

At dinner:

We'd like to thank and honor our Masons for all they do for their communities. A good example of the ways of a Mason is the words of a famous Mason of long ago, Benjamin Franklin, that exemplifies what it means to be a Mason. After Benjamin Franklin had received a letter thanking him for having done a kindness, he replied: *"As to the kindness you mentioned, I wish that I could been more of a service to you than I have been, but if I had, the only thanks that I should desire is that you would always be ready to serve any other person that may need your assistance, and so let good actions go around, for mankind are all of a family. I do not look upon myself as conferring favors but rather paying debts."*

So this dinner, this evening is to thank you for all you do for humanity and for the lessons that teach of us.

Let us pray:

"Good Evening to all. We are pleased to have you as our guests this evening as visitors to Miriam Chapter, Platteville, Order of the Eastern Star'. Our meetings are normally closed to nonmembers – but we want you to see how our meetings are normally conducted and hope you will consider joining us as members". In Eastern Star, the men are all Masons and the women are all related somehow to a Mason.

I am Elaine Engelke and this is Harold Beals. We are in what is known as the EAST. I am the leader of the chapter known as the Worthy Matron and Harold is second in command known as the Worthy Patron". **(let Harold say hi)**.

Gwyn Stith is our conductress. Sister Gwyn: please open the Bible informally **(NO sign**

"The Holy Bible is open and on the altar for every meeting. Gwyn is the conductress and Kathy Wolfe is our associate conductress. They are responsible for escorting guests, bringing in the flag and certain other duties. Mary Demo, is our organist and she plays for all marching around the chapter room, the National Anthem and for other songs. **point at Mary** who is playing softly. **Marv to altar**

"We have a prayer to open and close every meeting. The prayers are from the Eastern Star ritual **(hold book up)** which is used by all Eastern Star chapters throughout the world. Marv Engelke is our chaplain. Please stand and let us pray"

Please remain standing. We have a song, picked by the Worthy Matron and used for the entire year to open every meeting. Let us sing our opening ode":

God bless America

“I declare the meeting open (**rap**). Our Worthy Patron will now present the Flag of our Country in the way we always present it.”

Gavel to Harold. Red book Flag verse, pledge, National anthem.

Please be seated. Our doors are guarded by Brenda Post, the warder inside the room and Geneva Beals, the sentinel just outside because you have to be a member to attend a meeting”.

(door is open to Sentinel throughout meeting.

Most of our speaking is from our memorization of the ritual book. and is done the same way throughout the World. Eastern Star is the world’s largest organization to which men and women can belong. Harold Lattin, is our marshal and always has his ritual book open and prompts our memory work.

In the West are the Betty and Stuart Thompson our Associate Matron and Associate Patron who are the assistants to Harold and I and fill in if we are absent. We have one year terms in our offices and the West often advances to the East.

“At this point in our meeting we would introduce any important guests. Please stand when I call your name. (**introductions, Master, WGM, WGP, ?**)

Let us give our guests a hearty welcome” (**now clap**).

“Now we would normally have our business portion of the meeting, like minutes, correspondence, bills, treasurers report., upcoming chapter or statewide events. Doris Davis is our secretary and Grace Lattin is our Treasurer. Most of our business is handled between the East and the secretary and treasurer. All members vote on motions. Eastern Star, like the Masons, is in service to humanity. Along with many other charities, we annually support Cancer, Heart, Knight’s Templar Eye Foundation, Dousman Cheer and this year’s special Wisconsin charity is Hospice. Our chapter supports the Red Cross, Food Pantry, Family Advocates, Iraq soldiers, Meals on Wheels and the Senior Center, along with other charities.

You can see five ladies on the chapter room floor. They represent the five rays of our star. They are the heroines of our order and represent values we try to follow to make ourselves better people. They also represent our relationship to the Masonic fraternity.

Leona Hood is our Adah, representing the daughter. The Blue Ray of Adah symbolizes fidelity to a spoken vow and honoring our parents. Her story is in the book of Judges.

Nancy Murdock is our Ruth, representing the widow. The yellow ray of Ruth symbolizes constancy to what is right. Her story is in the book of Ruth.

XX is Esther, representing the wife. The white ray of Esther symbolizes loyalty to our relatives and friends and to what is right. Her story is in the book of Esther.

XX is Martha who represents the sister. The green ray of Martha symbolizes a trustful faith and hope of immortality. The story of Martha and the resurrection of her brother Lazarus is found in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Betty Howard is our Electa and represents the mother. The red ray of Electa symbolizes truth and love. The story of “the elect lady” who was persecuted for her faith is found in the second Epistle of John.

We exist to support our Masonic Brothers in service to humanity, to try and follow the virtues of our star points in order to improve our own lives, and to support our chapter members and our other Eastern Star sisters and brothers on the journey through life by cheerful companionship and social enjoyment.

We try to have fun at all our meeting and we often travel to other chapters for their fun events. We hope you will consider joining us.

On the back of your program is our meeting information, and some contact information for a petition to join our chapter.

We will now sing a closing ode. Let there be peace on earth.

“Our chaplain will lead us in a closing prayer and you may remain seated”. (**at his place** “let us pray”)

“I now declare the meeting closed”, **rap.**

“We normally have a sunshine march at every meeting for some special charity. Members donate whatever they wish, and get a piece of candy. In honor of Melody Lodge visiting tonight, \$25 is being donated to the lodge for any charitable purpose you wish.”

“Our meeting is complete for the evening and we thank you so much for attending.”

The program would include opening and closing songs. List of star points and the Bible references.