Matron: A rainbow appears after the storm, reminding us that light is made of many colors, each essential, each beautiful. Tonight, we center our Star Points within the rainbow — symbols of love, faith, constancy, loyalty, immortality, and love — joined together in harmony.

Adah: Blue reflects the calm and depth of being faithful. Like the sky that stretches endlessly above us, faithfulness calls us to kindness, patience, compassion for all and love. May our actions always be guided by a faith that comforts and heals.

Ruth: Yellow shines with the warmth of constancy. It is the color of sunlight, reminding us to stand firm in the demands of honor and justice. May we be constant in our principles and steadfast in our commitments.

Esther: White represents light and purity. It reflects all colors, reminding us to stand firm in truth and integrity and to trust even when the path ahead is unclear. May our faith be a steady light, guiding us through both joyful and uncertain days.

Martha: Green symbolizes our faith and belief in Eternal Life. It is the color of life renewed, of friendships nurtured over time. May our loyalty strengthen our bonds and help one another flourish.

Electa: Red is the color of charity and hospitality. It reminds us that a pure heart is one that loves boldly and hopes fiercely. May our hearts remain open, generous, brave and filled with love for our friends, family, country, and God.

Worthy Matron: At the center shines the rainbow — many colors, one light. Together, the Star Points form a circle of unity, reminding us that our differences do not divide us; they complete us. May we leave this place committed to being rays of hope, wherever we are called to serve. May we carry the colors of the rainbow into the world — loving deeply, believing faithfully, standing firmly, remaining loyal, and living with hopeful hearts. And may our shared light brighten the lives of others.

March

- 16 – Electa #2, Bowdoinham, 7 pm, Annual Meeting, Potluck Supper at 6 pm
- 16 – Arbutus #19, Liberty, 7 pm, Annual Meeting, Supper 6 pm
- 16 – Tuscan #148, Bangor, 7 pm, Annual Meeting, Pizza 6 pm
- 16 – Mountain View #197, 7 pm, Annual Meeting, Supper 6 pm
- 17 – Madonna #144, West Kennebunk, 7 pm, Annual Meeting

- 17 – Almeda #149, Guilford, 7 pm, The Year In Review, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 17 – Pondicherry #192, Bridgton, 7:30 pm, Annual Meeting, Pizza 6:30 pm, has the Beth Turner Traveling Gavel
- 17 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, St. Patrick's Day, Annual Meeting
- 18 – Felicity Chapter #195, Orland, Annual Meeting, Supper 6 pm
- 19 – Pioneer #11, Brunswick, 7 pm, Annual Meeting
- 19 – Bethlehem #36, Pittsfield, 7 pm, Annual Meeting
- 19 – Lily of the Valley #157, Weeks Mills, 7:30 pm, Annual Meeting with Landmarks and Obligation
- 24 – Mt. Zircon #142, Mexico, 7 pm, Annual Meeting, Supper 6 pm
- 24 – Millwee #198, Orrington, 7 pm, Annual Meeting, Supper 6 pm
- 25 – Beacon #202, Damariscotta, 7 pm, Annual Meeting
- 26 – Riverside #123, Orland, 7 pm, Annual Meeting, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 27 – Rumery #46, Addison, Installation of Officers 6:30 pm 5:30 Supper
- 28 – Messalunskit #170, New Sharon, Installation of Officers, 1 pm, light refreshments afterwards
- 28 – Electa #2, Bowdoinham, 7 pm, Installation of 2026-2027 Officers
- 28 – Irene #97, Ellsworth, 7 pm, Installation of 2026-2027 Officers

Spring and the Star

When winter's grip begins to fade and gentle winds stir sleeping ground, the earth awakens, softly clad in hints of life that soon abound.

The crocus lifts its fragile bloom, the robin sings a hopeful song. And hearts, like fields beneath the sun, feel strength returning, brave and strong.

So too, within our Eastern Star a season fresh begins to rise; with faith to guide, with love to share, new purpose shines before our eyes.

The Star still gleams with ancient light - five points that gently lead the way. Yet every spring their meaning grows more vibrant with each passing day.

Adah's courage calls us on, Ruth's devotion steady and true; Esther's faith, and Martha's trust, Electa's love our lives renew.

For as the earth is born again in blossoms bright and hopeful art, so spring awakens once again the living light within the Star.

Quickie Answers

1. C Rob Morris
2. D Five Pointed Star
3. D Holy Bible
4. C Charity and service
5. B Freemasonry

What Was the Newsletter called? Can you match the Worthy Grand Matron and the Worthy Grand Patron with their newsletter title their year?

1. Libby/Griffin
2. Brissette/LeClair
3. Bowen/Stretton
4. Webber/Hubbard
5. Crabtree/Coombs
6. Gaines/Farrington
7. Bibber/Jones
8. Hawes/Connelly
9. Blakely/Wardwell
10. Wilkie/DeWitt
11. Dupal/Cousins
12. Landry/Trafton
13. St. Pierre/Tufts
14. Johnson/Smith
15. Byras/Hanington
16. Irving/Owens
17. Nanos/Farnsworth
18. Stack/Jervis
19. Hall/Cole
20. Wood/Dunlap
21. Cookson/Babb
22. Fenlason/Stinson
23. Farnsworth/Nicholas
24. Thompson/Thompson

- A. *Chickadee Chatter*
- B. *Eagle Express*
- C. *Ewes Give a Hoot*
- D. *Fair Winds and Following Seas*
- E. *Flight of the Loon*
- F. *Follow the Star*
- G. *From the Backwoods*
- H. *Kibbles and Bitz*
- I. *Puppy Tales*
- J. *The Angelic Bears*
- K. *The Bare Facts*
- L. *The Beacon*
- M. *The Buffalo Chips*
- N. *The Bulldog News*
- O. *The Dove Tales*
- P. *The Four Seasons*
- Q. *The Harmonizer*
- R. *The Linesman*
- S. *The Lobster Tales*
- T. *The Minuteman*
- U. *The Pineapple Press*
- V. *The Piper*
- W. *The Pony Express*
- X. *Star Light News*

1. *Star Light News* Libby/Griffin
2. *Follow the Star* Brissette/LeClair
3. *Flight of the Loon* Bowen/Stretton
4. *Eagle Express* Webber/Hubbard
5. *The Four Seasons* Crabtree/Coombs
6. *The Bulldog News* Gaines/Farrington
7. *The Lobster Tales* Bibber/Jones
8. *The Pineapple Press* Hawes/Connelly
9. *The Buffalo Chips* Blakely/Wardwell
10. *The Pony Express* Wilkie/DeWitt
11. *Puppy Tales* Dupal/Cousins
12. *The Minuteman* Landry/Trafton
13. *The Linesman* St. Pierre/Tufts
14. *From the Backwoods* Johnson/Smith
15. *The Bare Facts* Byras/Hanington
16. *The Harmonizer* Irving/Owens
17. *Kibbles and Bitz* Nanos/Farnsworth
18. *Ewes Give a Hoot* Stack/Jervis
19. *Chickadee Chatter* Hall/Cole
20. *The Angelic Bears* Wood/Dunlap
21. *The Dove Tales* Cookson/Babb