

Order of the Eastern Star
Grand Chapter of Wisconsin

“Garden of Knowledge”
114th Session
May 16, 17, 18, 2005
K I Convention Center
Green Bay, WI

Grand Officers:

Karen Stauffer, Worthy Grand Matron
Nicholas Schultz, Worthy Grand Patron
Martha Swanson, Associate Grand Matron
Roy Skogen, Associate Grand Patron
Sharon Swartwout, Grand Secretary
Mary Olson, Grand Treasurer
Helen Wheeler, Grand Conductress
Laurie Twardy, Associate Grand Conductress
Jane Blackwood, Grand Chaplain
Diane Williamson, PGM, Grand Lecturer
Kris Engbring, Grand Marshal
Marcia Earl, Grand Organist
Joanne Meade, Grand Adah
Sharon Livermore, Grand Ruth
Carol Falkowski, Grand Esther
Sylvia Kuester, Grand Martha
Diana Kifer, Grand Electa
Regina Pontow, Grand Warder
John Knee, Grand Sentinel

Audrey Pavlik, PGM, Grand Trustee Chairman
Mary Traupmann, PGM, Grand Trustee
Harley Bennett, PGP, Grand Trustee

General Grand Chapter Committees

Patricia Rasmussen PGM, Chairman of Benevolence
LaThora H. Slazas PGM, Ambassador to Peru and
Colombia
Wallace Lindholm, PGP, Chairman of Education
Ronald D. Pete, PGP, Visioneer for WI

Theme: Garden of Knowledge

Aim: Plant seeds for future growth.

Motto: Love makes a garden grown.

Watchwords:

Hug:
H Harmony
U Unites
G Generations

Kisses:
K Kinship
I Is
S Something
S Special in
E Eastern
S Star

Bible Verses:

WGM “And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. –
Psalms 1:3

WGP: “The mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of trees.” - Matthew 13:32

Honored Stations: Warder and Chaplain

Emblems: Dove, Bible, Sundial, Wishing Well

Flowers: Forget-me-not, Rose and Carnations

Colors: Red, White, Blue, Black

Fun Emblems:

WGM: The Nutcracker

WGP: The Panda

Project: Comprehensive Cancer Center

Tuesday Morning, 7:30 pm
Musical Prelude – Karen La Court

Prologue written and arranged by Lorene Bloomer, narrated by Lorene and Herb, organist Gail Gillmore and Soloist Linda Schreier.

...We know of many different kinds of gardens in the world – formal, informal, decorative, functional, small, large. However, there are basic needs for all gardens including water, soil, nutrients, sunshine and care. Our Eastern Star garden also needs care to grow and flourish...

Song: Bless Our Order

...My Sisters and Brothers, we have come together in this garden to meet old friends, make new friends and walk together in our Garden of Knowledge Grand Chapter session. May we have the Fidelity of Adah, the constancy of Ruth, the Loyalty of Esther, the Faith of Martha and the Love of Electa today, throughout this Grand Session and in our daily lives.

Called to Order by Diane Williamson, PGM and Harley Bennett, PGP.

Opening Ode: "In the Garden"

A welcome by the "Garden Critters", written by Rosemary Fiscus, committee of Peggy Allen, Bobbi Jo Oyen, Karen Schwarz.

We are the Garden of Knowledge Critters – here to welcome you.
We have bumblebees, spiders, insects and bugs.
We want to make sure we don't see any slugs.
Just lots of Star Love and abundant hugs!

Introductions, including Sister Barbara Benton, Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron of the General Grand Chapter and PGM of Oklahoma

Soloist Melissa Staley

Appointed General Grand Chapter Officers, Duet by Noreen Christensen and Ann Johnson.

General Grand Chapter Committee Members from Other Grand Jurisdictions.

Soloist: Linda Schreier, "Climb Every Mountain"

General Grand Committee of WI

Song: Noreen Christensen and Ann Johnson

For the Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons of Wisconsin the soloist was Linda Schreier and the song was "The Way We Were".

50 Year Member Program, Western Stars Area Club, written by Bonnie Clark, Narrator, Rose Mary Bauer, Organist Kay Scafe, Vocalist Reenie Christensen.

Today we have the privilege of bestowing a very special honor on the Sisters and Brothers who have been members of our beautiful Order for 50 years or more which gives them the distinct title of Life Member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Lifetime Members, the gifts you have given over the years are precious ones. The Star you have followed thru the years has shown down upon you. (enter lighted star)

Your Lifetime links in the Golden Chain have grown over the years (enter golden chain).

May our Heavenly Father whose Love we all know protect and guide us for many more years to come (enter cross).

Your 50 years or more of service, happy times and some sad times. Your faithful service to our beloved Order, your faith in the lessons of the Star each portrayed by the heroines

The courage and fidelity of Adah
The unselfishness and constancy of Ruth
The purity and loyalty of Esther
The fortitude and faithfulness of Martha
And the enduring and eternal love of Electa

These are all lessons you have lived by and have passed down generation to generation. They have built a strong foundation for each Eastern Star member to follow.

We thank you for the heritage you have bestowed on our Beautiful Order. May God Bless and keep each and every one of you in his loving care. Our blessing to you is:
“May the Good Lord Bless and keep you...”

Tuesday Afternoon

Prelude – Kay Scafe

Sister Barbara Benton addressed the membership.

Report of the Worthy Grand Matron

Brother Nick and Sister Doris presented me with my gavel and Bible. The gavel was made by a member of Ozaukee Chapter.

We traveled together my Bible and I
Through all kinds of weather with a smile or a sigh.
My Bible has rested on each Chapter's altar.
And gave forth its light with never a falter.
As we shared in its teachings day after day,
My Bible was lighting my way.
My burdens were lightened by its comforting tie
Through the year as we traveled, my Bible and I.

One Hundred Anniversaries: Burlington Chapter, Melody Chapter/Middleton and Walworth Chapter/Delavan.

Chapter Accomplishment Awards.

Personal Accomplishment Award – the Forget-Me-not.

Two chapters surrendered their charters: Hayward Chapter and Jewel Chapter/Antigo. West Bend Chapter consolidated with Ozaukee Chapter, Port Washington and Aurora Chapter, Hartford consolidated with Wauwatosa Chapter, Brookfield.

Multi-Jurisdiction Friendship Day was held on Saturday, August 14, 2004 at the Marriott Madison, West. Sisters and Brothers from 11 states and four provinces were invited. There were three concurrent morning sessions, a delicious lunch and two afternoon sessions. The evening was highlighted by a banquet attended by more than 360.

This year we had the honor of signing 154 50 year cards.

Memories of more than 50 years
Hold a wealth of dreams come true
As hearts and hands of friends are joined
In this Garden of Knowledge year with you.

May blessed peace dwell in your hearts
And may the blessings you've given others
Circle back again to each of you
Through the love of your Sisters and Brothers.

Three information sessions were held in Green Bay, Chippewa Falls and Beloit. Topics included Wisconsin OES foundation, community projects, elderly care, navigating the web page, "fun"raising, youth, and audits and annual reports. The Grand Family exemplified the ritualistic work to show how to have a meeting when there is barely a quorum.

We were saddened by the loss of Past Grand Patron Howard Trescher. We extend our sympathy to his wife Marion, his family and Edgerton Milton Chapter.

To a beautiful garden these friends have gone,
To the land of perfect rest;
Their work is done and the setting sun
Has sealed their life's quest.
They have left this earthly garden
For a home beyond the sea
Though they are gone, they still live on
In our garden of memory.

Each month of the year was designated for a specific charity.

Report of the Worthy Grand Patron:

I owe a great debt of gratitude to Phyllis Eklov and Harley Bennett for appointing me as Grand Sentinel in their Precious Memories Grand Family. My “Big Sisters” in that family looked out for me and we became very close friends.

I am deeply indebted to Karen and Bob Stauffer for making this year such a memorable one. We have traveled together extensively. It has always been a delight to be with them.

Every Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron is sure their corps of officers is the best ever. We are in that same position and we know the others are wrong; our family IS the best ever.

We were fortunate to be able to make initial Grand Representative appointments to two new Grand Jurisdictions, Sao Paulo, Brazil with David Beeman, and Bolivia with Wendall Smith. We reestablished a former practice by appointing Past Grand Matron June Bjorklund as Grand representative to the District of Columbia. She is the sixth Past Grand Matron so appointed.

I am very proud to say that we traveled almost 43,000 miles for Eastern Star activities and visited all of the chapters in the state at least once through the course of the year. We visited eight other Grand Chapter Jurisdictions: Manitoba, North Dakota, Indiana, Ontario, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa and Minnesota. While on our cruise, we visited an Eastern Star Chapter in Aruba.

We had a grand time visiting events of other organizations with Masonic affiliation. We were pleased to attend many Grand Representative Receptions throughout the year.

The Area Clubs are so important to the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. They provide support for all of our activities and produce programs and activities for the Grand Chapter Session. I can't thank them enough for their continued support of Karen and me....they are a tremendous asset and a wealth of talent.

There is nothing bad about “The Bad Seeds.” They took Karen and my ideas and transformed them into a wonderful and beautiful reality. We owe them a voluminous debt of gratitude.

From our first meeting in Lodi in March 2004 our appointed ten melded into a cohesive and compatible family immediately...they have all gotten along with each other famously (if not infamously). Each brings different attributes and strengths and made different contributions to the family.

Doris' father made the gavel that I am using at this Grand Chapter Session. It was turned by his hands and is a piece of art. Brother Lowell Tainter of Ozaukee Chapter made the gavel I was proud to present to Worthy Grand Matron Karen. It is made from 100 year old cherry wood.

Tuesday Evening

Friendship's Golden Chain, presented by Triwaukee Members
Master of Ceremonies, Wendell Smith
Narrator, Laura Dessereau
Soloist, Linda Schreier
Musician, Marcia Earl

Friendship is a golden cord that binds our hearts together
It does not shrink or break or fray in any kind of weather.
Within our chapter room the light
Of faithful friendship glows tonight
And there is one friend true and dear
Who serves in love year after year.
This is the night all shall bless
Her loyalty and faithfulness.

....

In this Chapter room with links of gold,
Like true hearts each to each
We are tied in friendship's holy tie,
And this is the truth we preach
Friendship in childhood and through the years
In life shall never sever
If love and faith and loyalty
Live in our hearts forever.

Prelude – Ron Pete, PGP

Welcome and Introductions by Phyllis Eklov, PGM, and Harold Carpenter, PGP with a Friendship Garden Theme.

Friendship is a hug
Friendship is a tear
Friendship holds your hand
And makes it very clear

Whatever path you take
Whatever comes your way
Friendship gives you strength

To face each coming day

Friendship is forever
And never will depart
For the spirit of a friendship
Lives within the heart.

Flag Presentation by the Northwest Area club

World of Youth – 11 scholarships:

1 - \$750

8 - \$500

2 - \$250

For a total of \$5,250.

ESTARL: \$7,699.94 donated.

Heart: presented at Grand Chapter 5/05 \$3,900.

Cancer: approximately \$2,550.

Knights Templar Eye Foudnation: \$2,654.25.

Wednesday morning

Musical prelude, Gail Gillmore

The resolution passed to allow all members to vote at Grand Chapter.

A motion by Don Jensen to purchase a computer system for email, not to exceed \$1,000
was passed.

10:00 a.m. elections

Associate Grand Conductress: Kris Engbring
Grand Trustee 3 years: Audrey Pavlik

Memorial Ceremony:

God looked around His garden
And He found an empty place.
He then looked down upon this earth
And saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you
And lifted you to rest.

God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.

He saw that the road was getting rough,
And the hills were hard to climb
So He closed your weary eyelids,
And whispered "Peace be thine."

It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.

We have created our Memorial Garden for our members, family and friends who have been called to God's home in the past year. All the members we are aware of are listed on the memorial Garden Scroll of Honor. As a name and history is read, a flower will be placed in the garden by members of the southeast club.

Song: "If I had Only Known"

Wednesday afternoon 1 pm

Musical Prelude by Mary Pat Vreeland

Thanks to:

Assistant Grand Sentinels and Nurses

Grand Pages, Grand Squires, Grand Ushers, Collectors and Tellers

Hospitality Committee

The Bad Seeds (arrangements)

Grand Escorts:

Have you ever wondered exactly what sort of life is led by our Grand Officer Escorts?

It is not a life of complete ease.

It's serving someone who forgets to say please.

A person who gets cross after a night of long hours,

Who seems to expect you to have supernatural powers.

They compliment the ladies on food they made,

Then on the way home they ask for Roluids.
They walk in the house and head for the bed.
You do the washing and cleaning instead.
After months of being in the public view,
You resent being asked, "Now let's see, who are you?"
Be proud of the Grand Officers, they deserve their fame,
But let's not forget the other one, "what's your name?"

We have helped in the garden and seeds we did sow.
We have watered and weeded which helped it to grow.
We have done our fair share.
But it's time to beware.
Our work is done and it's time to play
Your escorts are here and happy to say –

We Quit!

Grand Officer Farewell

Where have all the visits led, long time passing?
Where have all visits led, all year through?
Where have all visits led?
Led to Grand Chapter everyone
Where has this great year gone?
Where has this great year gone?

Regretfully they tell us, but firmly they compel us to say goodbye to you. So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, good night... This year is gone, must face it you and I. So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, good bye, good bye, good bye, good bye.....

WGM:

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.
I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.
I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.
I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.
I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.
I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.
I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final good bye.

WGP: As Walter Cronkite might have said on "You Are There," "And that was the way it was, in this year of two thousand and five."

Closing Ode: Let There be Peace on Earth.

114th Session closed.

The flag was retired singing: You're a Grand Old Flag.

Badge Ceremony written by Ronald D. Pete, PGP, narrated by Kathy Carlson, Music by
Ronald D. Pete.