Suggestions-
The Golden Anniversary of a Chapter is generally considered a very important event and usually elaborate preparations are made for this momentous occasion. The celebrations are sometimes open to friends of the Chapter who are not members of the Eastern Star and at other times closed meetings are held. If your Anniversary is to be at all unusual, start preparation for it early -- Two or three months before the date is not too soon to plan.

Invitations printed in gold letters may be sent to all Chapters within a radius of many miles. They may also be sent to out of town members and former members who have moved away. If a dinner is being served previous to the Chapter meeting a small card is included giving the place of the dinner, the time, price (if a charge is made) and the names of persons taking reservations. Guests should not expect to come to a dinner of this kind without reservations.

The most honored guests of the occasion are of course the charter members, if any survive. They should receive written invitations, and have special attention throughout the evening, being presented to the East and given flowers or a small gift in commemoration of the occasion. The Past Matrons and Patrons should also be introduced and given words of appreciation for their part in making the Chapter history.

Included in the evenings program should be the Chapter history, beginning with its institution and carried down to the present. Different members, preferably the older ones, might be asked to recall events and incidents that have happened thru the years. None of these should be extemporaneous--have everything planned and ask members in advance for these talks.

An addenda honoring charter members or a past matron and patron addenda would also be appropriate. (Mention should be made of the beloved members who have passed on and all asked to rise for a moment of silence in their memory).

A playlet depicting the early days of the Chapter and the present would be an interesting number to present, as would a special birthday ceremony.

Many Chapters who are able to secure old rituals exemplify the degrees as given 50 years ago, using the costumes of that period. This of course is not permissible when the meeting is open to the public.

If the evening is not too full special floral degrees may be given for the presiding matron.

Songs, old and new may be sung. A fashion show during the dinner or refreshment period, depicting dresses of the styles worn by worthy matrons over a period of years might add interest and fun.

Cutting of the birthday cake either in the dining room or chapter room may be made into a colorful ceremony. Charter members and past officers may cut the cake.

Decorations--
Gold, gold everywhere. Greenery may be gilded and used profusely. Gold crepe paper streamers and gold crepe paper table decorations. Place cards, if used, printed in gold. One other color may be added for contrast, blue, red, or green but if this is done the second color should not be very prominent.
Corsages of gilded greenery in paper lace doilies make pretty table favors. Little ships made of pipe cleaners, gumdrops and gold cellophane sails (we can send you a pattern) make attractive table decorations. If the birthday is held in flower season, nasturtiums, daffodils, zinnias, marigolds, and many other flowers are suitable. Gold tapers on the table also add to the beauty.

Refreshments served may carry out the same golden idea. Gelatin salad, open faced sandwiches, gold cake, etc.

If possible officers should wear gold dresses. In one Chapter which celebrated its golden anniversary this year the officers have been wearing gold lace dresses all made alike, through out the entire year.

One Chapter can not carry out all of these ideas but perhaps from reading them all over you will be able to find enough ideas to make your celebration a beautiful and outstanding one.

PAGEANT

Music—Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

Chapter room is darkened as for initiation. A solitary figure enters (dressed as people did in the time of Christ). As she approaches the East the emblematic Star is lighted in the East. She kneels silently.

Soloist sings one verse of Oh Little Town of Bethlehem. At the close of the song the figure rises and approaches the Altar. Kneeling before the Altar she prays—

Oh Father above, who didst give the shepherds and the wise men of the east, the beautiful Star as a guide, we thank Thee that we too have this same beautiful star to guide us in the paths of truth and the ways of righteousness. And having seen this Star in the East may we ever be zealous in following Him whom Thou sent to the earth to teach us the spirit of brotherly love and loving kindness.

We thank thee for the fifty years that have passed in this Chapter and ask Thee to bless us all that the years to come may be fruitful and worthwhile. Be with us and guide us in all we do. Amen.

At the close of the prayer the sister retires thru the Chapter room entrance.

Music—Memories. Lights are turned on.

The Star Points enter thru the preparation room led by the Marshall. Each Star Point carries a wand tipped with a large triangle the color appropriate to her station. They march as shown in the diagram. The Marshall retires thru the Chapter room door after setting officers.

Diagram—

![Diagram Image]
A sister enters dressed in costume of fifty years ago. (This may be fashioned of gold crepe paper.) As she approaches the East to take her station on the platform the soloist sings. Memories.

At the close of the song the sister says--

Oh Eastern Star, thou hast been our faithful guide for lo, these fifty years. Thy lessons have helped us on thru the labyrinth of life; they have been the stepping stones to the paths of Charity, Truth and loving kindness.

Oh beautiful Ray of Blue (Adah rises as the sister addresses her ray) representing the skies when all clouds have passed away—you have endued us with fidelity; you have instilled within us courage and helped us to walk these many years in the ways of right and duty.

Oh, lovely Yellow Ray (Ruth rises holding up the wand with the yellow ray) within the triangle (emblem of Constancy), you have inspired us to a life of unselfish service. As the faithful Ruth of old sheltered the aged Naomi, so you, oh Yellow Ray have pointed the way down thru the years to Constancy and love. You have shown us that lowly service to others is not lowly in the sight of Him who's Star we have seen.

Oh, Pure White Ray (Esther rises and holds up the white ray) emblem of joy and light, great has been your part in teaching the lessons of true nobility; in exemplifying great sacrifice for others and thoughtlessness of self—Courage too has shone in your ray and after these fifty years you are still resplendent and as bright as the beautiful Queen who saved her people.

Ray of Green, (Martha rises) emblem of everlasting life— you are our hope and in you do we place our faith. Many have passed in the great beyond in the years gone by but we know by thy sign that the parting is temporary and the meeting eternal, May your bright ray continue to inspire us with the faith that passeth all understanding.

Oh Ray of Red, symbol of Charity and Hospitality, you have ever been our inspiration to a sacrificial love. Your courage is undaunted and your love unsurpassed by all humans. We pay our humble tribute to you now as we have thru these years gone by.

Soloist: Star of the East

The Star Points retire as the song is sung.

To the same music all the officers enter and form about the Altar as shown in the diagrams:
When this is done the speaker continues—raising her hand as she says—

Where ere you stray, where are you go,
May our beautiful lessons grow and grow.
Through days of labor and nights of rest
May the love of the Master make you blest
I would pray the prayer the Eastern Stars do
May the Star of the East abide with you.

Officers march to their stations as shown in diagram 3 (preceding page). When all are seated the Worthy Matron says—

The Star of the East shines forth today.
Leading us onward our homage to pay
To the principles of truth, Charity and love,
The heritage we receive from our Father above
May we ever be steadfast in our cause for right
With the Star of the East as our guiding light.

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