BEYOND THE SUNSET

Characters- Characters Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Costumes- As desired.

Time- Twenty-five minutes.

Properties- 1 Book- size 8 1/2"X 11" when closed- for names of deceased members
9 Small pedestals
2 Small urns
2 50" -- 2 branch candelabra or 4 single 50" candlesticks
2 Crepe paper streamers (purple)
11 Non drip candles
7 Candlesticks

Flowers in sufficient number- 1 for each deceased member.

Scene- Chapter Room -- full set.
On north side of altar is a tall 2 branch candelabra (No. 1) containing 2 unlighted candles, and a low pedestal on which rests an urn (Urn No. 1).
On south side of altar is a tall 2 branch candelabra (No. 2) containing 2 unlighted candles, and a low pedestal on which rests an urn (Urn No. 2).
West of Martha's chair are Pedestals Nos. 3, 5 and 7-
On each pedestal rests a candlestick containing an unlighted candle.
West of Ruth's chair are Pedestals Nos. 2, 4 and 6-
On each pedestal rests a candlestick containing an unlighted candle.
In front of Associate Matron's station is-
Pedestal No. 1.
Attached to west side of altar are two crepe paper streamers.
Characters Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in ante-room.
Synopsis—At the Altar Fraternal are recalled the memories of those who have passed beyond the sunset. In lowly faith and humble trust the four great altar lights of recollection are set aglow, while to those who still vision the golden yesterdays is given the solace and assurance— that hope was never vain; that faith never went unfulfilled; and that Death is but the gathered dreams of Love and Life come true.
BEYOND THE SUNSET

Copyright 1929 -- Pauline C. Moore

Chapter Room -- full set.
On north side of altar is a tall 2 branch candelabra (No. 1) containing 2 unlighted candles, and a low pedestal on which rests an urn (Urn No. 1).
On south side of altar is a tall 2 branch candelabra (No. 2) containing 2 unlighted candles, and a low pedestal on which rests an urn (Urn No. 2).
West of Martha's chair are Pedestals Nos. 3, 5 and 7--On each pedestal rests a candlestick containing an unlighted candle.
West of Ruth's chair are Pedestals Nos. 2, 4 and 6--On each pedestal rests a candlestick containing an unlighted candle.
In front of Associate Matron's station is--Pedestal No. 1.
Attached to west side of altar are two crepe paper streamers.
Characters Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in ante-room.

-----------------

LIGHTS UP

Character No. 2 carrying a lighted candle, followed by Character No. 1 carrying an open book, enters slowly from ante-room. March across west to Pedestal No. 1.
Character No. 1 places the open book on Pedestal No. 1 and takes position on the west side of the pedestal. Faces east.

Character No. 2 places the lighted candle on Pedestal No. 1 and takes position on the south side of the pedestal. Faces east.

All as per diagram:-

LIGHTS SLOWLY DIM
Character No. 2-

"Back of the glow of the setting sun,
When the evening shadows creep,
There is a land where the lost hopes go,
Where the dead dreams wake from sleep.
There is a country of blue and gold,
Where the plans that we one time planned
Have all come true in a splendid way
That our souls can understand."

While Character No. 2 is speaking the
lights continue to dim until they are --

LOW LIGHTS

Character No. 1-

Often we who have lived with our companions
in a lovely garden awake to find that the
autumn has come, and that the garden is no
longer beautiful. That we are left alone--
that our friends and loved ones have left us.

At such moments it takes strength of character
to smile into a future from which the rainbow
colors have faded, where the shadows are close
and the lights are dimmed. No trouble is so
poignant as the grief that comes with loss.
No fear is so harsh as the fear that comes
with the silence that lives in the Valley
of the Shadow.

To every life that has known love has come
the sadness of loss. To those who have
known joyousness has also been given heartache.
To those to whom have been given pleasure have
come, at some time, grief. Thus are the
Scales of Life balanced.
Yet, the loved ones who have passed beyond
have left behind them the blessing of memories.
Memories that are staunch, unyielding and
precious. Our lonely hands feel, with a
tremendous sense of splendor, the touch of
vanished fingers. The sounds of voices
that are stilled echo in ears that try to
listen for them.

In all of these lieth solace and assurance
for our creed— That hands are never parted
but will grip with hand once more; that hope
was never vain; that faith never went unfulfilled;
and that Death is but the gathered dreams of
Love and Life come true.

Organ—

Very soft music -- bell-like tones.

Characters Nos. 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11 and 12,
carrying flowers, enter in parallel lines
from the ante-room, lined up:-

Characters Nos. 3,5,7,9 and 11 on the north.
Characters Nos. 4,6,8,10 and 12 on the south.

March across west to center west, turn, march
east toward the altar a short distance, one
line on each side of Esther's chair. Halt.
Face east.

Simultaneously:-

Character No. 3 marches east to position
on west side of Urn No. 1.
Faces east.

Character No. 4 marches east to position
on west side of Urn No. 2.
Faces east.

Character No. 1-

These are they who passed in the Faith.
Character No. 1-

Reads, from book (-----) names of deceased members.

Simultaneously:-

Characters Nos. 3 and 4 drop a flower into their respective urns, as each name is read.

Simultaneously:-

Character No. 3 turns left, marches to position in the north as per diagram. Halts. Faces altar.

Character No. 4 turns right, marches to position in the south as per diagram. Halts. Faces altar.

Simultaneously:-

Character No. 5 marches east to position on west side of Urn No. 1. Faces east.

Character No. 6 marches east to position on west side of Urn No. 2. Faces east.

Character No. 1-

Reads, from book (-----) names of deceased members.

Simultaneously:-

Characters Nos. 5 and 6 drop a flower into their respective urns, as each name is read.
Simultaneously:

Character No. 5 turns left, marches towards the north to position in front of Character No. 3 as per diagram. Faces altar.

Character No. 6 turns right, marches towards the south to position in front of Character No. 4 as per diagram. Faces altar.

Simultaneously:

Character No. 7 marches east to position on west side of Urn No. 1. Faces east.

Character No. 8 marches east to position on west side of Urn No. 2. Faces east.

Character No. 1-

Reads from book (-----) names of deceased members.

Simultaneously:

Characters Nos. 7 and 8 drop a flower into their respective urns, as each name is read.

Simultaneously:

Character No. 7 turns left, marches out to the north, turns, marches down north to position as per diagram. Halts. Faces south.

Character No. 8 turns right, marches out to the south, turns, marches down south to position as per diagram. Halts. Faces north.
Simultaneously:

Character No. 9 marches east to position on west side of Urn No. 1. Faces east.

Character No. 10 marches east to position on west side of Urn No. 2. Faces east.

Character No. 1-

Reads from book (-----) names of deceased members.

Simultaneously:

Characters Nos. 9 and 10 drop a flower into their respective urns, as each name is read.

Simultaneously:

Character No. 9 turns left, marches out to the north, turns, marches down north to position beside Character No. 7. Faces south.

Character No. 10 turns right, marches out to the south, turns, marches down south to position beside Character No. 8. Faces north.

Simultaneously:

Character No. 11 marches east to position on west side of Urn No. 1. Faces east.

Character No. 12 marches east to position on west side of Urn No. 2. Faces east.
Character No. 1-

Reads from book (-----) names of deceased members.

Simultaneously:

Characters Nos. 11 and 12 drop a flower into their respective urns, as each name is read.

Simultaneously:

Character No. 11 turns left, marches out to the north, turns, marches down north to position beside Character No. 9. Faces south.

Character No. 12 turns right, marches out to the south, turns, marches down south to position beside Character No. 10. Faces north.

All as per diagram:
Character No. 2 turns, picks up lighted candle from Pedestal No. 1, turns, marches east to position as per diagram. Faces west.

Simultaneously:

Character No. 11 marches to position west of Pedestal No. 7. Faces east.

Character No. 12 marches to position west of Pedestal No. 6. Faces east.

Character No. 11 -

"If we might cover each grave that lies
In a quiet spot, with flowers!
If we might give of the little joys,
That, close to this earth, are ours.
If we might share with them all our faiths,
And all of our dreams and prayers,
Could we make more perfect the peace they know
Or the comfort that is theirs?"

Character No. 12 -

"Our souls can cling to remembered words,
For memory will not die,
But though we remember, our hearts should sing,
Or, at least -- our hearts should try . . . .
Ah, life is sweet -- but death touches life,
And its sweetness is unguessed—
For we only know that God's love is deep,
And that, in His arms, they rest!"

Character No. 2 turns, marches to Pedestal No. 7 and lights candle on pedestal.

Character No. 2 turns, marches to Pedestal No. 6 and lights candle on pedestal.
Character No. 2 turns, marches to position as per diagram.
Faces west.

All as per diagram:

Simultaneously:

Character No. 9 marches to position west of Pedestal No. 5.
Faces east.

Character No. 10 marches to position west of Pedestal No. 4.
Faces east.
Character No. 9-
"Far away the dim horizon 
Touched on another land --
'Where the blue begins', we call it. 
Sometimes with an outstretched hand 
We can almost touch its borders 
Sometimes it seems far away. 
Sometimes it is just the vision 
Of a golden yesterday."

Character No. 10-
"But sometimes our glad tomorrows 
Meet the frail horizon line --
Meet it with a sudden splendor 
That is very sweet and fine. 
And although our longing fingers 
Never quite can touch the blue 
There is something near about it 
Close and wonderful and true!"

Character No. 2 turns, marches to Pedestal No. 5 and lights candle on pedestal.

Character No. 2 turns, marches to Pedestal No. 4 and lights candle on pedestal.

Character No. 2 turns, marches west to position as per diagram. 
Faces east.
All as per diagram:
Simultaneously:

Character No. 7 marches to position west of Pedestal No. 3.
Faces east.

Character No. 8 marches to position west of Pedestal No. 2.
Faces east.

Character No. 7:

"The horizon -- ah, we strive for
That faint line we never reach!
In the land that lies behind it
There are lessons we would teach;
There are words our lips would utter
There are songs our souls would sing
There are softly drifting hours
Touched with joy that dreams may bring."

Character No. 8:

"Oh, the hopes that lie beyond it!
Oh, the faiths that wait to greet
Those brave wanderers who cross
The line with unreturning feet!
Far away the dim horizon
Touched on another place,
Where the past is swept with glory,
And the future shows its face."

Character No. 2 turns, marches to Pedestal No. 3 and lights candle on pedestal.

Character No. 2 turns, marches to Pedestal No. 2 and lights candle on pedestal.

Character No. 2 turns, marches to position as per diagram.
Faces east.
All as per diagram:

\[ E \quad A \quad M \quad R \]

\[ 7 \rightarrow 8 \]

\[ p^{+1} \]

\[ 01 \]
Character No. 5 followed by Character No. 3 marches to positions on north side of Candelabra No. 1 as per diagram. Face south.

Character No. 6 followed by Character No. 4 marches to positions on south side of Candelabra No. 2 as per diagram. Face north.

Character No. 3 marches east to position west of the altar. Faces east.

Character No. 2-

So shall we light up our great altar lights to those who are beyond the sunset.

Character No. 3-

"I know that they return -- those we call dead, I know they hover near through night and day, For oft I feel their presence and am led By unseen hands along Life's darkened ways."

Character No. 2 advances and passes lighted candles to Character No. 3.

Character No. 2 returns to position west of altar. Faces east.

Character No. 3 lights one of the candles in Candelabra No. 1.
Character No. 5-

"I know they see with eyes more clear than mine, 
I know they vision more than Earth can hold, 
That light to them comes not from suns that shine 
Or moons that glow like balls of ruddy gold." 

Character No. 3 passes lighted candle to Character No. 5.

Character No. 5 lights one of the candles in Candelabra No. 1.

Character No. 5 passes lighted candle to Character No. 3.

Character No. 2 advances to position beside Character No. 3.

Character No. 3 passes lighted candle to Character No. 2.

Character No. 2 returns to position west of altar. 
Faces east.

Character No. 4-

"I know they hear and that such sense is keen, 
I know the whispers of my soul are heard 
And carried far into God's realms unseen 
On waves of love that speed the lightest word."

Character No. 2 advances and passes lighted candle to Character No. 4.

Character No. 2 returns to position west of altar. 
Faces east.
Character No. 4 lights one of the candles in Candelabra No. 2.

Character No. 6-

"They do return -- the loved ones we call dead, 
Oh, friends who weep for those who've crossed the bar
Accept this truth, and so be comforted.  
Where love still lives, the spirit dear ones are."

Character No. 4 passes lighted candle to Character No. 6.

Character No. 6 lights one of the candles in Candelabra No. 2.

Character No. 6 passes lighted candle to Character No. 4.

Character No. 2 advances to position beside Character No. 4.

Character No. 4 passes lighted candle to Character No. 2.

Character No. 2 turns, marches west to Pedestal No. 1, places candle on pedestal and takes position at the right of Character No. 1. Faces east.
All as per diagram:
Characters Nos. 9 and 10 march east to west side of altar, pick up streamers and return to their respective pedestals. Fasten streamers to pedestals and resume positions on west of their respective pedestals.

LIGHTS OUT

SPOT ON

Character No. 1 marches east to west side of altar, passing on north side of Esther's chair.

Character No. 1 kneels at altar.

Simultaneously:-

All Characters kneel at positions.

Character No. 1-

"Giver of every perfect gift and good,
Who ne'er hath failed Thy children asking food
In lowly faith and humble trust of Thee,
Hear now, O Lord, while we present our plea.

O give us of Thy wisdom and Thy strength,
That we may win to victory at length,
That we, being armored by Thy mighty power,
May conquerors prove through all life's little hour.

Yet keep us humble lest we fail to see
The thing that shall exalted be by Thee;
When heart and mind would judge, be with us then
And grant us love unto our fellow men."
Draw nigh to us, and draw us nigh, O God,
That others seeing by which path we tred
May rise, take heart, and following may find
The Christ they seek, The Savior of mankind.

O give us patience, hold our vision high,
For it may be Thy coming draweth nigh;
Till then, our souls deep need, Thy spirit's sword,
Thy wisdom, patience and Thy strength, O Lord!"

Character No. 1 rises.

All other Characters rise.

Character No. 1 turns, marches to the west,
heading on north side of Esther's chair and
takes position on west of Pedestal No. 1.
Faces east.

Character No. 2 takes position on south side
of Pedestal No. 1.
Faces east.

Characters Nos. 9 and 10 unfasten the streamers
from their respective pedestals, march east to
the altar, roll up their streamers, place them
on the altar and return to positions west of
their pedestals.

Character No. 2 picks up lighted candle from
Pedestal No. 1, turns, marches toward the
altar, passing on south side of Esther's
chair, and takes position west of the altar.
Faces east.

Simultaneously:-

Characters Nos. 3 and 5 extinguish candles
in Candelabra No. 1.

Characters Nos. 4 and 6 extinguish candles
in Candelabra No. 2.
SPOT OUT
LOW LIGHTS

Character No. 2 faces west.

Simultaneously:

Characters Nos. 3, 5, 4 and 6 face west.

Characters Nos. 7, 9 and 11 pick up their candles.
Face south.

Characters Nos. 8, 10 and 12 pick up their candles.
Face north.

Character No. 1 picks up the open book and takes position on east of Pedestal No. 1.
Faces east.

Simultaneously:

Character No. 2 marches to the west on south side of Esther's chair.

Character No. 3 followed by Character No. 5 marches west.

Characters Nos. 9, 11 and 7 fall into line in back of Character No. 5 as the line marches west.

Character No. 4 followed by Character No. 6 marches west.

Characters Nos. 10, 13 and 8 fall into line in back of Character No. 6 as the line marches west.

Character No. 2 turns and followed by Characters Nos. 3 and 4 and their respective lines, in parallel lines, marches across west and cut.

Character No. 1 turns, falls into line in back of Characters Nos. 7 and 8 as the lines march across west.
All as per diagram: