

A Walk in the Woods

Volume 25 No. 2

July 25, 2026

Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

· Darcy R. Merrill, Worthy Grand Matron

Calvin F. Hall, Worthy Grand Patron

Worthy Grand Matron's SP

The Worthy Grand Matron's Special Project will be held on Monday, August 17 at the Auburn Masonic Hall, 1021 Turner Street, Auburn. You are invited to attend for a wonderful morning of fellowship, friendship, and meaningful work. Coffee and light refreshments will be available during the social time beginning at 9 a.m., giving everyone a chance to visit before the work begins at 10 a.m.

Service Dog Golf Tournament

A Service Dog Golf Tournament is scheduled for August 29th at the Sheepscot Links Golf Course in Whitefield, with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. Brother Bill Mitchell as chairman of the Service Dog Committee is coordinating this event. This is a premier event combining community spirit, friendly competition, and a commitment to the training and placement of Service Dogs. It's designed to raise funds for the Service Dogs while offering participants a fantastic day on the greens. Events like this not only provide a great day of fellowship and recreation, but also help ensure that Service Dogs can continue to transform lives.

The tournament will be played in an 18-hole scramble format, making it ideal for golfers of all abilities, from experienced players to first-time participants. Teams are encouraged to register early, as the field is limited to a maximum of 16 teams. Gather your team or sign up solo – contact the clubhouse at 207-549-7060 for more information. There are prizes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. \$60 per player includes greens fees, cart, and lunch.

To sign up to play in the tournament, use the following link: <https://forms.gle/NJ9daXAtKojwXHK79>.

Grand Family Reception

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 12 and plan to join us for a wonderful afternoon as we come together to honor Sister Darcy, Brother Calvin, and their lovely Grand Family at Jeff's Catering, 15 Littlefield Road, Brewer. This special gathering is an opportunity for us to share in the spirit of friendship, love, and kindness that makes our Order so meaningful.

Schedule of Events: Registration and Social Hour: 11 a.m. Luncheon: Noon. Guests may choose between Roast Beef or Stuffed Chicken Supreme complete with delicious sides and desserts for \$22. Entertainment: 1 p.m. Attire – Grand Family: Travel gowns/suits. Other Dignitaries: Gowns/suits. General Membership: Street dress.

Registration deadline: September 4 with checks payable and mailed to Erin Fitts, 16 Michaud Road, Palmyra, ME 04965. If paying for multiple attendees, please include a list of names for registration purposes.

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.

More details and registration information will be announced in the coming months, so be sure to mark your calendars now and plan to join us for this exciting weekend of fellowship and fun!

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

Friendship Word Search

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

Acceptance	Encouragement	Respect
Adventure	Friend	Sharing
Appreciation	Friendship	Sis
Bro	Fun	Smile
Buddy	Happiness	Support
Caring	Honesty	Team
Cheer	Kin	Together
Chum	Kind	Trust
Compassion	Loyal	Understanding
Dear	Pal	Unite

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 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.

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

- August 1 — Telling the OES Story. Messaging, imagery, first impressions, and what AI understands.
- 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 one session or all three. Registration is open to all OES members worldwide and is free. Each session will be held by Zoom from 4– 6:00 p.m. Mountain Time. Attend one session or all three. Learn more and register at <https://oestools.org/home/ggc-marketing->

Friendship Ceremony

Worthy Matron: Friendship is one of life's greatest gifts. Like a star, a true friend may not always be close enough to touch, but their light is always there to guide and comfort us.

Adah: Friendship gives us courage. Like the steady shore, a true friend helps us stand strong when life becomes difficult.

Ruth: Friendship is kindness freely given. Like a summer flower, it brings beauty and joy wherever it blooms.

Esther: Friendship gives us courage to speak, to stand, and to care. Like a lighthouse, a true friend can be a light in times of darkness.

Martha: Friendship is service. Like a quiet Maine lake, a good friend offers peace, comfort, and a place to rest.

Electa: Friendship is loyalty and love. Like the stars shining above a summer evening, true friendship continues to shine through every season of life.

Worthy Matron: The five Star Points remind us that friendship is more than simply enjoying one another's company. It is courage, kindness, loyalty, service, and love. May we cherish the

friends who have walked beside us, welcome those who are new to our circle, and strive to be the kind of friend whose light makes another person's journey brighter.

Quickie Questions (Answers on back)

1. You are a new officer and have arrived to set up the chapter room but the person that said they would help show you how it is done has an emergency and cannot be there. Where do you find the necessary information to set up the chapter room?
2. Where do you find the Initiation Obligation?
3. Where do you find the Test Oath?
4. While a meeting is going on when is the only time that it is illegal to leave the Chapter room?
5. Your Chapter is working on revising their By-Laws. Where do you find how to proceed?

August

- 3 – Mystic #69, Litchfield, 7 pm, A Blast from the Past: Rob Morris, 6 pm ESTARL Supper
- 4 – Queen Esther #10, 7 pm, ESTARL, Picnic Supper 5:45
- 4 – Pleasant River #159, Buxton, Dinner with Friends at 390 Main Restaurant in Gorham
- 5 – Messalunskit #170, New Sharon, 7:30, Dog Days of Summer
- 6 – Keystone #78, Solon, 7 pm, Music Night, Official Visitation
- 7 – Primrose #152, Belfast, 7:30 pm, Honoring Masons/Autism, 6:30 pm BBQ
- 10 – Aldworth #39, Milo, 7 pm, Blueberry Queen, ESTARL Supper 6 pm
- 10 – Molunkus Valley #95, Sherman, 7 pm, County Night, Supper 5:30 pm
- 11 – Elm Vale #105, Harrison, 7:30 pm, Official Visitation with the DDGM, Donation Bolsters Mills Library, Supper 6:30 pm
- 12 – Ivy #16, Warren, 7:30 pm, ESTARL picnic at 6:15 pm, Happy 250th Birthday America
- 12 – Minerva #74, Madison, 7 pm, Honor Our Own Star Points, 6 pm Potluck
- 14 – Lakeside #60, Wales, 7 pm, Honor Night, ESTARL Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 17 – Worthy Grand Matron's Special Project
- 17 – Electa #2, Bowdoinham, 7 pm, Evening with the Grand Star Points and Ice Cream Soda Night
- 17 – Arbutus #19, Liberty, 7 pm, Program by Ann Marie Noble, Cancer, 6 pm Supper
- 17 – Mountain View #197, Buckfield, 7 pm, Back to School honoring DDGM, Supper 6 pm
- 18 – Almeda #149, Guilford, 7 pm, Toys and

- Games, 6 pm Potluck
- 18 – Pondicherry #192, Bridgton, 7:30 pm, Escort Night, Donation School Backpack Food, Potluck theme: Salad Bar
- 19 – Felicity #195, Orland, 7 pm, Surprise Night, bring school supplies, 6 pm Supper
- 20 – Lily of the Valley #157, Weeks Mills, Official Visitation with the DDGM and Grand Star Points
- 25 – Mt. Zircon #142, Mexico, 7 pm, School Items, 6 pm Supper
- 26 – Beacon #202, Damariscotta, 7 pm, Bring your bling!!
- 27 – Riverside #123, Orland, 7 pm, Special Honor Night, 6 pm Supper
- 29 – Service Dog Golf Tournament

September

- 1 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting
- 2 – Mystic #69, Litchfield, 7 pm, Past Performances (Past Grands doing Initiation)
- 2 – Queen Esther #10, Augusta, 7 pm, School Days, Potluck Supper 5:45
- 3 – Messalunskit #170, New Sharon, 7:30, Labor Day
- 3 – Keystone #78, Solon, 7 pm, Lord's Prayer Program by Muffy, Collect items for Solon Elementary
- 4 – Ruth #14, Sanford, 7 pm, Honoring Grand Officers
- 4 – Primrose #152, Belfast, 7:30 pm, Landmarks, Obligation, AC Lecture, Service Dogs, 6:30 pm Potluck
- 8 – Elm Vale #105, Harrison, 7:30 pm, Landmarks and Obligation Night, Waterford Library, Supper 6:30 pm
- 9 – Ivy #16, Warren, 7:30 pm, Mums the Word
- 9 – Minerva #74, Madison, 7 pm, Papa Loves Mama, 6 pm Potluck
- 10 – Pine Cone Chapter #26, Auburn 7 pm, Official Visitation, 5:30 pm Social Hour
- 11 – Rumery #46, Addison, 7 pm, Official Visitation, ESTARL Night, Potluck 6 pm
- 11 – Fireside #103, Clinton, 7 pm Special for Degrees, 6 pm supper
- 11 – Abenaki #116, Readfield, 7:30 pm, Teachers - Landmarks and Obligation
- 12 – Grand Family Reception
- 14 – Aldworth #39, Milo, 7 pm, Official Visitation with the DDGM, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 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
- 14 – Pleasant River #159, Buxton, 7 pm, Heart Presentation by Brett Jervis, GGCCM, 6 pm Potluck Supper
- 15 – Lakeside #60, Wales, 7 pm, Landmarks and Obligation with the AC Lecture, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 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, Refreshments 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
- 24 – Riverside #123, Orland, 7 pm, Landmarks and Obligation, Bring School Supplies, 6 pm Supper
- 26 – Fall Event

Quickie Answers

- 1.The Ritual 2.Secret Work 3.The Ritual
- 4.During balloting 5.The CR & R