A CARGO OF BIRTHDAY WISHES

(A ceremony to honor Worthy Matron's Birthday)

D. E. S. GRAND
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A little ship filled with petals (real or artificial) may be hung above the pedestal in the East, the bottom of the ship may be opened, by means of a connecting string, to shower the Worthy Matron with petals when words, "While the petals softly fall" are sung in song found below.

Choir, duet, or soloist sings: (Music found at end of ceremony)

WORTHY MATRON'S BIRTHDAY SONG

Birthday wishes, Matron dear,
We are sending you
Borne within our Birthday boat
Beneath skies of blue.
While petals softly fall (pull string to boat)
Truly, we'll be saying,
"Many happy birthdays, dear,
With good fortune staying!"

(Or if boat and petals in the East aren't used,
sing this verse)

Birthday wishes, Matron dear,
We are sending you
Borne within our Birthday boat
Beneath skies of blue.
May the gentle breezes blow
Softly, as we're saying,
"Many happy birthdays, dear,
With good fortune staying!"

Happy Birthday, Matron dear,
Is our wish for you!
May you like this little thing
We have planned to do.
Since we think you are so sweet,
We shall give this shower;
And we trust our love for you
Will brighten all your hours.
(Will give you joy filled hours.)

At song's completion, the Associate Matron rises and speaks the following verse while the Organist plays "Over the Summer Sea"—Verdi's Rigoletto.

Or--two small boys or one or two of the Worthy Matron's children, or a dear friend of the Worthy Matron may enter pulling a ship made by using a big basket, with large white sails.

If the person or children could be dressed as sailors or in a nautical way, it would be fine.

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They may either sing the words written below to the tune, 'Over the Summer Sea' or they may come in as the Associate Matron speaks the following:

Here comes a fine sailboat,  
Out of the West to Thee,  
Drowned by Love's breezes fair,  
She sails life's changing sea.

Safely she rides the waves,  
Bearing a cargo, dear,  
Of birthday wishes, true,  
From friends who've gathered here.  
Fond hearts entwining,  
Love's bonds are binding  
For you is shining  
Our Happy Birthday wish!

Sailor boys, Worthy Matron's children, or person pulling sailboat advance up the aisle as far South as Adah, who stops them by saying:

Dear little sailors, the birthday boat must stop at this port, for here it is to take on board a cargo of our very best Birthday wishes.

These blue blossoms (or blue gift) conceal a code which will enable the one to whom the cargo on this ship is consigned to receive a certain assurance that the Bank of Love, has deposited to her credit by ............... Chapter, unlimited Good Wishes for a very happy Birthday.

So I place these (this) code bearing messenger in your ship (places blossoms or gift wrapped in blue in ship). May it arrive safely at the port in the East.

As soon as Adah has finished, Ruth speaks so that the sailors will turn and come to her and not have to wait even a moment. Sailors pull to in front of and a little to one side of Ruth, who says:

RUTH:

Dear little navigators of our birthday boat, you must stop at this port, for I would add to your cargo.

I shall place this yellow gift (or these yellow flowers) aboard your boat. When the person for whom they're intended receives them she will find that they contain our best wishes that her golden chain of friendship will continue to grow.

As each link is added, we hope that she will enjoy every golden moment which companionship and friendly associations bring.

Immediately Esther speaks to the sailors, and they pull the ship to Esther's station where they stand while she says:
ESTHER: Brave little sailors, your compass, the five pointed colorful star, takes you past this port in your course to the East.

Here I am to place aboard your ship, bushels of our Loyalty which we'd like to send to the port in the East on this happy occasion.

With it, we send our hope, that our Worthy Matron will enjoy many, many more happy birthdays. Sail on, oh Birthday boat!

Martha speaks as soon as Esther has finished:

MARTHA: Little sailors, brave and true, past this port, Faith's breeze guides you. They go to Martha's station. This tiny gift (or flower bouquet) is dearer far than gold, for in it is contained our wish that the person to whom this is sent, will have a long, happy, healthy, and harmonious life.

May she, with each passing birthday, be like the flowers each spring when they put forth new and green foliage. May each year bring a better and greater understanding of the Faith and Hope which will unlock the door leading into the house of youth and joy where the acceptance of our Father's promise brings calm assurance and joyful trust in each coming year.

This, I place aboard your ship and pray for safe arrival at the port in the East.

Electa then says, as they go to her station:

ELECTA: In navigating the course from the West to the port in the East, our birthday boat has circled the five points of the Star. At this last port, or port, an infinite amount of love is to be taken on board.

"Love beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." Therefore, because Love is here tonight and prompted us to send this ship on its way to the East, we send our love and give this--(red token) red blossoms, heavily laden with love, to finish the cargo of our birthday ship.

May Love direct it safely to the East.

The boys leave Electa's station, and they pull the ship to in front of and a little to one side of the Worthy Matron.

At the same time the Sentinel may give the Warden a birthday cake to be carried and given to the Worthy Matron. Cake can be wheeled in on a tea table if you wish.

All join in singing together:

Happy birthday to you!
Happy birthday to you!
Happy birthday, dear
Happy birthday to you!
Directions for making boat:

Make a star on the largest center sail which extends above the other sails. Star may be drawn on sail and colors painted on, or the points may be cut out of colored paper on the sail and pasted before it is fastened in the boat.

If you are having a handkerchief, card, or gift shower for your Worthy Matron, ask those bringing remembrances to place them in the boat before the meeting of chapter.

You may have receptacles placed in the basket (ship) to receive the flowers, before it is brought into the room; or they may be in baskets or other receptacles when placed in the ship by the Star points, or they may be loosely put in, in such a way that they will show above and lean over the sides of the ship with the star decorated sail towering above the flowers.

The ship may be lighted after being placed before the Worthy Matron in the East. 'If you are not able to make an electrical connection in the ship, a good strong flashlight can be placed in it and turned on by the little sailors.

ASSOCIATE MATRON SPEAKS:

Worthy Matron, we have sent to you a Birthday Cargo which is filled with Love, Loyalty, and Good Wishes for you on your birthday.

We hope that we have helped to make this birth-
day a happy one for you!

THE END
WORTHY MATRON'S BIRTHDAY SONG

Birthday wishes, Matron, dear, We are sending you
(Or if fruit and petals in the East aren't used, sing this verse)
Birthday wishes, Matron, dear, We are sending you
Happy Birthday, Matron, dear, Is our wish for you

Borne within our Birthday boat Beneath the skies of blue.
Borne within our Birthday boat Beneath the skies of blue.
May you like this little thing We have planned to do.

While the petals softly fall Truly, we'll be saying
May the gentle breeze a blow Softly, as we're saying,
Since we think you are so sweet We shall give this shower.

"Many happy birthdays, dear, With good fortune staying!"
"Many happy birthdays, dear, With good fortune staying!"
And we trust our love for you Will brighten all your hours.
[Will give you joy filled hours].

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