

The
EASTERN
JOURNAL



STAR
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"Worldwide The Family of God Marches Together"

2021-2024 General Grand Chapter Officers

April 2022
Part 2

What is Eastern Star

by Sister Vera Rose

*Sisters and brothers in fraternal love
All believing in God above,
The spiritual healing of the Heavenly Dove...
This is Eastern Star.*

*In sprawling cities or on tropical sands,
In many Chapters in other lands,
The smiling faces and welcoming hands...
This is Eastern Star.*

*The open Bible in full view,
The sublime heroines, oh so true,
An inspiration to me and to you...
This is Eastern Star.*

*Working together over the days,
Helping the needy in numerous ways,
Hopes and spirits trying to raise...
This is Eastern Star.*

*The charities helped year after year,
Kids sent to camp to bring them cheer.
And, of course, ESTARL which we all hold dear...
This is Eastern Star.*

*We each have a different idea of "Star",
Diverse and complex, yet still on a par.
We love it, we fight for it; let nothing mar...
Our beautiful Eastern Star.*

ONE REMARKABLE STAR SISTER VERA ROSE, POET

Peggy South, PGM

*Algoma Chapter #139, Sudbury; Spanish River Chapter #237, Little Current, Ontario
Queen Esther Chapter #4, Clearwater, Florida*



I have just finished reading the several *Eastern Star Journals* that are on the website and noticed that some of our members are quite adept at composing poetry.

The picture I have included with this email is that of Sister Vera Rose, a member of Algoma Chapter #139, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, greeting guests on the occasion of her 100th birthday on June 5th, 2019. Her birthday is memorable to me as it is the same as mine. We love to tell people we are twins-just born 30 years apart and with different parents!

Sister Vera was escort to our Grand Adah in 2009-2010 when I was WGM of Ontario. Even when our Grand Adah was unavailable for Chapter visits, quite often Sister Vera traveled with us anyway.

She is a remarkable woman in many ways, but time or printed space won't allow me to go into detail. However, she has recently learned to paint scenes on rocks and to quilt and, at age 102, she still does not require eyeglasses to correct her vision.

Sister Vera is known in our Chapter for her poetic prowess and while I was Chairman of Membership for the 2021-2015 GGC, my husband and I visited many North American Jurisdictions to promote membership. Many times, I recited aloud and made available, printed copies of one of Vera's poem. I hope you all appreciate it as much as we do.

Our Chapters in Ontario are still closed due to current health regulations, but I am quite confident that when those doors reopen, Sister Vera Rose will be there.

In Memorium ★

Hello Nancy, I am sorry to report that my dear friend, Sister Vera Rose, passed away on January 20, 2022. Because of Covid restrictions, our Chapter has just reopened and on March 10, our Charter was draped in loving memory of Sister Vera. I have included Sister Vera's obituary penned by her grandson. I think it tells her story better than I could. Thanks so much for taking an interest in one of the shiniest **Stars** ever created

Vera was born and raised in England where she met a Canadian soldier, Charlie (predeceased), during the 2nd World War. She crossed the ocean as a war bride on the Queen Mary with their daughter Margaret (predeceased). The family, having added daughter Pat to the mix, eventually moved to Sudbury, where Vera lived for 64 years until she moved to St. Catharine's to be closer to her girls.

Nanny (Vera) Rose was intricately woven into the fabric of so many lives that it was generally accepted that she would be here forever. That is why news of her passing has been met with genuine shock and disbelief by anyone who knew her.

Nanny exuded strength and determination, tempered perfectly with hope and compassion. Her openness and willingness to accept others and learn new things surrounded her with friends. When close to 200 people came to celebrate her 90th birthday, one grandson quipped, "I don't mean to be rude Nanny, but when we threw you your surprise 80th, most of the guests were pretty old. I certainly didn't expect you to have more show up for your 90th!" Her response sums her up perfectly. "I've had 10 years to make new friends."

Nanny as matriarch, welcomed her daughters, grandkids and great-grandkids friends as family, instilling in them her love of games, puzzles and cards. She was also fiercely competitive and followed the rules to a tee, landing some people in hot water if they were caught cheating or "bending the rules". She shared stories of her life freely and openly, giving perspective to many who came to her with their troubles and challenges.

It would take two full pages of this newspaper to list the people whose lives were touched, influenced and affected by this amazing woman. And she would hate to hear about it. Rather, she would want to thank those that made living to 102 worth it. Top of the list are daughters Margaret (Len), and Pat (Paul), their kids and grandkids. She also credits Girl Guides of Canada, St Marks United Church in Sudbury and the Eastern Star for making her the person she was.

A big void has been created by her loss. It will be easy for many to be swallowed by the grief of her passing. For those shedding tears, Nanny says you only get two days to mourn. Anything more than that, and she is coming back to haunt you. And if anyone had the power of will do to that, it would definitely be Nanny Rose!

QUEBEC MEMBER HILDA WOODS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!

*Brenda Shaw, PGM
ESJ Correspondent for Quebec
Victory Chapter #34
Hemmingford, Quebec*

Sister Hilda was born on April 24, 1921 in Montreal. She celebrated 100 years of a good life this year. She just passed her first full winter in the cottage that she and her husband bought in Ste. Adele, Quebec, 76 years ago. Presently her daughter and son-in-law live there full-time. Due to the Pandemic, they temporarily moved Sister Hilda there for the winter. Originally the cottage was used for weekend ski trips and summer holidays by the lake.

I stayed with Sister Hilda recently while her family was away for a few days. She is absolutely amazing. She is totally self-sufficient; cooks her meals, walks her Sheltie Jacko every day and can walk faster than I can. Her mind is sharp and her wit is quick. Her voice is strong. We sit in the dining room looking out over the ever-changing view of the lake and watching the birds and squirrels on the feeders and Sister Hilda tells me about her life.

There is no doubt that the Pandemic has been hard on everyone but for her, it has given her the opportunity to spend more time with her daughter and to enjoy the beauty of the Laurentian Mountains. Sister Hilda lives alone in her own home in St. Laurent, since her husband passed away. She has her Sheltie Jacko to keep her company, but it was a blessing to be able to be at the cottage during the worst of the Pandemic.

Sister Hilda worked for Sun Life in accounting and at the same time looked after her mother who lived with her full-time. When she retired, she volunteered at the Montreal General Hospital for 20 years helping staff and patients. We always looked for her if we happened to have an appointment at that particular hospital. She worked with another Star member, Sister Gloria Bell. Sister Hilda received a medal for reaching 6,000 volunteer hours. She told me that if you have a good life, you have to give back to society. Mahatma Gandhi has influenced her outlook on life. She was recently named the 4Korners Community Cup Winner for the month of April, 2021, in Ste. Adele.

Her family celebrated her milestone birthday in August. They rented a tent and invited local friends. About 58 people attended. There are still restrictions in Quebec due to Covid-19 so not everyone could be invited. The tables each sat 8 guests. The family had borrowed bone china cups and saucers and there was a lovely teapot at each table which were covered in rose-coloured tablecloths. The Afternoon Tea was catered. Petite cucumber and smoked salmon sandwiches were served, together with scones and a variety of pastries served on 3-tiered plates. A glass of sherry was the crowning touch. The beautiful centrepieces were crafted by a friend. They were made with seashells and hydrangeas. Her nephew Gordon's family provided the young relatives who were the hostesses for this special occasion. Her daughter Suzanne read out the special events or newsworthy items that happened in the world during each decade of Sister Hilda's life. She then talked about the special occasions she remembered and treasured during each decade, such as in 1939 when she met her husband, and in 1950 when Suzanne was born.

Sister Hilda is a PM and presently the Treasurer of Westmount Chapter #9. She has served as Treasurer since 2002. In honour of her Birthday, Chapter members contributed to a monetary gift for her to buy flowers for her garden.

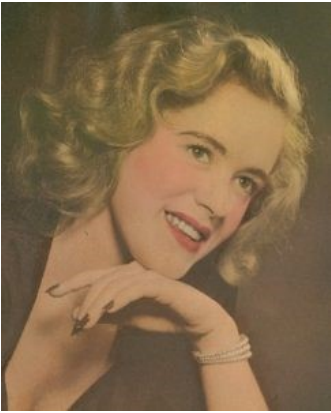
Sister Hilda joined in 1953 and has been a member for 68 years. She was WM in 1956. Her first office was Ruth and from there she jumped to Associate Conductress. She has been a Grand Representative five times, representing Alabama, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oregon and Saskatchewan.

Sister Hilda has been a faithful member, always ready to assist her Sisters and Brothers. Everyone loves her and hopes that if we live to that great age, that we will have the same joie de vivre and energy that she exhibits.



CROSSING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN TO PERFORM AN OES FUNERAL SERVICE

*Corley Anne Byras, GGCCM Credentials, PGM
Electa Chapter #2
Bowdoinham, Maine*



Irene Chapter #97 in Ellsworth, Maine (ME), had a unique opportunity the first day of June....go to Swan's Island off the coast of ME and perform the OES Funeral Service for one of its members, Sister Josephine Swann. Sister Josephine was 97 years old and passed away on May 19, 2021.

It's amazing that there are at least 4,600 islands off the coast of ME, many of which are inhabited. Swan's Island is an unspoiled island in Downeast ME and one goes to Bass Harbor to board the Swan's Island Ferry, which is a 40-minute ride covering the 6 miles. The ferry makes four to six roundtrips a day, depending on the season, and what day of the week it is. The 14 square mile Swan Island has about 335 full-time residents, but many families have cottages for summertime use. Sister Josephine's family had a home there and it was her desire to be buried in the family plot. The OES Funeral Service was conducted at the Swan's Island Baptist Church, which was founded in 1817, on June 1. The casket flowers were the colors of the Star Points, and two large ceramic swan's had flowers in them.

Sister Josephine and her daughter, Sister Susan Sargent, became members in 1990 when they joined Mt. Desert Chapter #20. Mt. Desert merged with Irene Chapter where she was given Life Membership. Sister Josephine was a PM of Irene Chapter and served the Grand Chapter as Grand Representative of North Carolina in ME and Grand Ruth.

Mt. Desert Chapter was on the largest island off the coast of ME with an area of 108 square miles. Many readers will have visited, at some time, Acadia National Park. In order for members to attend meetings if they didn't live on the Island, they needed to take a ferry across and needed to end the meeting promptly to be able to return to the mainland on the last ferry. Otherwise, the members opened their homes for the night to their Sisters and Brothers.

The Fellowship Room of the Church had hundreds of items on display, and one quickly could learn that Sister Josephine had lived a colorful life.



She entered the Mrs. Maine America Beauty Pageant in 1951 and received the 3rd runner up in evening gowns. She was the life of the party. She had lots of spunk and always spoke her mind. Wherever she went, she would make friends, was always willing to help, sing a song or do a dance. In high school, she had been the drum majorette and her outfit and batons were on display, along with her tap shoes and lots of family and Eastern Star pictures and memorabilia. She was known in high school as the biggest flirt and was a member of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls.

CROSSING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN TO PERFORM AN OES FUNERAL SERVICE

(Continued)

During World War II, she volunteered in the shipyard in Portland Harbor and danced at night for the sailors at the USO. Although she had a teaching degree, at the age of 50 she went to school at Mansfield Beauty Academy and received a degree in Cosmetology and opened a hair salon in her home on Swan's Island. She was on the school board, worked as a First Responder, was a Constable and enjoyed being a bouncer at the dances; nobody would dare cross her. She was truly an unforgettable character with a warm heart.

Those participating in the OES Funeral Service were Sisters Darlene Bearse, WM; Sylvia Joy, District Deputy Grand Matron for District 14; Jerri A. Holt, PGM; and Corley Anne Byras, GGCCM.



Atlantic Ocean



Ferry to Swan's Island

Swan's Island

by Josephine Swann

*Swan's Island, nature's magnet in the sea.
A place of quiet rest, where people love to be.
A chance to view God's creation
This pure air - a real sensation!
The sky, moon, stars, no buildings in between.
Trees, flowers, birds most beautiful to be seen.
Time to get priorities clear.
Time to spend with those you hold dear.
If you love nature with a wilder mind
Spend the winter here, you will find
Dashing waves, wind-blown crystal trees,
Adventure, excitement, variety, all for free.
Warmth inside, neighbors meeting
For socials, Church and just greeting.
What can this feeling in our soul be
That draws us to this island in the sea?*



Hockamock Head Lighthouse



A SHINING STAR NOW TWINKLES IN THE SKY AT NIGHT

*Nancy L. Ford, GGCCM Editor Eastern Star Journal, PGM
Highland Chapter #33
Dundalk, Maryland*



Audrey Sauerhammer (seated on the far right) with members of the 2021-2022 Grand Family

To our Maryland members, Sister Audrey K. Sauerhammer, PGM, was known as a warm and friendly Sister who opened her home for many gatherings. She was also one to speak her mind, but willing to help and mentor. Many referred to her as “Big Auds,” not because of her size but as her Grand Marshal was also named “Audrey” who became “Little Auds” and both nicknames stuck. Our paths first crossed when we would attend a local firehouse oyster and ham dinner and frequently sat at the same table. Then we both served on the Temple Commission together. In time, I was blessed to share a Grand Family with her when “Little Auds” (Sister Audrey Ditch) served as WGM in 2000-2001 and “Big Auds” served as her Grand Lecturer (I served as Grand Electa in the Dolphin Grand Family). She loved Christmas and I have fond memories of helping to decorate her home for the holidays.

Time doesn't stand still and Sister Audrey continued to serve both our Grand Chapter and as Ruth at Lebanon Chapter #108, Manchester, until she moved to Bonnie Blink, our Masonic Retirement Home. Once there, she frequently attended Trinity Chapter #99 until Covid hit. Thankfully she was able to attend the Grand Line Reception on June 27, 2021, where the members honored her with a birthday cake to celebrate her upcoming 100th birthday. Sister Audrey's name was submitted to the Today Show for the “Shout Out Happy 100th Birthday” on July 5. Sadly both Sister Audrey's Mom and husband, Brother Robert Sauerhammer, PGP, suffered from Alzheimer's, and she offered for sale her beautiful doll collection and the proceeds from the sale were donated to the Alzheimer's Association.

Sister Audrey was a 67-year member of Lebanon Chapter and answered her Master's call on September 21, 2021, after a brief illness. Now she and “Little Auds” help light the sky at night.

IN MEMORIAM

THE GRAND CHAPTER OF MARYLAND, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

ANNOUNCES WITH DEEP SORROW THE DEATH OF

AUDREY K. SAUERHAMMER

WORTHY GRAND MATRON, 1988-1989

A sixty-seven-year member of Lebanon Chapter No. 108

ENTERED INTO ETERNAL REST SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Sister Audrey presided with Brother Arthur C. Rutledge, Worthy Grand Patron, at the Ninety-First “Everything is Beautiful” Session in Hagerstown, Maryland on April 24 to April 26, 1989. Their year was focused on beauty and kindness. For beauty they selected the Rose, the newly designated National Flower of our country. Their emblem, Electa's “Cup of Kindness,” was a visual representation of their motto: Take time to be kind. Sister Audrey challenged us to “Be tolerant of each other. We are like dolls – we come in all sizes and each of us have our own personality.” She ended her Session Report with these words:

*The beautiful in life --
Some talk of it in poetry, some grow it in the soil,
Some build it in a steeple, some show it through their toil,
Some breathe it into music, some mold it into art,
Some shape it into bread loaves, some hold it in their hearts.
For all you are, for all you do,
May everything beautiful in life come to each of you.*

The Officers and Members of the Grand Chapter extend to her family and to all who mourn our sincere and heartfelt sympathy. In loving memory of Sister Audrey, let this Memorial be read at the first stated meeting after its receipt and the Altar be draped for thirty days.

Shawn M. Garren
Worthy Grand Matron

Glen L. Sunderland
Worthy Grand Patron

Donna H. Runyan
Grand Secretary

CELEBRATING WEST VIRGINIA EASTERN STAR MILESTONES

*Sandra Budden, PM
Marcum Chapter #51
Ceredo, West Virginia*

During the past year, several of our West Virginia Chapters have been able to honor our Eastern Star Sisters and Brothers celebrating milestones by presenting them with their 50-, 60-, 65- and 70-Year pins.



Grantsville Chapter #73 in Grantsville celebrated 70-Year member, Sister Freda Yoak, and 50-Year member and her daughter, Sister Sharon Turner, in July 2020.

*(L-R) Debbie Postalwait, WM;
Freda Yoak (70-Year member);
and daughter Sharon Turner
(50-Year member)*

Mullens Chapter #100 in Mullens celebrated 50-Year member, Sister Ella Winfrey, PM, in July 2020.



Ella Winfrey, PM



*Linda Fowler, WGM;
and Ella Winfrey, PM*

Guyandotte Chapter #89 in Huntington celebrated 50-Year member, Connie L. Ferguson, PM, in August 2020.



*(L-R) Linda Fowler, WGM; Damon Wilcox, AP;
Connie Ferguson, PM; Kim Jarvis, WM; and
Steve Chapman, WGP*

CELEBRATING WEST VIRGINIA EASTERN STAR MILESTONES

(Continued)

Golden Rule #69 in Martinsburg celebrated 60-Year member, Sister Dorothy L. Simpson, in June 2021.



(L-R) Linda Fowler, WGM; Dorothy Simpson; Cindy Strakal, PGM; JoEllen Toothman, WM; Melton Kenney, WP; and Steve Chapman, WGP



Dorothy L. Simpson, with her daughter, Cindy Strakal, PGM.

Moorefield Chapter #102 in Moorefield celebrated 60-Year member, Sister Betty Wilson, PM, in August 2021.



(L-R) Sarah Widder Imboden, WM; Betty Wilson, PM; and Gregg Ely, WP

Rowlesburg Chapter #127 in Rowlesburg celebrated 50-Year member, Sister Jane Graham, PM, in August 2021. She was pinned by her nephew, Brother David Wotring, WP.



Jane Graham, PM



Jane Graham, PM; and David Wotring, WP

HURRICANE CHAPTER #116 HONORS THEIR 60- AND 50-YEAR MEMBERS

*Mary Arnold, PM
Hurricane Chapter #116
Hurricane, West Virginia*



Honoring our 60-Year Member Sister Loretta Bowles

During our April 2021 meeting, Sister Loretta Bowles, Culloden, West Virginia, was honored for 60 years of service with Hurricane Chapter #116, Hurricane. Sister Sharon Grant, WM, presented Loretta with her pin and Certificate.

Sister Loretta became a member on April 11, 1961, at the age of 18 and has served in many Offices, including two terms as WM. Her husband, Brother Russ, her mother, father and grandmother were also members. By joining Eastern Star, Sister Loretta says she is carrying on a family tradition.

(L-R) Loretta Bowles, PM, and Sharon Grant, WM

Honoring our 50-Year Member Sister Loretta Bowles



(L-R) Sharon Lansdale, daughter; Judith Howard, Secretary; Beth Napier, Warder; Janet Whitten, PM, Chaplain; Mary Arnold, PM, Conductress; Julia LeRoy; and Kim Mack, daughter

It was an honor and pleasure to visit and present Sister Julia LeRoy with her 50-year pin, her Grand Chapter Certificate and a beautiful flower arrangement from her Sisters and Brothers.

Sister Julia's daughters, Sharon and Kim, came to see their mother receive her pin. It was a pleasure to meet and visit with them.



As with Sister Julia, many of our Sisters and Brothers can no longer attend Chapter meetings because of health-related issues so Hurricane Chapter would like to honor our other members who received their pins through the mail. We celebrate Sister Suzanna Bradbury for her 65 years, and Sisters Becky Foster and Nina Chancey for their 60 years of service to our Order.

LONG BEACH CHAPTER #51
CELEBRATES 500 YEARS OF
MEMBERSHIP!

Pamela Taylor, PM
Long Beach Chapter #51
Long Beach, Mississippi



Long Beach Chapter #51, Long Beach, Mississippi, recently recognized its 25- and 50- Year members celebrating over 500 years of membership! A special ceremony was held on September 21, 2021, where Brother Larry McVey PGP, took the members on a trip down memory lane. He reminisced about TV shows, music and other events from the 60's, 70's and 90's - the timeframes when these members joined. Sisters and Brothers receiving their

50-Year certificates were Nancy Bryan, WM; Bert Burril PP; Jewel Dickerson; Marshal King; Ray Napier; Bobby Spayde; and Barbara Wescovich. Those receiving their 25-Year certificates were David Bass; Susan Bass; Joan Byrd; Elizabeth Cuvelier; Tracey Higgins; and June Strahan.

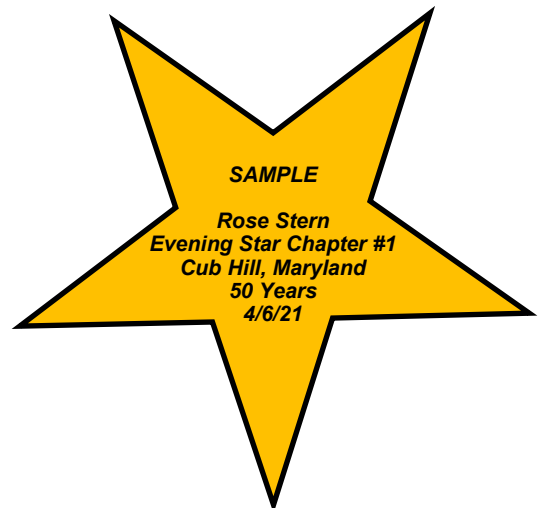
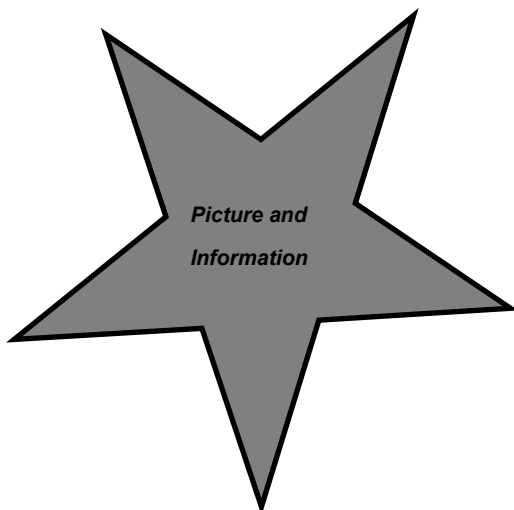
Celebrating Our Silver And Golden Stars

We welcome articles on our Sisters and Brothers receiving their Years of Service Certificate. However, we will also welcome a picture (if available) of this memorable event.

If a picture is not available, we can showcase our members information.

*Please include their name, Chapter name,
number and location and Years of Service.*

*Let's fill the page with pictures of our 25, 50 and 50-Plus Year members
on their special night!.*



AFTERNOON FOR DEGREES

*Corley Anne Byras, GGCCM Credentials, PGM
Electa Chapter #2
Bowdoinham, Maine*



*Catherine J. Wood, WGM; Carol Grouse, Candidate;
Judy Tufts, WM; and Bernald Tufts, WP*

It was an unusual time for a meeting in Maine (ME) when they held an afternoon meeting on Friday, June 11, 2021. Genesta Chapter #73, Bath, opened a Special Meeting for Degrees at 2 pm. A Special Dispensation from Sister Catherine J. Wood, WGM, was read giving permission to the Chapter to hold this Special Meeting. Sister Catherine was also in attendance to witness the performing of the Degrees on the candidate Carol Ann Grouse. ME's tradition is to always have at least two candidates, so the courtesy candidate was Sister Delora Farrington, PM of Abenaki Chapter #116, which meets in Readfield.

Sister Judith Tufts is serving as WM with her husband, Brother Bernald Tufts, GGCCM. They are making a donation to ESTARL in honor of the Pro-Team Officers that were present to assist with the Degrees. There were 12 Chapters present with 31 members in attendance with the following Distinguished Guests: Catherine J. Wood, WGM; Corley Anne Byras, GGGCM; Bernald Tufts, GGGCM; Flora Stack, PGM; Brett Jervis, PGP; E. William Rohr, PGP of New Hampshire; Russell Babb, AGP; Donald Wood, Grand Warder; Debbie Greim, DDGM #4; Martha Ellis, DDGM #6;

Annie Babb, DDGM #7; Greta Bickford, DDGM #10; Hazel Rumney, DDGM #12; and Marie Pottle, Grand Representative of North Carolina.

Following the Initiation, Brother Brett Jervis, PGP, did a Bible presentation ceremony and presented Sister Carol her own Eastern Star Bible. The WM presented the WGM with a donation for ESTARL as her phone had gone off during the meeting...this is a tradition in our Jurisdiction. Refreshments were enjoyed in the Fellowship Hall.

On June 29, 2021, at Pine Cone Chapter #26 in Auburn, members drove as long as four hours to witness the Initiation of Mercedes Hursh who had applied for membership in March of 2020 and was balloted on in September of 2020 ... and finally was able to join as the Covid-19 restrictions had been lifted. ME's tradition is to always have at least two candidates so the courtesy candidate was Sister Amanda Carr, PM, who was delighted to be with her future Sister and co-worker.

Those attending were happy to be in an air-conditioned hall as the day had been in the high 90's, truly a hot time in Auburn.

There were 15 Chapters present with 45 members in attendance with the following Distinguished Guests:

Catherine J. Wood, WGM; Arthur C. Dunlap, WGP; Corley Anne Byras, GGGCM; Bernald W. Tufts, GGGCM; Rebecca S. Bibber, PGM and Grand Treasurer; Julieanne B. Irving, PGM; Lucille A. Nanos, PGM; Flora M. Stack, PGM; William H. Stretton, PGP; Richard Farnsworth, III, PGP, Grand Organist; David Cole, PGP; Evelyn B. Cookson, AGM; Russell E. Babb, AGP; Jolene D. Farnsworth, AGC; Keith W. Bennett, Grand Marshal; Pamela Barrows, Grand Ruth; Norma Manning, Grand Martha; Darlene Hayden, Grand Electa; Donald R. Wood, Grand Warder; Debbie Greim, DDGM #4; Carolyn Bennett, DDGM #65; Pamela Toussaint, Grand Representative of Maryland; Brian Farrington, Grand Representative of Nebraska; and Mary Zimmerman, Star Assistant.

When the candidate signed the Bylaws at the Secretary's desk, she was informed that the first one signing the Bylaws signed in 1895 and that all members who had joined Pine Cone Chapter had signed the same book she was signing. She was presented with the flowers used during her Initiation, a Ritual, an OES pin, an OES bookmark and a special book that contained 40 OES Ceremonies. Refreshments were enjoyed in the fellowship hall.



*Vicki Kelley, WM; Amanda Carr, PM; Mercedes Hursh, Candidate;
Catherine Wood, WGM; and Arthur Dunlap, WGP*

ESTARL RECIPIENTS' DEVOTIONALS

*Corley Anne Byras, GGCCM Credentials,. PGM
Electa Chapter #2
Bowdoinham, Maine*

Encouraging Courageousness

*A devotion co-written by Abby Lynn Haskell (Maine ESTARL Recipient)
and her sister Rebecca Thompson, PM*

The exhaustion from the fear of this pandemic has been overwhelming for all of us at times and demanded nothing short of all we are and all we have to give. All of a sudden it became life threateningly dangerous to go to the grocery store, eat out at a restaurant, visit with loved ones and terrifyingly risky to attend large social gatherings. We have had to learn to cope with living with this threat to our mortality and it has taken its toll physically, as well as emotionally and spiritually. We have had to endure an extended length of time in a state of defensive fight or flight hyper-alertness. We are finally beginning to see a hope for an end to this time of deep valley journeying, but the fear and our biological fight or flight responses are still very much with us. Reacting to these instinctive fight or flight responses may well be lifesaving and beneficial in the short run, but in the long run, it can contribute to producing detrimental and dire results. All too often, acting repeatedly from our fight or flight responses in the long game exponentially increases the fear and anger within ourselves and within our larger community.

God has designed our brains to respond to a fascinating neurochemical element that enables us to shift our energies from fear and anger to bravery and courage. This essential biological neurochemical agent works in harnessing our instinctive fight or flight reaction allowing us to focus our energies that heal not only ourselves as individuals, but also influences our behaviors and actions toward the betterment of building and nurturing peace in our communities.

This essential neurochemical element is oxytocin. There are a number of ways oxytocin can be released; human touch, words of affirmation, acts of service and prayer, just to name a few. Stories can release this healing balm of oxytocin. Storytelling is the practical and powerful art that, with courage, can harness the feverish worry and battle-ready energy, so that our actions are hope and compassion based.

I invite you to see the Star stories in the light of their healing power. There is oxytocin releasing potential within each. The stories of the Star Points are not destructive stories of fear and blame but are healing stories of hope, courage and compassion. All Star heroines faced trial with inspiring acts of courage; one faced death without fear, one left all comfort behind for an unknown future, one confronted power with honesty, one endured the pain of grief with hope and one refused to forsake her faith. Let these stories, through God's Grace, become a part of The Story you live in the world.

The content of the stories you absorb and the stories you tell make all the difference. Fear and blame stories will rip apart the heart of an individual and the fabric of a community. Hope and compassion stories will fortify one's soul and strengthen the foundation of a community.

Faith, Hope and Charity

*A devotion written by Forrest Genthner, ESTARL Recipient
Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Livermore Falls
Pine Cone Chapter #26, Auburn, Maine*

In Paul's first letter to the Church in Corinth, Chapter 13, he mentions faith, hope and charity, with the greatest of these being charity. Many translations of the Bible put it as "faith, hope and love." With this translation, many see fit to have it read at weddings.

But Paul was not talking about two people in union with each other, but rather a Church that was coming apart at the seams. The Church in Corinth can be used as an example for our country today - it seems like so many have taken a title of political affiliation over that of "American" or the title of a believer in their god.

As a Freemason, I have had the pleasure to be part of the Order of Eastern Star, Scottish Rite, Shrine, DeMolay and the Blue Lodge. As a District Officer and current Master of Oriental Star Lodge #21, Auburn, I have been able to confer many degrees, all of which teach in some way or another about faith, hope and charity.

Last week I asked my Church what they would do if Jesus came back to Earth today. I then asked what would happen if Jesus came back to Earth today and they did not recognize him; if he came in the form of a beggar. Would we let him in? "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

We ask help of Jesus daily and it is given to us and sometimes God uses us to help others in need. I speak from the heart when I say thank you to Eastern Star, and especially to Sister Jerri Holt, for all of your help for my Seminary.

Many blessings as we continue to do God's will.

ESTARL MINISTRY AT WORK

*H. M. Sonny Dycus, PGP
Redwine Chapter #297
Gainesville, Georgia*

I claim Garrett as my "adopted son" and there are no words, in any language, to express how proud I am of his accomplishments. I have served on Georgia's ESTARL and Education Committee many times and will serve as Chairman once again in 2022 - 2023 for Sister Joyce Royal.

Garrett played football and baseball from the time he was 8 years old through high school. He wrestled and ran track in middle school and won several tournaments in wrestling. He was Defensive Player of the Year for Henry County his senior year in high school and went on mission trips to Peru in his 8th and 11th grades.

Garrett entered LaGrange College in the fall of 2014 on an academic scholarship and played football for 3 semesters for LaGrange College. He suffered a concussion and was unable to play for the remainder of his sophomore year. Garrett was listening to God's call into the Ministry.

Garrett was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Leadership Team, President of The Wesley Foundation, Student Government Association Senator, Presidential Student Ambassador, Servant Scholar and Member of THETA ALPHA KAPPA (National Honor Society for Religious Studies). He was selected twice to leadership positions for Chrysalis, the youth arm of Walk to Emmaus. He served as the first Youth Ministry Intern at the First Presbyterian Church in LaGrange. Garrett is presently serving as Pastor of Bethany United Methodist Church in Fayetteville and will finish his term there on June 20, 2021, after serving this Church for 3 years while in Seminary.

On October 9, 2020, Garrett married the love of his life, Kylie. Kylie is a Registered Nurse and works in the ICU Department of LaGrange Hospital, and supports Garrett in his journey to becoming an ordained Methodist Minister

Garrett graduated in May 2021 from Candler School of Theology at Emory University with a Master of Divinity.

I am proud to say that Garrett was awarded two ESTARL Scholarships in his last 2 years at LaGrange College, and was awarded 3 ESTARL Scholarships during his tenure at Candler School of Theology. I am equally proud that Garrett was our guest speaker in June 2016 at our Sunday Morning Worship Service at Georgia's Grand Chapter Session.

Now you see why I am sharing this good news. I wanted you to know where and how the money in the Georgia Grand Chapter ESTARL program is being used and for what purpose ... our next "greatest generation."

On a personal note, Garrett is the grandson of our dear friend and member, Sister Cheryl Garrett, Riverdale Chapter #446 in Riverdale.

In His Unfailing Love and Merciful Grace,
Sonny

Garrett Wallace, ESTARL recipient, graduated from Candler School of Theology at Emory University with a Masters of Divinity.



SMITHVILLE CHAPTER #374 SUPPORTS LOCAL COMMUNITY

*Pat Wilt, PM
Smithville #374
Smithville, Tennessee*



The Smithville Fiddler's Jamboree and Crafts Festival

It has been named the official festival of the State of Tennessee since 1997. Dr. Robert Atnip has portrayed Uncle Sam in the Smithville Jamboree for 49 years. The 50th Annual Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree and Crafts Festival took place Friday, July 2, and Saturday, July 3, 2021, in downtown Smithville. The old-time tradition of the Fiddler's Jamboree invites musicians, craft artists and visitors to Smithville. The festival is a great way to highlight the Appalachian local arts, crafts and music. The members of Smithville #374 distributed 800 bottles of water over two days at the Jamboree. Pictured above are Dr. Robert Atnip, WP; Guylene Atnip, WM; and Joel Dawes, Treasurer.

Also in Smithville....



Joel Dawes, Treasurer (right) and Elizabeth Chapel Baptist Church members distributed bags of hygiene products at The HOPE Center in Smithville. The Chapter members donated over 34 bags of hygiene products that were distributed at The HOPE Center for families and persons in need in July 2021.

CLASSIC CAR SHOW RAISES \$10,000 FOR CHARITIES

*Jim Hoff, WGP
Esther Chapter #3, Carson City
Adah Chapter #4, Reno
Nevada*



Esther Chapter #3, Carson City Nevada, does a classic car show on the second weekend in July. This year it was a great success despite temperatures of over 100 degrees. This show attracted around 350 classic and special interest cars. We had a raffle of donated prizes, a poker walk and a scavenger hunt. In total this, 1 day event brought in \$14,000 in revenue. After expenses, we were able to give \$10,000 to our selected charities of The Veterans Guest House in Reno (<https://www.veteransquesthouse.org>) and Food for Thought in Carson City (<https://nvfoodforthought.org>).

Classic Car shows are great fundraisers for our Chapters. Naomi Chapter #16, Yerington, also hosts a car show on Father's Day Weekend every year and also raises a great deal of money for their charities.



SHOE COLLECTION FOR CHARITY

*Pearl Johnson, GGCCM Eastern Star Journal, PGM
Caroline Chapter #62
Denton, Maryland*



Many of us have shoes to spare, you know the ones that don't fit, hurt our feet, been sitting in the closet after being worn only one time. Yes, the gently worn, used and even new shoes are the ones that the members of Caroline Chapter #62, Denton, Maryland, family and friends donated to funds2orgs. In addition, a locally ran thrift store, Samaritan House, donated unsold shoes, making up 30 percent of the shoes collected. This shoe drive fundraiser helps those living in developing countries to create job opportunities, helping them out of poverty with a hand up, not a handout.

The shoe drive began in October 2020 and finished 9 months later on July 30, 2021. A total of 3,125 pairs of shoes were donated. A big thanks to my Sisters and Brothers that helped pickup, sort, put a rubber band on each pair and then count 25 pairs for each bag. A big thank you to the members of Temple Lodge #128, Denton, for allowing us to store these shoes, which took up two rooms.

On July 30, it was time to move those 126 bags from the third floor to the first. Thank goodness the Lodge has an elevator! Another big thanks to the Lodge Brothers who helped our members move those bags.

The big day finally arrived and on July 31, the truck pulled up to collect our donation. One last thing was to place a sticker on each of the 126 bags to identify where the donation came from. At last, the truck driver was

ready to start his journey back to the homebase in Florida. He was very grateful for our donation and informed us these shoes were bound for Haiti.

The Chapter made a motion to divide the profit of \$1,205 four ways as a "thank you" for those that supported and helped with this fundraiser.

Each group received \$300: WM/WP's Special Project Knights Templar Eye Foundation; Chapter Ways and Means Project; Samaritan House; and Temple Lodge. The extra \$5 went to the Chapter's General Fund. For more information on funds2orgs, visit funds2orgs.com.



Pearl Johnson, Chairman



*Carol Stout, Grand Martha, WM
Butler Chapter #218
Butler, Tennessee*



THE GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

On July 27, 2021, Sister Phyllis Matherly, WGM of Tennessee, was honored by Daisy Chapter #328, Lower East. She was presented with a wagon filled with goodies/snacks for the children of T. C. Thompson Hospital at Erlanger Oncology Dept. in Chattanooga.

This was their Official Visit and their gift to the Official Visitor. A plaque on the wagon was in honor of the WGM. When the goodies are used, the wagon can give them cheer as they are pulled around the hospital.

"One of the greatest honors given to me! I am truly honored and thankful," said Sister Phyllis. "Prayers for these children and a sincere thank you to Daisy Chapter for such an honor. Our OES Sisters and Brothers are loving, giving and kindhearted."

TENNESSEANS SUPPORT WAVERLY FLOOD VICTIMS



Tennessee Eastern Star Chapters from Memphis to Mountain City came together to donate \$12,700.20 to Waverly flood victims. Members of Chapters all across the State collected money during September and October after a flood swept through the town on August 21, 2021. Sister Phyllis Matherly, WGM, and her Grand Family were extremely proud to announce this amount given by our members.

MARTHA WASHINGTON CHAPTER #231 DONATES SCHOOL SUPPLIES

*Karen Dixon, Secretary
Martha Washington Chapter #231
Rockford, Tennessee*



The members of Martha Washington #231, Rockford, Tennessee, donated school supplies for their local community school of Rockford Elementary.

They were delivered on September 15, 2021 by a couple of the members. The school was very appreciative and thanked them for the donation.



DIXIE CHAPTER #115 DONATES HANDMADE BOGGINS

*Linda Hunt, Conductress
Dixie Chapter #115
Selmer, Tennessee*



The members of Dixie Chapter #115, Selmer, Tennessee, donated some handmade boggins to the Darryl Worley Cancer Treatment Center in Savannah. The items were donated in October 2021 for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Cancer Center was much appreciative of our donation.

Each boggin had the following note attached:

Compliments of
Dixie Chapter 115
Order of the Eastern Star
Selmer, TN

When your head feels bare,
Cause you lost your hair
Here is a handmade boggin
To cover your noggin!

We hope you wear this
with pride,
Cause I also went on this
ride!
Lori Kee

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

*Ginger Owen, GGCA
Mobile Chapter #348
Mobile, Alabama*



*Mobile Chapter members with food donations.
Seated are Joyce Cromer, WM, and Ben Keyser, WP*

Mobile Chapter #348, Mobile, Alabama, decided to do a Reverse Advent Calendar this year.



With a regular Advent Calendar, you open a door each day and get a treat.



With a Reverse Advent Calendar, each day you give a treat.

We decided to start this giving on our first meeting in November and end it on our first meeting in December. Every day each of us put a canned good or some other staple in a box. At our first meeting in December, everyone brought the items to Chapter. The next day, Brothers Joe Owen, GGCCM Service Dogs and PGP, and Bill Brooks, one of our newer members, delivered all the food collected to the Area Food Bank. Below is the suggested list of items:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| November 5 - peanut butter | November 19 - package of oatmeal |
| November 6 - stuffing mix | November 20 - package of pasta |
| November 7 - boxed potatoes | November 21 - spaghetti sauce |
| November 8 - macaroni and cheese | November 22 - chicken noodle soup |
| November 9 - canned fruit | November 23 - tomato soup |
| November 10 - canned tomatoes | November 24 - can of corn |
| November 11 - canned tuna | November 25 - Happy Thanksgiving |
| November 12 - dessert mix | November 26 - can of carrots |
| November 13 - jar of applesauce | November 27 - box of cereal |
| November 14 - canned sweet potatoes | November 28 - can of lima beans |
| November 15 - cranberry sauce | November 29 - can of mixed vegetables |
| November 16 - canned green beans | November 30 - salt |
| November 17 - box of crackers; | December 1 - pepper |
| November 18 - package of rice | December 2 - cream of chicken soup |

The Angel Degree (Chapter Closed) By Sister Barbara Redburn, PM, Irene #97, Ellsworth

Worthy Matron: Angels are a part of heaven, which is perhaps why we think of them as Angels on High. We picture them attired in flowing robes of pure white, who look over us and guide us on our way in life and death.

Tonight, the Angels of _____ Chapter, our officers, with the musical assistance of all Sisters and Brothers, who will be known as the Choir of Angels, will confer the Angel Degree upon two special members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

The Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron will preside as Angels in the East, while the Associate Matron and Associate Patron will be known as the Angels in the West. Sisters Secretary and Treasurer, who work together in the Chapter, are named the Angel of Intelligence and the Angel of Security. Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress are Angels of the South and North. Angel of the Word of God is the Chaplain. Marshal is the Angel of Direction, and our Organist is the Angel of Music.

The Warder and Sentinel are Angels of Peace and Protection, who tend the pearly gates to _____ Chapter.

Sister Adah is the Angel of Fidelity, Sister Ruth is Angel of Constancy, Sister Esther is Angel of Loyalty, Sister Martha is Angel of Faith and Sister Electa is the Angel of Love.

As the Worthy Matron, the Angel in the East, I now ask Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, Angels in the South and North, to approach the pearly gates of our Chapter, and determine if there are Sisters and Brothers who want to receive The Angel Degree.

(They march to the anteroom door -music *Star in the East* is played while they march to all stations – look out, turn, and Conductress says to Worthy Matron)

Conductress: Worthy Matron, Angel of the East, Sister Associate Conductress, as the Angels of the South and North, we find members who would be honored to receive The Angel Degree in _____ Chapter.

Worthy Matron: _____Warder and _____ Sentinel, Angels of Peace and Protection, you will allow these members to pass through the pearly gates, to be escorted to our Chaplain, the Angel of the Word of God, and as they pass by the Angels in the West, the light from their stations will reflect a heavenly glow upon them throughout The Angel Degree.

(Conductress and Associate Conductress escort them in front of the West, and then go to the Chaplain.)

Chaplain: (stands and says) The Angel Degree is inspired by our ritual, The Star in the East, and the Holy Bible which rests upon the altar. The Bible speaks of the New Jerusalem and our ritual contains words recited by our Worthy Patron, an Angel in the East, which refer to the New Jerusalem, the Eternal City.

As described in the Revelation of St. John, the Eternal City is built upon the Foundation Stones. These beautiful stones are associated to jewels which represents the officers of the Eastern Star. The Star in the East is mentioned in the book of Matthew, contained within the pages of the Holy Bible upon the sacred altar.

Also, found in the fifth Chapter of Matthew, are the Beatitudes, which have been associated with the five heroines of our Order.

Angels of the South and North, you will present these members to the stations of the Star Points, the Angels of _____ Chapter, who will tell them their blessed words.

(Conductress and Associate Conductress go across East to Adah)

Conductress: Sister Adah, the Angel of the Word of God has instructed us to come to your station for the blessed words of the first Star Point Angel.

Adah: As the Angel of Fidelity, I bring you the blessed words of the Sixth Beatitude: *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

Worthy Matron: Sisters and Brothers, with music played by the Angel of Music, let us all sing as the Heavenly Choir of Angels, *I Will Be True.*

(Adah then steps back, picks up her emblem and stands beside her chair while all sing. After they

leave, she returns her emblem to the pedestal, and then is seated. The same goes for all Star Points. The Conductresses go to the next Star Point.)

Conductress: Sister Ruth, we await your blessed words.

Ruth: As the Angel of Constancy, I give the words of the third Beatitude: *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

Worthy Matron: Let the heavenly Choir of Angels now sing, *Bringing in the Sheaves.*

Conductress: Sister Esther, may we hear from you?

Esther: Yes, Angel of the South, as the Angel of Loyalty, I offer the words of the seventh Beatitude: *Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the Children of God.*

Worthy Matron: The Heavenly Choir of Angels will sing *Will There Be Any Stars in my Crown.*

Conductress: Sister Martha, we invite your words to these members.

Martha: I, as the Angel of Faith, saith unto you, the words of the second Beatitude: *Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*

Worthy Matron: *Faith of our Fathers* will be sung by the Heavenly Choir of Angels.

Conductress: Sister Electa, we would now like to hear from you, the fifth Star Point Angel of _____ Chapter.

Electa: I am the Angel of Love, and lastly bestow upon you, the eighth Beatitude from the Holy Bible, as requested by the Angel of the Word of God: *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Worthy Matron: *Onward Christian Soldiers* will be sung by the Heavenly Choir of Angels, after which these members, who have passed through The Angel Degree, will be presented to the heavenly East.

(Conductresses take them to the East.)

Worthy Matron: (stands and says) You are the first honored members to receive The Angel Degree in _____ Chapter. The Angel of the Word of God, our Chaplain, has outlined for you the inspiration for this degree, and has spoken about the Foundation Stones of the Eternal City.

So that you may always remember The Angel Degree, I would like to present each of you with your very own guardian angel pin to wear upon shoulders. One is set with a light green stone, the color of jasper, which is the first Foundation Stone. It is also the stone associated to the Worthy Matron. The other, a blue sapphire, is the second Foundation Stone, which is associated to the Worthy Patron. May these guardian angel pins always watch over you and guide you safely through your journey of life

Angels of the South and North, you will present these members to the Angel of Direction, our Marshal, after which you may escort them to their seats.

Marshal: (stands and says) In my warm Southeast spot in this chapter room of heaven, I have planted a garden for you to enjoy before you go out into the cold world again. My garden is a raised triangular shaped garden which is built with the Foundation Stones of the Angel Star Points blue sapphires, yellow topaz jewels, white diamonds, green emeralds, and red rubies. Within this garden wall there are violets, jasmine, lilies, ferns and roses. In the center of my garden, there are special flowers that will remind you of your Angel Degree. I have planted angelica and angel-wing begonias just for you. A bird of paradise sings here every day, and sips from a cherub fountain of pure water which also waters the colorful flowers in my sweet-smelling garden. I sometimes serve angel food cake and ambrosia for those who visit my garden of sweetness and flowers, and give them red roses of fraternal love.

Thank you for stopping by my Angel Garden, and a good night to you.

JOURNAL GUIDELINES

www.easternstar.org

The *Eastern Star Journal* is always looking for articles from Sisters and Brothers around the world. Please share with the rest of the OES what you, your Chapter and Jurisdiction are doing. Below are guidelines for submitting your articles.

Articles are received continuously
with no specific deadlines.

EASTERN STAR JOURNAL

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We, the *ESJ* Committee, and the entire readership of the *ESJ* look forward to hearing from you!

ARTICLES may be composed by any member of the Eastern Star and should be submitted to the Editor in the following manners:

1. Online is preferred: Submit article (.doc) and photo (.jpg) to esjeditor@comcast.net
2. Regular Ground Mail Service: mail to the above address to Nancy L. Ford, PGM, Editor.
Paper copy, **typed** to enable scanning of information.

PICTURES may be sent in the following manners

1. Digital photos are preferred. Pictures in electronic format (.jpg) submitted online in the highest quality available (minimum 400X400px); or
2. Hard copy photo with clarity sufficient for scanning. Please note that original pictures will not be returned.

All submissions (photos and articles) must have the following information included:

1. Author's Name and Title; Chapter Name, Number and Location.
2. Contact phone number (will not be printed with the article)
3. Title of Article*
4. Date of Event
5. Any notes for the Editor about the article or photo to assist the Editor in determining how to publish the article.
6. If the article has been published, provide name of publication/newspaper
7. Please verify spelling of names and titles

***PLEASE PROVIDE ARTICLE TITLE IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF THE EMAIL. Articles submitted via email will receive a receipt acknowledgment. Please check your mailbox for receipt email and review to ensure all information was submitted. Contact the Editor at esjeditor@comcast.net if a receipt acknowledgment is not received.**

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All articles submitted must be the work of the submitter and all quotations must be appropriately credited to the original author; otherwise it will not be published by the *Journal*.