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GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE-A BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY
CEREMONY.

By Lola Lamoreux

NOTICE-

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PREPARATION-

A fence with a gate is placed in the East. This is covered with many flowers. Flowers are placed in profusion about the Chapter room. Corsages are prepared for guests of honor and are at the station of the Associate Matron where two flower girls are seated.

MUSIC-

Song of Welcome to the tune of "In the Good Old Summer Time", "Garland of Old-Fashioned Roses", "In the Garden", "Our Yesterdays", "Garden of Tomorrow", "God Bless America", "I Love You Truly", Other songs may be substituted if necessary.

All officers are in their stations except the Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, and Marshall.

March music is played. The Marshall escorts the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron to the East. They are taken as far as the garden gate. The Marshall opens the gate, bows to the officers who go through the gate to their places. The Marshall then retires and escorts the choir to places prepared for them. She then resumes her station.

The choir sings the following song of welcome. Tune-"In the Good Old Summer Time."

May this happy birthday night
Be one of great delight.
Every gloom we've chased away
Our Star shines out so bright.
May future years be full of joy
And earth seem bright and gay
This is our wish for every one
On this our gala day.

At the close of the song the Worthy Matron speaks:

Sisters and brothers, welcome to the Garden of Remembrance. It is a beautiful spot, full of happy memories of past joys. On this, our birthday anniversary, we recall with deep appreciation and pleasure the work of those who have toiled in the Garden that it might be a lovely and inspiring place for us. For a real garden does not grow by itself. It must be planted, watered and weeded. Time and great effort must be expended to bring about the desired results. The blossoms must be beautiful-and we know that they are for their names are faith, love, hope, and service. Our gratitude goes out to those who have in the past labored in our garden. Because of them, we on thisanniversary of our institution may feel pride and joy in past accomplishments. In reviewing the past, we are reminded of the future. We who are living in the garden now are resolved to put forth every effort to keep the flowers blooming brightly so that in other years when other anniversaries come, those who then dwell in

it may know that we too have been as faithful and persevering as the members we honor tonight.

When the address is over the choir sings "Garland of Old Fashioned Roses". As the song is being sung a sister (this may be a charter member or the first matron if you wish) enters dressed in an old fashioned costume. She carries the history of the Chapter rolled as a scroll, (the history should be brief) and a garland of roses. She leaves the garland with the Chaplain as she passes her station, then goes and stands by the gate till the song is finished. She walks through the gate to the platform and reads the history. When she finishes, she takes a seat on the platform in the East.

Worthy Matron speaks: At a time like this our thoughts are turned to those who in the past labored in our Garden but are now dwelling in the beautiful garden beyond our sight. Let us pause and stand for a moment of silence to honor their memory. (Calls up Chapter.)

After a brief pause soft music is played. The lights are lowered. The Chaplain takes the garland of roses and places it upon the Altar saying:

At Home in God's beautiful Garden,
In the Valley of Rest so fair,
Some day, some time, when our task is done,
With joy, we shall meet them there.

The Chaplain remains standing at the Altar while the choir sings one verse of "In The Garden".

At the close of the song the Worthy Matron seats the Chapter and the Chaplain resumes her station. The lights are brightened.

If there are charter members present the Worthy Matron asks them to stand. The Junior Past Matron escorts them to the Garden Gate. She opens the gate and before they enter she says:

Charter members, you planted the Garden many years ago.
Your faithfulness and your devotion made it possible for us to be here tonight. We ask you to be the first honor guests to walk through the gate into the Garden.

The Charter members enter the gate as the music "I Love You Truly" is played. The Junior Past Matron presents each guest with a flower or corsage as they enter. These flowers may be carried in a small basket.

At the close of the song the Junior Past Matron says:

Tonight our hearts are like an old-fashioned garden
Where the flowers of memory bloom,
The beauty of the fragrance which the flowers impart
Suggest to you love from every heart.

Music - "I Love You Truly" is played again as Junior Past Matron seats the Charter members. If the Chapter is old and there are but two or three charter members they are given seats in the East on the platform.

The Associate Matron speaks:

When we turn our thoughts to the Garden of Remembrance, we also think of our Past Matrons and Past Patrons. They have helped to make our garden beautiful. Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, you will escort the Past Matrons and Patrons of this Chapter to the Garden Gate.

The Past Matrons and Patrons are taken to the gate. They go through and stand facing West. (They are not introduced, as past matrons and patrons of other Chapters are not included.)

When the officers have reached their places, the two flower girls in the West rise. One speaks:

Worthy Matron, the Garden of Remembrance
Is teeming with flowers so bright,
We hold in our arms these blossoms so rare
That were sent to these guests tonight.

Worthy Matron says: Flower girls, you will present the flowers to the guests.

As the flowers are being presented, the song "Our Yesterdays" is sung as a solo. At the close of the song the Associate Matron says:

There are no friends like old friends
And none so good and true,
We greet them when we meet them
As the roses greet the dew;
No other friends are dearer
Though born of kindred mold,
We trust, we love the new ones,
We treasure most the old.

As music continues the past officers are escorted to their seats. The Worthy Matron speaks: There are others to remember in this garden. They are the faithful members who have not been through the Chairs of the Chapter, but have served on the sidelines and as officers. They have helped to keep the weeds down and have tended and hoed the garden. Will all the members ofChapter, except the Matrons and Patrons please stand?

As they stand the choir sings "In the Garden of Tomorrow". At the close of the song they are seated. The Worthy Matron speaks:

Members and guests, this might close the Garden of Remembrance but tonight we feel that we should keep the Gate open for just a trifle longer. We pause to remember that we have had the privilege of living in a country where for years our Chapter has met in freedom and security. It seems only fitting that we should take our emblem of that precious freedom through our Gate before it closes.

Music - "God Bless America". The Associate Patron takes the flag from the West and carried it East through the Gate. While he stands holding it the Patron asks all to join in singing "God Bless America". The Associate Patron then steps to one side within the garden.

The lights are slowly lowered. The sister dressed in an old-fashioned costume who read the history of the Chapter, goes to the gate and closes it slowly saying as the lights lower:

Ours is an Order that shall stand
A light upon the Nation's hill;
Its strength not brick, nor stone, nor wood,
But justice, love and brotherhood.

The Matron taps the gavel and the ceremony is over.