

BC&Y Grand Chapter Newsletter



October 2025

Official Visits

The fall season is upon us and there have been many Official Visits completed in the lower mainland and on the island. All will be done by October 17th. Well done, Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, Grand Lecturer and all those who travelled the Star Trail with them.

FUTURE EVENTS *Please refer to the Grand Chapter Website for further information and additional events*

2026	January 31 st	Nechako Chapter No. 40 – 100 th Gala Event
	February 15 th	Big Chill – Nanaimo
	May 25 th – 27 th	Grand Chapter - Nanaimo



2025 Fraternal Golf Tournament – *it would appear that the fraternal golf tournament was successful and a good time was had by all the golfing participants (there were nine teams) and by the volunteers as well. While the official report is not yet out, we congratulate all involved on a job very well done, especially Sister Arlene Johnston and her committee, who worked so very hard to make this happen.*

Resources

BC&Y Grand Chapter website – <https://bcgrandchapter.com/>

** our website is going to receive a bit of a face lift in the coming weeks **

Alberta Grand Chapter website – <https://easternstar-ab.ca/>

General Grand Chapter – <https://easternstar.org/>

Eastern Star Journal – <https://easternstar.org/for-members/journal/>

The next newsletter can be expected early December. Please send your submissions to Dana at cariboostar@gmail.com no later than November 25th, please.





In Memoriam

With love and many good memories we acknowledge the passing of the following members. Our condolences to family, friends and respective Chapters.

<i>Sister Gwen Olson</i>	<i>Queen City Chapter No. 5</i>	<i>Passed February 1, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Joyce Rathwell</i>	<i>Burrard Chapter No. 3</i>	<i>Passed April 25, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Amy Nicks</i>	<i>Ypres Chapter No. 48</i>	<i>Passed May 11, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Eileen Clark</i>	<i>Jubilee Chapter No. 64</i>	<i>Passed May 16, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Beverley Jarvis</i>	<i>Queen City Chapter No. 5</i>	<i>Passed May 19, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Patricia Krell</i>	<i>Jubilee Chapter No. 64</i>	<i>Passed May 22, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Beverley Shehovac</i>	<i>Lansdowne Chapter No. 72</i>	<i>Passed May 23, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Nancy Murphy</i>	<i>Jubilee Chapter No. 64</i>	<i>Passed May 31, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Helen Duggan</i>	<i>Arbutus Chapter No. 68</i>	<i>Passed June 10, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Lenore Christensen</i>	<i>Langley Chapter No. 50</i>	<i>Passed June 16, 2025</i>
<i>Brother Dennis Yoshioka</i>	<i>Langley Chapter No. 50</i>	<i>Passed June 16, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Louise McDonald</i>	<i>Sunset Chapter No. 44</i>	<i>Passed June 19, 2025</i>
<i>Brother Dan Tyrell</i>	<i>Sunset Chapter No. 44</i>	<i>Passed June 21, 2025</i>
<i>Brother William Guttridge</i>	<i>Edina Chapter No. 33</i>	<i>Passed June 25, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Beverley Butler</i>	<i>Arbutus Chapter No. 68</i>	<i>Passed July 3, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Mary Forsyth</i>	<i>Edina Chapter No. 33</i>	<i>Passed July 14, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Helen Davie</i>	<i>Electa Chapter No. 20</i>	<i>Passed July 18, 2025</i>
<i>Sister M. Mary White</i>	<i>Ypres Chapter No. 48</i>	<i>Passed July 22, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Eleanor Pollon</i>	<i>Florence Chapter No. 53</i>	<i>Passed July 31, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Alice Woods</i>	<i>Burrard Chapter No. 3</i>	<i>Passed August 12, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Elizabeth Hopper</i>	<i>Queen City Chapter No. 5</i>	<i>Passed August 14, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Joan Guild</i>	<i>Similkameen Chapter No. 78</i>	<i>Passed August 17, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Muriel MacKenzie</i>	<i>Lansdowne Chapter No. 72</i>	<i>Passed August 20, 2025</i>
<i>Brother David Kerridge</i>	<i>Sunset Chapter No. 44</i>	<i>Passed August 25, 2025</i>
<i>Sister Pamela Mayne</i>	<i>Lansdowne Chapter No. 72</i>	<i>Passed August 25, 2025</i>
<i>Brother Clynton Pringle</i>	<i>Crescent Chapter No. 10</i>	<i>Passed September 9, 2025</i>

Please note: The names of our departed Sisters and Brothers are included in the newsletter when official word is received from the Grand Secretary and/or the Grand Chaplain.

A moment in time – the owner of a jewel

One day while perusing ebay I came across a past matron's jewel for sale at a price of more than \$900.00. There was a photo of the engraving on the pin – Mattie Stevenson, WM 1947-48 and Fidelis Chapter No. 99, North Bay, Ontario – which then peaked my curiosity and sparked me to research this Sister and her journey to the East.

Sister Mattie was installed as Adah in 1943, Conductress in November 1945, Associate Matron 1946 – 1947 and finally Worthy Matron in 1947 – 1948. Mattie was installed as Worthy Matron at an impressive candlelight ceremony in the Crystal Ballroom on Wednesday, November 18, 1947. Following the impressive installation Mattie was presented with a wrist watch from her husband and family. It would appear that Mattie had a wonderful and busy year as Worthy Matron. In 1948, this Past Matron's Jewel was presented to her by Mrs. F. J. B. Gunn, Past District

Deputy Grand Matron.

Mattie's husband, John Holmes, called Jack, died in 1963 after a lengthy illness and Mattie passed at 91 years of age in 1992. They are buried in Terrace Lawn Cemetery in North Bay, Ontario. Jack and Mattie had two children.

Fidelis Chapter No. 99 celebrated their 50th anniversary in May 1974 with a formal dinner. There were 202 members in attendance including fourteen Grand Chapter Officers.

I really hope her pin finds a good home.





One hundred years ago, in 1925, there was an article in the Province newspaper with pointers for a successful Halloween Party:

- ✦ Guests must be disguised in some way at least for the first part of the entertainment
- ✦ Entertainment is a constant succession of frivolous games and mirthmaking stunts
- ✦ Only invite people who can forget their dignity and enter into the spirit of the occasion
- ✦ Decorate with corn stalks and black cats, both are so effective that they cannot be improved upon.
- ✦ An ideal place would be an empty garage or barn but if neither are available remove as much of the furniture in the house
- ✦ Bobbing for apples and fortune telling are always good fun but to provide a little variation each year is the duty of a successful hostess.
- ✦ Relay races will entertain a fairly large crowd. Appoint two leaders and divide the company into two sides. In an apple race the leader pares an apple, the second person in the line cuts it in half, the third quarters it and the fourth cuts off the core, the fifth eats it, etc. The side finishing first receives the prize.
- ✦ Pushing apples from one side of the room to the other with the nose can be made into an interesting relay race.
- ✦ For individual stunts, hang a doughnut on a string in a doorway and let a guest try to eat it without touching it with his hands.
- ✦ Refreshments – nothing is more appropriate than doughnuts and cider, unless it is pumpkin pie and coffee and apples. Recipes are included → → → → →



Doughnuts.

One cup sugar.
 One-quarter cup crisco.
 Two eggs.
 One cup milk.
 Four teaspoonfuls baking powder.
 One teaspoonful salt.
 One-quarter teaspoonful cinnamon.
 One-quarter teaspoonful nutmeg.
 Five-six cups flour.

Cream crisco with half the sugar. Beat eggs with other half. Combine the two mixtures. Stir in milk alternately with sifted flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg. Roll out a portion at a time on a well-floured board, shape with a doughnut cutter and fry in deep crisco, heated to 380-390 degrees or until it browns a cube of bread in sixty seconds. Drain on paper, sugar when cool.

Pumpkin Pie.

Line the plate with pastry, building up the edges.

Filling:

Two eggs.

One teaspoonful cinnamon.

One and a half cupfuls strained pumpkin.

Three-quarter cupful brown sugar.

One-half teaspoonful salt.

One and a half cupfuls milk.

One-half teaspoonful ginger.

Mix sugar, ginger, cinnamon and salt together, then add pumpkin and mix thoroughly. Add eggs beaten light, then the milk. Fill the lined pie plate. Put into hot oven 400 degrees. After fifteen minutes, reduce heat to 320 degrees. Bake until set about one hour.

Pie Crust.

Three cupfuls flour.

Two teaspoonfuls salt.

Three-quarter cupful crisco.

Water.

Sift flour and salt. Work in crisco with fingertips until finely divided. Stir in gradually just enough water to hold the dry ingredients together. Divide dough into two parts. Place on a slightly floured board and roll lightly with a floured rolling pin to a thin sheet large enough to fit a pie tin.



...getting to know you, getting to know all about you!

Associate Grand Matron – Sister Flo Evans

*"To be all that is possible we must attempt the impossible
To be all that we can be, we must dream of being more."*

Those words reminded me of the journey that saw me take a leap of faith and determination to follow a dream and become a Ballroom Teacher/Dancer with Arthur Murray's Dance Studio in Edmonton, Alberta. With long hours of practice and reading manuals I succeeded in becoming a Teacher/Dancer in the dance industry. The joy of accomplishment I received from my students as they progressed in their journeys taught me that working together we could accomplish great things.

I look at my journey with Eastern Star as one of working together, finding the joy and wonder of each other as we continue on our journey in our wonderful Order. One needs to continue to look forward, to keep what needs to be kept, to learn new things and to be willing to grow alongside one another.

And yes, sometimes to follow a dream and be willing to be open to the impossible and dream of being more.

Associate Grand Patron – Brother Brian Evans

My journey in life started in Kindersley, Saskatchewan in April. That year spring came late; there were still six foot snow drifts in early April. My first vocation was to be a municipal administrator, after sixteen years it was time to fulfill my first "calling", ordained ministry. Being the youngest of three boys on the farm my responsibilities were directed to the kitchen. It was here I developed my love for cooking/baking under the encouragement and direction of my mother at the age of 10 years.

What you may not know about me...I attended a meeting of the Masonic Lodge in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan when John Diefenbaker received his 50 year jewel. It was an honour to be introduced to him and shake his hand. My second honour in life was to be present when Prince Charles (now King Charles III) and Prince William visited Saskatoon. Our daughter, Katherine, and I had the honour to have a conversation with him in a "walk about."

After 40 years in ordained ministry I am now retired, but do clergy ever truly retire?

Grand Marshal - Fran Pirie

I have been a member of Eastern Star for over 30 years. My husband became a Mason when we lived in Mackenzie, north of Prince George. As a result a dear friend, Sister Mildred Laurie, and Past Matron, encouraged me to become a member of Eastern Star when we moved to Duncan on Vancouver Island.

I have been Worthy Matron twice (Trincomali Chapter No. 93 and Sunset Chapter No. 44), and a Grand Representative of Arkansas. I have been an officer most years and have usually been a Star point (Adah, Ruth or Electa) and most recently Martha. Last year I was able to fill in as Esther for the first time for an Initiation and this year I am filling the position of Chaplain for the first time.

My husband and I have a cabin near Ucluelet on Vancouver Island and enjoy spending most of the summer there going fishing. It was always fun taking our grandchildren there for part of the summer and our daughter always enjoys joining us to go fishing.

Grand Chaplain – Marlene Storrie

*Married to Dave for 56 years so far, grew up in North Burnaby, moved to Campbell River in 1972, 4 children and 10 grandchildren.
(Marlene is not one for many words...)*



From the Worthy Grand Matron & Worthy Grand Patron

Sisters and Brothers,

May this Thanksgiving be one of peace, joy and family however they came to be in your life. Reach out to those who may be alone and offer kindness and care. Take a moment to show gratitude for the many blessings that we enjoy in our jurisdiction, our communities, and our relationships. Call someone who may be alone and let them know that you are thinking of them. As you enjoy your wonderful Thanksgiving meal, be grateful for it and think of those who do not have the same.

The Worthy Grand Patron and I, while finishing with our Official Visits, are most humbled by our membership and are so very grateful for your encouragement and support. Thanks for the travels, the late night chats and of course the food. So much food! You all make the world a better place just by being in it. May your thanksgiving be full and laughter, leftovers and love.

And finally, on a lighter note...

**Why did the turkey join a band?
Because it had drumsticks.**

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday weekend!

Vast oceans of love to you all,

*Cheryl Rikley
Worthy Grand Matron*

*Terry Porter
Worthy Grand Patron*



Thanksgiving

(an old rhyme)

*The year has turned its circle
The seasons come and go
The harvest all is gathered in
And chilly north winds blow.
Orchards have shared their treasures
The fields, their yellow grain
So open wide the doorway
Thanksgiving comes again!*

Age is only a number...

Does that old adage work for Eastern Star Chapters as well?

I am often referring to Nelda's book, the Centennial Book she compiled for the Grand Chapter of BC and Yukon in celebration of 100 years in 2011. The names of our past Worthy Grand Matrons, Worthy Grand Patrons and their Grand Officers are printed. Some names I know, some I don't. It's a valuable source of information and I am pleased to have been gifted a copy, signed by the author, one of my most favourite Stars, Sister Nelda Witt, Past Grand Matron. I love you, Nelda.

In there is list of Chapters, their name, their number, the date they were Under Dispensation and the date they were Constituted and sadly, the last column is the date they closed, either the Charter was surrendered, arrested or merged/consolidated. It is sad to see so many Chapters closed, their name only a memory, some WAY before my time, but I know that that Chapter meant so much to so many members at one time. Triumph Chapter and Mount Elphinstone Chapter was where my grandparents, Herb and Maggie Hartley, called home; I was in both of those Chapters as a teenager, working of course, serving tea and washing dishes. And of course, I fondly remember Foster Chapter, my Mother Chapter, where I was initiated almost 40 years ago by my dearest Momma P. I love you, Polly.

For the past twenty years I am so very fortunate to share my love of our beautiful Order with my very own Mom, Alice Mathews, Past Grand Matron. She was initiated in Similkameen Chapter 20 years ago with a surprise visit by those who would end up being a part of her initiation – her mom, my grandmother, Ken and Joyce Kerpan, Jack and May Cook, Doug and Pat Follett, and she went further than I'll ever go, all the way to the Grand East. I'm so very proud of my Mom...I love you very much, Alice!!

Recently, many Chapters have been celebrating their 100th anniversary and looking ahead there's more celebrating to be had. It's a huge milestone to reach. Congratulations to you and your Chapter.

My Chapter, Cariboo Chapter No 71 in Quesnel will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in October 2026, and I am truly proud to be a member of this little Chapter. To our members – I thank you for your dedication and service: Del & Lorraine Cyr, Muriel Hong, Bonnie Watson, Honey Affleck, Mark & Annica Heinzelman, Keith & Lesli Hildebrand, Signe Nielsen, Lynn Schwehr, Jan Rivers, Sandra Dingwall, Alice Mathews, Lee Abra, Sandi Simmons, Frank & Donelda Nelson, Linda Stevenson, Darlene Meyers, Hope Humm, Judy Schinkel, Judy Kowaski, Benda Bare, MaryAnn Ransome, Aleta Wallace, Bryan Rodger, April Schmeisser, Jeanette Thurston, Tara Arrowsmith, Bryan & Sharon Brooks, Stan Cook, Beth Johnston, Selma-Jo Richards, Elaine Brownmiller. Look how far we've made it, and without those who have gone before us, those who made our golden chain stronger, we simply wouldn't be.

As Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Alice Mathews gave talks at the end of an Official Visit, messages of positivity and one of my favourites is as follows: "...I would suggest you take time, pause and reflect, we have so much for which to be thankful. We live in the True North, strong and free, full of faith, hope and charity. Be happy. Be kind. Be thankful. Keep smiling and remember to love one another."

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'Twas the night of Thanksgiving but I just couldn't sleep, I tried counting backwards, I tried counting sheep. The leftovers beckoned, the dark meat and white, but I fought the temptation with all of my might. Tossing and turning with anticipation, the thought of a snack became infatuation. So I raced to the kitchen, flung open the door, and gazed at the fridge full of goodies galore. Gobbled up turkey and buttered potatoes, pickles and carrots, beans and tomatoes. I felt myself swelling so plump and so round, 'til all of a sudden I rose off the ground. I crashed through the ceiling floating into the sky, with mouth full of pudding and a handful of pie, but I managed to yell as I soared past the trees, "Happy Eating to all, pass the cranberries please!"

May your stuffing be tasty, may your turkey be plump, may your potatoes and gravy have nary a lump. May your yams be delicious, may your pies take the prize, may your Thanksgiving dinner stay off of your thighs. HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!





THANKSGIVING WORD SEARCH

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ACORN

APPLE CIDER

BISCUITS

BONFIRE

COLONY

CORNUCOPIA

FEAST

GOBBLE

GRATITUDE

HAYRIDE

HOLIDAY

MAYFLOWER

SMORES

THANKS

TRADITION