

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Volume 24 No. 5

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Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

· Rebecca G. H. Thompson, Worthy Grand Matron

Jon R. Thompson, Worthy Grand Patron

Stars Advised to Lie and Steal

At a school of instruction held in Smithville, Texas, Eastern Star members were advised to drink, lie, steal, and swear. This unusual admonition came from Sister Della Marrs, in concluding an address of welcome to members and visitors. After a few paragraphs of greeting and welcome in the generally accepted style, Sister Marrs continued: "This is to all Eastern Stars present: May you all swear, steal, lie and drink. When you swear, swear by your chapter; when you steal, steal away from the bad company that would criticize your Worthy Matron; when you lie, tell your husband that you hate to leave him to attend chapter meetings; and when you drink, come back and drink another cup of the good old homemade coffee, like the cup you will find by your plate this evening."

The Eastern Star Newsletter from Indianapolis, Indiana January 1946

Harry Was a Member in Missouri

Missouri's Own Bro. Harry S. Truman, President of the United States was a Past Patron of Grandview Chapter. Mrs. Nora Vanatta had an honor of which no other woman in the United States can boast. She served two years in the East as Worthy Matron of Grandview Chapter, with Harry S. Truman, the future President of the United States, as Worthy Patron.

President Truman and Mrs. Vanatta were the first Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron after it was constituted in August 1913. He was also the first Worshipful Master of Grandview Lodge No. 618. Mrs. Zoe Henthorn of Buckner, Missouri, was the District Deputy who helped to institute and constitute the chapter. There were 17 members at the time. Two or three years after the chapter was instituted, the hall burned, destroying all of the records, and a new chapter was soon organized.

Mrs. Vanatta says the "Harry" was the pianist for the chapter most of the time and that he made a wonderful Worthy Patron. Miss Mary Jane Truman (Harry's sister) served as Grand Adah of the Grand Chapter of Missouri and served as Associate Conductress at the time of the chapter's organization. *The Eastern Star Newsletter from Indianapolis, Indiana September 1945*

Grand Family Exchange

The All New England Grand Family Exchange will be held on January 10 in Bennington, VT. Officers from all the New England Jurisdictions will be performing the degrees. Chapter Secretaries have the information and it is on the Maine web site. All members are welcome to attend. Please have your 2026 dues card with you for the registration table.

January Grand Family

Pine Cone Chapter #26, Auburn will host a 2025-2026 *The Rhythm of the Spirit* Grand Family on Saturday, January 17 with a snow date of January 31. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with a rehearsal at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m. The meeting commences at 1 p.m. The lunch is \$20 with checks payable to Pine Cone Chapter #26 and mailed to Mary Ann Perkins, 16 Taft Avenue, Auburn, ME 04210. The meal will be chicken a la king, mashed potatoes, biscuits, veggies, and desserts. The reservation dead line is January 3 with the seating limited to 100. You will need your 2026 dues card.

CAN-AM Weekend

Members of the New Brunswick Eastern Star Magazine will host the Can-Am weekend being held in Fredericton, New Brunswick on February 20-22, 2026. Friday evening is getting your *groove on* - a retro hippy party. Saturday evening will be the formal *Casino Royale* banquet. This will be followed by an evening of casino games and concluding with an auction. You are welcome to take non Eastern Star members as your guests as there are no formal meetings.

Merrill/Hall Announcements

Sister Darcy R. Merrill, Associate Grand Matron and Brother Calvin F. Hall, Associate Grand Patron cordially invite you to join them for the announcement of the members of the 2026-2027 *Friendship, Love and Kindness* Grand Family on Saturday, March 14 at the Central Hall Commons, 152 East Main Street in Dover-Foxcroft... Luncheon reservations by March 7 for 100 people are \$25 each for Belly of the Beast BBQ with checks sent and made out to Sister Deanne P. Merrill, 78 Elm Street, Milo, ME 04463.

Thankfulness and Thanksgiving

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. — 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Thankfulness is at the heart of the Christian life. It is not reserved only for days when everything goes right, but it is a daily posture of remembering who God is and what He has done. The Apostle Paul wrote to “give thanks in all circumstances,” not for every circumstance, but in every circumstance. This is a reminder that gratitude flows not from our situation, but from our Savior.

When we approach life with thanksgiving, our perspective shifts. Challenges become opportunities to trust God more deeply. Blessings become reminders of His provision. Even small, ordinary things—like a sunrise, a warm meal, or the laughter of a friend—become reasons to rejoice.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, we are reminded that gratitude is more than a holiday tradition; it is a lifestyle of worship. Pausing to count our blessings softens our hearts, calms our worries, and draws us closer to God. It also strengthens our relationships, because a thankful heart naturally overflows with kindness toward others.

Thankfulness is more than a feeling—it is a choice to trust God and acknowledge His goodness. This Thanksgiving, and always, may we cultivate hearts that are continually grateful

Prayer: Gracious God, thank You for Your countless blessings, both seen and unseen. Teach us to be people of gratitude in every season. Help us to see Your hand at work in our lives and to respond with thanksgiving, even in difficult times. May our hearts overflow with praise, not just on Thanksgiving Day, but every day of our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Quickie Questions (answers on page three)

1. If the Worthy Matron sends a member out of the Chapter meeting does the member perform the Salutation sign to leave the meeting?
2. How do the Initiation Bibles line up on the altar?
3. Is it appropriate to use your smart phone in a Chapter meeting?
4. What officer uses the sign-in sheets with the listings of the dignitaries to be introduced?
5. When both Brothers and Sisters are present as Grand Officers and as Past Grand Matrons and Patrons are they escorted identically?

The Rhythm of the Spirit
133rd Annual Grand Chapter Session
May 17, 18, 19, and 20, 2026

Autumn's Splendor

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

Acorns

Apples

Autumn

Chestnuts

Cider

Cornucopia

Cozy

Crisp

Crunching

Equinox

Fall

Flannel

Foliage

Football

Frosty

Gold

Harvest

Hay

Leaves

Nippy

Nuts

Orange

Pie

Pumpkin

Rake

Reap

Red

Rustling

Scarecrow

Squash

Sweater

Tailgating

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.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Fair Winds and Following Seas is the newsletter that will be published during the 2025-2026 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.

OES Riddles

What did one Chapter officer say to the other after a long meeting?

“We may not remember the motions, but we sure remember the desserts!”

Why don't Eastern Star members ever get lost?
Because they always follow the Star!

What's an Eastern Star member's favorite exercise?
Marching in formation... slowly, carefully, and usually in the wrong direction at least once!

Spirit of Thanksgiving

Worthy Matron: Sisters and Brothers, tonight we pause to reflect upon the blessings in our lives and to remind ourselves of the importance of a grateful heart. Each of our Star Points represents a virtue and a story of faith, sacrifice, and service. Together they shine with a lesson for us on the gift of thankfulness

Adah: I bring the lesson of fidelity. Adah kept her vow even when it required the greatest sacrifice. From her, we learn to be thankful for promises kept, for loyalty that does not waver, and for the trust we find in one another. Let us give thanks for the faithfulness of family and friends who stand beside us in times of joy and sorrow.

Ruth: I bring the lesson of constancy. Ruth left all she knew to remain with Naomi, showing steadfast devotion. From her, we learn to be thankful for the ties that bind us together—friendship, loyalty, and the enduring bonds of love. Let us give thanks for companions who journey with us through life.

Esther: I bring the lesson of courage. Esther stood in the face of danger for the sake of her people. From her, we learn to be thankful for those who act with bravery, often in quiet ways, to protect and uplift others. Let us give thanks for those who inspire us to live with courage and purpose.

Martha: I bring the lesson of faith. Martha believed in life eternal and trusted her Lord in the time of deepest grief. From her, we learn to be thankful for the hope that lifts us beyond sorrow, for the assurance that faith gives, and for the peace of believing in God's promises. Let us give thanks for hope that sustains us.

Electa: I bring the lesson of love. Electa gave of herself freely, showing hospitality and compassion even when it placed her at risk. From her, we learn to be thankful for the gift of love—love that sacrifices, forgives, and endures. Let us give thanks for the kindness that is shared, for the warmth of welcome, and for the joy of serving others.

Worthy Matron: As our Star Points remind us, each story shines a light upon the many blessings that surround us. Thankfulness is not only for times of abundance, but for every day, in every circumstance. May we carry thankful hearts into our homes, our communities, and into this Chapter, so that others may see in us the true meaning of gratitude. Let us pray.

Chaplain: We pause in this season of abundance to offer our heartfelt thanks for the golden fields and the bounty of the earth — we are grateful. For tables gathered with food and fellowship, and for the love that surrounds us — we are grateful. For the lessons of our Star, and for the privilege of serving others with thankful hearts — we are grateful. Bless this Chapter, bless our families, and bless all those who are in need this season. May we carry the spirit of Thanksgiving with us always, today and in the days to come. Amen.

Quickie Answers

1. Yes the member gives the Salutation sign. (Ritual page 83)
2. The same direction the altar Bible is laid ...facing the East.
3. When the Worthy Matron is in the process of opening the chapter meeting she mentions the solemnity and asks for your attention and assistance.
4. The Worthy Matron as she directs the Conductress and often the Associate Conductress for presentations.
5. When there are three or more Grand Officers they are taken in one line with the Conductress leading and the Associate Conductress being the end person. Past Grand's — when there are Sisters and Brothers being presented, the Conductress leads the Sisters and the Associate Conductress leads the Brothers. If there is only one Sister or one Brother, they are on the arm of the presenting officer.

November

- 17 – Tuscan #148, Bangor, 7 pm, Giving Thanks, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 17 – Electa #2, Bowdoinham, 7 pm, Sharing love for our community with food pantry and Festival of Trees donations and a pie auction for ESTARL
- 18 – Pondicherry #192, Bridgton, 7:30 pm, “Loony” Tunes Music Night, Honor Grand Organists, Past and Present, Grand Chapter Charities, Dinner 6:30, 6 pm Finnish Music before the dinner
- 17 – Arbutus #19, Liberty, 7 pm, Thanksgiving Celebration, Supper 6 pm
- 17 – Mountain View #197, 7 pm, Thanksgiving, Supper 6 pm
- 18 – Mt. Zircon #142, Mexico, 7 pm, Thanksgiving, Supper 6 pm
- 18 – Madonna #144, West Kennebunk, 7 pm, Let's Give Thanks
- 18 – Almeda #149, Guilford, 7 pm, A visit from the Signing Sisters, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 18 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting
- 19 – Felicity Chapter #195, Orland, Giving Thanks, Honoring Veterans, Toys for BCC, Supper 6 pm
- 19 – Beacon #202, Damariscotta, 7 pm, ALS
- 20 – Bethlehem #36, Pittsfield, 7 pm, Stuffed animal donations for Community Christmas Projects, ESTARL Potluck Supper
- 20 – Pioneer #11, Brunswick, 7 pm, Honoring Past and Present DDGM's, Official Visitation with the AGM
- 20 – Riverside #123, Orland, 7 pm, Giving Thanks, Charity Supper 6 pm, Toys and Food for BCC
- 20 – Lily of the Valley #157, Weeks Mills, 7:30 pm, Honoring Veterans
- 21 – Fireside, #103, Clinton, 7 pm, special for Degrees
- 25 – Millwee #198, Orrington, 7 pm, Stated Meeting, Supper 6 pm

December

- 1 – Mystic #69, Litchfield, 7 pm, Spread the Love (Bring Toiletries)
- 2 – Queen Esther #10, Augusta, 7 pm, Surprise! Suppers begin at 5:45 pm. Our outside door will be locked at 6:50. Please call Kim's cell (207-907-8205) if you are going to be late.
- 2 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, Christmas Sock Night
- 3 – Messalunskit #170, New Sharon, 7:30 pm, Christmas
- 4 – Keystone #78, Solon, 7 pm, Christmas Music, Donations for food cupboard, Potluck Supper at 6 pm
- 5 – Ruth #14, Sanford, 7:30 pm, Honoring Star Points with Star Point ceremony by the Grand Star Points, Yankee swap following the meeting.
- 5 – Irene #97, Ellsworth, 7:30 pm, Christmas
- 8 – Aldworth #39, Milo, 7 pm, ugly sweaters, Gift Swap with \$10 limit, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 8 – Molunkus Valley #95, Sherman, 7 pm, Circle Game
- 8 – Fireside, #103, Clinton, 7 pm, Christmas Bingo
- 8 – Pleasant River #159, Buxton, 7 pm, Christmas, Yankee Swap, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 9 – Lakeside #60, Wales, 7 pm, Christmas Celebration, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 9 – Elm Vale #105, Harrison, 7:30 pm, Christmas Exchange, Supper 6:30 pm
- 10 – Ivy #6, Warren, 7:30 pm, Christmas Program with Ye Olde Bake Shop
- 10 – Minerva #74, Madison, 7 pm, Christmas Time, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 10 – Lunar #126, Mars Hill, 7 pm, Stated Meeting
- 10 – Harbor View #136, Deer Isle, 7 pm, Christmas Chinese Auction, Special Program by Judy Hanson
- 11 – Martha Washington #15, Waterville, 7:30 pm, Christmas
- 11 – Pine Cone #26, Auburn, 7 pm, Celebrating His Birth, Social Hour 5:30 – 6:30 pm
- 12 – Rumery #46, Addison, 7:30 pm, Christmas
- 12 – Abenaki #116, Readfield, 7:30 pm, Christmas and New Years rewrapped gifts, Supper 6 pm
- 15 – Electa #2, Bowdoinham, 7 pm, Sharing Love for the Spirit of Christmas
- 15 – Arbutus #19, Liberty, 7 pm, Christmas Program, Supper 6 pm
- 15 – Tuscan #148, Bangor, 7 pm, Christmas Gift Exchange (\$10-\$15), Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 15 – Mountain View #197, 7 pm, Christmas, Supper at 6 pm
- 16 – Mt. Zircon #142, Mexico, 7 pm, mittens and hats for a school, Christmas, Supper 6 pm
- 16 – Madonna #144, West Kennebunk, 7 pm, Christmas with Yankee Swap
- 16 – Almeda #149, Guilford, 7 pm, "tis better to give than receive" Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 16 – Pondicherry #192, Bridgton, 7:30 pm, Card

- Exchange, 6:30 Cookie Swap
- 16 – Millwee #198, Orrington, 7 pm, Gift Exchange, Supper 6 pm
- 16 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, Christmas
- 17 – Felicity Chapter #195, Orland, Celebrating Christmas, Cookie Sale, Potluck refreshments following meeting
- 17 – Beacon #202, Damariscotta, 7 pm, Cookie Exchange
- 18 – Bethlehem #36, Pittsfield, 7 pm, Christmas Program, Dinner at Anglers in Newport
- 18 – Pioneer #11, Brunswick, 7 pm, Christmas Trivia, cookie exchange
- 18 – Lily of the Valley #157, Weeks Mills, 7:30 pm, Spread the Love

January

- 2 – Ruth #14, Sanford, 7:30 pm, Landmarks and Obligation
- 2 – Irene #97, Ellsworth, 7:30 pm, Individual Courage/ Personal Growth, Mystery Member
- 6 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, Landmarks and Obligation
- 8 – Pine Cone #26, Auburn, 7 pm, Honoring Grand Representatives, Social Hour 5:30 – 6:30
- 12 – Fireside, #103, Clinton, 7 pm, Baby New Year
- 12 – Pleasant River #159, Buxton, 7 pm, Auction for Charity, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 15 – Bethlehem #36, Pittsfield, 7 pm, Landmarks and Obligation
- 15 – Pioneer #11, Brunswick, 7 pm, Stated Meeting, Happy New Year!
- 17 – Pine Cone #26, Auburn, Grand Family (snow date 31st)
- 19 – Tuscan #148, Bangor, 7 pm, Landmarks and Obligation, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 20 – Madonna #144, West Kennebunk, 7 pm, Stated Meeting
- 20 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, Honoring Conductress and Associate Conductress
- 27 – Mt. Zircon #142, Mexico, 7 pm, Slipper Night, Supper 6 pm

More OES Riddles

Why did the Eastern Star member bring a flashlight to the meeting?

Because she didn't want to outshine the Worthy Matron!

How do Eastern Star members stay so positive?

They always look on the bright side—especially the one with five points!

What's the favorite holiday of an Eastern Star member?

Any day with a potluck and a raffle table!

How do Eastern Star members know they're among friends?

When the laughter is louder than the gavel.