



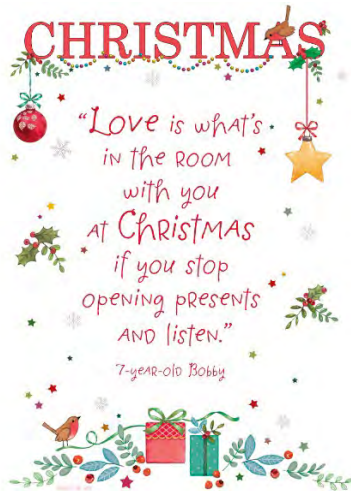
## The Star Gazer

Year 10, Volume 3

Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan, Order of the Eastern Star

December 2023

### FROM THE EDITORS



Star Love, Marianne and Jean

of working together to share and solve problems and to achieve many things. Although we are unable to measure whether our fraternal organization is now kinder at the end of the pandemic, we hopefully can see many examples of kindness in our Eastern Star lives.

Initiatives such as World Kindness Day, marked each year on November 13<sup>th</sup>, helps us to recognize our humanity and the power of spreading kindness.

However, when we hear about stories of intolerance and hatred, we are reminded that there still is more work to do in spreading kindness to others.

What can we do to spread kindness to others in our everyday Eastern Star lives?

Spreading kindness starts with positive actions. Small gestures of kindness can have a ripple effect to develop empathy and unite people. And the best thing of all is that.... kindness is free! Even if you feel you have nothing to give, we all have the power to make someone happy. Here are just a few examples of kindness....

### FROM THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON AND WORTHY GRAND PATRON

Below is the talk that Sister Donna, Worthy Grand Matron, gave at Prince Albert #16's Official Visit.

#### The Power of Spreading Kindness

*"Kindness is like snow –  
It beautifies everything it covers."*  
Kahlil Gibran

The recent COVID Pandemic has given many of us a chance to reflect on our Eastern Star life and how we engage with other Eastern Star members. Hearing about how our Eastern Star members came together to support each other and spread kindness brought all our Star members an enormous sense of belonging and emotional reward.

But aren't we, as Eastern Star members, naturally inclined to being kind?

As Eastern Star members, we depend on each other for support and understanding. We recognize the benefits

**Offer to Help or Volunteer...** whether it's helping another Star member or volunteering at a local community organization, giving time to support others can make a big difference. When we feel useful, we feel content. By helping other Star members with acts of kindness, we feel a sense of purpose. This, in turn, has a positive impact on all our Star members' mental and emotional wellbeing.

**Say "thank you"** to show gratitude is one example of kindness to other Star members. You can say it directly to someone or send a letter. Or perhaps, create a new routine of saying or writing your gratitude or thanks to other Star members.

**Spreading Kindness with a Smile...** a simple smile can go a long way. You may be the sunshine in another Star member's day without even realizing it. The beauty of a smile is that you are likely to get one in

return. *Life is like an echo you get back what you give out.*

*“A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.”*  
William Arthur Ward.

**Listening...**The importance of listening cannot be underestimated as an act of kindness. Give your attention to other Star members when we are present for other Star members, it shows them empathy and respect.

**Be Inclusive...**try to include all new and old Star members into your conversations or Circles. Some members may find social situations difficult so being welcomed by other Star members can make a huge difference to them. You could be the Star member that makes another member believe in the kindness of Eastern Star.

*“Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.”*  
Dalai Lama

**Donate or Raise Funds for Charities...**whether it's donating to or volunteering to fundraise for a local charity, there are so many ways to show kindness. Organizing charitable fundraising events not only supports good causes but also brings Star members together through their shared values.

**Show Kindness to those who Seem to be Against You...**

*“Kindness begins with the understanding that we all struggle.”*  
Charles Glassman

When we focus on others rather than ourselves, kindness can bring about a positive mental state for all. We can show kindness to those who seem critical or unkind towards us. Usually, people who react negatively do so because of their own fears or insecurities. Try to understand the cause of their fear or insecurity by showing kindness and compassion instead of intolerance and hatred.

**And Lastly, Spread Kindness to Yourself!!!**

*“When we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves.”*  
William Arthur Ward.

Are you being as kind to yourself as you would be to others?

While this may not appear selfless, being kind to yourself will allow you to show more love to those around you. Practicing self-reflection can help Star Members to identify ways to be kinder to themselves, making it possible to be our best self for all other Star Members.

Making a conscious effort to complain less about things and show more gratitude for everything you have in your Star life, will then change your perspective, and allow you to show more kindness to other Star Members.

*“Ask yourself: Have I been kind today? Make kindness your approach to life and change your world.”*  
Annie Lennox

Spreading Kindness is a strength that has the power to change all Star members' lives for the better. It can have a healing effect and improve our wellbeing, as well as enrich our Star lives and our connections to other Star members.

Recently, have you been surprised by a random act of kindness by another Star member towards you or, more importantly, have you spread kindness to other Star members?

Donna Rederburg, Worthy Grand Matron



*December 2023*

*The Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron and Grand Family send Christmas Greetings to Spread the Kindnesses of the Season...*

*Christmas is forever, not for  
just one day, for loving, sharing,  
giving are not to put away  
like bells and lights and tinsel,  
in some box upon a shelf.  
The good you do for others  
is good you do yourself.*

*Peace on Earth, good will to men,  
Kind thoughts and words of cheer,  
are things we should use often,  
and not just once a year.*

*With every best wish to you this Christmas Season and all the best  
in 2024,*

*Star Friendship,*

*Donna Rederburg  
Worthy Grand Matron*

*George Frederick  
Worthy Grand Patron*

*& Grand Family  
Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan*



## IN MEMORY OF BROTHER GORDON YARDE, PAST GRAND PATRON



Dear Brothers and Sisters: Brother Erskine Sandiford, PP of Regina #7 sent this article about Brother Gordon which he found on-line. I am sharing it with the rest of our Star Family.

Residents of the Battlefords are remembering the civic contributions of former Battleford town councillor the Reverend Gordon Yarde.

Yarde passed away on August 20 at the age of 85. The news of Yarde's death was confirmed at town council on August 21 by Mayor Ames Leslie. A memorial service was scheduled on August 31 at 1 pm. at St. George's Anglican Church.

Yarde was a longtime Battleford resident who served on town council for 26 years, serving three separate stints from 1985-91, 1994-2006, and 2012-2020. He was also very active in a number of community organizations including the Kiwanis Club and the Masonic Lodge, among others.

He was born in Barbados in 1938 and later moved to England to work in the transit system, but it was soon after that he decided to seek a career as a psychiatric nurse. After training and working in that role for years, Yarde moved to Canada in 1974 and in 1977 he moved to Battleford and became a psychiatric nurse at Saskatchewan Hospital.

Outside of work, Yarde has competed in bodybuilding competitions over the years, returning to it in the 1990s when he was working with the young offenders program as a way to motivate them to get involved.

Yarde has also participated actively in singing, involved in several choirs including in his church. A man of faith, Yarde was heavily involved in the Anglican Church and that led to a project late in life where he worked to become an Anglican minister. Reverend Yarde became ordained as a Deacon at the age of 77.

In an interview with the News-Optimist in 2014, Yarde said he found Battleford to be a welcoming community. As an immigrant himself to Canada, he urged other newcomers to get involved themselves. He said in his years living in the Battlefords, "I've got involved in everything, I mean involved in everything."

"It has been one of my ways of doing things and one of the ways I tell other immigrants coming in. 'You get involved'."

Of his home Battleford, Yarde said, "I am a part of Battleford. I don't think of myself as a West Indian or whatever. I am a part of Battleford." Memorial donations in memory of Gordon Yarde can be directed to St. George's Anglican Church in Battleford.

Fraternally, Sister Marianne Woods, PM,  
Regina #7

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## MIZPAH #1, MOOSE JAW

Brother Lloyd Pethick, PGP – Reporter



Mizpah Chapter #1 had another great year and were very busy with their fundraising, which is becoming more work for the few still able-bodied members.

Our "Wheel of Fortune," our Christmas Raffle tickets and our Baking Walk were all a huge success.

Our Luncheons held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month continue to be a good time of fellowship and get-together for our members. It is an outing for those unable to attend our meeting nights.

We were again saddened by the loss of Sister Muriel Harris on November 17<sup>th</sup>. A Star Funeral was performed in her honor, for which the Officers received many wonderful comments. We lost two (2) great dedicated members this year -Sister Greta Smith and Sister Muriel Harris.

The last regular meeting of Mizpah #1 and the Installation of The New Officers took place on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Incoming WM Sister Sue Butz and to Incoming WP Brother Paul Tysdal and to all their core of Officers for a great year in 2024.



2024 Mizpah Officers



Worthy Matron Sister Sue Butz, Associate Grand Conductress and Worthy Matron Brother Paul Tysdal

Worthy Matron Sister Lynann Pethick & Worthy Patron Brother Ray Moffatt “Thanked” their Officers and the Chapter members for unending support during this past year.

Mizpah Chapter is in recess for January & February

*“Be the fruit of the spirit which is .... Love, Peace, Forbearance, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control.”*



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All from Members of Mizpah Chapter #1*

### **ACACIA #3, BIGGAR**

Sister Urla Tyler, PM - Reporter

Bonnah Busch received her 50-year membership pin and certificate on official visit June 20 from Sister Donna Rederburg, WGM.



l-r: Carol Fowke-Burns, WM of Acacia #3, Donna Rederburg, WGM, Sister Bonnah Busch, PM, George Frederick, WGP and Eric Rann, WGP

Our ring raffle winners at friendship meeting in October were Sister Idella Barr, PGM and Sister Bev Otsuka, PGM, congratulations! Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets.

The sale of star dishes, miscellaneous jewellery and ring raffle realized \$465.00 and our Bakeless Bake Sale realized \$320.00. We had a very enjoyable friendship afternoon.

Our soup and sandwich on October 25 was a great success with profits going to charities. We have also raised funds by selling recycled star dishes and jewellery and raffle for two Eastern Star rings. Also

we held a bakeless bake sale. Both great successes. Linda Ard continues to sell her preserves and lemon butter with funds going to Worthy Grand Matron's Special Project of Alzheimer's Society of Saskatchewan.

At our November meeting, our chapter designated funds to be donated to Alzheimer Society, Heart & Stroke, Cancer, Parkinson's, Legion poppy funds in Biggar, Unity and North Battleford, International Peace Gardens, service/guide dogs, and Christina Olson.

On Dec 11, Acacia Chapter No. 3 Biggar Order of the Eastern Star presented \$500 to Christina Olson to help with her medical expenses and/or purchase of an artificial arm. She had to have her arm amputated due to contracting flesh eating disease earlier this year. Christina is a single mom with 3 special needs children, two with autism and one with Down's syndrome. All the best Christina and family!



Sisters Carol and Linda

Acacia Chapter No. 3 Installation took place on Dec 11 at Biggar Masonic hall with officers, members, dignitaries, family and friends in attendance.



Sister Carol Fowke-Burns, WM and Christina Olson

Acacia Chapter No. 3 Order of Eastern Star Biggar celebrated our 110th anniversary with cake on December 11 represented by Carol Fowke-Burns 2023 Worthy Matron and Linda White 2024 Worthy Matron. Yum!



Front row, l-r: Debbie Robinson, Associate Matron, Linda White Worthy Matron, Les White, Associate Patron.

Missing: Eric Rann Worthy Patron.

Second row, l-r: Bev Otsuka, Elizabeth McMahan, Nancy Stewart Marion Kelly, Bonnah Busch, Laraine Wood;

Back row, l-r: Cheryl Rann, Robin Isabelle, Linda Ard, Vera McNeil, Carol Fowke-Burns, Morley Ries. Missing: Donna Foster

Installation was followed by a delicious roast beef supper for members, family and friends, and exchange of greetings.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Everyone!!!

## SASKATOON #4

Sister Bev Otsuka, PGM - Reporter

Saskatoon Chapter #4 had an exciting few months closing out 2023. The joint homecoming of our WGM, Sister Donna Rederburg and WGP, Brother George Frederick was held on September 30 following Regal's official visit. A lovely buffet supper was held followed by entertainment by the grand officers and a recitation by Sister Anita Ingram and Sister Patricia Meddins as well as a solo by Sister Marilyn Peters. Regal Chapter gave each of the Worthy Grands a small gift to remember their year.



Sister Marilyn, PM



Sister Donna, WGM and Brother George, WGP



l-r: Sister Donna Gudjonson, WM (132),  
Brother Dennis Skuce, WP (132),  
Brother George Frederick WGP (132) and  
Sister Donna Rederburg WGM (4)



Sisters Anita, PM and Patricia, PM

In October we had decided as a chapter to change our meeting dates from a Monday evening to a Saturday afternoon. The Saskatoon Masonic Temple is a very busy place so our Saturdays in 2024 will not begin until February. We will then be meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays of the month with May and July as our recess months. These are an unusual choice of months, but we have to fit in when our Temple is available.

In November we were honored to have been asked to accept Prince Albert #16 into our Saskatoon family by way of Amalgamation. We are all very sorry that this has come to the point of their chapter feeling they can no longer exist on their own. It is very important to us to keep our chapters going in whatever capacity we can. Going forward, we welcome them and hope that they feel at home once this amalgamation is completed.



Sister Donna Rederburg, WGM receiving an HLM from Saskatoon Chapter #4



Brother George Frederick, WGP receiving an HM from Saskatoon Chapter #4.

Our elections went off without a hitch with Sister Bev Otsuka as WM-elect, Brother Rob Westfield as WP-elect, Sister Patricia Meddins as AM-elect, Sister Carla Simsic as Secretary-elect, Sister Marilyn Peters as Treasurer-elect, Sister Carole-Ann Wilson, as Conductress-elect and Sister Anita Ingram as AC-elect. Our AP will be protomed by Brother Robert Huisman of Prince Albert #16. PLEASE NOTE that

our Secretary and Treasurer have traded places as a result of this Election.

Our Installation was a closed ceremony held during our December stated meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 730 p.m. Since all of us have done the positions more than once, it was felt that we would not be having non-members join us so a closed installation would save some time for those travelling.

On behalf of the members of Saskatoon Chapter, we wish all of our Sisters and Brothers the very best during the upcoming Christmas holidays and a blessed and prosperous New Year, 2024.

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### **REGINA #7**

Sister Marianne Woods, PM, Reporter

Greetings from Regina #7! Sister Melinda Nagy, WM treated her 2023 Officers to a delicious meal prepared by her own hands prior to our Stated Meeting on Thursday, December 7. The Installation of our 2024 Officers took place under Good of the Order during the meeting. We were delighted to have Sister Idella Barr, PGM with us for supper and the meeting, who was one of our Installing Officers. Sister Marianne Woods, PM appreciated the help of Sister Idella, as well as Sister Betty Cumming, PM as Installing Secretary, Sister Marian Hutchinson, Installing Marshal and Sister Gilda Treleaven-Graham, Installing Organist. Sister Jean Thibeault, Grand Marshal assisted Sister Marian with the Installation. Several of our 2024 Officers were unable to attend, so we will be installing them at our March meeting. The March edition will feature pictures of our 2024 Officers. Congratulations to Sister Mary Ann Couse, Regina #7's Worthy Matron for 2024!

Sister Jean Thibeault, Grand Marshal and Sister Marianne were honoured to be Installing Marshal and Installing Chaplain and Soloist respectively for Corinthian #93's Installation in December.

Congratulations to our Sister Donna Sanders, who will be honoured to service in the following capacity for the 2024-2027 Triennial: Ambassador to Quebec!



### **In Loving Memory**

Sister Donna Reeson, passed away on Monday, September 25, 2023, at the age of 93 years.



Sister Donna Reeson

Sister Jonina Adamcewicz passed away on Sunday, November 12, 2023. Sister Jonina was a devoted and well-loved member of our Chapter and will be greatly missed.



Sister Jonina Adamcewicz

On behalf of the Members of Regina # 7, we wish all of our Sisters and Brothers a Very Merry Christmas and God's Blessings for Good Health and Prosperity in 2024!

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