

### BROTHERS NIGHT PROGRAM

Instructions:    Need 6 Brothers

All Brothers take their positions at the same time. One in the East and one Brother stands besides each star point chair, outside the Labyrinth. The Brother in the East speaks first, as indicated. As each Brother gives his part, the appropriate star point rises and faces the Brother. At the end the Brother presents the star point with a flower appropriate to the color of the station. The star point resumes her chair and the next Brother follows the same procedure.

#### 1st Brother:

Tonight is Brothers night, an opportune time to think about the men in the lives of the heroines of our order. Please join us as we look at the men who played a part in the history of the times of these heroines. We are not attempting to interpret, but rather make you more aware that these ladies actually lived, and how they reacted to the circumstances presented to them. They are not figures of one's imagination, but human beings like ourselves.



## ADAH

I represent Jephthah, Adah's father. All my life I had been a warrior. At an early age my step-brothers cast me from my father's house to make my own way in life. I was an organizer and leader of men and led a band of outlaws with much success.

When Israel was in grave danger from the Ammonites, my step-brothers together with the leaders of Israel begged me to lead the armies of Israel against the Ammonites. If victorious, I would be made head of Israel, making me the 9th Judge of Israel.

As was my custom and in conformance with my Jewish faith, I prayed and made a vow to God that if he would deliver the people of Ammon unto me, that the first thing that came out of my house upon my return to Mizpath would be the Lords. As you know, I was victorious in battle, but the price I paid for the victory left me to live the rest of my life without my beloved only child, Adah.

I had always been a warrior, a leader of men, accustomed to the hardships and cruelty in the world. Adah, my daughter, showed courage and bravery as great as I had ever seen in battle. Upon hearing of my vow to God, she rose to the grandeur of the situation and bade me keep my solemn vow to God. She asked to be allowed to go into the mountains for two months to prepare herself.

As a father, my grief of what was about to take place seemed more than I could bear. My nights were spent in prayer. Upon her return, I was overwhelmed by her countenance of peace, of her trustful faith.

You all know the rest of the story - how through her courage and faith we both were able to uphold a spoken vow made to God.



# RUTH

I am a wealthy man and own many fields of wheat and barley. My name is Boaz. One day at harvest time while I was visiting my fields, I noticed a very attractive woman who was gleaning after my reapers. It is the custom of our land, that at harvest time the reapers of the wheat and barley fields are to leave some grain for the widows, orphans and the poor to glean.

I was advised ~~that~~ her name was Ruth and she was the daughter-in-law of Naomi. The story of how she had followed her mother-in-law to our country and was trying to care for her was well known to me- as it is to you. Moved by her devotion, I instructed the reapers to leave extra grain for her to glean.

I was impressed by her quiet manner and asked her to join us at our noon meal. The more I learned of her, of her constancy to Naomi who was all alone, the more I was impressed by this gentle woman.

After the harvest season was over a festival was held. It is a joyous occasion. Ruth approached me and asked me to be her protector. As I was a distant kinsman of Naomi, I was pleased and willing to do this. Considering I was twice her age I was flattered, besides I had grown to have deep feelings for Ruth.

I met with the elders and Elimelech's nearest kin to pay off the inheritance due from Naomi. As is the custom in our country, the kinsman drew off his shoe from his foot and handed it to me, a symbol of closing of a bargain.

In a short time Ruth and I were married. We had one son, named Obed. Obed became the father of David and the grandfather of Solomon.



## ESTHER

I am Zerkzes, King of Persia. My power and wealth were great. My empire extended from India to Ethiopia.

After the divorce of Queen Vashti, a change took place in my life. I had been a sensuous, self-indulgent ruler, qualities which had led me to lose Vashti and I felt the loss very deeply.

After a period of time I choose Esther, the most beautiful of all maidens. In due time I crowned her queen. I found her to be a woman of the highest integrity and principle, she did not succumb to the luxury and temptation of her surroundings and was not spoiled by being queen. Yes, I fell deeply in love with her.

At one time she warned me of an attempt on my life. I promised her if at any time she needed my assistance or protection that I would grant her request "to the half of the kingdom".

Haman, whom I had promoted as chief over all nobles, counseled and convinced me that I should rid Persia of all Jews as they were a threat to my kingdom. I consented and issued a royal edict. Of course, I did not know ~~that~~ my beloved Esther was a Jew or that I was condemning her to death.

You all know the rest of the story from your initiation. How this woman risked her life to save her people from death. An outstanding Woman -- strong, brave, honorable - a true Queen.



## MARTHA

Martha, Mary and Lazarous were my neighbors and friends. We lived next door to each other and shared many neighborly events. We lived in the village of Bethany, on the southwest side of the Mount of Olives, less than two miles from Jerusalem.

These sisters and brother were a close knit family. Meeting them you felt and saw the respect they had for each other, the love and peace of a happy home..

I am sure this harmony was a result of their being believers and followers of Jesus. Yes, Jesus was a frequent guest of the family. Many times we would all gather at their home to listen and learn from his teachings.

We had often noticed that Martha was the efficient housekeeper, always providing for the guests, sometimes we thought a little too much so. While Mary enjoyed sitting and listening to Jesus, Martha was busy with His material needs. Little did we realize how deep was Martha's faith. We had always thought she was so busy with her work that ~~she~~ wasn't paying full attention to all His teachings. How wrong we were!

When Lazarous became sick, it was Martha who sent for Jesus. When he died, her belief in His teaching was not shaken, even at a time such as this. She was an inspiration to us. Her faith and trust in His teachings knew no bounds.

You can imagine the joy that filled our hearts when Lazarus came forth from the tomb. What an inspiration this was to all.



## ELECTA

Who am I? Why, I am Gaius, the husband of Electa. Yes, I too shared with her and our children the persecution and death for our Christian faith. We lived in Asia Minor and were considered wealthy and influential in our community. I was a Grand Master of the Masons and because of this Masonic influence my family had been somewhat protected from the early persecutions of the Christians.

Both Electa and I had been raised as pagans, but we had been converted to the Christian religion and raised our children in this faith.

To our family, Electa was an example of this faith. She showed her faith through her deeds. She was always there to help the sick and the needy. She never turned away from giving of herself, and our home was always open to hungry travelers. It was her faith and strength that made me strong in the time of our greatest trial.

Several times Electa was offered a chance to save her life by renouncing her faith, but not once did she waiver. We all know the story of her refusal to trample the cross under foot.

It has truly been said that woman inspire man to noble deeds. Could I do less to show my faith!



1st Brother:

Sisters and Brothers, we hope this program has made you pause and think. Yes, these heroines did live. The lessons are as applicable today as they were in their time of history. Thus proving fidelity, constancy, loyalty, faith and love are basic to our existence in all ages.