

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Volume 24 No. 6

January 17, 2025

Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

• Rebecca G. H. Thompson, Worthy Grand Matron

Jon R. Thompson, Worthy Grand Patron

Join Us for the *On Toddy Pond* Spring Event!

Come shake off the winter cobwebs and join us for an afternoon that feels a bit like camp, minus the bunk beds. We'll have good BBQ, fun games, basket and 50/50 raffles, and a lively trivia competition where bragging rights are almost as important as the prizes. It's a relaxed, good-humored gathering — no need to know everything, just enough to argue your answer with confidence.

Trivia will be played in teams of up to six people, with prizes for both first and second place, because in Maine we believe effort counts too. There's also a prize for Best Team Name, so feel free to let your inner wit (or sarcasm) shine. No team? No problem — you'll be welcomed into one when you arrive. And if trivia isn't your thing, don't worry; there will be other activities to enjoy without having to remember state capitals.

The event will be held on Saturday, March 7 at the Pittsfield Masonic Hall, 138 Hamilton Terrace, Pittsfield. Things really kick off with a social hour at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon, and trivia and entertainment beginning at 12:45 p.m. — promptly, by Maine standards.

Lunch will feature pulled pork or pulled chicken sandwiches with classic BBQ sides, and yes, gluten-free options will be available, because everyone deserves dessert without consequences. Meal tickets are \$20 and trivia participation is \$1 per person, payable either with your reservation or at the door (exact change appreciated, but we won't count pennies).

Reservations and meal payments are due by February 20. Please make checks payable to Kelly Fitts and mail them to: Kelly Fitts, 32 Michaud Rd., Palmyra, ME 04965.

Best of all, every dollar raised supports the Children's Dyslexia Centers, so you can eat well, laugh a little, and feel good about it — three things Mainer Eastern Star members tend to appreciate.

Merrill/Hall Announcements

Sister Darcy R. Merrill, Associate Grand Matron, and Brother Calvin F. Hall, Associate Grand Patron, would love to have you come along and join them for the announcement of the 2026–2027 "Friendship, Love and Kindness" Grand Family at the Merrill/Hall Announcement Luncheon on Saturday, March 14 at Central Hall Commons, 152 East Main Street in Dover-Foxcroft.

We'll kick things off with a social hour from 11 am to noon — plenty of time to visit, swap a few good stories, and ask folks how their winter's been — then sit down to lunch at noon, with the announcements coming after, ayuh, once everyone's had a good meal. Lunch will be catered by Belly of the Beast BBQ for \$25 per person, so you won't be going home hungry. Seating is limited to the first 100 folks, so don't wait until the back roads dry out to decide. Please send reservations by March 7, with checks made payable to Deanne P. Merrill, 78 Elm Street, Milo, ME 04463.

CAN-AM Weekend

A weekend of fellowship, fun, and fabulous memories awaits as members of the New Brunswick Eastern Star Magazine hosts the Can-Am Weekend in Fredericton, New Brunswick, February 20–22, 2026.

The *Can-Am* event is an Eastern Star fellowship weekend attended by members from both the U.S. and Canada, as part of a long-standing regional tradition where jurisdictions gather for social events, meals, and networking across borders. It opens the door for fantastic opportunities to strengthen fraternal ties with other OES members. You can find the official registration, housing, and meal forms on the Grand Chapter of New Brunswick Order of the Eastern Star's website. The cut off date is January 23.

The fun begins Friday evening with "*Get Your Groove On*" — a retro hippy party sure to bring out your best throwback style. Dress as a hippy and join Brother Deryl Fitzgerald in the entertainment. Saturday evening features the elegant Casino Royale Banquet, followed by an exciting night of casino games and a concluding auction. Any proceeds will go to support Camp Goodtimes.

Love That Lasts Devotional

Above all, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. — Colossians 3:14

Valentine's Day fills our world with hearts, flowers, and sweet words. These reminders of love bring smiles, but they also invite us to think more deeply about what love truly means.

The Bible tells us that love is more than a feeling. It is patient when patience is hard. It is kind when kindness takes effort. It endures when circumstances are challenging. Love shows up not just in grand gestures, but in everyday acts — a listening ear, a thoughtful note, a helping hand, a prayer offered quietly.

Jesus modeled this kind of love for us. He cared for the forgotten, welcomed the lonely, and gave without counting the cost. His love was steady and faithful, even when it was not returned. That is the love we are called to share — in our families, our friendships, our churches, and our communities.

As Valentine's Day arrives, may we look beyond cards and candy and remember that love is best expressed through how we live. May our words encourage, our actions serve, and our hearts remain open to one another.

Prayer: May our hearts be filled with love that is patient and kind. May our words bring encouragement, our actions reflect compassion, and our lives share God's love in quiet, meaningful ways. May we carry this love with us, today and always. Amen.

Quickie Questions (answers on page three)

- 1. Which Point is known for loyalty and devotion?**
A. Adah B. Ruth C. Esther D. Martha
- 2. What do the five Points mainly teach us?**
A. Famous places B. Historical dates
C. Moral lessons and virtues D. Secret codes
- 3. Which Point teaches love shown through service?**
A. Esther B. Martha C. Electa D. Adah
- 4. Eastern Star Chapters are best known for which of these?**
A. Charity and community service
B. Competitive games
C. Political debates
D. Sports leagues
- 5. Eastern Star membership offers which of the following?**
A. Fellowship and friendship
B. Opportunities to serve
C. Personal growth
D. All of the above

Valentine Words

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

Admirer	February	Marriage
Candy	Flowers	Passion
Cards	Fourteenth	Proposal
Chocolates	Heart	Red
Couples	Honey	Romance
Cupid	Hug	Romeo
Date	Juliet	Rose
Dear	Kisses	Sweetheart
Diamond	Love	XOXO
Doves	Lovebirds	

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

Love In Every Point

Worthy Matron: Sisters and Brothers, as we gather near Valentine's Day, we are reminded that love is not simply sentiment or romance, but a sacred gift — patient, kind, faithful, and enduring. Tonight, we reflect on how love is revealed through each Point of our Eastern Star.

Worthy Patron: We welcome Adah, whose virtue teaches us obedience born of love. True love listens, respects, and honors commitments. Adah reminds us that love flourishes when we willingly follow what is right, not out of fear, but out of devotion.

Adah: May we show our love by faithfulness — to God, to family, and to one another. Obedience offered in love brings peace and harmony.

Worthy Matron: We welcome Ruth, whose story is one of steadfast love and loyalty. Ruth teaches us that love does not abandon those in need. Her words echo through the ages: *Whither thou goest, I will go.*

Ruth: May our love be loyal, standing firm through joy and sorrow alike. Where love abides, loyalty remains.

Worthy Patron: We welcome Esther, who shows us that love sometimes requires courage. Because she loved her people, she risked her life. Love that protects, defends, and sacrifices is among the highest forms of love.

Esther: May we have the courage to speak and act in love, even when it is difficult. Love gives us courage to stand. Love protects the vulnerable.

Worthy Matron: We welcome Martha, whose love is shown through service. Love is often quiet — found in caring hands, willing hearts, and acts done without seeking recognition.

Martha: May our love be seen in service freely given, with joy and humility. Love serves willingly. Love meets everyday needs. Love honors God through service.

Worthy Patron: We welcome Electa, whose virtue teaches us enduring love — faith that remains even through sorrow and loss. True love does not fade when tested but grows deeper through trust in God.

Electa: May our love endure, strengthened by faith and hope. Love strengthened by faith never fails. Love remains through sorrow and joy. Love trusts in God's promises. Love shines with hope eternal

Worthy Matron: Sisters and Brothers, Valentine's Day reminds us of hearts and cards, but the Eastern

Star reminds us of something far greater — Love that obeys, loves that remains loyal, love that is brave, love that serves, and love that endures. As we go forth, may we carry this love into our homes, our Chapter, and our community. Love is the greatest of all gifts.

Worthy Patron: *Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.* May our lives reflect love in action, our words speak kindness, our hands offer service, and our hearts remain faithful.

Quickie Answers

1. B Ruth
2. C Moral lessons and virtues
3. B Martha
4. A Charity and community service
5. D All of them

January

- 19 – Tuscan #148, Bangor, 7 pm, Landmarks and Obligation, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 20 – Madonna #144, West Kennebunk, 7 pm, Stated Meeting
- 20 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, Honoring Conductress and Associate Conductress
- 24 – Merger of Golden Sheaf #114, New Gloucester with Pine Cone #26 Auburn, 1 pm, Brunswick
- 27 – Mt. Zircon #142, Mexico, 7 pm, Slipper Night, Supper 6 pm
- 29 – Annette #184, Saco, 7:30 pm Special for Degrees with three candidates

February

- 2 – Mystic #69, Litchfield, 7 pm, Our Sweethearts (Honoring Masons)
- 3 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting
- 5 – Keystone #78, Solon, 7 pm, Landmarks and Obligation Night/Sideliners Night
- 6 – Irene #97, Ellsworth, 7:30 pm, Values, Star Point Night
- 6 – Primrose #152, Belfast, 7:30, Electa Night/Autism, Soup Potluck, 6:30 pm
- 9 – Fireside, #103, Clinton, 7 pm, Valentine's Day
- 9 – Pleasant River #159, Buxton, 7 pm, Valentine Bingo, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 12 – Martha Washington #15, Waterville, 7:30 pm, President's Program
- 12 – Pine Cone #26, Auburn, 7 pm, Love Lights The Way, Honoring Star Points, Social Hour 5:30 – 6:30
- 13 – Rumery #46, Addison, 7:30 pm, ESTARL Supper with Landmarks and Obligation Night with AC Lecture
- 13 – Abenaki #116, Readfield, 7:30 pm, Slippers Night
- 16 – Electa #2, Bowdoinham, 7 pm, Sharing love for our Order with Landmarks and Obligation Night

- 16 – Tuscan #148, Bangor, 7 pm, Valentines, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 17 – Madonna #144, West Kennebunk, 7 pm, Heart Auction
- 17 – Pleasant River #159, Buxton, 7 pm, District Two and Three, ESTARL Supper
- 17 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, District Two and Three Potluck Supper
- 19 – Bethlehem #36, Pittsfield, 7 pm, Tropical Night!
- 19 – Pioneer #11, Brunswick, 7 pm, Hawaii Night, wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt
- 24 – Mt. Zircon #142, Mexico, 7 pm, Valentines, Supper 6 pm
- 24 – Millwee #198, Orrington, 7 pm, Heart month Honoring Star Points, Supper 6 pm

March

- 2 – Mystic #69, Litchfield, 7 pm, Annual Meeting with Landmarks and Obligation Night
- 3 – Queen Esther #10, Augusta, 7 pm, Annual Meeting, Supper begins at 5:45 pm. Our outside door will be locked at 6:50. Please call Kim's cell (207-907-8205) if you are going to be late.
- 3 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, Annual Meeting
- 4 – Messalunskit #170, New Sharon, 7:30 pm, Annual Meeting
- 5 – Keystone #78, Solon, 7 pm, Annual Meeting, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 6 – Ruth #14, Sanford, 7:30 pm, Annual meeting
- 6 – Irene #97, Ellsworth, 7:30 pm, Annual Meeting
- 6 – Primrose #152, Belfast, 7:30, Annual Meeting, Potluck 6:30 pm
- 7 – Spring Event
- 9 – Fireside, #103, Clinton, 7 pm, Annual Meeting
- 9 – Pleasant River #159, Buxton, 7 pm, Annual Meeting, Pizza Party 6 pm
- 10 – Lakeside #60, Wales, 7 pm, Annual Meeting, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 10 – Elm Vale #105, Harrison, 7:30 pm, Elections, Annual Reports, Etc., Supper 6:30 pm
- 11 – Ivy #16, Warren, 7:30 pm, Annual Meeting
- 11 – Minerva #74, Madison, 7 pm, Annual Meeting, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 11 – Harbor View #136, Deer Isle, 7 pm, Annual Meeting with the Election of Officers
- 12 – Martha Washington #15, Waterville, 7:30 pm, Annual Meeting
- 12 – Pine Cone #26, Auburn, 7 pm, Annual Meeting, Social Hour 5:30 – 6:30
- 13 – Rumery #46, Addison, 7:30 pm, Annual Meeting
- 13 – Abenaki #116, Readfield, 7:30 pm, Annual Meeting Street, Supper 6 pm
- 14 – Announcement Luncheon
- 14 – Aldworth, Milo, 5 pm, Installation of 2026-2027 Officers
- 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
- 17 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, St. Patrick's Day
- 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 Night
- 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
- 28 – Electa #2, Bowdoinham, 7 pm, Installation of 2026-2027 Officers
- 28 – Irene #97, Ellsworth, 7:30 pm, Installation of 2026-2027 Officers

Valentine's Day

- Valentine's Day is named for St. Valentine, a Christian martyr from ancient Rome. There may have been more than one Valentine, which adds to the mystery!
- One legend says Valentine secretly performed marriages when they were forbidden, helping couples stay together.
- Another story credits him with sending a note signed "From your Valentine" while in prison — a phrase still used today.
- The holiday also picked up traditions from an ancient Roman February festival that celebrated the coming of spring.
- By the Middle Ages, people believed February 14 marked the start of birds' mating season — linking the day even more closely with romance.
- Today, Valentine's Day is a reminder to share love in many forms — kindness, gratitude, friendship, and care for one another.

Valentine's OES Riddle

Why do Eastern Star members make the best Valentines? Because they already know the secret to a lasting relationship. Love, patience and always knowing when it's time to sit down.