

Chickadee Chatter

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March 1, 2021

Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

Brenda L. Hall, Worthy Grand Matron

David M. Cole, Worthy Grand Patron

Tentative 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 will be a one day session held on Saturday, May 22 at the Augusta Civic Center. Because of the Federal and State Mandates regarding meetings/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, plans are being made to stream the entire session so that all the membership could view it. In the coming weeks and months as details are worked out they will be shared. Remember your District Deputy Grand Matron is an excellent resource to answer your questions.

Annual Meetings and Installation of Officers

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 is scheduled to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, with activities commencing on October 29 and completing with the installation of officers on the evening of November 5. The following items are located on the General Grand Chapter's website – www.easternstar.org under the Triennial tab: Tentative Schedule, Pre-registration fillable form, Hotel information with online reservation directions, and Paper form for hotel reservations

Anniversaries

The last Grand Chapter event that was held for the Maine Jurisdiction was the announcement luncheon for the *Angels Gather Here* year hosted by Sister Catherine Wood, Associate Grand Matron and Brother Arthur Dunlap, on Saturday, March 13 at the Auburn Masonic Hall. Members attending were excited to learn who the next Grand Officers, District Deputy Grand Matrons, and Star Assistants would be. Yet with that excitement, there was an undercurrent of fear as the first cases of Covid-19 in Maine were being shared by the media and no one could visualize what was going to happen in the coming days, weeks, or months. At the middle of this month we will have completed one year of that continued uncertainty.

On March 17, *Star News* issued a ceremony entitled *Journey of Faith* as all the messages being shared were so negative with cancellations happening throughout our Jurisdiction as well as throughout the world. Hopefully the daily messages along with devotions that were added later, have kept your thoughts on the values, stories, and lessons that join us together as members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

On the back of the cover of Sister Catherine and Brother Arthur's program was the following poem:
*We believe in Angels that they're always hovering near,
Whispering encouragement whenever clouds appear.
Protecting us from danger and showing us the way.
Performing little miracles within our lives each day.*

Hopefully those same angels have been providing that care for the members of the Maine Jurisdiction throughout this pandemic year.

Share With Your Family

Recently I received a letter from the family member of a deceased Eastern Star member following a donation I'd made to ESTARL in memory of their loved one. Their note stated if they'd known about ESTARL they would have had ESTARL be the designated donation in memory of their loved one. We need to let our family know about three opportunities: donations to an Eastern Star charity, the desire to have an Eastern Star funeral ceremony, and what to do with OES badges or jewelry.

Devotional Corner

Positive interactions are vital to a healthy Chapter.

Have you heard about the theory of the dipper and the bucket? Each of us has an invisible bucket inside. It is filled or emptied by what people say or do to us. Full? You'll feel great! Empty? Awful! You also have an invisible dipper. You can use it to dip from others' buckets by saying or doing negative things. Or you can fill people's buckets by saying or doing things that increase positive emotions.

At its most basic, this means giving praise and recognition. A little goes a long way. But 65% of people claim they received no recognition for good work last year. Feeling unappreciated is the number one reason people disengage themselves.

Best friends are key to your well-being. If you don't already have one at Star, make one.

Every single one of us has our own God-given talents. Things you do instinctively and which give you satisfaction. Right now stop and make a list of five things you do well.

Learn to take a compliment. Once you start to fill buckets, others will want to fill yours in return.

Perhaps you notice a new hair do on the chapter secretary and you compliment her on it. Then she tells you that she likes your tie ... *Oh, this old thing?* you say, *I'm only wearing it because my wife gave to to me.* Right there you're draining the very bucket you just filled. Downplaying the compliment is like a slap in the face. Try responding with a simple and gracious *Thanks*. It will put a smile on both your faces.

Reverse the Golden Rule – It works even better to do unto others as they would have you do unto them. As in a drop in the bucket, or the kind of praise each individual considers most meaningful. One size doesn't fit all. Some prefer to be praised in front of a group; others, one-on-one. A complimentary email is nice; for some a good old fashioned card is better.

Be specific in your praise and honor people in a way that is meaningful to them.

A mere drop in the bucket, maybe. But isn't drop by drop how buckets get filled.

Saint Patrick's Day

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

Blarney	Ireland	Patrick
Celtic	Irish	Pot
Clover	Isle	Rainbow
Dublin	Leaf	Saint
Emerald	Leprechaun	Seventeenth
Folklore	Luck	Shamrock
Four	Magic	Stone
Gold	March	Wish
Green	Parade	

Quickie Quiz (answers on page four)

1. How many copies of the secret work does a chapter have?
2. When the Worthy Matron "closes" the Chapter, does she sound the gavel?
3. What stations must be filled when you just have a quorum of seven?
4. Changes to By-laws require which one of the following: Unanimous vote, 2/3's vote, majority vote.
5. Name the Heroine of the Wife's Degree?

You are probably retired if ...

- You and your teeth don't sleep together.
- You try to straighten out your wrinkles in your socks and discover you aren't wearing any.
- It takes two times to get up from the couch.
- Your idea of a night out is sitting on the patio.
- You step off a curb and look down one more time to make sure the street is still there.
- Getting "lucky" means you remember where you left your car in the parking lot.
- Everything hurts – what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.
- You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.
- You wonder how you could be over the hill when you don't even remember being on top of it.
- You have more hair in your ears and nose than on your head.

The Symbols Speak

The glow of the sunset upon a calm sea,
Creates a reflection of true harmony,
As evening advances, the cares of the day,
Just like the horizon are fading away.

Shadows are deepening, the sky is changing hue,
Waves ebbing the shore seem to beckon to you.
The stars' diamond lights glisten and illumine the night
Our teachings seem strengthened by this ethereal sight.

The Eastern Star shines with special luster today,
With five glittering points, each color a beautiful ray,
Stars in the heavens, over oceans and seas, beacons of
directional light,
A sailor's guide, poet's inspiration, illuminating paths
of right.

The Order has heroines and symbols relating to the
Star,
Women of the Bible, whose stories are known near
and far.
They are endowed with beauty and values of character
strong,
Listen, as each Star Point conveys lessons of right and
wrong.

I am Adah, and my color in the cloudless sky is blue,
I exemplify the daughter, courageous and faithful true,
My emblem is the sword, portraying God's principle
divine,
Nothing can be hidden from Him, the veil you see
entwined.

I am Ruth, and my shade is a golden yellow hue,
I am symbolic of the widow, whose devotion to duty
grew,
My emblem, a sheaf of sunlit barley, parts minutely
small,
Signify needed inspiration when constancy was the
call.

I am Esther, in royal purple and sparkling white, Queen
of the Persian Throne,
I exemplify the wife, whose pure and noble qualities in
the kingdom were widely known.
My emblem, the scepter and beautiful crown, I offered
to sacrifice
To save my people, I was willing to give both my title
and my life.

I am Martha, my beautiful colors in nature's green
abound.
I was the sister of Lazarus, whose immortality was
found.
My emblem, the stately yet broken column, ties the
present to the past,
Indeed, life is uncertain, learn to live each day as
though your last.

I am Electa, with the vivid red, symbolically warm and
strong.
I am motherhood and church, institutions where love
belongs.

My emblem, the cup, overflows with kindness and
charity,
Reminds us to give of ourselves with the spirit of
generosity.
Love changes everything, from Electa the lesson is told.
May you learn in each of your lives, to love both pure
and bold.

Our Star is founded on the teachings of our Holy
Scripture.
We acknowledge the existence of a Supreme Being.
We respect and face our Altar when we address God
and His word.
It is here we find our stories, in Testaments new and old.
We await the entrance of the symbol whose tenets we
dearly hold.

I am the Bible, in my pages, stories of faith and history
are told.
I weave tales and allegories of the earliest men of old.
I give meaning of life today, in statement illustrative and
bold.
I bridge the understanding between God and man, as
lessons I impart,
Please carry my words and meanings, and keep them
alive within your heart!
I am reverently placed on the Altar of the Star as the
Order's focal point,
I emanate strength and wisdom,
I am the Bible, the inspired word of ancients we treasure.
My light will descend upon you with keys to riches
beyond measure.

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.

Remember the financial books
of the Grand Chapter close on March 31st. Any
funds to be credited for 2020-21 need to be in the
Grand Secretary's Office by then.

St. Patrick's Trivia (answers bottom next column)

- Where was St. Patrick born?
 - Great Britain
 - Ireland
 - Switzerland
- St. Patrick's name in Latin, Patricus, means:
 - Honest
 - Father figure
 - Beautiful
- Where in the United States is St. Patrick's Day celebrated by coloring a river green?
 - Chicago
 - New York
 - Boston
- St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on the day that Patrick:
 - Got married
 - Was Born
 - Died
- What was St. Patrick's given name?
 - Archie Barlow
 - Felix Abbot
 - Maewyn Succat
- What do leprechauns use their sticks, called "shillelagh" for?
 - Accessing their rainbow
 - Turning invisible
 - Making their magic pot of gold appear
- In the United States what will you get if you don't wear green on St. Patrick's Day?
 - A gold coin
 - A pinch
 - A kiss
- Corned beef is actually corned with what?
 - Sugar
 - Salt
 - Various spices
- How old was Saint Patrick when he was taken as a slave?
 - Ten
 - Thirteen
 - Sixteen
- Which United States President was of Irish descent and forgot it was Saint Patrick's Day?
 - John F. Kennedy
 - Richard Nixon
 - George H. W. Bush

Irish Proverbs

If you're Irish, it doesn't matter where you go — you'll find family.

A good friend is like a four-leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have.

May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light. May good luck pursue you each morning and night.

May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow. And may trouble avoid you wherever you go.

May your troubles be less and your blessings be more. And nothing but happiness come through your door.

May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.

May the hinges of our friendship never grow rusty!

Quickie Answers

- Four and the Worthy Patron is presented them at the annual Installation and he is in charge of them.
- Yes on the word closed (Ritual, Page 47)
- WM, AM, Secretary, Conductress, Chaplain, Warder, and Sentinel
- 2/3's (CR & R page 49, Article X, Section 4)
- Esther (Ritual, Page 82)

1. a. Great Britain
2. b. Father figure
3. a. Chicago
4. c. Died
5. c. Maewyn Succat
6. a. Accessing their rainbow
7. b. A pinch
8. b. Salt
9. c. Sixteen
10. a. John F. Kennedy