

Excelsior Echo



The Official Publication of the Excelsior Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, TN Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliate

Excelsior Echo
2016-17 Edition



**Grand Worthy
Matron**
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*

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Spread the News!



Send your
chapter
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photos to
the Grand
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for the
next edition.

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Matters of the Heart



As another year has come and gone, we can be certain we have reaped the benefit of blessings in multiples of 365! Grand Session is upon us, our time dedicated to fellowship, learning and growing together. As we reunite and give consideration to the State of our Beloved Order, this message is intended to address “matters of the heart.”



As we collectively endeavor to maintain peace and solemnity in our Order, we should first give attention to our state of heart which is at the core of all we do and say within and without the Chapter. With an atmosphere of peace, we can continue to grow, to recruit new members, retain many, and reclaim others to protect our legacy. When recalling our earliest experiences in the Order, we should never forget the first lesson learned, that of patience. That, alone, encourages patience with people (our sisters and brothers) and patience with situations, which should allow us to maintain a spirit of peace within our ranks. Keeping peace in our chapters can only be accomplished with prayer—no prayer, no peace. And, with no peace we **will not** progress.

Change is inevitable. Seemingly everyone wants there to be a “change” in the Order without putting forth reasonable effort to make such changes a reality. The desire for there to be a change in the Order can oftentimes seem overwhelming; but, at the core of what elicits change is a matter of the heart. This requires each individual member to “search your heart” to see what you can do to be a better member. And, with that same approach bear in mind that “change begins with me.” We must first reflect on how minor change within can result in major change without and throughout the Order.

With limited information about the Order being accessible to the public, the measure of the merit of the Order of the Eastern Star is greatly influenced by our actions. We must “lead by example,” remembering always that effective leadership comes from the spirit within. The initial impressions we make upon others will endure. New (and returning) members look to us as they seek knowledge and guidance in our Order; so it is important that we always “practice what we preach.”

As we continue our Christian walk and affiliation in this Order, we should remember always that we are connected not only in documented membership; but more importantly, we are connected in spirit, heart-to-heart. If we are “our Sister’s Keeper,” what hurts one of us, hurts all of us. With this heartfelt message in mind, we should go forth with a kinder spirit having more compassion for people in general, our members in particular and patience with one another.

Rubye B. Meeks

We "...Don't Grow Weary in Well Doing..."



Ruby Chapter 117 O.E.S. Jackson, TN. visited the campus of Youth Town Eden. This all girls campus is a Christ-centered facility for girls ages 12 to 17. We toured the campus

and donated items much needed items. Pictured are: Sis. Rosie Frierson, Sis. Zelma Comer, Sis. Murphytine Yarborough, Ms. Lekichia Franklin, Youth Town Therapist, Sis Mary Morton, Sis. Pearlie Davis.

Planting Seeds of Benevolence...with Our Sunbeams.



St. Mary's Sunbeam Chapter #40 served lunch to the resident and staff at the TN Baptist Children's Home in Franklin, TN December 2016. They also donate items from the wish list of the children.

Bright Ray and Golden Reef Spread Holiday Cheer with Tree Display



The 1st annual organizational Christmas tree display took place at the Alex Haley Museum, located in Henning, TN. Bright Ray #136 and Golden Reef #150 of Henning

both had community Christmas trees displayed. This event served as activity during the holiday season. The open house consisted of refreshments and a welcoming smile to all present by Santa Claus. Bright Ray and Golden Reef hope that considering the great time that the children and adults had alike the the event will continue Richard Griffin, President and Kaye Jordon, Event Coordinator applauded the aforementioned parties on there participation and being an asset to the community. They look forward to participating in this event in the future.

Brother Charles Pickett, Worshipful Master
Sister Darneasha C. Pickett, Worthy Matron

If You Could "Walk a Mile in Our Shoes..."



St. James Chapter #78 with the support of St. James Lodge #51, and Warfield Lodge #44 of Clarksville, Tennessee, blessed St. Bethlehem Elementary School with the gift of 35 shoes and socks, worth over \$750.00. What started as a simple conversation between the Guidance Counselor Ms. Debra Bucy and the Worthy Matron of St. James, Sister Katina Wade-George turned into an outreach project that has blessed a number of students at St. B.

After witnessing students whose school shoes were a pair of flip-flops during the Fall when the temperature was steadily dropping. The Chapter decided to donate 10 pair and the members started to make personal contributions. The men of St. James #51 and Warfield #44 were more than willing to come on board with the project. What began with a goal of 10 pair of shoes turned into 35 pair of shoes and socks and students who had warm feet for the first time during the school year.

Often time, we take for granted the bare necessities of life, we sometimes forget that there is a whole sector of individuals who yearn for life's bare essentials. The bible says: "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me." Let us be doers... not just hearers of the word!"





Excelsior Celebrates Our Proud Heritage



Bright Ray #136 had the opportunity to participate in the celebration of Alex Haley's life Presented by the Alex Haley Museum in Henning, TN. Escorted in by the brothers of Golden Reef #150 Henning, TN. Dr. Logan Hampton, President of Lane College in Jackson, TN shared encouraging words to teach OUR children their history. Members present of Bright Ray: Sis. Darneasha C. Pickett, WM, Sis. Eva Drain (District Deputy Grand Matron, District 9), Sis. Demetra Pickett, Sis. Willie Demoss, Sis. Minnie Flemming, Sis. Carrie Genesy, Not Pictured: Sis. Diane Cotton and Sis. Patricia Sanders Sis. Juanita Halfacre(Rising Star#131, District 9)

At the conclusion of the program Director Richard Griffin recognized five visiting sisters from the Memphis District being: Sis. Betty Cox, Sis. Patricia Elam, Sis. Essie Patterson, Sis. Sharon Franklin, District Deputy Grand Matron of Memphis, and Sis. Rubye B. Meeks, Grand Worthy Matron of Excelsior Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Tennessee Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliated.

Chattanooga Celebrates Seniority at Gems Event



The Chattanooga District OES Purple Gems was held on February 4th at Prince Hall Masonic Lodge at 12 noon. The following Sisters and Brothers were recognized. .South Chattanooga #6: Sis. Vera Moon, and Sis. Rosa Morgan; Ruth #44: Bro. John P. Franklin and Bro. Morris McKinney; Martha #77: Bro. James Baldwin and Bro. Richard Thurman; Lookout #144: Sis. Jesse Muse and Sis. Willie Gaines; White Lily #284; Sis. Tommie Boyd and Sis. Lillian Lewis





Tennessee Stands Proud



at Southeast Regional Conference in Nassau Bahamas



L to R: Sister Darneasha C. Pickett, Brother Cedric Bailey Sr., GWP, Sister Rubye B. Meeks, GWM, The Honorable Arvin W. Glass, MWGM, Sister Joyce Glass, Sister Eva N. Drain, PGWM

It Helps if a Worthy Matron Knows:

It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	Some history of the Order of the Eastern Star
It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	The Landmarks of the Order
It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	The importance of reviewing and studying rituals, the Constitution, Edits and Directives
It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	A brief synopsis of each Heroine
It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	Some history of Excelsior Grand Chapter.
It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	Excelsior Grand Chapter observes two “Must Days” Esther Day and Palm Sunday
It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	Chapter Returns are due twice yearly.
It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	A yearly Dispensation is required and is available at Grand Session or immediately following.
It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	Chapters are expected to meet often and instruction should be included in each meeting.
It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	The District O.E.S. Chapter is a non-chartered body that meets according to the by-laws.
It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	The District Matrons and Patrons Council is a non-chartered body that meets according to the by-laws.
It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	The importance of succession planning
It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	Effective communication is the key to success.
It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	At least one other Matron to share ideas with and call on for assistance from time to time.
It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	The Order of the Eastern Star is a wonderful volunteer organization to belong to.
It Helps if a Worthy Matron knows:	How important it is to “Embrace Enthusiasm!”