

Hello Eastern Star Sisters and Brothers,

Here we are into our second week of October – and our seventh month of dealing with a new way of life in a Covid-19 pandemic world (did I somehow miss the other 18?). We are a month away from national and state elections, we have a full moon on Halloween, and who knows what Thanksgiving and Christmas will look like this year! Our chapter secretaries are getting the Year End final reports ready to file. It does not seem possible that we will all miss the opportunity to gather together at Grand Chapter this year. But, we try to continue the work that must be done for Eastern Star. How my heart hurts each time one of the chapter secretaries sends me a notice that another of our OES sisters or brothers has left this world. We have so many to remember in our prayers though we cannot meet for a Memorial Service this year.



As I reflect on all the things that have changed in our world – I must also take time to thank the Lord for those things that remain the same. My family remains healthy – and my daughter and her husband still have their jobs. My granddaughters get to visit me often – though I must admit that even with my education background, I detest the on-line learning “classes.” When we can once again be with others – we all need to hug a teacher! Due to not being able to meet for chapter meetings, I have the honor of serving as Worthy Matron in Roswell for another year. (Surely we will eventually have the opportunity for an Official Visit!) Thanks to Debi Huffman, several of us “meet” for a Watch Party on Saturday evenings to share in the enjoyment of some wonderful music and chatting back and forth online. If it were not for this pandemic, we probably would not be doing this. My garden did pretty well this year and I had a bumper crop of hummingbirds. The blessings that surround my life far outweigh the negative impact that Covid-19 has had on my life. Sometimes I just need to remind myself that I need to take the time to count those blessings. I am certain many of you do a much better job at this than I do. But that is another reason I am blessed to have you as friends – you provide daily reminders of how fortunate we are to be a part of this beautiful Order, how fortunate we are to have our friends and family, and how fortunate we are to have our health.



I do think a sense of humor is especially important these days. So, I leave you with this little item I found:

**IF 2020 WAS A MATH PROBLEM**

If you're going down a river at 2 MPH and your canoe loses a wheel,  
how much pancake mix would you need to re-shingle your roof?

I look forward to the time we can all be together again.

Shirley Crawford  
Grand Chaplain