



**The Grand Chapter of Connecticut
Order of the Eastern Star, Inc.**
Organized August 11, 1874

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May 9, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Connecticut Eastern Star,

Brother Wayne and I humbly thank you for the confidence you placed in us to lead this great organization for the ensuing year. Thank you also for the honor placed upon our Chapters, Ephraim Kirby #75 and Temple #53.

What a pleasure it was to see so many of you at Grand Chapter this year. It is always the highlight of our Eastern Star year to celebrate the accomplishments of the previous year and learn of the exciting plans for the upcoming year. We hope you had the opportunity to find some time outside of our official work to visit with friends and hopefully make a few new ones.

Our aim this year is to make every persons day a little brighter through Acts of Random Kindness Noah's ARK will be a reminder of this. Research shows that helping others can be good for our mental health by reducing stress, improving our emotional well-being and even benefiting our physical health. An act of random kindness does not cost a lot of time or money. It's the small things in life. It can be as easy as holding a door for someone or leaving a quarter in a grocery cart. We look forward to hearing about your Acts of Random Kindness throughout the state this year.

In place of Official Visitation Booklets this year, we will be selling pocket calendars. These calendars will contain the same information as previous booklets-term information, visitation schedule, committee contact information, trips, special events, schedule for Grand Chapter Session dates of sister jurisdictions, and special events in some of our chapters. We encourage you to purchase the calendar to have information close at hand for easy reference. They will be available at Group Discussions, on the jewelry table at our official visitations and through the Grand Secretary's office. We are encouraging all chapters to speak with the Worthy Grand Patron to get information regarding your upcoming events to him so he may spread the word at our Official Visitations.

There will be two group discussions. The first is Sunday, May 21, 2pm, at Temple Chapter #53 in South Windsor. The second is Sunday, June 11, 2pm, at Mystic Chapter #20 in Cheshire. Prior to the second visitation, there will be a presentation on Grandview at 10:30 am at Mystic Chapter. They are offering a light lunch between the presentation and discussion. Flyer is enclosed. We encourage all members to try and attend at least one. Be sure to invite your new members to come with you

At the Official Visitations I ask permission to use my traveling paraphernalia, including my gavel. However, if any Worthy Matron has a gavel that has special meaning to her, she is most welcome to use her own. The Kindness Crew Grand Family is looking forward to visiting each of your Chapters

Receptions for our Appointed Grand Officers will be held on the night of their chapter's official visitation immediately following the meeting. We encourage you all to join us as we honor the Kindness Crew Grand Family.

Sales of our pins this year will benefit Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. We will have a couple of different pins including a very unique handmade ark pin and a pin combining our two emblems

Enjoy a lovely day on Sunday, September 15, at White Memorial in Litchfield to support Parkinson's with a Walk in the Woods. A registration form is enclosed. Sister Donna Larson, Grand Chaplain, is the Team Leader.

Pull tabs to benefit the Shriner's Hospital in Springfield, MA are being collected by Sister Jessica Dey, Grand Marshal. The tabs can be from most any can including beverages and food. Approximately 1,128 tabs equal one pound. A gallon size bag of tabs equates to about 2.5 lbs.

Toys for St. Mary's will be collected by Sister Eleanor Carbonaro, Grand Martha. The hospital may use the toys while children are undergoing treatment, softening the trauma of being in the ER or trauma unit, or celebrating their birthday while they are in the hospital. The age range is infant through teens.

We will be supporting our Youth with Scholarships this year. Education costs more than peanuts and we will be selling homemade plain and cayenne peanut brittle to support these scholarships. Samples will be available and we are sure you won't be able to resist buying at least one bag. They will be available at Group Discussions and Official Visitations as well as by special order. They make great gifts. Please support our youth. Let us show the future leaders of our country that we care about them. Of course, donations are welcome at any time.

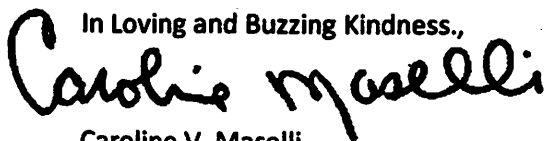
Our first trip is actually a series of social enjoyment opportunities. Every Friday in July we will be attending the Talcott Mountain Music Festival in Simsbury for a night of great music-July 7-ABBA, July 14 Broadway, July 21 Eagles, and July 28 Earth, Wind and Fire. Our second trip is August 25-27 for a full weekend of fun including attending a performance of Moses at the Sight and Sound Theatre. There is an early deposit on this trip and it is due now! Our third trip, Sunday, October 1, is a ride on the Naugatuck Railroad with a chocolate and wine pairing as well as the opportunity to make your own chocolate bar. All trips are open to non-Eastern Star members. What better way to show them what a great time we have! Flyers are enclosed.

Noah's Ark Duty Free Shop will be open at all Group Discussions and Official Visitations with flyers, pins, peanut brittle and other items for sale. All events and flyers can be also be found on our O.E.S. website: www.ctoes.org. There is also a list of all Connecticut Chapters with a link to google maps. Subscribe to StarMatters so you are up to date on all the happenings of the year.

This is going to be a very busy and exciting year as we serve our Connecticut Grand Chapter. We have worked hard to provide a variety of opportunities for our membership to get together with one another and will be offering a travel pin to those who complete the requirements in their travel passport. Sister Barbara Jean Mangano, Grand Warder, is heading up this program.

Bee your best person to everyone, in every way, every day!

In Loving and Buzzing Kindness.,



Caroline V. Maselli
Worthy Grand Matron



Wayne S. Rettburg
Worthy Grand Patron

ATTEST 
Lynn S. Wakefield, PGM - Grand Secretary