

*Ceremony
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(2)

THE LIGHT IN THE WINDOW
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By Pearle Seitter, Past Matron,
Hamilton Chapter, No. 275,
Hamilton, Missouri.

An improvised window with lighted candle or other light within may be placed in the East. Each officer may be provided with a rose or other flower which could very effectively be lighted from within by a small pocket flashlight. Candles may also be used.

After introductions, soloist sings:

Tune: Mother Machree.

There's a light in our window to welcome you here;
There's a joy in our hearts because we hold you dear;
We're glad you are with us because you are true,
No one can replace you, we want only you;
You have been always thoughtful and kind through the years,
You've been willing to share all our joys and our fears;
We pray that our Father will look down on you,
To bless and to keep you, all the way through.

There's a place in our Chapter (or Order) no other can fill,
And to welcome you here (or home) gives to us a great thrill;
For what could we do all the coming years through
Without you to help us for none are more true;
So in bringing our welcome we joyfully sing,
And we now shout your praises until the walls ring;
May blessings from Heaven now rest upon you,
To bless you and keep you, dear friend so true.

At close of song, Worthy Matron speaks as follows:

Out from the East there comes a call to say we welcome you,
And we know you are glad to be with all your friends so true;
The light within our window has shone out upon your way,
To guide you and protect you as you traveled day by day.

After Worthy Matron speaks, guest (or guests) is escorted to the East.

Each officer in turn rises and speaks, lighting candle or flower as she does so. After speaking, she takes position to form triangle (or heart) around Altar. Figs. 1 and 2.

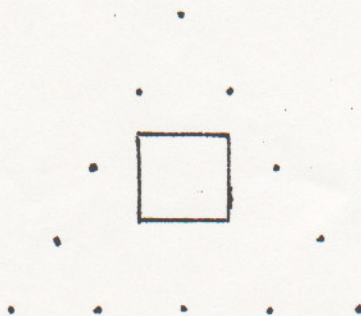


Fig. 1.

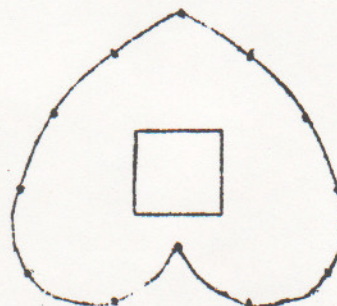


Fig. 2.

Associate Matron:

The west so gladly welcomes you as you now come our way,
And we are glad to honor you when comes the close of day;
And as the evening sun goes down and settles in the west,
We know that you would rather be with friends who love you best.
(Associate Matron takes position at apex of triangle.)

Conductress:

And from the south we bear a light to say that we are glad,
And may this be the best of all the greetings you have had;
Although our work would run along quite smoothly every day,
We know it would not be the same had you not passed our way.
(Conductress takes position to right of Associate Matron.)

Associate Conductress:

From out the north there comes the love of all the northern light,
Just bidding you to turn again to all our lovely sights;
For we hope things look good to you as you now come our way,
And once you are within our folds, we'll never let you stray.
(Associate Conductress takes position to left of Associate Matron.)

Adah:

The light from Adah's point shines out to welcome you tonight,
And that is why your welcome here comes to you clear and bright;
For you've been true as Adah was with every spoken vow,
And that is why we are so glad to bring you honor now.
(Adah takes position to right of Conductress.)

Ruth:

We've gathered in our sheaves of gold with which to welcome you,
And Ruth will let her light shine out to show that we are true;
And as we bring our greeting and a welcome on your way,
We hope that you will think of this as your most lucky day.
(Ruth takes position to right of Adah.)

Esther:

Like Esther you've been loyal as you've traveled on your way,
And we have waited patiently to honor you today;
And as our light shines on your path to show you we are true,
May we say we are just homefolks who gladly welcome you.
(Esther takes position to left of Associate Conductress.)

Martha:

Like Martha you have had the faith to look to things above,
For through your service in the past you've served in ways of love;
And after all is said and done and you your tasks renew,
We know that you will happier be because we welcomed you.
(Martha takes position to left of Esther.)

Electa:

And we can give Electa's love as all our lights shine out,
And you can better understand what this is all about;
For there is one thing that's as bright as stars that shine above,
And that's our friendship just and true, combined with all our love.

(Electa takes position to left of Martha.)

(Secretary, Marshal, Chaplain, and Treasurer complete the triangle, Secretary taking position to right of Ruth.)

Secretary, (or other officer):

Past Matrons and Past Patrons join in the welcome too,
To say we are most happy to give honor where it's due;
Although you've served so many years we know you are the same,
As when first upon the records you so proudly signed your name.

A heart may be formed around Altar instead of triangle by officers taking similar positions. All officers face East when in formation.

Gift is presented to guest as follows:

We want to show you we'll be true through all the coming years;
And we must say we are the friends who quiet grief and fears;
Words cannot quite convey the thought that we would say to you,
So we are giving you this gift to show you we are true;
Our lights may someday cease to burn, and flowers will fade away,
But memories will always remain of this most happy day.

If ceremony is given for homecoming, present gift with following verse:

We want to show you we've been true while you have been away,
And we must say that we are glad you are now home to stay;
Words cannot quite convey the thought that we would say to you,
So we are giving you this gift to show you we are true;
Our lights may sometime cease to burn, our flowers fade away,
But memories will always remain of this homecoming day.

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