

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Another week has passed and I sincerely hope you are all staying home, continuing to be safe and healthy. "How can I help?" This is the question we should all be asking our members. Are you receiving calls from your chapter? Is there anything that you need? Our Benevolent Fund is there to help our members and I hope that you will not hesitate to call your Worthy Matron, Secretary or Grand Officers should you need assistance.

These last few weeks have given me time to reflect on my years in Eastern Star and the wonderful Sisters and Brothers who have come into my life, as well as those who are no longer with us. I became a member of Eastern Star on January 13, 2000 in El Paso, Texas, becoming Worthy Matron in 2006. I heard there was a New Mexico Chapter nearby and decided that I would like to go visit. The members of Renick #37 were very welcoming, and after several visits, I became a dual member.

My first Official Visit was at Alamo #11 and Sister Jean Lewis came up to me, gave me a great big hug and welcomed me to New Mexico. Jean became a very special Sister and friend. I attended several more Official Visits that year meeting such warm loving people. That year I attended Grand Chapter in Hobbs with Fran Adams. We had such a good time; I came back home feeling so much love from the members of New Mexico. When Linda LaRock, Associate Matron of Renick #37, began getting her officers together, I asked her "how can I help you" and so began my journey of serving the great state of New Mexico. These are the memories that are kept deep in my heart and it is at times like this; that those memories are like getting a hug! My wish for each of you when you read these letters; is that all of you feel you are being hugged by us!

I have seen several comments on Facebook about some of the ways members are keeping busy during this quarantine by cleaning closets, drawers and downsizing. That is something I really need to do! One good thing about working from home is that I do not have to get up as early, but unfortunately, being used to it, I still do. The other morning, I had time before work so I turned on the television and there was Little House on the Prairie. Some of you I'm sure remember the show. The scene was where Laura and Albert Ingalls, now adults, were opening a time box they had buried years ago as children. The other children had gathered in a circle around them, each taking the others hand and raised their arms; I found myself saying our Mitzpah Benediction while watching. Eastern Star is such a huge part of my life and I miss seeing the members.

Many of you know that my son and daughter-in-law have been Foster parents for several years. In 2017, a 3 month old little boy was placed in their care and of course, stole my heart. Last year in September his adoption to our family became final. In 2018, a beautiful little girl came into our lives and yesterday, April 24 th , my son and daughter-in-law were notified; that on July 24 th her adoption papers can be filed. My heart is full! Thank you for all you for all your prayers. We are still under quarantine to keep everyone safe and it has been difficult for many being unable to get out and visit. Please don't think of it as a bad thing, but think how blessed we are to still be together, only apart for now. Take care and God bless each of you.

Love always,
Christel Fisher
Associate Grand Conductress

