



Margaret K. Benger
Past Matron, Belmont Chapter No. 108
Worthy Grand Matron

REMARKS BY THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON
MARGARET K. BENGER
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WORTHY GRAND PATRON, DISTINGUISHED
GUESTS, SISTERS AND BROTHERS:

*Lord, help me live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray,
My prayer shall be for – Others.
Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true
And know that all I'd do for you
Must needs be done for – Others.
Let "Self" be crucified and slain,
And buried deepl and all in vain,
May efforts be to rise again.
Unless to live for – Others.
And when my work in Heaven's begun,
May I forget the crown I've won,
While thinking still of – Others.
Let this my watchword be,
Help me to live for others,*

That I may live like Thee.

Yes, others have made possible this moment for me, and the loyalty and confidence of every member of this Grand Jurisdiction have advanced my steps until tonight I stand before you as Worthy Grand Matron of this Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, Order of the Eastern Star. Fully aware of the need for leadership to carry on the work we strive to accomplish and humble in my feeling of inadequacy, nevertheless you have my pledge of love and devotion to the principles we teach and an earnest desire to give you my utmost in furthering the work of the Order in this State.

This has been a beautiful evening for me, and its beauty and smoothness was due entirely to the lovely installation ceremony planned by our Grand Alice and executed by her and these other installing grand officers. There could be no one but you, Alice, and Harold to serve in the Grand East tonight. You are more than good friends to me and infinitely more than my fraternal mother and father. All along the way, since I first served our Grand East in 1947, you have watched over me, comforted and guided me, and opened up for me a Way of Life full beyond measure with your special love and many kindnesses. You are both respected and admired tremendously by every member in this jurisdiction, and I count myself blessed to be one of your Amethysts.

I want to particularly mention one of our Past Grand Matrons – Sister Effie F. King, who has served this jurisdiction so faithfully for more than fifty years. Sister King has been our very able parliamentarian at this 78th Grand Chapter Session and at many other grand chapter sessions. Tonight she has asked divine blessing to rest upon these Grand Officers selected to serve you for the next twelve months, and her prayer echoes the one bestowed in April of 1907 when Effie F. King, Grand Matron, signed the charter of Belmont Chapter No. 108.

A gallant and noble gentlewoman, dignified in manner and capable beyond belief; calm and serene by nature; a lovely lady always! Belmont Chapter members salute you, Sister Effie, and will always be grateful to you for your interest and devotion to us these past forty-seven years.

Sister Marion, when you were Worthy Grand Matron in 1952, I had the good fortune to escort you in the Grand East as Grand Conductress, and tonight you have served me in a similar capacity. You and I both have kinship with the land of the Bluebell and Thistle, and I was so happy you could take my hand and direct me to the Grand East in the good Scotch way.

We have a family duct in our installing grand organist – Brother Earl Weidner and his wife – Sister Natalie B Weidner – our appointed Grand Organist for this coming year. You two are very talented individuals, and we are lucky to have you for our own. Thank you, Earl, for being at the organ tonight.

Each of these other installing grand officers, Sister Alice E. Wallace, Sister Ida Allen Hibbard and Sister Lucy C. Maisack, has had a special place, too, in my life and I am most grateful for the service you have given to me, our Worthy Grand Patron and every member assembled here tonight.

How blessed I am that my mother could be with us tonight! Her long illness this past winter made it doubtful at times, but

*Strength and dignity are her clothing,
And she laugheth at the time to come.
She openeth her mouth to wisdom,
And the law of kindness is in her tongue.
She looketh well to the ways of her household,
And eateth not the bread of idleness,
Her two daughters rise up and call her blessed
And praiseth her saying
“Many daughters have done virtuously,
But thou excelleth the all.”*

I am so grateful for the privilege of having my son, Alan, with me tonight and also for your kindness in permitting the choir of my church – the Belmont Methodist Church – to supplement our ritual with their lovely music.

In looking around this wonderful audience I see the faces of my Belmont Chapter members and those of my Forget-Me-Nots. Your presence has made my evening complete because you have been my friends and companions for many, many years.

The Bible on our Altaer tonight was given to me by the 1954 officers of Belmont Chapter No. 108, to be used when I was installed as Worthy Grand Matron and also at each Inspection in which I shall officiate this year. Such a gift can mean only an expression of respect. From its pages shall I gain knowledge and understanding shall overcome all bigotry, hatred, jealousy and greed; and that light and strength shall be given to illumine and sustain our Western Star “way of life”. Your love encompasses me and all these Grand Officers tonight, and we ask God to watch over you – officer of Belmont Chapter – and keep you enfolded in His arms and in His grace.

Worthy Grand Patron: You and I have enjoyed a year in the Grand West working together and in complete accord. This coming year will be enhanced with your lovely wife, Gladys, as our Grand Adah and my own sister, Ruth Holly, as our Grand Marshal, and it is good to have our home chapters, Belmont and Andover, represented in the star point circle with fidelity and love in our Grand Adah and Grand Electa. My earnest hope is that this year we may have peace and harmony in our Grand Chapter and in every subordinate chapter of this jurisdiction, and that we may walk together with Faith to guide us and loving kindness in our hearts for every member of this Order of the Eastern Star.

To my Grand Family: We have much to accomplish this year if we are to live up to the record left us by our predecessors. But we can do it because each of you has a special talent, Godgiven and waiting to be tested and used. You and I, together, will strive for fuller understanding of the teachings of our Order so that in our contacts with the members of each subordinate chapter we may bring them Faith to believe in themselves, give them Hope for a bright and happy future, and find Charity in their hearts for your needs and mine.

This year we shall strive

1. To build an Eastern Star Blood Bank which will be available to every member of our Order.
2. To increase our contributions to our own Grand Chapter Benevolences through the Worthy Grand Matron’s project, with special emphasis laid upon decreasing or eliminating the percentage of our contribution to outside charities in order

to take care of our own. Charity does begin at home, and our Home at Orange needs your help and support.

3. To eliminate all pettiness and selfishness from our personalities, and build up our moral fibre to withstand the temptations which sap and undermine our strength.

4. To bind together loyally our 55,000 members by precept and example.

Our motto this year is “Justice and Unselfish Loyalty” – justice and mercy in every act and unselfish loyalty to that which has made us walk with God in a way of life that opens our hearts to the need of others.

*“We live by faith, but faith is not the slave
Of text and legend. Reason’s voice and God’s
Nature’s and Duty’s, never are at odds.
What asks our Father of His children, save
Justice, mercy and humility.
A reasonable service of good deeds,
Pure living, tenderness to human needs,
Reverence and trust, and prayer for light to see
The Master’s footprints in our daily ways.”*

I do not know if I am worthy to serve you, I do not know if wisdom and strength will be given to me to lead you courageously and gallantly. I do know I have the faith to believe in the help of God and the integrity of our members, and I pray I may prove worthy of your prayers and devotion and that together we may work diligently and reverently for respect to our principles of Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith and Love.

*“It is my joy in life to find
At every turning of the road,
The strong arm of a comrade kind
To help me onward with my load.
And since I have no gold to give,
And love alone must make amends,
My only prayer is, while I live, –
God, make me worthy of my friends!*

May God Bless you all.