

FENCED IN BY LOVE

(ceremony honoring the Past Matrons and Past Patrons)

This may be given after the regular meeting of the chapter or under the order of business "The good of the Order". You may lightly chalk a large square on the floor in the center of the room. It should be large enough to include the Star points, and should be drawn outside those stations.

The Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron are in their stations when the ceremony opens.

The Worthy Matron arises to say:

"Sisters and brothers, we have with us this evening Past Matrons and Past Patrons of Queen Esther Chapter.

Because these sisters and brothers have served the chapter in its highest offices, giving at all times the best they had to give; and because the present officers and members very deeply appreciate all that each Past Matron and Past Patron has done for the chapter and for the good of the order, we feel that it is fitting that we devote a short period of time to their honor.

Let's build a little fence of Love,
Within our hall tonight;
And they shall feel content to be
Shut in, by love, so tight.

So, one by one, let each post come,
To build it strong and tall;
And we shall be content to see,
Love's fence surrounding all.

Worthy Matron is seated. She sounds the gavel.

The Cond. and Assoc. Cond. arise in their stations, and the Assoc. Cond. says;

"Between the stations of the Chaplain and Elects, above the fifth point of our Star, I shall plant my staff to form the first post in the fence of Love - that Love of which Electa teaches, it being the same fraternal love which the officers and members of Queen Esther Chapter bear toward the Past Matrons and Patrons."

Music begins.

The Conductresses leave their stations, going to aisle, east up the aisle to corners of drawn square. They turn to face each other and come together walking on east side of the chalked square and stopping at the position for beginning of the march at the end. They ground staffs and stand facing each other while the Assoc. Cond. speaks as follows:

"As an expression of love and as a support in our Fence of Love, I ground my staff on this spot in honor of the Past Officers of this Chapter."

The Cond. speaks:

"Long years ago a father's tears
Fell noiseless on his hand;
He wept for her - his only child,
We know you understand.

But on this spot, near Adah's chair
We'll shed no tears tonight;
Because their Past Fidelity
Has made our Star shine bright.

So here I ground my staff to say,
We'll love them to the last
These Matrons, Patrons, of the Past,
Who served us in the past.

(grounds staff)

The Assoc. Matron and Patron will then arise in the west line
the office of Assoc. Patron in your chapter, use a member with the Assoc. Matron.
The Assoc. Matron says:

"Because the rays of light from the effulgent sun unite in the west with the rays of Light and Joy from the third point of our Central Star; and Because the examples left for us by our Past Matrons and Past Patrons have been a bright and shining light upon our pathway, I wish to become a part of the fence on the west."

They proceed east to west line of square and go to positions; the Assoc. Matron going to the South west corner and the Patron to the Northwest corner. They face the East, and the Assoc. Matron finishes her speech.

"May the united rays of light at this corner fall in gentle benediction upon the Past Officers of Queen Esther Chapter and bring them light in times of darkness; help in time of trouble; and strength in time of sorrow."

Associate Patron standing on the N. West corner of the square will say:

"Here in the west, when Life's Day is fading into twilight, Hope mingles with the mellow rays of light from the setting sun and brings Faith and Courage. May the resultant light fall caressingly upon the upturned faces of our Past Officers and gently erase all signs of worry and sadness. May it cause them to be always radiant with the Light of Courage, Joy and Peace. Because I cherish this wish in my consciousness, and in order that it may become a part, or post, on our Fence of Love, I take my position at this corner."

The Marshal then arises in the east and says:

"At all four corners of the earth
Where God is loved 'Til death--from birth;
'Tis found that honor comes to all
Who answer, "Here" to duty's call.

Marshal goes to take her place in the fence, See diagram at close.

Chaplain arises and says:

"Dear Father, thou who loveth all,
And hearest every earnest call,
Be with our dear ones every day,
To keep them in the narrow way.

Takes her place on east side of the square and faces east.

Electa then arises and says:

"'Tis Love that marks the sparrow's fall,
And hears the hungry nestling's call;
So may Love guide their steps aright
And give them light in their darkest night."

Takes her place in the fence.

Treasurer arises and says:

"Not gold alone, nor silver nor valuable jewels are precious;
for far more precious are these:
The tender smile of a loved one;
The warm hand clasp of a true friend;
and the confidence which has reason for existing and which
cannot be shaken.

May the great giver of all good make these Past Officers rich with an abundance of these priceless treasures.

Takes place on square.

Adah will arise and say:

"As clear blue skies in sunny May,
When all dark clouds are blown away,
May all the days that come to you
Be cheerful, sunny, bright as dew."

Takes her place.

Ruth then says: (she may take her place first and say this afterwards, as also may the others)

"Entreat us not to leave thee, nor to return from following after thee, O Past Officers of Queen Esther Chapter; for we do not wish to leave those whom we love; neither do we wish to cease striving to follow in the footsteps of those who have so ably marked out the path for us. Where thou dwellest we will dwell, for "In Him (love) we live, and move and have our being."

Takes her place.

Martha arises and says:

"May love lead you into pastures green, beside still waters where all is calm and peaceful, and where the Hope and Faith of Martha shall come in- to your hearts, is the loving plank which Martha adds to the Fence of Love."

Takes her place.

Esther says:

"As Esther was true and loyal to her people, so are the members of this chapter loyal and true to their Past Officers; and so shall they ever be."

Takes her place.

A new member will then say:

"Because new friends, new ideas, new scenes have a place in God's plan for man, I, a new member in the Order have a place in this boundary of Love which the members of Queen Esther Chapter are building in honor of their Past Officers."

Takes her place.

Warder arises and says:

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee.
So may He keep you in peace, Past Matrons and Past Patrons of Queen Esther Chapter."

Takes her place.

A young Woman, may be dressed in white, enters room through door in west, she advances up aisle to east, goes across east to stand in front of (and a little to the side of) the secretary whom she addresses.:

"Sister Secretary, I am ready to lay the centerpiece within the Fence of Love. Is the manuscript ready?"

Secretary replies:

"It is ready sister Builder: Do you wish to read it before placing it in the centerpiece?"

Young Woman: "In order that it may be known that all necessary facts are included in the manuscript, and that these facts are correct, you will please read."

Secretary reads the following:

"Whereas the following persons have served Queen Esther Chapter, of the Order of the Eastern Star, serving faithfully and well, in the highest positions in that Order;
And whereas they have been good exponents of principles of the Order, and have been deemed worthy of being honored by having their names placed within the centerpiece which is bounded by the Fence of Love,
I hereby write their names and dates of service as follows:
(Reads names and dates of their years of service of the Past Matrons and Patrons)

After the reading of all the names and dates the Worthy Patron arises and says:

"To this list of names and dates I would add the following as being worthy of preservation:

- A good deed done by each.
- Kind words of greeting given by them to members.
- An outstanding example of unselfishness, and
- A generous sample of the good wishes from Queen Esther Chapter.

Young Woman Builder says:

"Sister secretary, the facts are true and acceptable and I shall be very happy to carry them to the centerpiece, within the Fence of Love. Thank you and farewell."

She goes to the Secretary's desk and gets the list of names, lights a candle, (previously placed on secretary's desk) then goes between the conductresses through the gateway (officers turn and face the altar as she enters) and deposits the list in front of the Bible on the altar: then she goes to light five colored candles which have been placed on the pedestals at the Star Points. One on each pedestal appropriate color candles. Beginning at Adah's then Ruth, etc. After lighting all five she leaves the labyrinth through the gateway, stands in the East with her lighted candle, facing the Altar and the officers until the March is finished.

The Star Points come to the altar with their lighted candles and hold them up to form a circle of light over the list of names. They hold candles up for a moment then lower them simultaneously and set them on the altar leaving them there and return to position.

The officers will form the Fence of Love in this formation. They will leave in the following drill, the first line ~~is marked with a solid line,~~ thus the second being marked with the dotted line thus and third with the line and dash thus . The Worthy Patron and Matron take their places in Love's Fence as soon as the Worthy Patron finishes his speech.