

Chickadee Chatter

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Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

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Why Belong to the Order of the Eastern Star

When my children were young they would ask the question, *Do you have to go to Eastern Star tonight?* and then in the next breath ask, *Why do you love the Eastern Star, Mother?* Now again, my grandchildren ask the same questions. This is what I have said to them all, over these many years.

Come my children and sit with me awhile. Do you see this open Holy Bible? I can tell you from its pages why I love the Eastern Star life, which is second place to our church life.

In Isaiah it was foretold that a Savior would be born, then finally one night a bright silver blue star appeared in the sky and angels sang and told the shepherds that the Savior had been born. Then the Magi heard of the birth of the Christ Child and they followed the Star until they found the Babe lying in a manger.

This Christ Child, Jesus, grew up like any other normal little boy with His mother, Mary and His father, Joseph, many times playing and helping His father in the carpenter shop. We don't hear much about Him from the age of twelve until he is thirty years old.

Then for three years Jesus lived among the people teaching, preaching, and performing many miracles. When he was 33 he was betrayed by one of His own disciples and then deserted by all of them when He went to the garden to pray. There as he prayed, *not my will but thine be done*, God gave to His son all the grace He needed to face His death on a cruel cross for you and me. This tells me that through it all God is always there when we need Him.

Now Masonry is an ancient fraternal institution for men, and there was one named Rob Morris, that felt there should be an organization for the daughters, widows, wives, sisters, and mothers of Master Masons to enjoy and it would also be for their protection. He went to the Holy Bible for inspiration.

In the Old Testament, he found a beautiful and loving daughter, who he called Adah. She was the only daughter of Jephthah. She was willing to sacrifice her life for her father's honor.

He also found the most beautiful story of love the world has ever known recorded in the Book of Ruth, a widow who became an ancestress of Jesus.

In the Book of Esther, he found a wife, who was the most beautiful female in all of the kingdom and one who was loyal too, and loved her husband, the King, very much and also her kindred and friends.

In the New Testament there is the Sister Martha, whose faith in God and friendship with Jesus prompted Jesus to perform the miracle of raising Lazarus, her brother from death into life.

Also there he found the Elect Lady that Paul loved so much, one who fearlessly loved God.

My children, these five women were chosen to be the heroines of our Order and for us as Eastern Star members, who try to be like them. Rob Morris took that bright shiny blue star that led the shepherds and the Magi to the Savior as the emblem of our Order. But he changed the colors of the points to blue, yellow, white, green, and red to represent these five heroines and called the Order, The Eastern Star.

Now my children for Special Grammie to belong to the Eastern Star, I had to have a belief in this Supreme Being whose Star we follow, and then there must be the open Holy Bible and it should always be read. We must always remember that it was inspired by God.

The silver blue star that was chosen for the emblem of our Order represents the Subordinate Chapters. Then we have the Grand Chapter which is made up of the membership from our chapters. This is where Special Grammie served many years. Now to tie us all together around the world as one big Fraternal Order we have the General Grand Chapter.

The excitement and pageantry is incomparable, but the real enjoyment of going to the Chapter meetings, to Grand Chapter, and to General Grand Chapter is in the fellowship of greeting old friends and making new ones.

Now you see, my children, it is such a wonderful organization where the women along with the Master Masons, can lift their hands in service to God and all mankind through many charities. This is why Special Grammie loves the Eastern Star.

Chiming Of the Bells

The blue bell rings out for courage
This blue of sky and sea,
The color of tiny shy flowers
Which teach fidelity
May you be surrounded in the serenity of blue
And know our loyalty is pledged to you.

The yellow bell tells of constancy
This yellow bright and gay
It points to sacrifice and friendship
Not always an easy way.
Be surrounded in the rays of golden sunlight
May contentment in service bring true delight.

The white bell rings out for loyalty
A white so peaceful and pure
A crystallization of simplicity
It will, like faith, endure.
Be surrounded in this sparkling color of white
May peace of heart be within your sight.

The green bell tells of immortality.
This green of grass and tree
Sending out rays of hope to all
Who travel life's stormy seas.
May be surrounded in the green of nature's
dress
And find fortitude in God's constantness.

The bell of red rings out for love
And tells of fervency.
It drives out fear and hate and doubt
Brings a glow to you and me.
Be surrounded in the healing color of red
May warm hospitality around you spread.
You've heard the chiming of the bells
And the wealth of teaching their harmony
tells.
Your time has come for journeying far
Ever guided by the strength of our beautiful
Star.

Bless those we love this Christmas Day, be
they near or far away.
Bless good friends who mean so much and
those with whom we're out of touch.
Bless them all, both young and old with all the
love their hearts can hold.
Bless them now and through the year with
simple joys, good will, and cheer.
Christmas love to you and those you cherish in
your heart.
May your holiday be bright with the love and
hope that is Christmas.

Christmas Words

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

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|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Advent | Goose | Ornament |
| Angel | Holly | Partridge |
| Bell | Hope | Reindeer |
| Bethlehem | Inn | Savior |
| Cards | Ivy | Shepherds |
| Caroling | Jesus | Sleigh |
| Census | Joseph | Star |
| Cheer | Joy | Stockings |
| Chimney | Lights | Toys |
| Elf | Magi | Tree |
| Fir | Manger | Wrap |
| Garland | Mary | Wreath |
| Gift | Noel | Yule |

Quickie Question (Answers on page three)

1. At an Installation of Officers, if the Installing Matron is being installed into an office and goes down to take the Installation Obligation given by the Installing Patron, can the Installing Patron leave the East to do that portion of the ritual?
2. What stations must be filled when you just have a quorum of seven?
3. To receive a 50 year pin must it be 50 years of consecutive membership?
4. Changes to By-laws require which one of the following: Unanimous vote, 2/3's vote, majority vote.
5. Why did Adah lift her veil?

The Three W's

1. Wash your hands
2. Wear a mask
3. Watch your distance

Devotional Corner

One of the highlights of a kindergarten's day in the classroom is the time called, Show and Tell, and parents know how anxious a child is to carry a special treasure to display it to the rest of the class.

Patty carried her precious parcel very carefully into the classroom one morning and eagerly awaited her turn for Show and Tell. When she was called up front to reveal her treasure, she began to unwrap several small figures which she had carefully wrapped in tissue paper to protect them. As she opened the largest parcel, the classmates saw a small wooden stable with a manger and each tiny figure was placed with care to make the Nativity scene.

But suddenly, Patty began searching frantically through the bits of tissue in the box, but without success. She raised her tear-filled eyes to her teacher and cried, *I have lost the Baby Jesus!*

In the busy days of the Christmas Season, we may in our hustle and bustle of shopping, wrapping, and baking – in the planning for parties and celebrations, lose sight of the real reason for this Holy Season. Amid the tinsel and wrapping, the blaring carols heard in the hub-bub of shopping malls, and the annoying commercialism that assails us on every side, it would be easy for us, like Patty, to lose the Baby Jesus.

The Wise Men following a Star in the East found Him at the end of their long journey. Let us each search diligently this Christmas to find Him, too. He is in the manger.

Quickie Answers

1. No, remember during a meeting either the Worthy Matron or Worthy Patron must remain in the East.
2. WM, AM, Secretary, Conductress, Chaplain, Warder, and Sentinel
3. No merely fifty years (Standing Rule, page 24 No. 14 – does not specific consecutive)
4. 2/3's (CR & R page 49, Article X, Section 4)
5. To show her innocence Ritual, Page 63, second paragraph interpretation of *no stain...*

A Maine Christmas

(stolen from a Christmas Card)

A Partridge in a White Pine

Two Blueberry Pies

Three Island Dots

Four Freezing Fishermen

Five Golden Leaves

Six Summer People Scurrying

Seven Black Flies Buzzing

Eight Artists Painting

Nine Lakes a-Lapping

Ten Lobsters Hiding

Eleven Loons a-Laughing

Twelve Snowmen Smiling

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. 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*. 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.

Christmas Riddles

1. I am a catchy carol and a tune which likes to rhyme. I contain 12 grand gifts that come around Christmas time. What am I?
2. If a lion had a Christmas music album, what would it be called?
3. Santa was having problems with his legs and was unable to walk so he went to the hospital to ask the doctor if he could recommend something for him. What did the doctor give to Santa to help him to walk?

Twelve Days of Christmas, Jungle Bells, A Candy Cane

A-Caroling We Go

1. What did the children put on Frosty the Snowman to bring him to life?
2. Who comes dressed in her snow-white gown and tap-tap-taps on your window pane?
3. Who introduced *White Christmas* in the movie *Holiday Inn*?
4. What instruments did the angels play upon a midnight clear?
5. What sort of tidings is *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* about?
6. Whose recording of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* became one of the best-selling records ever?
7. What's the name of the horse pulling the one-horse open sleigh in *Jingle-Bells*?
8. Oh by gosh, by golly, what time is it?
9. What will Santa Claus check his list twice to find out when he comes to town?
10. What roasts over an open fire while Jack Frost nips at your nose?

- A-Caroling We Go Answers
1. An old silk hat
 2. Suzy Snowflake
 3. Bing Crosby sang it in *Holiday Inn* for its screen debut, although he had already made it a popular record
 4. Harps of gold
 5. Tidings of comfort and joy
 6. Gene Autry's
 7. Bobtail ... what did you think *bells on Bobtail ring* was supposed to mean ... or did you just never think about it.
 8. Time for mistletoe and holly
 9. Who's naughty or nice
 10. Chestnuts ... although for a minute it sounded like slow torture, didn't it!

Christmas Trivia

- 1) The first instrument on which the carol *Silent Night* was played was:
 - A) A harp
 - B) A pipe organ
 - C) A guitar
 - D) A kazoo
- 2) Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in:
 - A) 1492
 - B) 1895
 - C) 1944
 - D) 1976
- 3) Good King Wenceslas was king of which country?
 - A) Abyssinia
 - B) England
 - C) Bohemia
 - D) Gondor
- 4) The name of Scrooge's deceased business partner in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* was:
 - A) Bob Cratchit
 - B) Jerry Cornelius
 - C) Bill Sykes
 - D) Jacob Marley
- 5) The poinsettia, a traditional Christmas flower, originally grew in which country?
 - A) Canada
 - B) China
 - C) Mexico
 - D) Spain
- 6) Which name does not belong to one of Santa's reindeer?
 - A) Comet
 - B) Prancer
 - C) Blitzen
 - D) Klaxon
- 7) Which of the following was NOT one of the Three Kings?
 - A) Caspar
 - B) Balthazar
 - C) Teleost
 - D) Melchior
- 8) At Christmas, it is customary to exchange kisses beneath a sprig of which plant?
 - A) Ivy
 - B) Yew
 - C) Holly
 - D) Mistletoe