

OZIEL GRAND CHAPTER

Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation
for the Jurisdiction of New Jersey, Inc.

51st GRAND WORTHY MATRON
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Instituted
June 24, 1913



Jersey City
New Jersey

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Incorporated July 16, 1919
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To: Most Worshipful Michael A. Wiggins, Grand Master
Past Grand Worthy Matrons and Past Grand Worthy Patrons
All Elected and Appointed Grand Chapter Officers
All Officers and Members of Subordinate Chapters of OzIEL Grand Chapter

Greetings:

As we continue this journey and face daily challenges, we find encouragement knowing that despite any obstacle, this organization is poised to press forward.

It is our prayer that you and your families continue to be safe and remain vigilant as we navigate through the storm.

By the powers vested in us as the 51st Grand Worthy Matron and the 49th Grand Worthy Patron, we do proclaim the opening of the 108th Administrative Year of OzIEL Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation, for the Jurisdiction of New Jersey.

Scriptures: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman need not be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth. 2nd Timothy 2:15

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

Mottos: To Whom much is given, much is required (Luke 12:48)
For every dark night, there's a brighter day (Tupac Amaru Shakur)

Theme: Reclaiming our Past, while embracing our Future. "We're going **Back to Basics**"

Songs: Back to Basics, It's Your Season, My Help Draw Me Close/Thy Will Be Done, My Testimony, I Shall Wear a Crown, God Helps those that Help Themselves

Color: Red with a touch of Leopard

Flower: Red Rose with White Calla Lily

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Chapter Opening

Oziel Grand Chapter will resume in-person meetings effective January 3, 2022. As a body, the following guidelines are to be followed Statewide.

Chapter Meetings

1. A sign-in book must be maintained by each Chapter, tracking all members who are in physical attendance for the chapter meeting. Chapters are NOT to exceed the building/room in-person capacity.
2. Each chapter will purchase and maintain a digital thermometer for the taking of the temperatures of ALL participants who are attending their chapter meetings.
3. Temperature checks must be taken of all members who are attending the meeting in person and will be taken prior to the members' entrance into the chapter room. Utilize the self-assessment form to document temperature checks.
4. Plain white, black, or disposable surgical masks MUST be worn during the entire meeting unless the Sister/Brother is actively speaking. (No OES or Masonic Symbols or references are permitted on the masks.)
5. Chapters MUST have extra masks on site along with ample hand sanitizer, hand washing soap, and paper towels.
6. All Chapters MUST be Opened and Closed in due Ritualistic Form with a MINIMUM of SEVEN (7) Members of that particular Chapter being present. The following seven seats must be filled:
 - a. Worthy Matron
 - b. Worthy Patron
 - c. Associate Matron
 - d. One Conductress (either the Conductress or Associate Conductress)
 - e. Secretary
 - f. Esther
 - g. Warder/Sentinel - A Brother should be the Sentinel, however, if there is only one (1) Brother present at the Chapter meeting, a Sister can fill in this position.
7. The PASS will be taken orally from the members prior to their entrance into the Chapter Room after their Temperature is taken. There will be NO Touching, and the Grip will NOT be taken. **Social Distancing will be strictly observed.**
8. The Verbiage for the Opening of the Chapter will be strictly followed as outlined in the Oziel Grand Chapter OES Ritual, **OPENING CEREMONIES WITHOUT LINE OF MARCH**, Pages 73-74 (Copyright 2014). The Conductress and the Associate Conductress will meet the Worthy Matron in the West, and escort her through the Star on the Northside of the Altar to the East, walking in a single file, observing social distancing, with no physical contact.
9. The taking of the Pass and Grip, as outlined in the OES Ritual, will be recited from the Opening as a formality, but the Pass will be given prior to the entrance into the chapter room, and again the Grip will NOT be taken from any Member by any Chapter Member. (the Sentinel, Warder or Conductresses)
10. The Ritualistic Opening will resume except for taking the Pass.
11. After the Ritualistic Opening is completed, the Chapter will then host a hybrid virtual Business Meeting. The virtual meeting is to begin after the Ritualistic Chapter Opening is concluded and must conclude prior to the Ritualistic OES Chapter Closing.
12. The Ritualistic Chapter Opening and Closing is NOT to be Recorded!
13. All participants attending the chapter meeting virtually MUST be properly dressed, either as an Eastern Star or a Master Mason, and fully regaled in proper Eastern Star regalia.
14. All Chapter Members attending their chapter meeting virtually MUST be situated in a private setting (a private place, space or area), and they MUST have their video camera feature on at all times.
15. At the conclusion of each Chapter Meeting, the completed Chapter attendance record (with the Temperature Checks) for all the Onsite/In Person participants must be forwarded to the District Deputy Grand Matron of that respective district, within twenty-four (24) hours.

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16. All unvaccinated Members of the Order and those unable to wear a mask during the entire meeting are strongly encouraged to only attend the Virtual OES Chapter Meetings, if possible.
17. These guidelines will be in effect from Saturday, January 1, 2022, through Thursday, June 30, 2022.
18. All meeting requests after Friday, July 1, 2022, will require a dispensation from the Office of the Grand Worthy Patron.
19. The proper record keeping (contact tracing), and temperature checks of ALL participants must be observed by All Chapters amenable to Oziel Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation, Jurisdiction of New Jersey, for all Chapter Meetings, Chapter Social Affairs/Events and Chapter Charitable Events.

Chapter School of Instruction

- Meetings can be held virtual.
- No Signs and Passes are to be given, if Virtual
- The Worthy Matrons will provide instructions to members for attending Chapter Schools of Instruction via the Virtual Platform.

District School of Instruction

- District Schools of Instructions can remain virtual.
- Business Casual Attire is to be observed.
- No Signs and Passes are to be given.
- Prior to the meeting, the Worthy Patrons will be informed of the topic that will be covered at District School of Instruction and will notify their members.
- The District Deputy Grand Matrons will provide instructions and/or clarifications for attending District Schools of Instructions via the Virtual Platform.

Sisters and Brothers remember that virtual and teleconference calls are considered an official meeting, thus Zoom etiquette guidelines and dress codes apply to all. These guidelines are subject to change depending on CDC and the Department of Health guidelines.

2021-2023 Administration Initiatives:

Finances: Various Virtual Workshops are planned for members of Oziel Grand Chapter to obtain useful information On financial management and investments for the future.

Outreach: Oziel Grand Chapter will continue to partner with non-profit organizations to assist individuals in improving their lives.

Domestic Violence: Oziel Grand Chapter will partner with a non-profit organization to increase knowledge and awareness of Domestic Violence. Sister Ruby L. Thomas, Worthy Matron of Aaron Chapter No. 8 will be spearheading this important initiative.

Membership: The Chapters of Oziel Grand Chapter will reclaim members of the past while embracing members of the future.

Youth: Oziel Grand Chapter will continue its support of the Youth Felicitaras.

Cancer Awareness: Oziel Grand Chapter will partner with a non-profit organization to gain insight about cancer awareness (prostate, breast)

LUPUS: Oziel Grand Chapter will partner with a non-profit organization to gain awareness; this disease affects a large number of our members.

Multiple Sclerosis: Oziel Grand Chapter will partner with a non-profit organization to gain insight into awareness.

Annual Oziel Secretary and Treasurer workshop:

A Virtual Secretary and Treasurer workshop was conducted on Saturday, October 16, 2021. It was imperative that those in a leadership capacity and the Chapter's fiscal Officers attended, in order that they remain in sync with the day-to-day operations of their Chapter.

Chapter Date Request:

Chapter Annual Affair dates have been approved, events that may be forthcoming must be forwarded to Sister Martha J. Meyers, PDDGM, Date Clearance, and Sister Leslie VanPutten, PM, *Administrative Assistant* to the 51st Grand Worthy Matron, through your District Deputy Grand Matron. *All chapter-sponsored events must have the approval of the 51st Grand Worthy Matron before the communication of the event is posted.* Following the review of the date and nature of said event by the 51st Grand Worthy Matron, final approval shall be granted by the District Deputy Grand Master of your respective District.

Communications:

Chapter communications shall be read in the following order:

1. Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
2. Oziel Grand Chapter
3. Subordinate Chapters
4. Subordinate Lodges
5. Other Masonic Houses
6. Miscellaneous

Communications from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and Oziel Grand Chapter **MUST BE READ** in its entirety. Do not summarize. It is, however, permissible to summarize all other communications.

Dispensations:

Upon the vote of the Chapter, all requests for dispensations involving ritualistic work shall be forwarded to the Grand Worthy Patron, through the District Deputy Grand Matron, with the appropriate fees attached.

All requests to change a meeting date, time or location must be made through the form of a dispensation. The current fee for a dispensation, as denoted in the Grand Chapter By-Laws, is five (\$5.00) dollars. A dispensation **MUST BE READ** immediately following the ritualistic opening before the transaction of business for which the dispensation was requested.

District Meetings:

During this Administration, Districts will host their Annual District Meeting on a Friday evening or Saturday morning. Detailed information and dates will be forthcoming.

Education and Scholarship:

This administration will continue supporting the "Change for Education" Initiative. All contributions are used to aid high school students who are in need of financial support to further their education. All funds collected for the

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“Change for Education are to be forwarded to Sis. Jessi A. Banks, Grand Financial Secretary, immediately following the April 2022 Chapter meeting.

Official Visitations:

District Deputy Grand Matrons and the Grand District Lecturers will make their official visit to each Chapter within the District, during the administrative year. The Grand Worthy Matron and Grand Worthy Patron shall complete their schedule of official visits to each Chapter within the 2021-2023 Administrative period. When the Grand Worthy Matron and Grand Worthy Patron are scheduled for an official visit, the District Deputy Grand Matron and Grand District Lecturer shall make their official visit one month prior. At the time of each official visitation, please have all Secretary and Treasurer’s ledgers, vouchers and bank statements available for review.

Out-of-State Visits and Affiliation Requests:

Out-of-State visits and Affiliation requests either in-person or via a Virtual Platform are to be made **IN WRITING** and forwarded to the Grand Worthy Matron through the District Deputy Grand Matron. All requests must be approved by the Grand Worthy Matron.

Visits by members from other Jurisdictions are permissible at this time. We ask that you continue to pray for our Sister Jurisdictions.

Oziel Grand Chapter Charity Foundation:

For those who shop online with Amazon, we ask you to consider selecting Oziel Grand Chapter Charity Foundation as your charity of choice. For every purchase you make, Oziel Grand Chapter Charity Foundation will receive a percentage back. The Foundation is proud to be able to continue to help our members further their charitable efforts and our community at large.

Solicitation:

All solicitation letters will be inscribed with the following phrase at the very top above the salutations: *“Permission to solicit has been given by Sister Rochelle M. Elliott, 51st Grand Worthy Matron.”* Solicitations from other Houses will read, *“Authorization for this Solicitation has been granted by Sister Rochelle M. Elliott, 51st Grand Worthy Matron.”* If the solicitation statement is not at the top of the letter, the communication cannot be read. Solicitation requests from sources other than the Prince Hall Family must be approved by the Grand Worthy Matron, prior to being read in the Chapter room.

Statewide Solicitation permitted for Chapter Annual Affair
Limited Solicitation for all other Chapter events.

Formal invitations are to be forwarded to the invited guests at least 60 days prior to the event.

Supplies:

Sister Tameika Gibbs, PM has been appointed as the new Grand Supply Clerk, and Sister Edwena Peoples, PM has been appointed Grand Assistant Supply Clerk. We thank Sister Angela Oglesby, PDDGM for her many years of dedicated service to Oziel Grand Chapter. Requests to purchase ledgers, receipt books, rituals, and other supplies must be made through Sister Tameika Gibbs, Grand Supply Clerk. Each member should possess a copy of the current publication of the Ritual, as it is exclusive to the ritualistic practices in the Jurisdiction of New Jersey. The Oziel Grand Chapter Ritual is available at a cost of \$20.00. Prices of supplies are subject to change.

Fundraising:

Birthday Calendar: The first official fundraiser for this Administration ended on December 4, 2021. Thanks to all who supported this project. Sister Marjorie P. Ellis, GAM, and Brother Kevin D. Thomas, GAP worked tirelessly to provide a calendar that we know you will be pleased with.

Shirt: The cost for this item is \$40.00 which includes your name and chapter, your DDGM will have a sample and order form for review.

Flowers: You may contact your DDGM within your district for a flower or boutonniere. Prices are \$15.00 for corsages and \$10.00 for boutonnieres.

Technology Services:

The website is under construction and will be available soon! Webmaster, Sister Brenda L. Burroughs, Grand Secretary Emeritus, will maintain and update the site with current information relevant to the Membership. Be certain to visit the website at <https://www.ogcoespha.org> for events and information.

We would also like to remind the Chapter Secretaries to access their Chapter email address for internal updates and important messages. Send your concerns and suggestions to our webmaster, Sis. Brenda Burroughs, GSE at bburroughs@ogcoespha.org.

Also visit the MWPHGL-NJ website [www.mwphglnj.com] to keep abreast of the events happening throughout the state.

Oziel Grand Chapter's PayPal account will be made available for specific Grand Chapter events and registration for Sister Jurisdictional Grand Sessions when these events are scheduled.

Facebook:

All postings are to be submitted to your District Deputy Grand Matron, which will then be forwarded to the Grand Worthy Matron, for approval. Worthy Matrons, be certain to refer to the Oziel Protocol Manual, before preparing flyers and other notices.

Social Media Policy:

Worthy Matrons are responsible for ensuring that all Chapter members have signed a copy of the Social Media Policy. With the recent influx of new members, please be certain to work along with the Chapter Secretary, in disseminating the appropriate document. Please know you are responsible for the material you post on social media - you are representing the organization. Remember to be courteous, respectful, and thoughtful about how others may perceive or be affected by your postings.

Tickets and Flyers:

The names of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Worthy Matron and Grand Worthy Patron shall **NOT** appear on flyers, raffles, and "Club" event tickets.

108th Annual Grand Session:

Annual Grand Session shall be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 – Friday, June 17, 2022, at the Philadelphia Cherry Hill Crowne Plaza. Events planned for Session include for Wednesday night, June 15, 2022, The Worthy Matron of the Year and The Worthy Patron of the Year contest, with a twist: Winner does not need to be from the same Chapter, and the Queen Oziel Pageant on Thursday, June 16, 2022. Detailed information will be forthcoming.

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Youth Felicitaes:

Please support our Youth! Sister Tee Kim Ross-Randolph, State Director, along with her staff, continues to work diligently to mentor, coordinate programs and events, and offer training for our young ladies in Units throughout the Jurisdiction. The goal for this year is to experience growth within the existing Units and the possibility of the origination of new Units. Youth Felicitaes District Chairpersons are asked to prepare and act upon a recruitment strategy.

This task is especially crucial for those Districts that have no active log of Youth Felicitaes. We need all Chapters to assist Units in your respective Districts. We invite you to follow their activities on the website and provide support whenever possible. We further encourage you to attend their Annual Black History Program and the Annual Queen Pageant and Luncheon. At the very least, Worthy Matrons and Patrons and Associate Matrons and Patrons are expected to attend these annual events. Our youth look to our members for inspiration. Let's show up to cheer them on in all their endeavors.

Prince Hall Grand Lodge Raffle:

We thank you for supporting the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge raffle. The drawing was held on Saturday, November 13, 2021. We pray that each Chapter took advantage of the great opportunity to benefit from this project. This was a great way to generate funds for your Chapter without the expense of printing tickets or organizing a fundraiser. It's a "no-brainer" option.

Congratulations to the winners:

2022 Mercedes Benz - Mildred Lowery

Vacation Voucher - Naser Singh

iPad- Sandra Scott

Laptop - Peter Madden

\$500 Visa Gift Card - Ryan Daly

Prince Hall Community Festival:

This year's Prince Hall Community Festival was like no other. Thank you to the membership for your support! The Bridgeton community was there in full effect! Outstanding job by R.W. Kenrick Morrissey and his committee!

Prince Hall Day:

This year Prince Hall Day was held at Union Baptist Temple located in Bridgeton, NJ where Rev. Albert "God's Mailman" Morgan is the Pastor. The speaker for the hour was Senator Troy Singleton, a member of Shekinah Lodge in Riverside.

St. John's Day:

District-Wide services were observed on Sunday, December 19, 2021. We thank all those who were in attendance. A special thanks is given to the MWPHGL for the invitation to celebrate this Festive Day.

MLK Luncheon:

This will be observed on Saturday, January 8, 2022, which will be a **FREE** Virtual Event. This year's celebration will spotlight the talents and achievements of the Youth Felicitaes and the William H. "POP" Moss Grand Council, Order of the Knights of Pythagoreans. The program will begin at 12:00 pm and the Zoom link will be forthcoming. Resuming in January 2023 Oziel Grand Chapter will host its traditional MLK Luncheon.

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Esther Day:


This Festive Day will be observed on Sunday, May 22, 2022, additional information will be forthcoming.


Officers and members of Oziel Grand Chapter, as we continue to undertake this fraternal journey during this Administration, we stand firm on reclaiming our past while embracing our future, despite the circumstances governing how we currently operate. We ask you during these trying times, to look to our God who reminds us in Ephesians 4:32, to be kind to one another, patient, and forgiving.

This Proclamation is to be read once in its entirety.


Given under our hand and seal on this 21st day of December, in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-one.

Fraternally,


Sister Rochelle Meyers Elliott
51st Grand Worthy Matron


Brother Thomas R. Hughes, Sr.
49th Grand Worthy Patron

Attest:


Sister Joanne L. Motley
Grand Secretary

Attachment:
Assessment Sheet