

Chickadee Chatter

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April 1, 2021

Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

Brenda L. Hall, Worthy Grand Matron

David M. Cole, Worthy Grand Patron

Maine Grand Chapter Session

In late February all members of the Maine Grand Jurisdiction received a letter from Sister Brenda L. Hall, Worthy Grand Matron concerning the *Cup of Kindness* Grand Chapter Session. It is a one day session held on Saturday, May 22 at the Augusta Civic Center. Because of the Federal and State Mandates regarding meetings and gatherings, and the Covid-19 protocols established, it will limit how many members may attend and it will be by invitation only by the Worthy Grand Matron. As no ritual will be used, the entire session will be streamed so that all the membership could view it. Remember your District Deputy Grand Matron is an excellent resource to answer your questions about this change.

Annual Meetings and Installation

A letter filled with information and instruction concerning the Subordinate Chapter's Annual Meetings and Installation of Officers was sent by Sister Brenda L. Hall, Worthy Grand Matron to all Subordinate Chapter secretaries. Sister Brenda has been consulting with Sister Marianne Shenefelt, Most Worthy Grand Matron and Maine's Jurisprudence Committee to set up guidelines for the Subordinate Chapters to follow. Again, your District Deputy Grand Matron is an excellent resource to answer your questions. As we move forward we must recognize that 2021 still holds changes from what we consider to be *the norm*.

General Grand Chapter Triennial Assembly

The 50th Triennial Assembly of General Grand Chapter scheduled for this fall has been canceled. It will not be rescheduled nor will it be postponed for another time. RWAGM Sister Glenda G. Winchester and RWAGP Brother F. Ron Lowry will be installed MWGM and MWGP on November 4, 2021 along with the other Elected and Appointed GGC Officers for 2021-2024. The General Grand Chapter's website – www.easternstar.org under the Triennial tab will have information as it becomes available.

Keeping Life In Order

by Martha Filip, PGM of Minnesota

My Chapter met the other night. As I sat on the sidelines, I realized that here was a group of people who weren't perfect, but were. The signs were given by hands gnarled with the obvious pain of arthritis. The passes came from voices that spanned the octaves from young adults to octogenarian. The Flag was presented in a brother's strong arms and given an honor guard of Conductresses mindful of their physical limitations. The Chaplain couldn't kneel but her prayers were offered in reverent sincerity. The Worthy Patron ascended to his station with deliberate steps. The Worthy Matron's greetings were heard after making sure her arms were long enough to read them with bespectacled eyes.

Through all of this imperfection, I felt only one thing – love. Sisters and Brothers had gathered from near and far to hear and feel that old story told each meeting and to respond to the admonition “that we love one another”. Were you there one night? Was there more to the meeting than perfection? I hope so, for it is in that spirit that we were destined into organization and it is in that spirit, that we shall continue to serve each other and those who see by our example that following the Star in the East will truly make us, *fairest among thousands, altogether lovely*.

Devotional Corner

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered. Acts 17:32a

For many of us who have grown up celebrating the resurrection of Jesus on a special day each year, the idea does not seem strange in any way. But these people that were hearing about the resurrection of the dead for the first time as described in Acts really struggled with the thought of a dead person coming back to life. An expression that continues to be spoken by those who reject the concept of life after death is in the words, "When you're dead, you're dead."

Once I overheard a debate between an atheist and a Christian. The atheist believed that people die, are buried, rot in the ground and was not at all shy about expressing that opinion. The Christian man spoke with equal confidence about his conviction that every person has an eternal soul that continues to exist after the physical body dies. As I listened to the comments of these two, the word hope continued to come to my mind. How empty life would be for most of us if we had no hope of life after death.

The resurrection of Jesus celebrated under the name "Easter" is an event which must either be rejected as it is for an atheist or accepted as a reality as it is for believers. That same dividing line, as it were, was what separated the crowd told about in Acts 17; some sneered, made fun of the idea, others believed and we as fellow believers continue to celebrate and rejoice each year.

Far Above Rubies By Isabel Hill Elder

Reviewed by Janice Belk, PM – Friendship Chapter #55, PA

Find enclosed a short story about Ruth, Jephthah's daughter, and Esther among the other women of the Bible. This book that I refer to is in print and called "Far Above Rubies." A wonderful short series of stories of all the women of the Bible. "Who can find a virtuous woman for her price is far above rubies" (Proverbs 31:10) It speaks of Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Miriam, Ruth, Jephthah's Daughter, Hannah, Abigail, Queen Esther, The Virgin Mother, Martha, Mary, Lydia, Claudia, and the woman of Galilee. There are others mentioned which portrays the stories of their lives. It is an attempt to supply what can hardly be said to exist already in one book. It is a historical work to help the reader understand that these women were worthy of our highest esteem. "A paragraph is so worthy of my noting that in the very beginning woman was the equal of man in every respect; in patriarchal times she had an independence surpassing every today. The women of the heathen nations were the first to lose this independence which was retained by the women of Israel until the captivities."

Spring Is Here

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

Baseball
Bees
Blooms
Buds
Bulb
Butterfly
Caterpillar
Chick
Crocus
Daffodils
Egg
Flowers

Garden
Grass
Iris
Kites
Ladybug
Lamb
Lilacs
Mud
Nest
Outdoors
Puddle
Rain

Rainbow
Raincoat
Robin
Sap
Seeds
Showers
Spring
Sunshine
Tulips
Umbrella
Windy

Quickie Quiz (answers on page four)

1. What is the theory that the O.E.S. is founded upon?
2. What is the Order dedicated to?
3. What is the inspiration of the O.E.S.?
4. What two men are associated with the establishment of O.E.S.?
5. What is the mission of the Order?

At Easter Time

The ceremony should be begun with the playing of very soft music – Should the services of a soloist be available, the singing of the first verse of an Easter hymn will do much to create a mood appropriate to the occasion.

Adah approaches the East where a small table has been placed. She brings a piece of blue material of suitable texture and drapes it over the table to provide the background of the presentation and returns to her station following her speech and the other Star Points do likewise.

Adah: This blue cloth we reverently bring in commemoration of Christ's unwavering loyalty to right thinking and right acting. At this Easter time, we humbly dedicate ourselves to a new and greater loyalty to the tenets of our faith. Throughout the coming year we shall strive more diligently to keep from displaying disloyalty to the spirit of love that prompted the sacrifice made for our sakes. May we ever keep from departing from what we know to be right in His Eyes.

Ruth approaches the East and places the word Forgive on top of the blue cloth ... could be printed on yellow paper or attached to a yellow piece of cloth. the color associated with Ruth.

Ruth: The golden compassion of Christ's words uttered at this Sacred Season have come down to us with undiminished luster. "Forgive them for they know not what they do." We are grateful for the comforting knowledge of That Great Spirit that surrounds each of us with understanding forgiveness of our transgressions. As we proceed into the days that lie before us, we do humbly dedicate ourselves to the task of associating with our fellow man in a spirit of understanding, love and forgiveness.

Esther approaches the East and places a white cross in the middle of the drape.

Esther: We humbly set this cross in commemoration of Christ's pure, undefiled devotion to His Father's will. We do humbly place it in great awe and reverence for the spirit of innocence that was sacrificed for our sakes. We dedicate ourselves anew to the task of daily living in the radiance of the pure white light of His truth, wisdom and everlastingness.

Martha approaches the East and places a wreath of fern or evergreen at the foot of the cross.

Martha: We bring this wreath, plaited of softest evergreen in memory of the crown of thorns which Christ humbly bore for our sakes. We humbly dedicate ourselves to the task of keeping ourselves from bringing heartache and further pain to Him who loved us so completely. We are deeply grateful for the gift of Life Eternal made possible through faith in the Word of God as given to us by His only Son.

Electa approaches the East bearing a glass goblet filled with blood red substance and places it in front of

and to the right of the cross. It is suggested that the the goblet have one of the dark red gelatins instead of liquid. This will give the appearance of liquid but will prevent any accidental spills and will permit Electa to walk gracefully while she carries the goblet.

Electa: We do humbly place this goblet in memory of God's Love for us which He manifested to us through the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Each of us do humbly dedicate ourselves to making our lives a continuing testimony to the love that passeth all understanding.

After Electa returns to her position the organ or piano should softly begin "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" and if possible the first verse of the hymn should be sung by a soloist.

Chaplain: O God, in humility help us pray,
Help us be worthy this Easter Day.
Beside His tomb so far away,
Do lilies bloom, pure and still,
This Easter Day, this Easter Day?
Have flowers bloomed in every mark
The Holy foot beneath the burden made
That day so dark, that day so dark?
Do wretched thorns on living vine
Still grow and flourish, grimly sharp,
O Christ of Mine, O Christ of Mine?
Do men of evil the innocent bind,
With thongs, vengeance knotted tight,
O Peace of Mind, O Peace of Mind?
No surcease of wine, but vinegar cup
Do we give the suffering man to drink,
O lift us up, O lift us up?
Oh God, in humility help us pray,
Help us be worthy this Easter Day.

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.

Spring Quiz (answers bottom next column)

1. What flower is not one of the first spring flowers?
 - a. Tulips
 - b. Dandelions
 - c. Lilacs
 - d. Roses
2. When the groundhog does not see his shadow on Groundhog Day, what does that mean?
 - a. Spring comes early
 - b. Spring will never come
 - c. Spring comes later
 - d. Spring will be filled with lots of rain
3. What is the first day of Spring called?
 - a. Vernal Equinox
 - b. Spring Equinox
 - c. The first day of Spring
 - d. Spring Break
4. Scientists found that kids grow faster in the Spring.
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. Birds are more vocal in the Spring.
 - a. True
 - b. False
6. Tornadoes are most common in in the Spring.
 - a. True
 - b. False
7. During the first day of Spring, where does the sun rise and where does the sun set?
 - a. Rises in due south and sets in due north
 - b. Rises in due north and sets in due south
 - c. Rises in due west and sets in due east
 - c. Rises in due east and sets in due west
8. What myth is associated with the first day of Spring
 - a. Only on that day can you balance a raw egg on its end
 - b. Body hair doesn't grow on the first day of Spring
 - c. You're most likely to get into a plane crash on the first day of Spring
 - d. Only on that day can you see Saturn with the naked eye from anywhere in the USA
9. What does Spring symbolize
 - a. Love
 - b. Death
 - c. Rebirth
 - d. Faith
10. For Australians, Spring begins in September.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Spring Sayings

Ah, the sweet smell of spring. It's such a refreshing time! The warm sunshine feels so good on our skin, and melts away our winter blues. Colorful blooms are popping up, and it's the perfect time to start planting the garden.

- "Blossom by blossom the spring begins."
— Algernon Charles Swinburne
- "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's Party!'" — Robin Williams
- "Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush."— Doug Larson
- "In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."— Margaret Atwood
- "Spring work is going on with joyful enthusiasm." — John Muir
- "The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring." - Bernard Williams
- "To be interested in the changing seasons is a happier state of mind than to be hopelessly in love with spring." - George Santayana
- "The first real day of spring is like the first time a boy holds your hand. A flood of skin-tingling warmth consumes you, and everything shines with a fresh, colorful glow, making you forget that anything as cold and harsh as winter ever existed." - Richelle E. Goodrich

Quickie Answers

1. The Holy Bible
2. Charity, truth and loving kindness
3. The Star of Bethlehem
4. Robert Morris and Robert McCoy
5. Service

1. d. Roses
2. a. Spring comes early
3. a. Vernal Equinox
4. a. True
5. a. True
6. a. True
7. e. Rises in due east and sets in due west
8. a. Only on that day can you balance a raw egg on its end
9. c. Rebirth
10. a. True