



**ORDER OF THE
EASTERN STAR**
BRITISH COLUMBIA
& YUKON CANADA 

Grand Chapter Newsletter

February 2024

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1927 →

Valentine Dance, Oak Bay Chapter No. 42, Order of the Eastern Star, February 12, at O.E.S. Hall, Redfern Street, Oak Bay. Fancy dress optional. Dancing, 8.30 to 12. Findler's orchestra. Refreshments. Admission 50c. ***

← I bet this was a great dance! And well worth the fifty cents for admission!

In 2023 the equivalent admission would be approximately \$8.50...still a fun night out! Fancy dress and refreshments with dancing to the music of an orchestra would have been so enjoyable. Who is Findler's Orchestra? Read on, dear friends.

Starting in June of 1920 Findler's Orchestra advertised that they were comprised of ex-service men who played many different community events in the Victoria area. J. H. W. Findler was a pianist and the orchestra was available for dances and concerts through November and December of 1920. In May of 1921 they played on board the Canadian Pacific Railway steamship Princess Adelaide. While some danced in the limited space, others joined in singing during the sailing from Port Angeles to Victoria.

Findler's Orchestra continued to play all through the early 1920s at masquerade balls, community halls and events. They played "up to date" music (jazz was mentioned) and tickets were typically \$1.50 each (\$25.00 today). There isn't much after 1936 in the papers.

Mr. John Henry William Findler died at age 60 on May 4, 1939 in Victoria. He was born in Burslem, N. Staffordshire, England and had been a resident of Victoria for 25 years. He passed in his home at 531 William Street. He was a member of Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1 AF and AM, and a Past Patron of Ruth Chapter No. 22 Saanichton. John was survived by his wife, Henrietta and one daughter Alice Findler, two sons, Kendrick Roy and John Norman. He's buried in Royal Oak Burial Park. His widow, Henrietta served Grand Chapter in 1936 as Grand Electa. She remarried (surname Austin) at age 60 and died at age 61. John and Henrietta's son, John Norman, was also a Mason and his wife, Alice was a member of the Daughters of the Nile, Miriam Temple No. 2 and she passed in 1996. Ken passed in 2001, his wife Mary passed in 1994 and daughter Alice Dickson passed in 1962.



← In the December 8, 1943 edition of the Vancouver Sun this ad shows diamond rings...

\$36.00 then = \$632.23 now
 \$50.00 then = \$878.09 now
 \$62.50 then = \$1097.62 now

Does your Valentine buy you something that sparkles? Or something sweet to eat? Happy Valentine's Day to you!

Few Funnies For You...

What does one cat say to the other cat on Valentine's Day?
 You're purr-fect!

Who always has a date for Valentine's Day?
 A calendar.

What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?
 I'm stuck on you!



The Number Three in the Order of the Eastern Star

In Freemasonry 3, 5 and 7 are important numbers. In our Order 3 and 5 are evident, however, 3 is the most predominant but you have to look for it. It's hidden in plain view. For instance, the Worthy Matron is installed in 3 stations before she is installed in the East.

In the Chapter room there is one step to the North and South, 2 to the West but 3 to the East. Star Point badges are a triangle, hence 3 sides, 3 points. Their passes are comprised of 3 words. Did you realize that 3 of these passes are questions? Three of our signs also symbolize 3. - Adah raises her veil 3 times, Esther's sign forms a triangle and Martha's sign is the triangle.

Our Salutation sign is a triangle. To ballot at the altar a triangle is formed as we march to and from the Altar. On our Signet there are 3 sections for each Star Point and as the Conductress points to these 3 sections she forms the triangle. This is just an example of how 3 is evident in our Order. There are more. Can you find them? Happy hunting!

~ Daphne Keith *(Thank you Sister Daphne! Looking for the other answers? I am!)*

RAFFLE WINNERS – the tickets sold in support of Acute Myeloid Leukemia were drawn on December 21st at Cariboo Chapter's meeting. Sister Alice Mathews, Worthy Grand Matron, drew the tickets. Congratulations to:

- 1st prize – Quilt – to Bill Lamb of Gallagher Lake
- 2nd prize – Bee Bundle – to Brother Terry Hallam
- 3rd prize – THIRTY-ONE Bags get away weekend – Kathy Cook of Quesnel



Greetings from Australia where I spent 6 weeks. I left Vancouver in the Fall and arrived in Sydney in the Spring. On December 1st it became Summer and when I arrived home on the 27th of December it was Winter.

I had the pleasure of attending Wollongong Chapter prior to Christmas. It was a visit from the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory along with their District Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. I visited there in 2019 and the same Worthy Matron was presiding and the Secretary was the same. I was honoured to bring greetings from Burrard, Ypres and Langley Chapters, from our Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron as well as Sister Bev Kreller, the Grand Representative of Australia. They send their greetings back to all of our members.



On December 28th I attended a birthday tea for Langley Chapter's 111 year old member, Sister Linda Yale. Linda is an amazing lady who has travelled the world - especially Europe. One time at the age of 100 years old she visited Europe with her daughter Linda. Linda visits two or three times a year coming from Ottawa to see her mom. The bouquet of tulips (see photo next page) is from her Chapter, the koala card and coaster are from me.

~ Sister Pat Haywood

An Australia Adventure

Pat and I left Vancouver on different flights at different times but were at the airport the same day. Sadly our flight was delayed out of Vancouver on November 13th due to a cyclone over Fiji and when we were finally able to depart we anticipated our landing in Fiji ten hours or so later. We thought our flight would be leaving shortly after our arrival in Fiji to Brisbane but sadly we were wrong. Our flight was delayed out of Vancouver so we were now cancelled on the flight out of Fiji...we had an unexpected layover of 18 hours in Fiji. The people are so very friendly. Kids on bicycles, young adults playing soccer and people walking on the street waving and yelling "BULA!" to us. The food was good and the beer was cold!! We finally arrived in Yamba for our son's wedding with just one day to spare. Talk about cutting it close! The weather was lovely that weekend but then, typical "Bouchards on vacation" weather kicked in and it rained. Due to the delay in arriving, our tourist time was sadly shorter than originally planned. We did see kangaroos and koalas and dolphins in the bay and in rivers...it was truly wonderful. We would move there in a heartbeat - we did find our little paradise but of course, unless we win the lottery and our children move there permanently we won't be doing that. It was a good, albeit fast, trip and we are so glad we went. The bride was beautiful, the groom made us truly proud and our eight month old grandson was the attention getter! We had three days in Fiji on the way home and enjoyed that destination immensely. If you want to go to Australia, I strongly recommend you plan to go for longer than two weeks because you may be there for only eight days! And stop in Fiji – it's heaven on earth!

~ Sister Dana Bouchard

HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER – 2024 "It's in the Stars"

The Grand Chapters of Alberta, British Columbia & Yukon, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington will meet for the annual Hands Across the Border exchange on May 4, 2024 in Post Falls Idaho. If you'd like more information, please contact your Chapter Secretary.

OUR MEMBERS



← Happy happy (belated) 111th birthday to you, Sister Linda Yale, on December 28th!



← Presented with her 60 year pin, this is Sister Rita Bos. Thank you for your dedication to our Order, Sister Rita!



← Sister Joan Robertson of Crescent Chapter received her 50 year pin a few months back. Thank you for being a dedicated member of our Order, Sister Joan!

Sister Donna Rohr → was presented with a Grand Representative of Colorado commission. Congratulations!!



← Brother Everett Pierce, PGP received his 60 year a few months ago. Congratulations on reaching this milestone, Brother Everett!



WHERE WILL YOU GO?

Congratulations to our newest Grand Representatives!

- Australia – Pat Follett, Kelowna
- Colorado – Donna Rohr, Mizpah
- Indiana – Terri Nicholson, Lansdowne
- Italy – Jacquie Hancock, Sharon
- Louisiana – Dorothy Churchill, Sharon
- Massachusetts – Gwen Sturn, Langley
- Montana – Sandra Bateman, Mizpah
- Rhode Island – Jackie Fleming, Ypres
- South Dakota – Trudy Tener, Langley



December, members from Langley Chapter (above) celebrated a few times over! Sister Barb Suek and Sister Leona Paxton each received their 50 year pin. Congratulations Sisters, Golden Stars!! Sister Carolyn Grant was beaming with pride as her handsome brother, Brother Norm Demer, was just installed as Worthy Patron of Langley Chapter. Congratulations one and all!

In Loving Memory



- ★ *Sister Jean Dodimead, Crescent Chapter No. 10 – passed September 8, 2023*
 - ★ *Sister Amber Bjorkson, Edina Chapter No. 33 – passed December 2, 2023*
 - ★ *Sister Mary Haines, Chas Maria Chapter No. 76 – passed December 9, 2023*
 - ★ *Sister Brenda Erickson, Lansdowne Chapter No. 72 – passed December 10, 2023*
 - ★ *Sister Pat Barkley, Fraser Chapter No. 30 – passed December 10, 2023*
 - ★ *Sister Win Langham, Kelowna Chapter No. 62 – passed December 20, 2023*
 - ★ *Sister Maisie Minchin, Nechako Chapter No. 40 – passed January 10, 2024*
 - ★ *Sister Pauline Williams, Sharon Chapter No. 4 – passed January 10, 2024*
 - ★ *Sister Roberta Richards, Jubilee Chapter No. 64 – passed January 18, 2024*
 - ★ *Sister Jen Moberg, Jubilee Chapter No. 64 – passed January 19, 2024*
 - ★ *Sister Bertha Ellen Newell, Edina Chapter No. 33 – passed October 6, 2023*
 - ★ *Sister Betty MacPherson, Crescent Chapter No. 10 – passed recently (date unknown)*
- Our condolences to the family, friends, Chapters, Sisters and Brothers of these departed members.*

Please visit the memorial page on our Grand Chapter website.



General Grand Chapter 51st Triennial Assembly 2024

This session will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina from October 24th to November 1st, 2024. Sister Glenda Winchester was present for the Grand Chapter Session in Kamloops and what a sweetheart she is! It would be great to see her in action as Most Worthy Grand Matron!!

Main page - <https://easternstar.org/triennial-assembly-2024/>

Housing - <https://easternstar.org/triennial-assembly-2024/triennial-assembly-2024-housing/>

Registration - <https://easternstar.org/triennial-assembly-2024/triennial-assembly-2024-registration/triennial-assembly-2024-registration-english/>

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What would you like to see in the next edition of the newsletter?



The newsletter will always be better with your suggestions and submissions!

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OES Zoom Education

4th Session Tuesday, February 27th @ 7:00 pm, waiting room opens at 6:30

Presenter is Sister Denise Brownlee on Symbolism.

A link to join the Zoom sessions will be sent a few days in advance by email.

POINTS TO PONDER 1:

- ✿ I don't suffer from insanity – I enjoy every minute of it!
- ✿ The road to success is always under construction!!!
- ✿ I had an hourglass figure but, unfortunately, the sand shifted.
- ✿ If a turtle doesn't have a shell is he homeless or naked?
- ✿ Can vegetarians eat Animal Crackers?
- ✿ What was the best thing before sliced bread?

From the Worthy Grand Matron...



Awesome to learn about the number three, here is the next number! The number five is very symbolic to our Order. There are five letters in the cabalistic word, five words in the cabalistic motto, five words in our prayer responses, five sides to the altar, five raps at the door, five degrees in our initiation, five duties in the charge of the conductress, the secretary, and the Worthy Matron!

I read this out when I was Worthy Matron and added, "In five minutes we're outta here!" Everyone had a good chuckle. Happy Valentine's Day, Sisters and Brothers.

~ Sister Alice Mathews, WGM

From the Worthy Grand Patron...



Hello everyone, time is flying, January is wrapped up, and we will see what the next month has to say for itself. Take it, or leave it, is the word I hear!

Because of last month's story about the holly, I am compelled to tell my holly story. Being that I have traveled for years to friends and relations in the lower mainland, I always admired the holly that bloomed and gave fruit to those lovely red berries. So I dug a small shrub and brought it to the Peace Country. There it grew in a pot, brought in lovingly every fall to wait the winter out in our nice warm garage.



Bloom, it did, sometimes twice a year, but no berries. So, another holly was delivered to the farm as a prospective mate for holly number one. The story was, that holly needs male and female plants in order for it to berry. Both were watched with baited breath to see if the resulting cohabitation would bring forth fruit. My dear wife, Joan, watered two large plants every winter, dodging their pokes and prods, then moving them to the deck to enjoy their prominence during the summer. The larger one has been ushered to the living room as our Christmas tree, complete with decorations and lights. Both plants cheerfully bloom, dropping their petals wherever they are at, but, alas, not one sign of a berry. After consulting with many experts, online, and otherwise, no remedy has been found for these sterile trees. I say, that a third tree should be ordered, with a 50/50 chance that it could be the fertile mate for number one or maybe number two tree. Joan, however, has vetoed the idea, I am not sure why, so I guess I will have to be satisfied by the artificial berries she puts on them. Looking towards a fruitful spring, and hope everyone stays well, happy and involved.

~ Larry Holthe, WGP

POINTS TO PONDER 2:

- ❄ It is an illusion to think that more comfort means more happiness. Happiness comes of the capacity to feel deeply, to enjoy simply, to think freely, to be needed. True happiness may be sought, thought, or caught - but never bought!
- ❄ Why is the third hand on a watch called the second hand?
- ❄ Why does slow down and slow up mean the same thing?
- ❄ Why does fat chance and slim chance mean the same thing?
- ❄ I get up every morning determined both to change the world and to have one helluva good time. Sometimes this makes planning the day difficult.

The Story of St. Valentine

"The story of Valentine's Day begins in the third Century with an oppressive Roman Emperor and a humble Christian Martyr. The emperor was Claudius II. The Christian was Valentinus.

Claudius had ordered all Romans to worship twelve Gods, and had made it a crime punishable by death to associate with Christians. But Valentinus was dedicated to the ideals of Christ; not even the threat of death could keep him from practicing his beliefs. He was arrested and imprisoned.

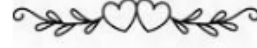
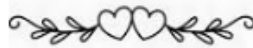
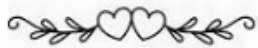
During the last weeks of Valentinus's life a remarkable thing happened. Seeing that he was a man of learning, the jailer asked whether his daughter, Julia, might be brought to Valentinus for lessons. She had been blind since birth. Julia was a pretty young girl with a quick mind. Valentinus read stories of Rome's history to her. He described the world of nature to her. He taught her arithmetic and told her about God. She saw the world through his eyes, trusted his wisdom, and found comfort in his quiet strength.

"Valentinus, does God really hear our prayers?" Julia asked one day. "Yes, my child, He hears each one." "Do you know what I pray for every morning and every night? I pray that I might see. I want so much to see everything you've told me about!" "God does what is best for us if we will only believe in Him," Valentinus said. "Oh, Valentinus, I do believe! I do!" She knelt and grasped his hand. They sat quietly together, each praying. Suddenly there was a brilliant light in the prison cell. Radiant, Julia screamed, "Valentinus, I can see! I can see!" "Praise be to God!" Valentinus exclaimed, and he knelt in prayer.

On the eve of his death Valentinus wrote a last note to Julia, urging her to stay close to God. He signed it, "From your Valentine." His sentence was carried out the next day, February 14, 270 A.D., near a gate that was later named Porta Valentini in his memory.

He was buried at what is now the Church of Praxedes in Rome. It is said that Julia planted a pink-blossomed almond tree near his grave. Today, the almond tree remains a symbol of abiding love and friendship.

On each February 14th Saint Valentine's Day, messages of affection, love, and devotion are exchanged around the world."



Pink Flowering Almond Shrub/Tree – one of the prettiest flowering branches I've ever seen (it grows in Quesnel!!) the flowering almonds will bloom most abundantly when it's planted where it will get six or more hours of sun each day. It will do well in partial shade as long as it gets four hours a day of direct sunlight. They are attractive when planted in shrub borders or as informal hedges, specimen plants, or accent plants.

Charity – *The perfect gift is to give yourself; to have your heart go out in sympathetic kindness to every human being. Charity stored away in the heart sweetens all the daily acts of life. May you always be blessed with an understanding heart and be filled with the spirit of charity.*

The next edition will be out early April. Please email any submissions to Dana at cariboostar@gmail.com