

# The Star Journal



March 2021



“Be Loyal  
To The  
Royal That’s  
Within You!”





Copy Deadline for the Fall 2021 Issue is July 5, 2021  
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# The Star Journal



**MARCH 2021**

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**Danny L. Cooper, Most Worthy Grand Patron**  
**Daria Hamms, Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron**

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*Norma J. Hines, Most Worthy Grand Matron  
and Danny L. Cooper, Most Worthy Grand Patron*



# Most Worthy Grand Matron's Message



*Dear Sisters and Brothers,*

**F**or years I have been receiving a daily devotional in my email. Back in 2012 I was running for RW Grand Trustee. A week or so before Grand Session I opened my email, and this was the devotional:

## **I Believe God Will Guide Me**

*"In Your unfailing love You will lead the people You have redeemed. In Your strength You will guide them to Your holy dwelling." – Exodus 15:13 NIV*

I believe my life is in God's hands and Keeping. I believe He has a plan and a purpose for my life and that He is leading me in a path that will fulfill that plan and purpose. I believe it is a good plan, a right plan, and the best plan. I believe there is not a better or higher or wiser way for me to live or way for me to follow. I believe God knows exactly what He is doing and that He will bring things into my life at the exact time they are needed. I believe He wants me to follow Him with praise on my lips for who He is, with thanks in my heart for what He does, and with obedience in my steps for what He asks me to do.

Immediately, tears came to my eyes because I felt like I was being told, "Not Now". I printed out the devotional and folded it and put it in my wallet. I would take it out and read it on a regular basis to remind me that He knew what He had planned for me and would take me there at the appointed time. It gave me faith and courage when I did not win at Grand Session, because it was not His timing. When I did win the following year, I shared the verse and devotion with the Grand body as part of my acceptance speech. I still carry the folded and tattered devotion in my wallet as reminder of God's plan for me.

This past year has been hard for all of us, some more than others, but it is important that we hold onto our faith that God has a plan and will put you in the right place at the right time if we listen to Him and follow His plan. It does not mean it will be easy nor does it mean it might not hurt at times. It means that He will guide us to the other side of our situations.

Our hearts have been broken with the loss of our Right

Worthy Grand Treasurer, Sister Gail Naia. She was such an integral part of the day to day running of Grand Chapter. Her knowledge, experience, love of Star and big smile will be missed more than words can say. We were also saddened by the passing of Brother Thomas Passante, Sr. GR of New York and Brother Wilfred R. Parsels, Jr., PGP.

Sisters and Brothers, as you know from our most recent communication we remain in the dark due to this horrible pandemic, but we have hope for the future and most importantly for our Beautiful Order. It is our fervent desire that the promise of these new vaccines will slowdown and put a halt to COVID-19, allowing us to gather once again in our chapters and as a Grand Body. Until then it is our sincerest hope that you all have been actively staying in touch with each other, by sending cards, phone calls, emails, virtual get togethers, letting each other know just how important we are to each other.

The Corporate Board has been diligently meeting virtually and working for the benefit of our members. They look for ways to cut costs and maximize benefits for you our members. There are innovations that we are working on even now to improve things in the future for our membership. The ultimate goal is to leave this Order even better than when we assumed leadership, as is our desire for all successive years. We look to the future as Sister Daria and Brother Bruce assume the reins of leadership.

We are planning Grand Session for May 24, 25, and 26, 2021 at Caesar's Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City. Additional information will be in this edition of the Star Journal.

It has been my honor to serve you as your Most Worthy Grand Matron with Brother Danny by my side and I most humbly thank you the Grand Body for affording me this opportunity. I have tried my best and have always put you the membership first in all I did. This time of service has been a blessing in my life as I hope I have been to yours.



*Your Sister in Star*

*Norma J. Hines*

*Most Worthy Grand Matron, 2019-2021*



# Most Worthy Grand Patron's Message



*Dear Sisters and Brothers,*

One thing is for sure! These past months in 2020 and now stretching into 2021 have been like no others in our lifetime, but how quickly they flew by! Here I am still greeting you as your MWGP.

Our Order has met and dealt with many challenges over the past year and we will tackle more in the upcoming months. However, as is the case over our 151 years, we have demonstrated a strong resilience in adapting to the new normal during our black-out months. For one, it appears most of us have lived by our State's Covid-19 guidelines, keeping us and our families safe. We continue to pray for those of you on the many front line jobs that you will stay well and not fall victim to this horrible virus.

The other new normal has been fully adapting to technology to stay connected, to help diminish the isolation many of us continue to experience during this pandemic, and to carry on the necessary business of Grand Chapter and our local chapters throughout the state.

That has amounted to an extra year of service for our Sisters and Brothers who continued to serve in their leadership positions. I thank the Charity Foundation and the Home Board for their outstanding dedication and hard work. I thank our Deputies for keeping our membership abreast of communications from Grand Chapter, and news about their members and chapter happenings via

their District Facebook groups. I thank the local chapters' worthy matrons, secretaries, and treasurers for continuing the necessary monthly business of their respective chapters, safely conducting fundraisers, and keeping in touch with their membership. It has been a pleasure to attend Zoom social meetings and especially reading the many bulletins and newsletters from throughout the State. And commendations to our Grand Officers who performed online our Grand Floral for a few chapters and who hung in there this year with Sister Norma and me.

Now, we look forward with excitement to a new year. I wish the best of luck and many successes to Sister Daria, Brother Bruce, their staff of appointed grand officers, our elected line, and our local chapters as they embark on restoring our Order back to normalcy.

I look forward to our Grand Session and hope many of you will attend. Hopefully, we will all be vaccinated, but realize that we will join in protecting one another by abiding by Covid-19 safety measures still in place. Let us look up to the Bald Eagle, a symbol of hope and strength and continue to stay positive and upbeat as our lives now begin to return to normal, so that we can be together again. ❖

*Fraternally,  
Danny L. Cooper  
Most Worthy Grand Patron, 2019-2021*



# Greetings From the Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron



*Greetings to Our Membership and Happy New Year*

**M**ay the year of 2021 bring us all peace, harmony and the guidance needed to restart our beautiful Eastern Star.

In this time of COVID-19 we have all had to make adjustments in our personal lives, and like everything else Eastern Star is going to have to make some adjustments for our safety. Please be safe and continue to practice safe guidelines as we live our everyday life. Keep in mind the reasons why you joined Eastern Star. With that in mind, try to practice kindness and respect to our fellow man.

I have no idea once I'm installed what my year will be like. I'm planning on focusing on service, so first and fore-

most, know that the safety of our membership is what is priority to me. I will not ask anyone to do anything that they would be uncomfortable or feel unsafe to them. I hope that the membership will be kind enough to let me know if they have ideas on how to move us forward with service projects in our districts.

Love and respect to the membership. Be safe, and always practice the lessons we learned in our beautiful Eastern Star. ❖

*In Star Love,  
Daria Hamm  
Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron*

## Celebrating 100 Years of OES Service

It is with much pride that Jephtha Chapter #134 would have celebrated our 100th birthday in October 2020. Could you imagine the shoes and dresses worn that evening 100 years ago? Jephtha Chapter has much history—initially meeting in a store front and then moving to the beautiful temple in Paterson. Since then we've moved four times and are still an active, vibrant chapter. The



mergers of Garfield and Fortitude Chapters and the consolidation of Temple Chapter into Jephtha Chapter have helped to keep us strong. We are looking forward to getting together and celebrating this landmark event as soon as our chapters reopen. I thank the members of Jephtha Chapter for all their hard work and their service to our order.

~~~ submitted by Sister Jane Ann Edwards Farissier, PGM,  
Fraternal Mother of Jephtha Chapter #134 in the 31st District



“Sisters in Harmony makes the OES”



## *From the Desk of the Right Worthy Grand Secretary*

### *Greetings Sisters and Brothers.*

I hope you are staying safe and healthy during this time in our lives. It will not be forever, and as most of us feel that it will never end, we just need to be patience. Our lives have changed so much within the last 9 months, with wearing masks and gloves in public and helping our children and grandchildren with home schooling.

During this time we have been apart, we have lost many of our Sisters and Brothers, who have gone to Grand Chapter on high. On behalf of Grand Chapter, we extend our heartfelt sympathy to those families who have lost loved ones.

We lost a very special sister and friend, to many during this time, "Sister Gail F. Naia, Right Worthy Grand Treasurer". Sister Gail's family was with her during her last days. Gail always spoke about Counting Her Blessings with an Attitude of Gratitude for her Sisters and Brothers. For those of us who knew Gail, we all "Counted our Blessings" for knowing her. She was a special sister, who went out of her way to help those in need and always lent a helping hand. As she mentioned in her last article, "Smiling is Contagious" and that was our Sister Gail, always sharing her smile. Gail loved the butterfly.



Love is like a Butterfly  
It goes where it pleases  
And it pleases where it goes.

As we start the New Year 2021, let us look to the new, and what lies ahead in our Chapters. Let's reach out to our members by a phone call, an email or a card. It's nice to hear a familiar voice when the phone rings or when you reach to your mail box and find a greeting card, it puts a smile on someone's face or even yours that someone was thinking of you.

Most of our Secretaries have continued to do the work behind the scenes in their chapters, with reports, dues cards and the nec-



essary work that needs to be done during this quiet time. Some Chapters are doing virtual fundraiser, try to support them. This continues to be a hard year in our Chapters, and we need to help and support each other if possible.

There will be no Secretary or Treasurers meeting in February, all paperwork will be mailed and emailed to Chapter Secretaries. The Annual reports are still due for April and May. Grand Chapter is still closed to visitors, I am available for any questions that you may have, I am just a phone call away.

As we try to plan for Grand Session in May 24, 25, and 26, 2021, we pray that we will be able to meet at this time. Once the schedule is printed, it will be sent out to our membership and will be available on the website to download. You will notice that there is no Secretary and Treasurers luncheon. This has been taken out of Grand Session, and will be held at another time.

I continue to look forward to working with each of our Secretaries and Treasurers. I want to thank those who have dedicated years of Service to our Order and continue to do so.

If you need to have something put on our NJOES website, please email me with this information at [njoesgc@optonline.net](mailto:njoesgc@optonline.net).

I look forward to meet again, with each of you.

Let's us continue to "Sparkle from within" and "Remember to let the Peacefulness of Snow and the Spirit of Christmas be with you always". ❖

*Love with Happiness.*

*Patti L. Rhinesmith, PQM*

*Right Worthy Grand Secretary*



## **33rd District — Submitted By Karyn Visscher**

During the latter months of 2020, the 33rd District has remained busy looking after its membership! Our chapters have continued to keep-in-touch with each other through virtual get-togethers, or by frequent phone conversations. During some of the Virtual 'hang-outs' chapters have celebrated the various holidays (Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas); had fundraising parties, but most importantly—they have just enjoyed each other's company. Several of our chapters have had virtual, contactless fundraisers during this time as well. Throughout this time, our chapters continue to support and celebrate our Sisters and Brothers.

Many of our Sisters and Brothers continue to work during the quarantine—either at home or are 'essential workers' at their places of business. Other members continue to support and care for each other by making premie caps and larger sized hats; scarves and face masks; and are continuing to contribute to our local Food Banks and Pantries. We send them our thanks for all they do for us and for our communities.

We all look forward to the day when we can all meet again and continue to 'Celebrate' our District and its Members!



## In Memory of RWG7 Gail F. Naia



On behalf of my sister Michelle, and Gail's sister Charlotte, we wish to express a sincere thank you for the prayers, cards, personal notes, and phone calls during this difficult time. We truly feel the love, respect and gratitude everyone had for my mother Gail . . . and this gives us comfort.

I am honored to write this message that occupies the same space that Gail sent her last message in the Fall issue of the Star Journal. I did not feel the need to include the list of offices and dates, and her many contributions to the Order. Instead, I feel moved to share context, background and perhaps some of her motivation.

Gail was 2nd generation Star. One could say she simply followed in her mother's footsteps. However, through this unexpected journey as I reviewed photos, paperwork and paid more attention to dates and events—it occurred to me that my mother became active and a key member of Gloria #159 during a very difficult time in her personal life. True to form Gail chose not to fret over things that were not in her control and instead channeled her energy into positive and served others.

I am humbled by all the condolences and stories shared by her many friends and fellow OES road warriors. Someone told me that many will say that they were her BFF—but the truth is she had such a capacity for love and giving there is no way to limit that to one person. Gail was many things to many people, and she gave each 100%.

Michelle and I can attest to the great lengths Gail would go to make sure things were even between us, and she felt obligated to explain the “math” and reasoning to assure us that what she gave to us was split down the middle. The truth is it really was not that big deal of to us at the time. However, I look back and it all seems to make sense that Gail did strive to give 100% to all and it was not about dividing.

In her final message Gail challenged us to be “contagious” and keep smiling. She was counting her blessings and Michelle, Charlotte and I take comfort in knowing that she had so much to be proud of and that she accomplished so much. I feel certain that she would want us all to be the butterfly that brings joy and beauty everywhere it lands. Please continue to count your blessings with an Attitude of Gratitude.

*With much Love, Gail (Cooley), Michelle (Hack) and Charlotte (Farley).*



## We Struggle and We Hope

Submitted By Christina Fullam, WDD #32

When the pandemic started in force here in March, we went dark. We were mostly silent. We hoped that by summer, we would be looking to reopen, that we could meet again in the fall; but that did not come to fruition. We have kept in touch by bulletins and mailings, by video call and telephone. We have raised money for our chapters so that when we meet again, we will be empowered to help those in need.

But we are also those in need right now. Some of us have lost jobs, family members, or friends this past year. Some of us have

struggled with “homeschooling” children while trying to work at the same time over the last several months. Most of us have felt the sting of isolation. We are all in need of each other's support.

Though we are physically apart, we can be there for each other—by telephone or text, by email or card, by video call. We can still support each other from a distance.

Please know that your Eastern Star family is here for you, now and always.



## Right Worthy Grand Conductress

*To My Sisters and Brothers,  
Happy New Year!!!*

How I miss seeing all of you in person, face-to-face!

My prayer is that 2021 will find us facing more positive times, as we enter the New Year!

Looking back at 2020, I should have known it would be an, um, "interesting" year, when I started it in the ER from a nasty fall. No major injuries, but the bruises were spectacular, especially the black eye I sported for a while.

By the end of 2020, I think we all felt bruised and battered, and especially missing the support and camaraderie that Star offers to us all. I think 2020 was the least mileage I've put on a vehicle since I began driving!! As it often happens, I will remember a quote from a fandom that I follow, that will help me through the rough times. In "The Fellowship of the Ring", J.R.R. Tolkien wrote:

***"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."***



These recent twists and turns in the journey to the Grand East were unexpected, but this unexpected journey has not been without bright spots to be cherished and remembered.

The virtual opportunities we've had for fellowship have been greatly appreciated. We've continued to do the charitable work of the Charity Foundation and the OES Home Board through Webex meetings. I've received lovely notes from chapters and members via text, email, Facebook, and the US Postal Service. I

appreciate the Worthy District Deputies and their Facebook page updates for sharing news, as well as the njoes.com web page.

Now we have entered a new year, and there is a light that is glimmering in the distance. As we see the results of the roll out of vaccines to fight this pandemic, it is my fervent wish that the light we are seeing will coalesce into the light of our Star, and that we will be able to meet at Grand Session and resume our labors.

Please, stay safe, be well, and know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. ❖

*In Star Love, Jeannette Wallace,  
Right Worthy Grand Conductress*

## Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress



*Greetings from the North!  
Welcome 2021!!!!*

I hope this finds you all well and happy. Not a lot has changed since the last time I wrote to all of you. There is light at the end of the tunnel and I thoroughly believe that it is NOT an oncoming train. I hope the worst of this is now behind us and

that it will not be long until we are able to meet in person and share hugs and handshakes.

Over the past months, I have been spending my Saturdays working with my sister to clean out the house my mother lived in for the past 68 years. It is an old 2 family house with both an attic and a basement. Needless to say, it has been quite an undertaking. My mom was a child of the great depression, so she did not throw anything out because it may have a future use. You cannot begin to imagine the things we have found. Just an example, we found several containers of baby powder from the Grand Union of East Paterson, NJ. Grand Union went out of

business in 2001 but East Paterson changed its name to Elmwood Park in 1973. But not everything we found was as ridiculous as that. We found a family bible that was brought over from the Netherlands published in the 1700's. Now, I know that there are a lot of uses for baby powder, but we threw that old stuff out. The bible is falling apart, and I can't read Dutch, but it is much too precious to throw out. We will look for someone who may be able to rebind it and it will be passed on to future generations.

Many of us have spent this time at home to clean out and rearrange. What things have you thrown out? Have you thrown out negative thoughts? Have you gotten rid of old grudges and forgotten past wrongs? What things are you keeping and bringing with you into the new year? Are you keeping kindness, hope and love? Are you saving your love for our Order and your Sisters and Brothers? Now is the time to clean out our closets, attics and basements and bring new life to those things that we hold dear. ❖

*In Star Love and Friendship,  
Joanne Byrne, RWAGC*



## Worthy Grand Chaplain

*Happy 2021 to All My Sisters & Brothers*

This has been a very interesting year. I started off by re-making masks that Karyn Visscher and her committee of Angels made, for Dawn's hospice co-workers. It was definitely a labor of Love. I spent 2½ months working on them. Eighty masks ripped apart and re sewn with extra protection put in as they took care of some Covid patients. Then another 25 or so masks made from scratch for my neighbors.

Then the fun began. I went to visit Judy & Dan Brown for a fantastic socially distanced luncheon on their front porch. They were the first friends I saw during the pandemic and we had a wonderful afternoon catching up on life and going for a walk around their lake. Dawn did not want me to be out at all for the first 3½ months except to drive to the post office and mail my mail—in the outside box, go to the bank to the drive-up window only . . . touching no tubes and picking up meat at the butcher—curbside. How boring . . . LOL. I started making phone calls to

my sisters in Gloria Chapter weekly to make sure they were well and did not need anything from the grocery store. It was fun to connect with them on the phone.

School finally opened in September and we are back to somewhat normal. We all wear masks all day and sit at our desks behind plexiglass. Phone calls are hard sometimes as we can't be understood, and masks made my glasses fog up . . . hard to see computer screen and just plain work. It is all okay this too shall pass. Looking forward to the day we can all meet again and resume our work for our Beautiful Eastern Star. The Zoom meetings have been fun, but I miss the social part of being with and hugging our Sisters and Brothers. I have been praying for you all nightly and I know God hears my prayers.

*In Star Love with many HUGS.*

*Carol E. Orner.*

*Worthy Grand Chaplain 2019-2021.*

## Most Worthy Grand Patron Select

As Grand Patron Select, I have enjoyed reading the chapter notices and have had the honor of attending the Home Board and Charity Board meetings. It's been enlightening and I've learned quite a lot this past year.

Our members truly exemplify the lessons of our heroines. I see Sisters and Brothers who are faithful to the obligations of our Order and are dedicated to their neighbors, to the community, and especially to one another. Although chapters cannot meet officially, many chapters are reaching out to their members by phone, zoom, FaceTime, with cards, etc. to make sure all members know they are not alone, but part of something much bigger! This is done while always keeping the safety of the membership in mind. We have found ways to keep our Order strong, to keep our members engaged yet safe, and I'm certain that what comes next will be continuing success.

From the moment we are born, we are in a constant state of transformation. We learn, we grow, we laugh and cry—we experience life to become the person we are now. Thankfully, the future is looking brighter, but it will take time for things to start to feel "normal". Our Order's activities may have been put on hold, but this change will be incorporated into our Eastern Star life. And while we remain faithful to our beliefs and stand together—trusting in each other and in God—we will again flourish!



## GRAND SOLOIST

Happy New Year to my Star family. Last year was challenging and through it all we made it. A few of my friends kept me busy writing and recording music in addition to being creative during our weekly zoom meetings. This enabled me to keep faith and know that we will move forward in this new year as long as we keep our Lord and Savior fittings our lives. I've also had the pleasure of bringing joy into others lives through charitable acts. I'm excited about the day when we all get together again. Please continue to remain safe.

In Star Love,  
Janice Harrison-Aikens  
Worthy Grand Soloist





## TENTATIVE PROGRAM – 2021 GRAND SESSION

*The Grand Chapter  
Order of the Eastern Star  
of  
New Jersey*

*Cordially invites you to attend the  
One Hundred and Fiftieth*

*"Be Loyal to the Royal Within You"  
Annual Grand Session*

*May 24, 25, 26, 2021  
(Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)  
At  
Caesars Atlantic City  
Atlantic City, New Jersey*

*Formal Opening,  
Monday, May 24, 2021  
7:00 PM*

*Norma J. Hines  
Most Worthy Grand Matron  
Danny L. Cooper  
Most Worthy Grand Patron*

*Patti L. Rhinesmith, PGM  
Right Worthy Grand Secretary  
111 Finderne Avenue  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807*

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### *Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Order of the Eastern Star,*

We look forward to greeting you at the "Be Loyal to the Royal Within You" 150th Grand Session. Our Grand Session will be held this year at Caesar's Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ.

Due to the pandemic, we will be sending flyers out for Grand Session, at a later time as to our normal Grand Session or if we have an emergent session.

As of the printing of this tentative schedule, we are unsure of the rules that we will be under with the State of New Jersey.

### Prices for 2021 Grand Session

The price of the rooms will be \$69 base plus taxes for single and double rooms. (Approx. \$109.00 total).

The meal plan to include 3 Breakfast - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday along with 2 dinners will be \$170.00. If you choose to have just the 2 dinners on Monday and Tuesday will be \$95.00.

Monday nights membership dinner – \$60.00

The Mischievous Elves Grand Representative's Luncheon Tuesday \$40.00

Registration for members and guests - \$15.00

In Star Love,

Norma J. Hines, Most Worthy Grand Matron

Danny L. Cooper, Most Worthy Grand Patron



## Eastern Star Home Board

As we enter into another round of the COVID pandemic, I hope everyone has stayed safe and well. If we emulate the Courage, Strength, Wisdom, Faith and Love taught by the five heroines of our Star, we will remain safe and well. Please remember to wear a mask and keep 6 feet apart. If everyone does their part, we will get through this together.

Our New Administrator, Dawn Giakas, has hit the ground running. She has had her hands full dealing with the Covid pandemic. Because of her, and her staff's efforts we have had only a few positive Covid cases. We are very grateful to have Dawn as our Administrator. She has implemented several programs. She has also changed several companies that we do business with that have saved money for the home. When we are finally able to visit at the Home, please make sure that you introduce yourself to her. Thank you Dawn for everything that you and your staff are doing.

### Delegates Meeting

We are hoping to have our Delegates Meeting on June 5, 2021 at 10 am sharp, at this point we do not know if we will be able to have it at our NJ Eastern Star Home. We might have to move the meeting to another venue, or we might have to do a WebEx meeting. We will let everyone know at a later date. At this point we will need to elect seven new Directors. Please think about becoming a Director on the Home Board. We need your help. NJESH Board Petitions can be found on the Grand Chapter Website under Forms. Please fill out the application and send it to the secretary of the Home Board, Rosalinda Frascati, PGO. All applications must be filed with the Secretary of the Board of Directors on or before April 1, 2021. As your Chapters go through the process of election of officers please seriously think about becoming a Delegate, 1st Alternate or 2nd Alternate. The Home has been through a lot during COVID and has done very well under the leadership of Diane Baldwin and Dawn Giakas. We need you to be involved now more than ever in order to keep each Chapter informed as to what is going on at our Home. It is important that either the Delegate, Alternates, Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron or the Associate Matron is in attendance at the Delegates' Meeting, so they can in turn take information about our Home back to their Chapters. At our Last Delegates' meeting, we had all but three Chapters represented. This year I am hoping for 100% participation. I want to thank everyone that attended the Delegates' Annual Meeting; the Board of Directors and our Home appreciate it.

### Home Day

We are preparing to have Home Day on May 1, 2021. We will have to wait to see what our situation is with COVID. Please check out the Daily News on the Grand Chapter website, I will keep everyone informed when it gets closer to May.

### Home 62nd Birthday

We were not able to hold the Home's 62nd Birthday because of COVID. Instead we asked everyone to send in Birthday Greetings and Sister Sue Foster put them into a Video. I Thank Sister Sue for doing this for us.

### Refresh and Renew Project

Nursing Unit A Refresh/Renew project has been completed. As soon as the Covid pandemic is over we will be working on Nursing Unit B and the Shower room. We thank everyone who has donated to the Refresh/Renew project. It is because of your generosity that this was possible. If you would like to make a donation please make your check payable to the "New Jersey Eastern Star Home, Inc." and put Refresh and Renew on the memo line, and forward to Sister Carole Moore, PGM, Treasurer of our Home Board. All donations made to our Home are tax deductible.

### Rehabilitation Unit

We have a state-of-the-art Rehabilitation Unit and hope that you will consider our facility should you or someone you know need our services. They provide physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy.

### Volunteers

At the present time we had to cancel all visits to our Home. We are hoping that visitations to our Home will open soon. We want to thank everyone who volunteers their time to visit, play games, do crafts, hold a meeting, sponsor a summer picnic or host other activities. The Board of Directors and the Home thank you for your dedication to the residents and our Home. I would also like to thank our Administrator, Dawn Giakas, and her staff for their dedication and service to our residents. While the Home has been on lock down, our activities employees have been very busy keeping our residents occupied while they have been quarantined in their rooms. We have also invested in a couple of iPads so residents can facetime with family members. We have received many letters from family members of residents, thank-

*Continued on Page 12*



*Continued from Page 11*

ing the Home for the dedication and the care given to their loved ones. Our main goal, at all times, is to ensure the health and safety of our residents and staff. More information will be forthcoming.

### Bequest

When planning for the future, you may not only be thinking about how to help your family, but also how you might benefit one or more charitable organizations. A Charitable bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. You can create a bequest of any dollar amount. When you are preparing your will, please think about including our NJ Eastern Star Home.

### Tree of Life

The Tree of Life has received some new leaves and rocks, make sure you check it out the next time you are at the Eastern Star Home. If you would like to have a leaf or rock added to the Tree of Life, you can obtain forms by going to the NJ Eastern Star Home's website at [www.njeasterstarhome.com](http://www.njeasterstarhome.com) and click the Donation tab to obtain the form or by contacting our Home at 908-722-4140. The forms for Leaves and Rocks are also printed in the journal. Leaves are \$500.00, and a rock is \$1000.00. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Home, I thank you for supporting this project.

### Facebook/Website

Did you know that the NJ Eastern Star Home has a Facebook page? Please go on their page and follow them.

Our website is back up. You can visit it at [www.njeasterstarhome.com](http://www.njeasterstarhome.com).

### Our Home

It has been an extremely trying time for all, but especially the employees that tirelessly work for our Home as they move through these scary, stressful, limiting, isolating times, we say, "Thank You." It has been especially hard on the residents as they have been quarantined in their rooms. We thank everyone at the home for helping our residents adjust. The Home thanks the families and friends who have provided support through words, cards, meals and the like. As we move forward, the Home continues to follow the directions provided from the Department of Health, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Governor's Office. More information will be available when the plan for visitations is approved. COVID has put a stress on the Home financially. I want to thank our members that have donated to the Home to help during these trying times. In closing I want to thank all the employees who work at our Eastern Star Home for their dedication and support of our residents and Home. To all our members, thank you for your continued support to our residents and our Home. Stay Safe.

In Star Love,  
Deborah Lynn LeDoux, PGO  
President

## NJESH Thank You – iPads



*Thank you to those that have made a donation to the iPads! They are being put to great use for our residents not only for FaceTime calls with families but also for virtual doctor appointments and various activities! NJESH appreciates all of those who have chipped in to make this possible.*

**THANK YOU!**





*in this issue >>>*

## *Refresh and Renew Project*



## New Jersey Eastern Star Home



### *New Year, New Projects!*

It's time to refresh the look of Nursing Unit I.

As many of you know, the building project that we completed in the Fall of 2015 was a great success. The new wing, which includes our Rehab Unit and our Private Long-Term Care accommodations, receives rave reviews for the well-planned and beautifully designed environment. This environment supports quality care and services as one is surrounded with an atmosphere of warm, calming colors and attractive, functional furnishings.

Nursing Unit I, the original part of our home, now needs a face lift. It is our plan to carry the decorating design, including colors, furniture and accessories throughout the building into Nursing Unit I.

We are requesting your support in our "Refresh and Renew Project".

We are excited to show you the imagines within this article to help you visualize our plans. With your support, we can make things happen. Your interest and efforts are greatly appreciated by the residents of the Home. Please stop in for a visit anytime you're in the area. We'll be happy to show you what we've done and where we're going to do!

Donations can be made payable to:  
New Jersey Eastern Star Home, Inc  
Mailed to:

111 FINDERNE AVE. BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807  
Attention: Business Office  
Memo: Renew & Refresh Project





**Private Pay & Medicaid beds  
now available!!**

LONG TERM CARE

**NEW JERSEY  
EASTERN STAR  
HOME**

MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
IN THE LIVES OF SENIORS

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**Request a virtual  
tour today!**

## THE TREE OF LIFE



Leaves and Rocks can be purchased and personalized for the Tree of Life. This is an effective and beautiful way to recognize members, chapters, groups, friends and loved ones. Leaves can be purchased for \$500 and Rocks for \$1,000. To purchase leaves or a rock fill out the form, make check payable to NJ Eastern Star Home, Inc. and mail to NJ Eastern Star Home, 111 Finderne Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807. If you have any questions you can call the NJ Eastern Star Home or ask any Home Board Director.



NEW JERSEY EASTERN STAR HOME, INC.

## TREE OF LIFE ROCKS

### 1. DONOR INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT INFORMATION

Complete only if you wish the Home to send an acknowledgement of your donation.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. ENGRAVING INFORMATION (See reverse side)

Rock is a brass plate and is mounted on a bronze background. Shapes of rocks will vary slightly.

### 4. AUTHORIZATION

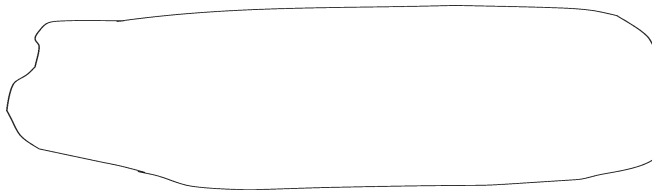
I hereby authorize the New Jersey Eastern Star Home, Inc. to engrave one rock as indicated above and to attach it to their TREE OF LIFE.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your \$1,000.00 check payable to:  
NJ Eastern Star Home  
111 Finderne Avenue  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807 (908-722-4140)

Documents/Tree of Life Rock Order Form 5-2019

PRINT OR TYPE THE EXACT LETTERING



## TREE OF LIFE LEAVES

### 1. DONOR INFORMATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CHAPTER: \_\_\_\_\_ NO# \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT # \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT INFORMATION

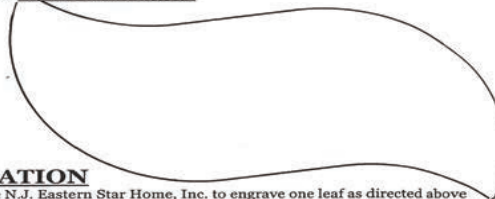
Complete only if you wish the Home to send an acknowledgement of your donation.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. ENGRAVING INFORMATION

In the space below is an exact size outline of the leaf.

PRINT or TYPE the EXACT LETTERING



### 4. AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize the N.J. Eastern Star Home, Inc. to engrave one leaf as directed above And to attach it to their TREE OF LIFE.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your \$500 check payable  
New Jersey Eastern Star Home, Inc.  
111 Finderne Ave.  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

NEW JERSEY EASTERN STAR HOME, INC.



## DISTRICT #39

### Submitted By Barbara Rapp, WDD

Christina Rossetti tells us about the dreary darkness of the winter.

“In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.  
What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.”

The officers and members of Eastern Star have just experienced a bleak Pandemic. There have not been meetings or social gatherings. Yet, through it all, members have found ways to join together. Dear to our hearts are those who have loved and served Eastern Star for many years.

**Delaware Chapter** had a food donation project and delivered the items collected to the Food Bank at the River of Life church. They were amazed to learn that on Pantry Day, which is every other Saturday, there are at least 125 families who receive food from the Food Bank. The Food Bank is only for Phillipsburg residents.

**Starlight Chapter** Associate Matron, Lisa Couch, operates the food bank of Fish Inc. in the Dunellen Area of Piscataway on three days a week. She and her husband also ran the Christmas Toy and Gift Program for Fish. Gifts and toys were provided to families in need. On the third Friday of each month, Lisa cooks a free home-cooked take-out meal for Fishes and Loaves Café in Piscataway. They serve from 50 to 70 meals which include salad and dessert. Some chapters have had Zoom meetings, but this excludes some members who have not become fans of technology and therefore aren't able to participate. Starlight Chapter had a virtual Christmas Party on December 21 with a few members attending. Those who live locally were able to have a spaghetti dinner dropped off at their doors with socially distanced guidelines in place. It was their first online get-

together, and they used the Grand Chapter's WebEx account. They said that it was so nice to see familiar faces and to hear friendly voices that they have been missing.

Some fundraisers have continued during the Pandemic. A Cup of Tea with Me required that a tea bag be sent to members. The member was to enjoy a cup of tea while thinking about their sisters and brothers with whom they couldn't meet. Then they were requested to send a donation to the chapter to commemorate the enjoyable afternoon. Another fundraiser was a Christmas wreath sale with wreaths made by a family farm in Pennsylvania. The wreaths were placed in plastic bags and delivered, without contact, to doorsteps.

One chapter continued their "Secret Pal" project. Participating members were encouraged to send cards and small gifts to their pals so that they would know that they weren't forgotten. Several members of various chapters have diligently remembered others with cards and phone calls.

One Associate Matron included a Scentsy scent circle (air freshener) in her correspondence. One of the Worthy Matrons regularly sends letters to the members and includes a couple of puzzles to keep them busy.

Stewart Chapter members have continued to support each other and offer help wherever it is needed. One of their members said that we should have a big Eastern Star celebration when the Pandemic is over. She said that we should have Christmas decorations and lights, Christmas dinner, and Fourth of July sparklers.

One of the Worthy Matrons wrote a letter to her chapter members and mentioned the wonder of the Christmas lights and the stars in the sky reflecting God's love for us. She reminded her chapter that God will see us through this Pandemic and will light up our lives.

We WILL meet again in our chapters although we do not know how soon that will be. "If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him: give my heart."

Stay Healthy and Stay Safe!!!!!!!!!!  
Your Family In Star Love





## Right Worthy Grand Trustee

Just a note to all my Eastern Star Sisters and Brothers to let you know I am thinking about you and hoping to find you in good health!! Bill and I had a busy spring home schooling and/or babysitting all those Milone-Clapp kiddos. We celebrated Easter with the whole Rosequist family, and it was great to have my brother in laws and family together. Late spring found us having to replace our three-year-old gas boiler due to a defect. In June and July, the Rosequist household had a great time celebrating some milestone birthdays and events, Bill the big 70, sister-in-law Robin the big 66, Kerry the big 45, our nephew Jeff the big 40, and the twins turning 6, and our granddaughter Mackenzie graduating 8th grade. Where have those years gone?? In August Bill and I celebrated our 46th wedding anniversary and we celebrated yet another birthday, Emelia aka Mimi turned 5. Throughout the summer months, Bill and I had carpentry work done on our home, i.e., new porch steps, floors, rails and balusters, and the old girl got a new paint job, a project we have wanted to do for quite a while.

September to November found us watching the kiddos after a half day of school each day, keeping us on our toes. The Rosequist family was able to celebrate Thanksgiving with Kerry and her fam-

ily. Christmas 2020 was magical for the kiddos. It was fun to make and decorate cookies, gingerbread houses, and watch the excitement in the kids faces when they talked about writing their Christmas lists and putting them in the "special mailbox" Mom-Mom bought them. "Happy Nappers" were high on the list so Santa "Bampy" was on the computer ordering those. He did such a great job, he ordered them twice, OOPS.

Throughout the quarantine I have also been busy with Charity Foundation, Home Board, and Corporate Board Meetings via WebEx, attending the many OES Bingos, presentations by Moises Gomez, zoom Church services and virtual Sunday school with the kiddos.

Bill and I have been well through this pandemic and hope you ALL are well too!

God Bless each of you and your families, and I want to wish you Health, Wealth and much Happiness in the New Year.

In Star Love,  
Sr. Sharon E. Rosequist  
Right Worthy Grand Trustee

## Happy New Year from Delaware Chapter #50, District #39

In ordinary times, we would be preparing to start our 2021 year by resuming our labors in our Chapter, however, these are not ordinary times. Our lives may have changed, but our Order and Chapter are strong and we will survive this Pandemic even stronger.

On a beautiful fall day, November 7, 2020, we had the pleasure and honor of having Sister Alice Good, PGM, present Fifty, Sixty and Seventy year pins. We gathered on the front lawn of Phillipsburg Lodge with social distancing & masks in place. There were approximately 30 people present. Sixteen Officers were in attendance. We had the pleasure of meeting the two new babies born into our family; Sister Stacy Ackerman's daughter, Lake, as well as her son, Cole, and Sister Tammy McQuoid's son, Chase. It seemed to turn out to be almost like a family affair.

Sister Alice presented pins to the following: Sister Wanda Carmen & Sister Geraldine Vliet with their 50 year pins, Sister Ruth Ann Hoyt with her 60 year bar and Sister Gloria Decker, received her 70 year bar. Sister Alice and I presented Sister Anna M. Hyndshaw with her 60 year bar at the New Jersey Eastern Star Home. Others receiving pins and/or bars who live out of the area were Sister Sandra Beamsderfer, Sister Page E. Lubowiki, Sister Irene Segletes and Sister Mary Winters received 50 year pins and Sister Madelyn Duckworth received her 60 year bar.

On December 19, we had a food drive for the food pantry of the River of Life Church in Phillipsburg, New Jersey. Bro. Anthony St. Luce, Worthy Patron, Bro. Ed Rusek, our Sentinel and myself delivered the donations to Pastor Bill Slack of the River of Life Church. While speaking with Pastor Slack he told us that food is distributed usually every other Saturday to approximately 125 families in Phillipsburg area. We were amazed at the number of tables



that were full with canned goods, paper products, etc. Each family is given two large bags for canned goods, etc. and another for produce and meats. The Church owns a building that had been a grocery store and it is all on one floor so it can be used for other activities. Due to the Pandemic, they were unable to hold their annual Thanksgiving Dinner or Christmas Dinner, but they had pick up dinners available. Also, because of the Pandemic they had to close the clothing area but hope that before Christmas they may be able to open the Clothes Closet.

We did have a couple of Zoom gatherings, but haven't had any during the holidays. We hope to start this again in the New Year.

We are looking forward to the time that we will be able to meet again in our Chapter, but in the meantime we will continue to wear our MASK, do social distancing and above all keep safe & healthy.

Happy New Year and remember to always Count your Many Blessings, especially in these trying times.

Ruth Ann Hoyt, Worthy Matron  
Delaware Chapter #50



## Eastern Star Charity Foundation Inc.

*To live our obligation by providing “aid to members in their misfortunes” and educational support for the future.*

With every issue of the Star Journal the Charity Foundation President tells you of its programs (Scholarships, Student Loans, Life Skills Grants and Aid to distressed Sisters and Brothers) and explains that without each of us giving to Our Charity Foundation, these programs would not be possible. . . Sounds familiar, right? Feels like we're stuck in the movie “Ground Hog Day”, with every semi quarantined day blending into the next.

But things are changing. The hope of vaccines and “herd immunity” are promising a return to a more normal life. And your Charity Foundation Board of Directors were not on hiatus. The Board has continued to meet during this time. Scholarships have been awarded. Sisters have been (and continue to be) assisted. Instead of hunkering down and standing still, the Charity Foundation has done it's best to follow the motto our son learned when in USMC boot camp. . . “**Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome**”, by finding new ways to fulfill our obligation.

The Board has restructured the Scholarship Program to award four one—time scholarships this year of \$5000 each, including one set aside specifically for a member of the Order of Rainbow for Girls. We've embarked on a new program “Rays of Caring”

to raise the resources needed by our operating fund to provide relief and aid. You can see a report of our activities during 2020 elsewhere in the Star Journal. But the work, and unfortunately, the need continues.

We need your thoughts on how the Charity Foundation can continue to provide for our members in distress.

We will also be electing five Directors at Grand Session (four three-year terms and one two-year unexpired term). I will be leaving the Board after 8 years of service. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Board who found their term of service extended by a year because of the pandemic.

The Charity Foundation only receives the funds that you, the Members of our Order choose to give. Without that giving, we cannot serve to To live our obligation by providing “aid to members in their misfortunes” and educational support for the future.

Please consider the New Jersey Eastern Star Charity Foundation in your estate planning as well.

In Star Service,  
Fred Martin, PGO  
President, Eastern Star Charity Foundation of NJ

## Eastern Star Charity Foundation Monthly Meetings

You may not know that being a Member of the Order also makes you a member of the Charity Foundation.

As members of the Eastern Star Charity Foundation, you are always invited to attend the monthly meetings held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Normally, these meetings take place in the Board Room of the OES Home.

Due to CoVid-19, we have been meeting via Grand Chapter's WebEx account. We invite you to attend these meetings from the comfort of your own home.

To receive the meeting link each month please send an email to: [oescharityfoundationnj@gmail.com](mailto:oescharityfoundationnj@gmail.com).

As the date of the meeting approaches, you will receive the link/invite for the meeting from that email account.

The Board holds an Executive Session prior to the public portion of the meeting. Our Executive Session may run slightly over, so please do not be discouraged if you are asked to wait in the “waiting room” for a few minutes.

Please request the meeting link monthly. This information can also be found at [njoes.org](http://njoes.org) on the Daily News section (<http://njoes.com/news/index.html>), and District Face Book pages.



*Eastern Star Charity Foundation of New Jersey, Inc.*

# ***Rays of Caring Capital Campaign***

*"Be a Ray of Light to our Sisters and Brothers in Need"*



*Sisters and Brothers of Star -*

*Our Eastern Star Charity Foundation of NJ is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization who is devoted to providing "Aid in their misfortunes" to our members in need. Through our General Fund, we distribute contributions to the OES Home, make donations to the OES Home Resident's Fund, provide Emergent financial assistance to members in distress and monthly support to members who have proven need. We also contribute towards the mailing of the Star Journal, as well as facilitate the MWGM's annual distributions to charity.*

*We ask that you consider supporting this worthy cause by becoming a Ray of Caring. Beginning November 1st, your donations to this campaign will be acknowledged in several ways. When a level of donation is reached, you will receive a lapel pin in recognition of your giving. Your continued giving will earn you continued recognition, allowing you to achieve all 5 Rays of Caring! We will also list you in the Summer edition of the Star Journal. The levels of giving are as follows:*

*\$50 - \$200    Blue Ray  
\$201 - \$400 Yellow Ray  
\$401 - \$600 White Ray  
\$601 - \$800 Green Ray  
\$801 - \$1000 Red Ray*

*The Charity Foundation relies on support of generous donors such as you. Your donation will help ensure our continued ability to be there for our members in need. Thank you!*

---

*Yes! I want to be a Ray of Caring! Enclosed please find my tax-deductible donation to the Eastern Star Charity Foundation of New Jersey's General Fund:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable to OES Charity Foundation of NJ, with "Rays of Caring" in the memo line and mail to Andrea McCollum, 21 Tucker Dr., Neptune City, NJ 07753.**



## A HECK OF A RIDE!

Well, friends, it's been a heck of a ride during this Star administration! Gosh, we started off the line with enthusiasm and ceremony in Spring 2019, and we've now unexpectedly arrived in 2021, a little worn, and slightly reduced in numbers, but still strong in the Spirit!

It's been amazing how clever and adaptable we've become, maintaining those incredibly important connections to family & friends, church, Star, and other organizations which give us a little sense of normalcy. Star Love still abounds during the pandemic—safe connections are maintained so we all feel supported through our vast technological resources. Sister Norma, Brother Danny, and Sister Daria and the whole corporate board have obviously been very active in directing our Star so it still shines brightly!

COVID has been a serious foe, but with the precautions and new habits we have also found new opportunities to find peace and tranquility, as well as cleaning out many years of closeted junk! My usual habits now include daily meditation as well as long walks (usually connected by phone to my sanity—my sister in PA!). I have learned some important things about myself and about life in general this year, and, as many have, have reprioritized a few things.

I have practiced for many years the habit of reaching out to others who are unhappy when I myself am a little low, which automatically raises my happiness quotient as others start to feel reconnected and safe. That has never been more apparent than now.

As we give time and attention to others, we find we create a



better world for everyone. Take that sad & pained person's suffering as your own, lifting their burden, and you realize you don't actually carry it long or far . . . just enough to relieve them.

I do miss our gatherings, miss the "Marshaling and Sentineling" Bruce & I finally got down to a science, and seeing our dear Star members. We look forward to Sister Daria's administration even as

we are still enjoying Sister Norma's, and can't wait to see what develops as Spring 2021 arrives! I will treasure the moment of handing over the baton to Sister Betty Robinson as she assumes the Grand Marshal role and know she's the perfect choice! And you KNOW I am very proud of Brother Bruce's future job!

It's been an honor to continue serving on the Charity Board as the Educational Loan Chairman, as that job continues regardless of our current situation. All the members of the Charity Board "show up" in everyway to give substantial support and make a difference as our members face serious issues especially during these trying times, and I am awed by the dedication, generosity, kindness and selflessness shown by them all. If you attend one of our WebEx meetings, it will be an upbeat experience for you, an eye-opener and feel-good session, and you, too, will be amazed by the hard work and dedication of our Charity Board.

Star Love,  
Kathy Zielinski, GO

## Until We Meet Again. . . Our Dedicated Friend

**Brother Thomas Passante**  
**Worthy Patron of Little Falls Chapter #224**  
**and Grand Representative of New York**

Initiated May 11, 2007

Called to the Grand Chapter on High  
September 6, 2020

Brother Tom was a dedicated member of our Order; a true Master Mason. Brother Tom will be missed in his Little Falls Chapter and in the 31st and 32nd Districts. He was always there for our chapters as he pro-tem'd as Worthy Patron for many of us. Brother Tom's ritualistic work was so beautiful to listen to; he definitely loved to perform his work. We will all miss his meatball and spaghetti dinners. He loved to cook for his Sisters.

May he rest in peace.





## Eastern Star Charity Foundation of NJ, Inc. Summary of Programs Activity 2019-2020

### **Mission Statement:**

*To live our obligation by providing "aid to members in their misfortunes" and educational support for the future.*

*Adopted by the Board of Directors at its meeting at the end of January 2018.*

### **Programs:**

Through the generosity of the members the Eastern Star of New Jersey your Charity Foundation funds four basic programs, and serves as the conduit for the Most Worthy Grand Matron's Distribution from her year's "Voluntary Donations".

**Scholarship Program:** Open to children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews of our members have attended or are in college through this program. *This year Judy Brown, WM served as Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee.*

The Charity Foundation awarded the following 2020 Scholarships:

- ★ Kira Parsons, sponsored by her grandfather, Brother Russell C. Parsons, Sr., will be attending Towson University, MD. Her major is Mathematics with a concentration in Actuarial Science. She also is focused on furthering her track and field career.
- ★ Thomas J. Ulmer, sponsored through Grand Chapter for his grandmother, Sister Virginia E. Stevenson, who entered Grand Chapter on high and was a member of Ruth Chapter #12. Thomas will be attending Moravian College. His goal is to go into Law Enforcement or Homeland Security and strives to serve his community.
- ★ Tyler J. Boyle, sponsored by his grandmother, Sister Patti L. Rhinesmith, PGM. Tyler has been awarded the Nursing Scholarship and will be attending Roger Williams University, RI. He is pursuing a career in Physical Therapy with a strong desire to be able to help others.
- ★ Unfortunately, two scholarships were rescinded for failure to comply with the terms of the award.

For 2021 The Charity Foundation will award three one-time scholarships of \$5000, and one additional \$5000 Scholarship to a member in Good Standing of the International Order of Rainbow For Girls.

**Life skills grants:** This grant is given when someone in the Order needs to perhaps update their skills to maintain employment. *The Chairperson of the Life Skills grant has been Elaine Dukin, PGO.*

- ★ Four Life Skills grant of \$1,500.00 was awarded this past year.

**Student loans:** \$2000 per year for up to 4 years for more info contact *Kathy Zielinski, GO, your Educational Loan Coordinator*

- ★ From May, 2019 to May, 2020, the Charity Foundation granted interest-free loans to 13 students for a total of \$26,000.00.
- ★ Thirteen (13) were paid in full during this past year. There were no lawsuits filed this year for non-payment.
- ★ 34 making repayments; 7 Start repayment June, 2020; 6 Entering 1-year grace period June 2020, so payment starts June 2021; 1 Entering 1-year grace period late fall 2020, so payment starts Dec 2021; 13 new Students for 61 Total Loans.

**Aid to Distressed Members:** An important part of the Charity Foundation's responsibility is to fulfill our obligation by providing "aid in their misfortunes" to Sisters and Brothers in dire need. This is done in confidence under the stringent and periodic review as required by the bylaws.

- ★ During the 2019-2020 Program Year Aid was given in the form five (5) Emergent Grants in Aid and one three-month continuing aid grant for a total of \$4700.

**Aid to the Resident's Fund of the New Jersey Eastern Star Home:** Monthly assistance given to the NJ Eastern Home to support the difference between the cost of care and resources received by the Home in support of members of our Order who are residents. This is done in the form of monthly checks to Resident's Fund.

- ★ This past year \$2000 was contributed.
- ★ In addition, members of the Board of Directors attended meetings of the OES Home Board, and Members of the Home Board attended Charity Foundation meetings to improve coordination between the Boards to benefit the membership.

### **District Advocates:**



## Continued from Page 21

The Board of the Charity Foundation asked Sister Jane Ann Farissier, PGM to appoint advocates for each district. This year, 2019-2020, each advocate was to hold a fundraiser. (Due to the decline in membership, so has been the decline of funds and donations to our Order.) Without donations we cannot do our good work. Thanks to those advocates, Sister Lizette Priliszh of the 33<sup>rd</sup> District, Sister Carolyn Howard of the 34<sup>th</sup> District, Sister MaryLee Batesko of the 35<sup>th</sup> District, Sister Francine Zioance of the 37<sup>th</sup> District, Sister Candace Walling of the 38<sup>th</sup> District, and myself (Sister Jane Ann) of the 31<sup>st</sup> District, who went the extra mile and successfully raised over \$6,000. Due to the pandemic some districts were not able to hold their fundraisers. District 31 and District 32, Sister Jane Ann Farissier and Sister Theresa Casper, respectively, were to hold a BUNCO; District 37 Sister Francine Zioance had planned a district breakfast; and District 39 Sister Linda Pettenger was holding gift card raffles at installation, .The advocates raised in excess of \$4150.



**Special Thanks** –Carolyn Howard and the 34<sup>th</sup> District (Carolyn Howard, PGO) and 35<sup>th</sup> District (Mary Lee Batesko, PGO), as they raised the most funds.

## Finances and Resources:

The table indicates the giving received (other than bequests and repayments of student loans) as the table shows the amount of donations this year was able to support the expenditures in the table below.

### Program Year Donations into General Fund Donations into Education Acct

|         |             |            |
|---------|-------------|------------|
| 2019-20 | \$11,007.40 | \$1,270.00 |
|---------|-------------|------------|

## Expenditures:

|         | life-skills | scholarships                                                            | Emergent aid to Distressed | Long-term aid to Distressed | OES Home Resident's Fund |
|---------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2019-20 | \$6,000.00  | \$8,000.00*<br>Reflects scholarships rescinded and not given until 2021 | \$3450                     | \$2400                      | \$2000                   |

This Year the Board of Directors DID NOT liquidate any of the bequest fund. \$30,000 in cash was moved to the Educational Fund for investment. These amounts do not take into consideration distributions by the Most Worthy Grand Matron.

**FINANCIAL INVESTMENT:** From June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020 (managed by Morgan Stanley)

|                | June 2019           | May 2020            | Difference           | % change             |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Bequest Fund   | \$245,803.97        | \$247,495.42        | +\$ 1,691.45         | +0.68%               |
| Education Fund | \$381,373.01        | \$414,080.58        | +\$32,707.57*        | +7.89%/+0.65%^       |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$627,176.98</b> | <b>\$661,576.00</b> | <b>+\$34,399.02*</b> | <b>+5.20%/0.66%^</b> |

\*This year, due to loan repayments and donations, \$30,000 was returned to the Education Investment Account

## BOTTOM LINE:

The Charity Foundation receives no part of the per capita charged to the Membership, only your willingness to extend your hand in charity towards your sisters and brothers, provides the resources to enable Your Charity Foundation to be the “outward and visible sign” of the phrase in our obligation, to “so far as in my power give to my sisters and brothers ...aid in their misfortunes.” These Programs can only be maintained through the continued generosity of our members. Gifts to the Charity Foundation are tax deductible we are a 501(c) (3) Corporation under IRS. If you shop “on line” with Amazon, by making your purchase through Amazon Smile and designating the Charity Foundation, you can contribute with every purchase. Finally, consider your legacy with New Jersey Order of the Eastern Star and include a tax deductible contribution to the New Jersey Eastern Star Charity Foundation as a part of your estate planning,

The Charity Foundation is conducting its meetings through WebEx on the First Wednesday of each month. If you have any questions, or would like to join us virtually the sign up information can be found on the NJ OES website in “Daily News” ..

To live our obligation by providing “aid to members in their misfortunes” and educational support for the future.



## Eastern Star Charity Foundation of N.J., Inc.

*To live our obligation by providing "aid to members in their misfortunes" and educational support for the future*



### **THE NEW REVISED SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION IS NOW READY! PLEASE REQUEST AN APPLICATION FOR YOUR 2021 GRADUATING STUDENT**



MASONIC PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS & UNCLES  
WHO ARE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING WITH OUR ORDER AND WHO  
WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A YOUNG PERSON IN THEIR FAMILY  
WHO WILL BE GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL OR AN EQUIVALENT IN 2021!  
NOW IS THE TIME TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR REQUEST IN WRITING TO:  
JUDY BROWN, SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE  
35 SHEFFIELD PLACE, SOUTHAMPTON, NJ 08088  
OR EMAIL [jandd11@verizon.net](mailto:jandd11@verizon.net)  
PLEASE INCLUDE NAME AND ADDRESS OF STUDENT

The Board of Directors of the Foundation has approved changes to the Eastern Star Charity Foundation of New Jersey scholarship application as of January 1, 2021.

There will be two Regular scholarships, one Allied Health scholarship and one scholarship to a member of NJ International Order of Rainbow. The amount this year has also been changed to a onetime scholarship of \$5,000.00, to a member, daughter, son, niece, nephew, grandchild or grandniece/nephew of a member of the Order of the Eastern Star of New Jersey, or a member in good standing of NJ International Order of Rainbow.

All applicants applying will enter an accredited Community College or College or University in the Fall of 2021. Awards are limited to graduating high school seniors, or related equivalent, as of June 2021. The award is based on the scholastic ability and financial need of the applicant.

Applications should be requested prior to February 1, 2021.

**Applications must be received by March 1, 2021, in order to be considered.**



## **A Memorial to Our Beloved Sister Gail Naia, RWGT and District #35 Own**

**Submitted By Jessica E. Walton, WDD #35**



Many of us have lost those whom we love in 2020 and the loss of each and every family, friend, neighbor and co-worker is felt keenly by all. One such loss rippled through the entire Order in this State and beyond. Sister Gail was a member of two out of the three Chapters in District #35 and a steadfast pro-tem in its third one. We take this moment to pay tribute to her.

It was suggested that I speak not of Sister Gail's accomplishments, of which there are too many to count, but of the effect that Sister Gail had on those around her.

Her positive spirit, her boundless love of our beautiful Order and her steadfast dedication to lifting those up around her are what made her the remarkable woman that she is. She was a mentor to so many. Through her mentorship, Gloria Chapter was able to have 7 "first time" matrons go through the chairs in a row . . . an almost unheard of feat in this day and age. Through her mentor-

ship, many of those in the District were encouraged and ultimately became Grand Officers. Through her mentorship many in the District worked tirelessly for the betterment of their Chapters. She was the champion of fundraising in all three Chapters in the District and by example encouraged one and all to work just as hard in that respect.

She never spoke an ill-word about anyone around her and encouraged others to follow in the same vein. If you came to her with a problem, she would be the first person to find a solution. No problem was too big or too small and no question was too minimal. She always listened and provided you with the best answer that she could provide.

Her faith in our incredible Order was unceasing. She believed with all her heart in the foundation of our Order. That Charity, Faith and Love are the cornerstones of important work. She exemplified each of these attributes in everything she did.

Sister Gail's presence will be greatly missed in our District and in our Order, but her legacy of mentorship, love, guidance, and Sisterhood will remain for life. We love you Sister Gail and know that you are watching over us and encouraging us to make the "right" decisions. From on high even now we can feel the presence of your soul guiding our hands steadfastly towards our everlasting cause of Charity, Faith and Love.

## **GRANJ Association of NJ**

**Judith Brown, PGO, Secretary GRANJ**  
35 Sheffield Place  
Southampton, NJ 08088  
Home – 609-535-5235 Cell – 856-495-1255  
Email: [jandd11@verizon.net](mailto:jandd11@verizon.net)

*Dear Grand Representatives,*

I pray that 2021, will be a brighter year for all of us and that we will soon be able to meet again.

While I have attempted to stay current with my responsibilities, something may have been missed along the way. All new member forms have been processed and dues cards for monies received prior to December 31, 2020, have now been mailed di-

rectly to you. If you have not received your current dues card, or you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you again to our Ambassadors for staying in touch with our Members. New lists will be out by the end of January, 2021.

Take care and be safe,  
Judith Brown, PGO, Secretary



## **WILFORD R. PARSELS, JR. PGP**

**Submitted By Marlene D. Hoffman, PGM 1990-91**

With deepest sorrow and a great sense of loss, we hereby record the passing of Bro. Wilfred R. Parsels, Jr., PGP 1990-91, on November 29, 2020.

From his first term as Worthy Patron in 1973-74, Bro. Wil found his niche in Eastern Star. He took great pride in his ritualistic work, and rightfully so—it was delivered with perfection and enthusiasm in his many terms as Worthy Patron of Haddonfield, Collingswood, and Ocean City Chapters; and especially as Most Worthy Grand Patron 1990-91 in every District in New Jersey. Ever true to his Masonic affiliation, he served Rising Sun Lodge as Worshipful Master, including ten years as Secretary, and an appointment as a Grand Chaplain of Grand Lodge. Other service included 2 terms on the Board of Directors of the Eastern Star Home, one year as president; and planning successful golf outings for Eastern Star.

Bro Wil enjoyed meeting and greeting people; friendly and outgoing, he was never at a loss for conversation, a "true" story, or a good laugh! He was passionate about golf, Philadelphia sports teams, fine scotch, his wife Joanne of 60 years, and his cherished nieces and nephews, referring to many as "the apple of his eye".

Having sown many seeds of kindness and understanding, he reaped a fruitful harvest of friendship and love; may he rest in peace.



## LAUREL SPRINGS

### **CHAPTER #227 — District #37**

**Judith Brown, WM & Daniel Brown, WP**  
Email: [jandd11@verizon.net](mailto:jandd11@verizon.net)

*Greetings to our Officers, Members and all our Sisters and Brothers throughout the State.*

We have missed being with you this year and look forward to the end of this pandemic and being able to see and spend time with everyone soon.

Laurel Springs Chapter has held several Zoom meetings and it was wonderful to not just hear but to see many of our members and how they are doing.

Sister Freda Anderson, Secretary, has received numerous cards and notes from members near and far, wishing us well and expressing their enjoyment in receiving communications from our Chapter. It is wonderful to hear from you and we appreciate your support and encouragement. We also wish for each of you, a safe and healthy 2021.

With Social Distancing and safe handling of Mum plants and Pound Cakes, we were able to successfully complete these two fund raisers in the Fall.

Laurel Springs also contributed to the Beverly United Methodist Church Christmas drive to provide gifts to children in need. Donations of monies toward the project and the delivery of unwrapped gifts to the church were greatly appreciated and the Church exceeded their goal in gifts for many, many children.

We send you love, prayers and good wishes for a healthy, happy, 2021. Be safe everyone.

In Star Love & Friendship  
Judy & Dan Brown



# March 2021



| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                               | MONDAY                                                                                                                | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                         | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                                  | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | FRIDAY                                                                                | SATURDAY                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>5¢ if you went to church today (in person or virtually).<br>25¢ if you didn't | 1<br>10¢ for every pet you own<br> | 2<br>25¢ for every TV in your house.                                                                                                            | 3<br>10¢ if you attended the Zoom Eastern Star Charity Foundation Meeting.<br>25¢ if you didn't                                                                            | 4<br>10¢ if you have the MWGM's Pin of the Year.<br>25¢ if you don't.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 5<br>10¢ if you attended a Zoom Eastern Star Meeting this week.<br>25¢ if you didn't  | 6<br>50¢ if you ate takeout any night this week<br>25¢ if you didn't                                                  |
| 7<br>5¢ if you went to church today (in person or virtually).<br>25¢ if you didn't                                                                                   | 8<br>10¢ for every grandchild you have                                                                                | 9<br>25¢ if you have a birthday this month<br>               | 10<br>10¢ if you have a computer in your home.<br>25¢ if you have more than one.                                                                                           | 11<br>10¢ for every pair of shoes you own<br>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 12<br>10¢ if you attended a Zoom Eastern Star Meeting this week.<br>25¢ if you didn't | 13<br><br>10¢ for every mask you own |
| 14<br>5¢ if you went to church today (in person or virtually).<br>25¢ if you didn't                                                                                  | 15<br>5¢ for every room in your house                                                                                 | 16<br>5¢ for every window in your house                                                                                                         | 17<br><br>25¢ if you're Irish<br>50¢ if you wish you were<br>\$1.00 if you ignore this! | 18<br>10¢ for every closet in your home                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 19<br>10¢ if you attended a Zoom Eastern Star Meeting this week.<br>25¢ if you didn't | 20<br>50¢ if you ate takeout any night this week<br>25¢ if you didn't                                                 |
| 21<br>5¢ if you went to church today (in person or virtually).<br>25¢ if you didn't                                                                                  | 22<br>5¢ for every door in your home                                                                                  | 23<br>25¢ If you have a Wedding Anniversary this month!<br> | 24<br>5¢ for every cabinet door in your kitchen                                                                                                                            | 25<br>1¢ for every card you sent this month to let someone know that they are being thought of<br>25¢ if you didn't                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 26<br>10¢ if you binged watched any TV show this month.<br>25¢ if you didn't          | 27<br>50¢ if you ate takeout any night this week<br>25¢ if you didn't                                                 |
| 28<br>5¢ if you went to church today (in person or virtually).<br>25¢ if you didn't                                                                                  | 29<br>25¢ if you went to see a doctor this month.<br>50¢ if you didn't.                                               | 30<br>10¢ if you called a shut-in to let them know that they are being thought of<br>25¢ if you didn't                                          | 31<br>25¢ if you have a cell phone and know how to use it.                                                                                                                 | Thank you for supporting the Good Works of the NJ Eastern Star Charity Foundation!<br>Please make checks payable to the<br><b>Eastern Star Charity Foundation, Inc.</b><br>Please mail checks to<br><b>Kerry Malone-Clapp, PGO, CF Secretary,</b><br><b>8 Allen Terrace, Netcong, NJ 07857</b><br> |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                       |

*To Live Our Obligation by Providing "aid to members in their misfortunes" and Educational Support for the Future*



## Past Matrons' & Past Patrons' Association

*Dear Sisters and Brothers:*

Happy New Year 2021, hopefully better times will be coming and we once again will be able to meet again and welcome some normal see in our lives.

When I wrote an article for the Journal back in June, 2020. I didn't expect to write another one as the President of this organization, or that we would still be putting up with the Pandemic 10 months later holding on to the hope we soon would be back to normalcy. Hope all of you are staying safe and healthy.

Even though we are not meeting, our work still goes on. We are to remain in our respective positions until hopefully, May, 2021.

**GOVERNORS:** The Governors of the Districts have received their packet from Sister Michele with instructions and they will be collecting dues as they normally do. Governors should check with their Chapter Chairperson and remind them they are to be collecting dues at this time and getting the funds to you in a timely fashion. It is our hope that members will pay their membership dues when contacted, as our dues play a large part in helping those in need.

**RELIEF:** Relief requests will be processed as they are received. The Governor of your District should be contacted and she will see to it you receive the application for relief, and once it is received the Relief Committee will take the necessary steps for assistance. We have been in difficult times and I am sure there is a need for assistance.

We are contemplating having a fundraising project, which will be via the mail. Please participate in this project so we can continue to help those in need. Thank you for your continued support of our Organization.

I thank the Board of Directors and Governors for their continued dedication in continuing the work of our Organization, and also the membership for their continued support in helping us to help those who need assistance.

Remember to "Keep a twinkle in your eye and help the world to learn to laugh, and spread friendship along the way. It only takes a second to show you care."

With Fraternal Love & Friendship,  
Ruth Ann Hoyt, PGO, President, 2019-2021

## CAPS (Chapters Assisting Preemies and People)



The members of the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star in New Jersey have been extremely busy knitting and crocheting hundreds of caps and blankets for hospitals, shelters, cancer patients, etc., throughout the state. This project is actively continuing thru May 2021.

Each District contributes to this charitable project. If you know an organization that could use our donations please let your District Chairperson know. We try to donate the items within each District. Even during this pandemic we have continued to send donations to the various hospitals, hospices, cancer centers, etc. throughout the state—many being mailed due to the restrictions of visitors entering the hospitals.

We have added new items to our donation listing; blankets and shawls for hospice patients and caddies, to hold personal items, for walkers and wheelchairs. These caddies have been donated to our own Eastern Star Home. During this COVID-19 pandemic many members have been making face masks for our hospital workers, hospice workers, nursing homes, etc.

Since we have been unable to meet during the last few months many of our donations have not been able to be collected. As soon as we are again able to meet we expect that several hundred hats, blankets, face masks, etc. will be collected for distribution. We are hopeful that during this "stay-at-home" time many of our members continue to work on their knitting/crocheting.

Many people have stated that they cannot knit or crotchet—but would like to do something to help the CAPS program. Many of the individuals who knit or crotchet could use a donation of yarn to work on their projects. If you are willing to donate yarn please contact one of the District Chairpersons, they will be happy to share your donation with their members. I would like to thank all who have contributed yarn to be distributed to our members so that they can continue to knit or crotchet the various items for donation.

We appreciate the support that we have received from all the Chapters in New Jersey.

It is our pleasure to provide these needed items to the various charitable organizations.

Roberta Russell  
CAPS Chairperson



## Haddenfield Chapter Celebrates 100 Years of Service

The year was 1920. There were 45 stars on the American flag and the average life expectancy for women was 55 years—a year less for men—and just 14 percent of homes had a bathtub with only 8 percent having a telephone. The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year with sugar costing 4 cents a pound, coffee 15 cents a pound and eggs 14 cents a dozen. Most women washed their hair once a month, using Borax or egg yolks for shampoo. More than 95 percent of all births took place at home and 90 percent of doctors had no college education. In fact, every two of 10 adults could not read or write with only 6 percent of all Americans having graduated from high school. With the infamous Spanish Flu of 1918 having just ended in April, which had reportedly killed as many as 100 million people worldwide, people were anxious for a quick return to normalcy. However, change had begun. The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote. Prosperity had taken hold, especially throughout the United States, with people doubling their wealth during the next 10 years. Now, more people lived in cities than on farms. The “Roaring Twenties,” with its accompanying Jazz Age, Prohibition and Consumerism had taken root and would continue to grow.

In the early autumn of 1920, in the picturesque village of Haddonfield, Sister Rhue J. Makin invited a group of women who were eligible and who had interest in the Order of the Eastern Star to her home to discuss establishing a local Chapter. On November 13, at Haddon Hall, the newest Chapter in an expanding constellation of Chapters was

instituted. It was named Haddonfield Chapter No. 140 and consisted of 38 women and 7 men as its Charter Members.

The ceremony was conducted under the auspices of Sister Madge Irene Ebert, Most Worthy Grand Matron. Sister Rhue J. Makin was installed as Worthy Matron along with Brother Clarence Abel as Worthy Patron for this first meeting; Brother Albion Bucknam served for the remainder of the initial term, until February 16, 1921. A dinner at the Country Club in Haddonfield had preceded the ceremony. At that February meeting, the Chapter was Constituted, and the officers were elected to continue for the remainder of the year and were installed by Sister Emma Fithian,

Past Grand Matron, who had been delegated to perform that duty.

Originally, Haddonfield Chapter met at Haddon Hall until March 1924 when it began meeting at Artisan’s Hall, now known as Haddon Fortnightly, which is located at 301 Kings Highway East, at the corner of Grove Street. In January 1932, our Chapter again moved, returning to what had been Haddon Hall but was now owned and operated by the International Order of Odd Fellows. Our larger meetings were held, however, at Haddon Fortnightly. In September 1937, we relocated to the Haddon Fortnightly until October 1940 when we found ourselves at our present location, the Haddonfield Masonic Temple, which is located at 16 Kings Highway East.

In the early days of our existence, we functioned on a calendar year basis. In 1925, however, we began operating, based on a change in the rules governing our Grand Chapter, on our current fiscal year basis. The officers elected and installed for 1925 remained in office until April 1926. Over the intervening years, our membership has fluctuated and presently is in excess of 170 members. Many of our members have enjoyed the fellowship of our Order for more

than 50 years, enriching and influencing their lives. Haddonfield Chapter looks forward to a renewal, a revitalization, a renaissance as we enter our second century of service to Humanity by supporting the Grand Chapter’s selected charities along with the children’s projects and animal welfare projects of our own Chapter. We stand ready to greet a bright new future, a brave new world.

Submitted by:

Karen Sorbello, Worthy Matron  
Ronald W. Brining, Worthy Patron,  
Pamela L. DeLisa, Associate Matron,  
Haddonfield Chapter No. 140, OES



## RAYS OF CARING

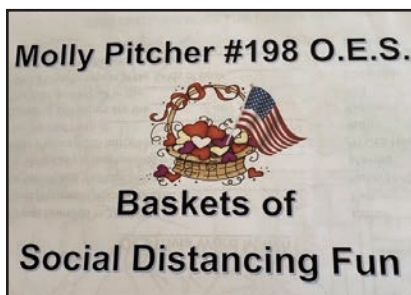


The Charity Foundation has instituted a new capital campaign. The Rays of Caring is a program dedicated to growing the general fund of the Charity Foundation. This fund is where the money comes from to help sisters and brothers in need, as well as supporting the resident’s fund of the Eastern Star Home. Each donation that comes in gets recorded to allow the donor to make donations that fit their budget and still reach all five levels of giving. The levels are: Blue Ray \$50 - \$200, Yellow Ray \$201 - \$400, White Ray \$401 - 600, Green Ray \$601 - \$800, and the Red Ray \$801 - \$1,000. Upon attaining all five levels the donor will receive a patch to wear and

display their pins. On behalf of the Charity Foundation, I would like to thank you for your support and generous donations. All monies no matter the size will aid us in helping others.



## Molly Pitcher Chapter #198



Molly Pitcher Chapter has missed our time together in person at our meetings like so many of you, so to stay connected virtually we have done home mailings with fun activities, messages of encouragement and sent a tea bag treat. Worthy Matron Joyce and our members that remain in office have diligently shown the power of staying connected and checking in on our membership. It has been fun to have members share daily sentiments via text and social media, deliver meals to our members and a small group emerged to help clear a fallen tree after a storm proving the importance of living our obligation every day.



Our first venture of meeting online found us laughing and crafting together as our own Sister Sabrina taught us how to make beautiful large patriotic wreaths. The Magic of to see and hear our membership sharing on line.

To close out our fall season before the busy holidays we celebrated our Chapter's birthday night with the grand staff who virtually presented their Floral Degree. It was well attended and so nice to see and hear our membership sharing online. The Magic of believing we will be together sometime soon will carry us into 2021.

Wishing our sisters and brothers around the state good health and safety from your friends at Molly Pitcher Chapter #198. May your basket of friendship be filled with kindness.



## Adopt a Sister or Brother Program

Happy New Year wishes to ALL my Eastern Star Sisters and Brothers. I hope this finds you in good health and in reasonably good spirits considering this totally unimaginable year that we have just wrapped up. I personally, have been missing the smiles and the hugs of My Star family. I do not think we genuinely appreciate our blessings until they are taken away.

During a NORMAL Holiday season, we have family visits and shopping trips, cookie swaps, Ugly sweater parties, silly fun and totally "made up excuses" to gather with the friends and family that we hold most dear! THIS was NOT a normal holiday. It really sucked the spirit out of my sails! I started thinking about a beloved Holiday tradition, Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol". There are many lessons to be learned from Ebenezer Scrooge. My favorite is when he wakes up on Christmas morning, realizing he has a very special opportunity to make someone else's holiday magical!

THIS was my motivation to start a special project this year to

adopt a sister or brother in the Eastern Star Home in Bridge-water OR The Masonic Home in Burlington. Sister Judy Brown and I set out to collect donations so that EVERY member who has been quarantined in these facilities would know that we haven't forgotten them. Gift bags were assembled featuring various items, such as, Scentsy hand soaps and hand creams, puzzle books, handmade Christmas ornaments, candy canes, chocolates, pens and pencils, and a Christmas Card letting them know they are in our hearts this Holiday season.

On December 21 and 22 packages were delivered to the respective homes, where staff "elves" delivered the gift bags to incredibly surprised residents. THANKS to the generosity of our sisters and brothers for contributing to this campaign and making it a great success. We could not have made this happen without your support! I would also like to thank Sr. Judy Brown, without her elf magic, we would not have been able to pull this together and deliver some holiday cheer.

## Nutley Chapter 100th Birthday

Nutley Chapter would like to thank everyone that helped us celebrate our 100th Birthday. We had a great time reuniting with new and old friends. Looking at pictures from years ago and remembering friends from way back when. It was a great day of celebrating and remembrance.



## Delaware Chapter #50, District #39

### HAPPY NEW YEAR from Delaware Chapter #50, District #39

In ordinary times, we would be preparing to start our 2021 year by resuming our labors in our Chapter, however, these are not ordinary times. Our lives may have changed, but our Order and Chapter are strong, and we will survive this Pandemic even stronger.

On a beautiful fall day, November 7, 2020, we had the pleasure and honor of having Sister Alice Good, PGM, present Fifty-, Sixty- and Seventy-year pins. We gathered on the front lawn of Phillipsburg Lodge with social distancing & masks in place. There were approximately 30 people present. Sixteen Officers were in attendance. We had the pleasure of meeting the two new babies born into our family: Sister Stacy Ackerman's daughter, Lake, as well as her son, Cole, and Sister Tammy McQuoid's son, Colt. It seemed to turn out to be almost like a family affair.

Sister Alice presented pins to the following: Sister Wanda Carmen & Sister Geraldine Vliet with their 50-year pins, Sister Ruth Ann Hoyt with her 60-year bar and Sister Gloria Decker, received her 70-year bar. Sister Alice and I presented Sister Anna M. Hyndshaw with her 60-year bar at the New Jersey Eastern Star Home. Others receiving pins and/or bars who live out of the area were Sister Sandra Beamsderfer, Sister Page E. Lubowiki, Sister Irene Segletes and Sister Mary Winters received 50-year pins and Sister Madelyn Duckworth received her 60-year bar.

On December 19, we had a food drive for the food pantry of the River of Life Church in Phillipsburg, New Jersey. Bro. Anthony St. Luce, Worthy Patron, Bro. Ed Rusek, our Sentinel, and I delivered the donations to Pastor Bill Slack of the River of Life Church. While speaking with Pastor Slack he told us that food is distributed usually every other Saturday to approximately 125 families in Phillipsburg area. We were amazed at the number of tables that were full of canned goods, paper products, etc. Each family is given two large bags for canned goods, etc. and another for produce and meats. The Church owns a building that had been a grocery store and it is all on one floor so it can be used for other activities. Due to the Pandemic, they were unable to hold their annual Thanksgiving Dinner or Christmas Dinner, but they had pick up dinners available. Also, because of the Pandemic they had to close the clothing area but hope that before Christmas they may be able to open the Clothes Closet.

We did have a couple of Zoom gatherings but haven't had any during the holidays. We hope to start this again in the New Year.

We are looking forward to the time that we will be able to meet again in our Chapter, but in the meantime, we will continue to wear our MASK, do social distancing and above all keep safe & healthy.

Happy New Year and remember to always Count your Many Blessings, especially in these trying times.

Ruth Ann Hoyt, Worthy Matron  
Delaware Chapter #50





## District #31

Submitted By Jennifer Schiffrin, WDD

Summertime is usually a time of relaxing and visiting with friends outdoors. This summer, the weather mostly accommodated outdoor activities in the northern part of NJ. Many members completed special projects they've been putting off. I saw Sisters refinish old furniture—one added a gorgeous mosaic of tiles, another made an old backyard bench look sparkling new. I created a fall-blooming perennial garden for my butterflies. Other members took to the outdoors—hiking or biking—or just taking regular daily walks. There was plenty of sadness in our district as well, and our hearts ache for members that lost loved ones. It hurts worse when we cannot give/get hugs and provide physical support. Prayers help, and we thank you for those.

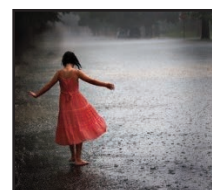
For teachers, and parents, September brought back the rush and panic of schooling—whether virtual or hybrid—the stress of managing schedules was reduced by having our OES activities reduced. Grand Chapter arranged to bring us joy with virtual BINGO games and informative lectures. I know we had

some BINGO winners in our district—congrats! Some chapters have been able to arrange for ZOOM gatherings with members. If your chapter has these gatherings, please know that there is a way to use the phone to call in—even if you don't have a computer or smart-device, you could still participate. Check with your Worthy Matron if you aren't sure.

As the winter holidays approached, and the light of day became shorter, the usual joy of the season was hard to find. Many people put up their decorations earlier than usual. Family gatherings and friendly parties were small or non-existent. Knowing that our Sisters and Brothers in OES are thinking about us, praying for us, wishing to be together again soon, certainly gives us hope and keeps us strong. Look toward the star in the East and with God in our hearts, friends a phone call away, and the Fraternal Family to support us, we will make it through to a brighter day.

## DANCE IN THE RAIN

Submitted By Jessica E. Walton, WDD #35



This essay is part of a column called The Wisdom Project by David Allan, Editorial Director of CNN Features. The series is on applying to one's life the wisdom and philosophy found everywhere, from ancient texts to pop culture. I found this portion really spoke to me about "carrying on" during this time of trial and tribulation. I hope you enjoy reading it and find some comfort in these words. I know I did.

So what do we do now?

**"Better to be busy than to be busy worrying,"** actress Angela Lansbury is quoted to have said. Because, author Vivian Greene explained, **"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning how to dance in the rain."** Or as Sting sings, **"When the world is running down, you make the best of what's still around."**

We need to make the best with what we have now, especially if the grocery store shelves are empty. **"You can't always get what you want. But if you try sometime, you'll find, you get what you need,"** sang the Rolling Stones.

And what you need are the bare necessities, **"The simple bare necessities. Forget about your worries and your strife. . . The bare necessities of life will come to you,"** promises Baloo the bear in Disney's "The Jungle Book."

Two hundred years before coronavirus, the German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe had some poignant metaphorical advice to do your part in this pandemic, when he wrote, **"Let everyone sweep in front of his own door, and the whole world will be clean."**

Embrace that this time could have a positive impact on you. **"That which does not kill us, makes us stronger,"** the aphoristic philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche famously said. And spiritual teacher Eckhart Tolle added that **"Life will give you whatever experience is most helpful for the evolution of your consciousness."**

That evolution will likely lead you to look out for others in this critical time. **"I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now,"** wrote the Quaker missionary Etienne de Grellet.

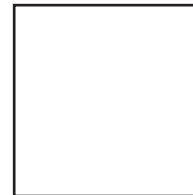
And whatever happens, we just need to endure. **"If you're going through hell, keep going,"** said the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Because as the days rack up, or the situation intensifies, more things may fall apart and further call on our resolve to power through. In other words, **"You just gotta keep livin' man, L-I-V-I-N,"** Matthew McConaughey's Wooderson reminds us in the film "Dazed and Confused."

Which brings me to my favorite quote from a favorite novel, John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath." Ma Joad gives the family this homespun pep talk when the car breaks down on the way to California: **"This here bearing went out. We didn't know it was goin', so we didn't worry none. Now she's out an' we'll fix her. An' by Christ that goes for the rest of it."**

I hope some of the above spoke to you and maybe gave you something to think about. I look forward to the day when we can all meet again. Until that time, be well, be healthy and know that I am sending positive thoughts your way. As always, In Star Love, Sister Jessica Walton.

## Important Information for Submissions:

Digital photos need to be high resolution. (If not, they will be used in a limited fashion.)  
Articles need to be submitted in Microsoft Word.



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# The New Jersey Eastern Star Home

