



Beverly C. Arslanian
Past Matron, Palestine Chapter No. 114
Worthy Grand Matron

ADDRESS OF THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON
BEVERLY C. ARSLANIAN
May 12, 1979

WORTHY GRAND PATRON, INSTALLING GRAND OFFICERS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, SISTERS AND BROTHERS:

Tonight the Obligation assumed by me at the Holy Altar was not taken lightly. Humbly and proudly I accept this very special privilege, the Office of Worthy Grand Matron, for the ensuing year, fully aware that it will be one of the greatest challenges of my life. I ask you the members of this Jurisdiction for your prayers, support and cooperation. No great undertaking by anyone in any position of Authority has ever been accomplished alone. Together we can accomplish much and with your help we can look forward to a year filled with rare and rich experiences. Thank you for the honor that you have bestowed upon me.

To M. Elizabeth Davis, P.G.M. — Twelve years ago this evening you stood in this same spot to address the membership of this jurisdiction and offered this prayer:

*Heavenly Father, fill me with wisdom,
Help me to walk in Thy ways, not mine.*

*Give me a deep understanding of the needs of others,
Let joy be a part of all my actions
That this year ahead may ring out with accomplishment.*

Sister Betty, your prayer was answered, for our jurisdiction did prosper under your leadership. You “Walked With God” all the way and he gave you the Wisdom to accomplish all that you set out to do. I am deeply grateful to you for this beautiful evening. How proud I am that tonight, because of your accomplishments and service to our Order, I could be installed by a member of my own Palestine Chapter.

To Brother Clarence K. Brayton, P.G.P. — Jim’s selection of you as the Installing Grand Patron for this evening’s ceremony has given me much pleasure. Your dedication to the work of the Order and our uncompromising efforts to the perfection of our ritual left no doubt that the Obligation given this evening would be given with meaning and dignity. Thank you for this most meaningful part of our ceremony. We are pleased and proud to have you a part of our NOVA RAY family this year.

To Sister Marion M. Holt, P.G.M. — How fortunate our Worthy Grand Patron Brother Jim and I are that we can draw upon the Wisdom of a Past Grand Matron from each of our Home Chapters, for not only advice, but for understanding. You have endeared yourself in the hearts of many for your kind and gentle ways. Thank you for your many kindnesses to me and for offering the prayer for us this evening.

To Sister Frances M. Ganong, P.G.M. — Thank you for the service that you have performed this evening. Your appointment of me as one of your Deputy Grand Matrons placed me on the first step to this position for which I have been elected. I shall always be indebted to you for the confidence you placed in me. The journey began with you and it was only proper that you should be the one to escort me to the Grand East.

To Sister Blanche H. Shaw, Worthy Grand Ruth — Your example of outstanding leadership in this Order has been recognized by your appointment from the General Grand Chapter. The responsibility placed upon those selected to serve as Deputies is an important one. Through your knowledge and

experience of our Order you have provided these Deputies with the proper direction to embark upon in their important responsibilities. Thank you for the confirmation ceremony, and from my heart, may the fruits of your labor be realized this October.

To Sisters Marilyn R. Gerrish, P.G.M. and Lucille D. Eaton, P.G.M. — Many happy hours were spent serving as an elected Grand Officer under your leadership. To have you serve this evening in the confirmation of my Deputies has given me the opportunity to reciprocate in some small measure for all that was done to make my year as Associate Grand Conductress and Grand Conductress the happy experience that it was. My grateful thanks to you both.

To Sister Evelyn S. Nelson, P.G.M. and Brother Lawton Ganong — By uniting harmony with our ritualistic work you have made our ceremonies more impressive. Sister Evelyn your talent as organist was realized and the appointment of Grand Organist was bestowed upon you the Lucky Star Year. Through this appointment your service to our Order progressed to the highest honor this jurisdiction can confer. The year of 1971 was a very rewarding one for me as one of your Temple Belles. It has given me great pleasure this evening to have you at the instrument for our Installation Ceremony. Brother Lawton, thank you for your well chosen selection this evening and being my friend.

To Brother Ernest K. Gonyer, Past Patron of Palestine Chapter — Many hours have been spent by you at the Drafting Table to execute the formation for this evening. I am sure there is little doubt in the minds of those who witnessed the formation this evening as to the appellation given for this association. Thank you for the valuable time spent in working out this formation and a special thank you for giving me your lovely wife Eunice to serve as Grand Marshal.

To Brother Manoog Chloodian, Past Patron of Pequosette Chapter — Thank you for the very beautiful backdrop here this evening. I am very pleased with the NOVA RAY Emblem that you have made for us and thank you most sincerely for the many hours entailed in making it for us.

To the members of Palestine Chapter No. 114 — There is much in my heart that cannot be said in words to you this evening. “What you Would Deem Praiseworthy in Another inYour Position, You Should Carefully Emulate”. To single out any one among all of you as someone I should carefully emulate would be an impossible task. Through you the true meaning of the Order of the Eastern Star and what it stands for has been given to me. Thank you for your support, your encouragement, your generosity and above all, your love. All of this has made it possible for me to assume this high office that has been conferred upon me this evening.

To Sister Ellen M. Peck, P.G.M. and Brother George P. Rassias, P.G.P — We have worked together in peace and harmony this year, each respecting the capabilities of one another. Thank you for building the road that we now will travel on. Having worked for many years with an engineering firm I am fully aware that once the road is built it must be maintained and updated to be of full service. This I will do with the help of all of our members. May you enjoy the rewards of patient industry that you have reaped this past year.

To the Elected Grand Officers — My congratulations to allof you as you take your place in the progression to the Grand East of our Jurisdiction. Working together with you in peace and harmony will be our goal. Through compromise, the intertwining of ideas and the respect for one another we will bring about a harmonious year for this Grand Chapter.

To Brother James E. Dolan, Worthy Grand Paton — To serve with you is a very special honor and privilege. Together we will share the responsibilities and work for the good of the Order. Time ahs closed the doors of another Grand Chapter year and opened the doors to the adventures of a new year. The present is ours to utilize in the advantage of our Great Order. I sincerely hope and pray that we will be successful in our endeavors. God Bless you and Sister Jean andkeep you both in good health for our busy year ahead.

To the NOVA RAYS — You are the Ray of light travelling in the same direction as I am; you in your subordinate Chapters, I in the Grand Chapter. We have diverged from a common center. It has been a privilege to work with each of you and to see you progress to the East of your respective Chapters. As

Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons you now have the joy of bringing to fruition your hopes and dreams for the future of our Order. My congratulations to all of you and my appreciation for your efforts in making the NOVA RAYS' Association a happy successful group. A special thank you for your untiring efforts when you have been called upon to undertake the various social functions we have been responsible for.

To the GRAND NOVA RAYS — Yours is a new Association this year. Thank you for accepting my invitation to serve our Grand Chapter. Each of you were chosen because of your past service and dedication to our Order. Through you, the RAYS of the Future look promising. My love and best wishes to all of you as you embark upon your responsibilities this NOVA RAY year.

To My Family — Thank you for sharing this long evening with me. Martin, my husband, always at my side, willing to do anything for me so that this dream could be realized. I love you dearly. To my three daughters — Linda, and Cheryl who are here this evening, and Janet in Montana, I am proud of you. You have given Dad and I only joy from the day you were born. You are to us the Greatest Gift God could have given. To my Sister Mildred — Thank you for your understanding of my absences. We have been close as Sisters and one of the rewards that the future holds after this year of service will be time to spend with you. I have a twin Sister who lives in Minneapolis who could not be here this evening. She has conveyed her best wishes to me. She was able to be in Boston the early part of this week and last Sunday provided the opportunity for our family to be together. Martin and I are also blessed with two fine son-in-laws, Carl Peterson who is at the Annual meeting of his company in St. Louis this evening and Jack Lannen in Montana and will have them with us for three weeks in August. Janet and Jack will add another members to the family in October.

Sisters and Brothers of the Order of the Eastern Star of Massachusetts. Like others before me the goal this year is to maintain and possibly increase our membership. To accomplish this we must learn to reawaken and keep ourselves awake, not by mechanical aids but by an infinite expectation of the dawn. I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by a conscious endeavor.

Certainly the Order of the Eastern Star is that conscious endeavor, It is something to be able to paint a particular picture, or to carve a statue, and so to make a few objects beautiful, but is is more glorious to care and paint the very atmosphere and medium through which we look, which morally we can do. To affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of arts. Every man is tasked to make his life, even in its details, worthy of the contemplation of his most elevated and critical hour. And now —

*I shall go forward, Confident and Unafraid,
Not blindly, though the way may seem obscure,
God's love will light each step, dispel the mist,
I shall go forward in His Strength
My part to follow, God's to lead the way.
I shall go onward, trustingly and glad;
His love protects, surrounds me, fillw my every need.
I shall not listen to the whispering of doubt,
not thunderings of fear.
The "Still small Voice" shall comfort me,
and bring me calmness and serenity.
The way unfolds, God's hand is leading me,
I shall go forward, Confident and Unafraid.*