

A Walk in the Woods

Volume 25 No. 1

May 20, 2026

Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

Darcy R. Merrill, Worthy Grand Matron

Calvin F. Hall, Worthy Grand Patron

School of Instruction

You are warmly invited to attend a special day of learning, fellowship, and inspiration when the *Friendship, Love and Kindness* Grand Family holds a School of Instruction on Saturday, June 13 hosted by Tuscan Chapter #148 at the Bangor Masonic Center. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and School begins promptly at 9 a.m.

Enjoy a delicious meal featuring smothered beef, mashed potato, salad, desserts, and beverages at 11:30 a.m. School resumes at 1 p.m.

Reservations of \$25 may be sent to Sister Patricia A. Bishop, Secretary, 18 Floyd Street, Brewer, ME 04412 with check to Tuscan Chapter #148, O.E.S. Reservation deadline is June 6.

Attire for the day will be dress/skirt for Sisters and suit or sport coat and tie for Brothers. Current dues cards will be required at Registration. Bring your Ritual and CR & R along with any questions you may have.

The address for the Masonic Center in Bangor is 294 Union Street.

Friendship, Love & Kindness Year

The theme for the 2026-2027 year is *Friendship, Love and Kindness*.

Sister Darcy's fun emblem is the Dragonfly, and her flowers are the Sunflower and the Red Rose.

Brother Calvin's fun emblem is the Moose and his flower is the Lupine – light and dark blue.

Their colors are more woods-themed – Forest/Hunter Green, Dusty Rose/Light Mauve and Taupe/Light Brown.

The honor stations are Electa and Chaplain.



Sister Darcy and Brother Calvin

First Grand Family

Aldworth Chapter #39, Milo warmly extends a cordial invitation to all members to attend our very first *Friendship, Love and Kindness* Grand Family gathering. This special event will take place on Saturday, June 20 at our chapter location at 6 Dusty Lane, Milo.

We look forward to a full day of fellowship and meaningful connection. The schedule for the day is Registration – 9:30 a.m. Rehearsal – 10:30 a.m. Lunch – 11:45 a.m. Degrees – 1 p.m.

Lunch will feature a delicious spread of sandwiches with all the fixings, fresh salads, and dessert bars.

The cost for lunch is \$20 per person and attendance for the luncheon is limited to 90 guests, so early reservations are encouraged.

To reserve your place, please submit your reservation no later than June 6. All reservations should be made out to: Sister Charlene Cox and mailed to her at 6 Pine Street, Milo, ME 04463.

A Devotion on Love and Kindness

“Let all that you do be done in love.”
— 1 Corinthians 16:14

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted...”
— Ephesians 4:32

There are many virtues we admire — strength, wisdom, courage. But Scripture keeps bringing us back to two that seem almost too simple: love and kindness. Love is the root. Kindness is the fruit. Love is what lives in the heart. Kindness is what others can see. Love can be grand — sacrificial, heroic, life-changing. But more often, it is quiet. It listens. It forgives. It waits. It stays. Kindness is love put into motion.

Kindness is the phone call made when you're tired. The note written when no one expects it. The patient word spoken instead of the sharp one you *could* have said. The choice to assume the best rather than the worst.

Kindness does not require wealth, position, or special training. It only requires willingness. In a world that often feels hurried and harsh, kindness is radical. It slows down. It notices. It softens. And here is the beautiful truth: kindness blesses the giver as much as the receiver. When we act in love, our own hearts expand. Bitterness loosens. Peace grows.

Jesus showed us that love is not just a feeling — it is action. He touched the untouchable. He listened to the forgotten. He forgave the undeserving. His kindness flowed from a heart rooted in divine love.

We may not perform miracles, but we can perform mercies. A smile. A meal. A prayer. A word of encouragement. Love begins in the heart. Kindness carries it into the world.

Quickie Questions (answers on page three)

1. Where does the Installing Marshal stand to seat the Star Points?
2. Where does the Installing Marshal stand to seat the Conductresses?
3. Between which two Star Points does the Installing Marshal conduct the officer to be installed?
4. Where does the Installing Marshal center the officer to be installed when presenting them to the Installing Officer?
5. Between which two Star Points does the Installing Marshal go to the altar to do the proclamation?

2026-2027 Grand Family

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

Black	Jervis	Potvin
Carter	LeClair	Precourt
Ciofolo	McLaughlin	Pugliese
Duross	Merrill	Quinn
Farrington	Mitchell	Ramsey
Flowers	Nadeau	Robinson
Fournier	Nicholas	Stinson
Gray	Page	Touissant
Hall	Perkins	VanNorman
Hewins	Pettengill	Works
Izzi	Plummer	

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.

A Walk in the Woods

A Walk in the Woods is the newsletter that will be published during the 2026-2027 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.

The Star Points in the Woodland of Friendship, Love and Kindness

We gather in a spirit of *Friendship, Love and Kindness* — virtues that bind us together as surely as roots beneath a forest floor.

Our colors — forest green, dusty rose, and taupe — remind us of the woods: strong, enduring, gentle, and welcoming. Within this woodland setting, two fun emblems guide us — the dragonfly and the moose.

The dragonfly dances lightly upon the breeze, symbol of transformation, adaptability, and joy. It reminds us that even in life's changes, grace can be found. The moose, steady and majestic, moves with quiet strength. It represents dignity, resilience, and a protective heart — walking calmly, yet standing firmly when needed. Together, these symbols reflect balance — gentleness and strength, lightness and steadfastness — just as *Friendship, Love and Kindness* require both tenderness and courage. Each Star point reminds us how to live these virtues with courage and grace.

Adah is like the early morning mist drifting gently through the forest — soft, pure, and filled with promise. Like the dragonfly gliding over a quiet woodland stream, she reminds us that innocence and trust bring lightness to our steps. Even among towering trees and shadowed paths, Adah reflects sunlight in shimmering flashes of hope. In *Friendship*, she teaches sincerity. In *Love*, she shows faithful devotion. In *Kindness*, she reminds us that gentleness has great strength. Adah is the quiet clearing in the woods — a place where hearts can breathe.

Ruth stands like the tall pine rooted deep in forest earth. Strong as the moose who moves with calm assurance beneath those branches, she teaches steadfast loyalty. The pine does not abandon its place when winds rise; neither did Ruth abandon those she loved. In *Friendship*, she walks beside us along rugged paths. In *Love*, she anchors us in loyalty. In *Kindness*, she shows that service grows like roots beneath the surface — unseen, but essential. Ruth is the forest's strength — steady, protective, enduring.

Esther is like sunlight breaking through the canopy after a long rain. Her courage shines as boldly as a sunflower lifting its face toward the sun at the forest's edge. She reminds us that even in dense woods, light finds a way through. In *Friendship*, she inspires brave honesty. In *Love*, she shows protective care. In *Kindness*, she teaches that courage guided by compassion brings warmth to all around it. Esther is the bright beam that turns shadow into hope.

Martha is like the lupine blooming in clusters along a forest trail — light and dark blue rising together in quiet harmony. She teaches patience and hope, like earth waiting faithfully through winter for spring's return. Just as lupine enriches the soil where it grows,

Martha's faith enriches every heart she touches. In *Friendship*, she offers comfort along the journey. In *Love*, she trusts beyond what can be seen. In *Kindness*, she nurtures peace like soft moss beneath our feet. Martha is the gentle bloom that assures us life continues beyond the season we see.

Electa is emblematic of enduring love and faithfulness, we associate you with the Red Rose and the Sunflower. The Red Rose speaks of deep and abiding love — love that does not falter. The Sunflower turns faithfully toward the light, just as a devoted heart turns toward truth and goodness. Electa teaches us that true love is not merely spoken — it is lived with quiet courage and unwavering loyalty. May we practice such love within our Chapter — patient, forgiving, and strong.

May *Friendship, Love and Kindness* be the path we follow through every season.

Quickie Answers (Check the diagrams in the back of the ritual)

1. At the left of the station of the Chaplain.
2. Almost to the end of the North marching line in the East.
3. Between the stations of Adah and Ruth.
4. On the Bible resting on the Altar.
5. Between the stations of Ruth and Esther.

May

- 21 – Pioneer #11, Brunswick, 7 pm, Landmarks and Obligation, Grand Chapter Reports
- 21 – Bethlehem #36, Pittsfield, 7 pm, Grand Chapter Reports
- 21 – Lily of the Valley #157, Weeks Mills, Our Mothers
- 26 – Madonna #144, West Kennebunk 7 pm, Honoring Sideliners and Substitutes
- 26 – Pondicherry #192, Bridgton, 7:30 pm, Finish Installation, Donation Foster Pups at Libra Dog, Potluck theme: Pasta
- 26 – Millwee #198, Orrington, 7 pm, Grand Chapter Report, 6 pm Supper
- 27 – Felicity #195, Orland, 7 pm, Summer is Coming, 6 pm Supper
- 27 – Beacon #202, Damariscotta, 7 pm, Baskets with Auction
- 28 – Mt. Zircon #142, Mexico, 7 pm, Honor Parents, 6 pm Supper
- 28 – Riverside #123, Orland, 7 pm, Celebrating Mothers, 6 pm Supper

June

- 1 – Mystic #69, Litchfield, 7 pm, History in the Making (Grand Chapter Reports)
- 2 – Queen Esther #10, Augusta, Honoring Past Grand Star Points, Potluck Supper 5:45
- 2 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, Service

- 3 – Messalunskit #170, New Sharon, 7:30 pm, Father's Day
- 4 – Keystone #78, Solon, 7 pm, Official Visitation/Flag Ceremony by Kelly
- 5 – Ruth #14, Sanford, 7 pm, Happy 250th Birthday USA
- 5 – Primrose #152, Belfast, 7:30 pm, Flag Ceremony/Cancer 6:30 pm Potluck
- 8 – Aldworth #39, Milo, 7 pm, Father's Day, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 8 – Molunkus Valley #95, Sherman, 7 pm, Stated Meeting, Pizza Party 5:30 pm
- 8 – Fireside #103, Clinton, 7 pm, ESTARL, Supper at 6 pm
- 8 – Pleasant River #159, Buxton, 7 pm, OES History, Father's Day, 6 pm Potluck Supper
- 9 – Lakeside #60, Wales, 7 pm, Service Dog Program, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 9 – Elm Vale #105, Harrison, 7:30 pm, History of OES in Maine, Donation Veterans Home, Flag Day, Supper 6:30 pm
- 10 – Ivy #16, Warren, 7:30 pm, Official Visitation, Flag Day
- 10 – Minerva #74, Madison, 7 pm, Father's Day, 6 pm Potluck
- 11 – Pine Cone Chapter #26, Auburn 7 pm, Honoring our Secretaries and Treasurers, 5:30 pm Social Hour
- 12 – Rumery #46, Addison, 7 pm, Service Dog Program, Potluck 6 pm
- 16 – Pondicherry #192, Bridgton, 7:30 pm, Flag Ceremony, Donation Vest-a Dog, Potluck theme: Picnic Food, 6:30 pm
- 12 – Abenaki #116, Readfield, 7:30 pm, Honor Fathers - Official Visitation
- 13 – Tuscan #148, Bangor, Host School of Instruction for Friendship, *Love and Kindness Grand Family*
- 15 – Electa #2, Bowdoinham, 7 pm, Honoring Flag Day with a Flag Folding Ceremony
- 15 – Tuscan #148, Bangor, 7 pm, Grand Chapter Reports, Potluck 6 pm
- 15 – Mountain View #197, Buckfield, 7 pm, Grand Representative Night, Supper 6 pm
- 16 – Madonna #144, West Kennebunk 7 pm, Official Visitation
- 16 – Almeda #149, Guilford, 7 pm, Whose child is this?, 6 pm Potluck
- 16 – Star Light #203, Westbrook, 7:30 pm, Honor Father's Day
- 17 – Felicity #195, Orland, 7 pm, Grand Star Points Ceremony, 6 pm Supper
- 18 – Pioneer #11, Brunswick, 7 pm, official Visitation with the DDGM
- 18 – Bethlehem #36, Pittsfield, 7 pm, Official

- Visitation with DDGM #6
- 18 – Lily of the Valley #157, Weeks Mills, Honoring Grand Representatives
- 19 – Irene #97, Ellsworth, 7 pm, Father's Day, Refreshments 6 pm, make your own Sub Sandwich
- 20 – Aldworth #39, Milo, 1 pm, Grand Family
- 23 – Mt.Zircon #142, Mexico, 7 pm, Official Visitation, 6 pm Supper
- 23 – Millwee #198, Orrington, 7 pm, Hawaiian Night, 6 pm Supper

July

- 1 – Queen Esther #10, Augusta, 250th Celebration, Potluck Supper 5:45
- 2 – Messalunskit #170, New Sharon, 7:30 pm, Independence Day
- 3 – Primrose #152, Belfast, 7:30 pm, Grand Family Planning/Heart, 6:30 pm cold Potluck
- 8 – Ivy #16, Warren, 7:30 pm, ESTARL, Happy Birthday America
- 8 – Minerva #74, Madison, 7 pm, The Dearest Ties/Brotherly Love, 6 pm Potluck
- 10 – Abenaki #116, Readfield, 7:30 pm, Beach Fun - Summer Dress
- 13 – Aldworth #39, Milo, 7 pm, landmarks and Obligation Night, Inside Picnic 6 pm
- 13 – Molunkus Valley #95, Sherman, 7 pm, Official Visitation, Potluck Supper 5:30 pm
- 14 – Lakeside #60, Wales, 7 pm, Official Visitation, Potluck Supper 6 pm
- 14 – Elm Vale #105, Harrison, 7:30 pm, Finish Music, ESTARL Supper 6:30 pm, Cook Out
- 15 – Pleasant River #159, Buxton, Multi Chapter ESTARL supper
- 15 – Felicity #195, Orland, 7 pm, Silent Auction to benefit ESTARL, 6 pm Supper
- 16 – Lily of the Valley #157, Weeks Mills, Picnic Supper 6 pm
- 17 – Rumery #46, Addison, 7 pm, Honoring DDGM's, Potluck 6 pm
- 20 – Mountain View #197, Buckfield, 7 pm, Official Visitation with the DDGM, Landmarks and Obligation, Supper 6 pm
- 21 – Almeda #149, Guilford, 7 pm, Nursery Rhyme Time, 6 pm Potluck
- 21 – Pondicherry #192, Bridgton, 7:30 pm, Mystery Program and ESTARL, Donation ESTARL, 6 pm ESTARL dinner
- 22 – Beacon #202, Damariscotta, 7 pm, ESTARL, Merged Chapter Nite, Cookout Style Supper
- 25 – Primrose #152, Belfast, 1 pm, Grand Family
- 28 – Mt. Zircon #142, Mexico, 7 pm, History, 6 pm Supper
- 26 – Millwee #198, Orrington, 7 pm, Official Visitation, 6 pm Supper