

# The Angelic Bears

Volume 20 – No. 7

January 1, 2022

Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

Catherine J. Wood, Worthy Grand Matron

Arthur C. Dunlap, Worthy Grand Patron

**Merger - January 8**  
Brother Arthur C. Dunlap, Worthy Grand Patron has scheduled the merger of Marion Chapter No. 63 of Gardiner with Mystic Chapter No. 69 of Litchfield on Saturday, January 8 at 2 p.m. The snow date will be January 22.

Mystic Chapter will host the merger at the Litchfield Masonic Hall, 2420 Hallowell Road, Litchfield. There will be light refreshments following the merger.

## Deering Degrees

The *Cup of Kindness* Grand Family will be exemplifying the degrees at a special meeting of Deering Chapter #59, Portland at the Saccarappa Masonic Hall, 573 Main Street in Westbrook on Saturday, February 5 at 1 p.m. with a snow date of February 12.

Reservations at a cost of \$8 for the 11:45 a.m. luncheon should be sent to Sister Rebekah L. Higgins, PM, 22 Linden Lane, Gray, ME 04092. The reservation deadline is February 1 and the checks are to made payable to Deering Chapter #59.

## Our Star

Sister Lynda Williams, WGM  
Grand Chapter of New Brunswick

What is more beautiful than a Star? In the Psalms we read that God counts all the Stars and calls them by name. Throughout the ages, the Stars have been a source of inspiration to poets and philosophers, symbols of wonder and mystery, of beauty, of achievement and of Faith and Hope.

The Book of Genesis weaves a beautiful account of creation in which God created our world. The day had the sun to rule over it and at night, the moon, but God needed something more to add to the beauty of the night sky and so He fashioned the Stars.

We look up at the night sky and marvel at the beauty of the “Stars” in the heavens. Mariners of old charted and guided their ships by the placement of the Stars in the sky and Stars have guided man’s footsteps on the land. The Sun is also a star and provides warmth and light by day.

The dictionary defines a Star as a natural luminous body, visible in the sky especially at night and also a self-luminous, gaseous, spheroidal celestial body of great mass which produces energy by means of nuclear fusion reactions..... a bit too scientific for me, so I’ll stick with the first part of the definition.

“Stars” have ever been looked upon as symbolic of great events. They are used symbolically in Fraternal Orders, and carry a significant message of Truth to all who understand the meanings.

Our heroines gazed upon the same Stars in the night sky, as we do now. Adah and her friends must have gazed up at the starry Heavens, confident that their God above was watching over them. The Stars shone down on Ruth and Naomi as they slept in the unfamiliar desert; Esther probably gazed out of the palace windows at night, seeing God’s splendour in the sky and with a prayer on her lips that her people would be saved. Martha,

wearily and stricken with grief, possibly wondered if the Stars above truly were the symbol of the Kingdom of Heaven and for Electa, only able to glimpse the beauty of the Stars, through a narrow slit in her prison cell window, it gave her reassurance that God was all powerful and indeed Christ had come to save all mankind.

When the Wise Men of old arrived in Jerusalem, they were questioned about their reason for such a long journey. They replied “We have seen His Star in the East and have come to worship Him.” Their answer inspired Dr. Morris to choose from those words as he named our fraternal order. That answer is found in the scriptures in Matthew Chapter 2, vs. 2 and during the early years of our Order, the Bible on our Altar was always opened at that verse.

We members are fully aware of the significance of the Bethlehem Star. It is not only in the title of our Order but is a symbol of the eternal values we hold dear. To the Christian, the Star of Bethlehem has the greatest meaning of all, for it marks the birthplace of the Christ child over two thousand years ago. The Star to the Shepherds meant amazement, to the Wise Men, a King, to us as members of our Order it means Service. It is also a message for us to live our lives reflecting the sublime virtues of Him from whom cometh all Wisdom and Strength. Several centuries have elapsed since His Star first appeared in the East, but that Star still remains constant--an inspiration and guide to all of us.

Stars have long been symbols of the unattainable, but they should not be. For although our physical hands cannot reach them, we can touch the Stars in other ways. A handful of Eastern Stars can shape the destiny of mankind. The millions of stars in the heavens encourage each of us to shed our beams where we are, sparkling, twinkling, brightening the pathway we all must travel. “Our Star”—is the light we follow.

So you see, the “Star” is very important to us. The Stars are just as important to you and

me as they were to the heroines of our Order. The Star is our Symbol and our Emblem. Let us keep our Star shining and may we be guided as the men of old, by the STAR which we have seen in the East.

## Music in the Bible

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

Bells	Lute	Song
Castanets	Lyre	Tambourines
Cymbals	Musical	Timbrel
Flute	Pipe	Triangles
Harp	Psaltery	Trumpet
Horns	Shofar	Zither
Instruments	Singing	

## Quickie Questions (answers on back page)

1. It's been drilled into us that a quorum is seven members. Two Sisters and five Brothers gives us seven members ... but can you open the meeting with those seven?
2. In making a motion, a member's statement of the proposed action should be started with the words:
  - a. I think that...
  - b. I feel that...
  - c. I move that...
  - d. I make a motion that...
3. Does it take a dispensation to hold a meeting at a different time than what a chapter's by-law's state?
4. Does the Worthy Patron assume the Reverent Attitude when giving the obligation during Initiation?
5. May officers wear badges at an OES Funeral Service?

## Star Points Are Filled With Love

*Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.*

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

The heroines of our Order, the Star Points are role models of Eastern Star teaching us about love.

Our first heroine is Adah, who honored her father's vow. Jephthah went to battle and vowed to God that if he was victorious in battle, he would sacrifice the first to greet him when he returned home. He was victorious, he won the battle, and who came exuberantly dancing to welcome him home? His precious, beloved daughter, Adah, his only child. In this story, both Jephthah and Adah demonstrate their unshakable love and trust in God. Adah demonstrated her love for her father by fulfilling his vow giving up her life to preserve his honor. This story personifies love and loyalty. Loyalty is fidelity and fidelity is a major component of love. Adah's emblem is the sword and veil united. The sword was used to end her life and Adah threw the veil off her face because she was not afraid to die.

Our second heroine is Ruth, who gave up her national heritage, her kindred and her friends to follow her husband's mother to Bethlehem. There in a strange land, in poverty, Ruth gleaned the fields for barley, a lowly, menial labor that barely supplied the sustenance to keep them alive. She loved and cherished her mother-in-law. She believed it was her duty to assist in Naomi's maintenance and history rewarded her, for Ruth became the Great Grandmother of David, Israel's greatest king. Jesus was of the house and lineage of David. Ruth was faithful, she was honorable, she was trustworthy. All these words mean constancy and constancy means love. Ruth's emblem is the sheaf, and we are reminded of the hours of patient industry it takes to gather a handful of spilled grain to supply the food needed to care for our elderly loved ones.

The story of Esther, our third heroine is a story of a Jewish girl in captivity who became the queen of the Persian Empire. As a Queen, she could have basked in her powerful position, but when informed of the plot to destroy her people, she approached her king under penalty of death, because women did not approach their king unsummoned, especially when he was on his throne during Grand Council. However, he absolved her by extending his scepter as she approached. Her people were saved. Esther had deep convictions, she put her trust in love, she believed that right and duty would be served, she was loyal to her people, she saved them from destruction. Convictions, trust, right and duty are loyalties, and loyalty is love. Esther's emblem is the crown and scepter which represents royalty and power.

We learn from Martha our fourth heroine, a lesson of faith and hope of immortality. Jesus befriended this family of Martha, her sister, Mary, and her brother Lazarus. While Jesus was away, Lazarus sickened and died. Martha believed with her heart, her mind and her soul that Christ was the Resurrection and the Life. But he didn't return until the fourth day after Lazarus' death. Things looked dark and discouraging, but Martha remained faithful and loyal to Jesus. "Were you here, Lord, you could have saved my brother," she said. Well, Jesus did save Lazarus, he raised him from the dead. Martha had proof positive of eternal life. Martha demonstrated her faith in the Master. Faith is trust, hope, belief, confidence, and devotion. All of these words, especially faith, mean love. The emblem representing the story of Martha is the broken column which depicts the uncertainty of human life.

Our final heroine, Electa, was reared a Pagan and converted to the Christian religion. She gave of herself, answering the needs of those who passed her door. She took the poor into her home and ministered to them, sharing all her material possessions. The Roman Emperor issued an edict that all followers of Christ should renounce their faith or die. When the soldiers demand that Electa trample a cross under her foot, she couldn't defame that precious emblem of her Saviour's death. She pressed the cross to her heart and her

persecution ended in death. Electa was filled with love for her fellow man. This love was demonstrated in her charity and hospitality, her mercy and compassion, and in her service to others. The emblem representing Electa's hospitality and charity, her service to those in need, is the cup. This cup is a reminder to us to extend aid to those who are victims of poverty and distress.

In the Bible we find God's revelation of Himself and His will to mankind. Some of the stories were recorded verbatim by memorization for over 1400 years before the written word. This Holy Book is the foundation for our beloved Eastern Star. In it we find these words about love. "Jesus said to the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders, there is no commandment greater than this, you shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Mark 12:30-31. 1 Corinthians 13:13 "So faith, hope, love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love."

#### 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](mailto:kackyw@gmail.com).

#### *The Angelic Bears*

*The Angelic Bears* is the newsletter that will be published during the 2021-22 year and distributed currently through *Star News* and when Grand Family events are held it is given to the DDGM's. If you'd like items printed in it, email it to [corleybyras@gmail.com](mailto:corleybyras@gmail.com) or send it by snail mail to Sister 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](mailto:corleybyras@gmail.com) and to receive the *Star News* please send your email address to the same email.

## The New Year

Ring out the old, ring in the new  
We'll make this year the best  
By careful planing, faith and love  
It should stand every test.

And if we all will do our share  
Our chapter will excel  
Not only now or just this year  
But other years as well.

So please remember Chapter nights  
And plan to all be here  
For good attendance means so much  
To make a happy year.

## Quickie Answers

1. No. You need a Worthy Matron, Associate Matron and a Conductress and none of the Brothers can fill those positions.
2. c. I move that...
3. Yes, the chapter needs to have a motion and vote to ask for a dispensation.
4. Yes, according to the ritual, page 16, Altar Services, first paragraph
5. Yes, see the ritual, page 153, 7th line

## Some OES New Year's Resolutions for Chapters or Members: (Wisconsin Grand Jurisdiction)

1. I will memorize my ritualistic work.
2. I will invite a friend to join Eastern Star.
3. I will suggest an activity to my Worthy Matron and volunteer to help with it..
4. I will visit five other Chapters.
5. We will plan and hold a membership event.
6. We will do something to get our name out in the community.
7. We will have a fund raiser to benefit one of our charities.
8. I will continue to support my Chapter.

129th Grand Chapter Session  
Angels Gather Here  
May 15, 16, 17, 18, 2022  
Augusta Civic Center