



**Seventh District Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, January 17, 2026**  
**Lecture – Starting the New Year Right**

GWM, GWP, Sisters, Brothers, Officers, and Friends —

Good morning, and welcome to the beginning of a brand-new year in our beloved Order of the Eastern Star. Today is more than a meeting. It is a moment of renewal. A moment to pause, breathe, and recognize that we stand at the threshold of a fresh chapter — one filled with purpose, possibility, and the promise of greater light. As we gather in this sacred space, we do so with gratitude. I am grateful for the journey that brought us here. Gratitude for the lessons that shaped us. And gratitude for the opportunity to begin again with clarity, intention, and unity.

 **\*\*RECOMMITTING TO OUR VIRTUES\*\***

A new year invites us to recommit to the virtues that define our Order — not as words we recite, but as principles we live:

**FIDELITY** in our service

**CONSTANCY** in our character

**LOYALTY** to our obligations

**FAITH** in our purpose

**LOVE** for one another

These virtues are not abstract. They are the compass points that guide our walk, the foundation of our leadership, and the heartbeat of our sisterhood and brotherhood.

 **\*\*HONORING THE WORK AHEAD\*\***

Every year brings new responsibilities — and new *opportunities*.

*Opportunities* to strengthen our ritualistic excellence.

*Opportunities* to uplift our communities with compassion and intention.

*Opportunities* to mentor new members with patience, pride, and precision.

*Opportunities* to embody the beauty of our symbols not only in ceremony, but in daily life.

Let us step into this year with a renewed commitment to excellence — not perfection, but *excellence*.

*Excellence* in how we serve.

*Excellence* in how we communicate.

*Excellence* in how we show up for one another.

*Excellence* in how we represent this Order in the world.

 **\*\*WALKING IN LIGHT AND LEADERSHIP\*\***

As we begin this new season, may we walk with:

**GRACE** - even when the path is unfamiliar

**HUMILITY** - even when the work is heavy

**WISDOM** - even when decisions are difficult

**UNITY** - even when perspectives differ

**PURPOSE** - even when challenges arise

*Because when one Sister or Brother grows, the entire constellation brightens.  
When one officer leads with integrity, the whole chapter elevates.  
When one member recommits to the work, the entire Order becomes stronger.*

 **\*\*A CHARGE FOR THE NEW YEAR\*\***

Let this be the year we:

- Strengthen our bonds
- Deepen our understanding
- Honor our traditions
- Embrace innovation where it serves us
- Celebrate each other's gifts
- Move forward with courage, clarity, and conviction

Let this be the year we shine — individually and collectively — with the brilliance of the star we represent.

 **\*\*CLOSING REFLECTION\*\***

As we step into this new year, may our hearts be open, our minds be focused, and our spirits be aligned with the purpose of this great Order.

May we remember that every meeting, every ceremony, every act of service, and every moment of fellowship contributes to the legacy we are building.

And may we walk together — in harmony, in dignity, and in light — as we begin this year the right way: with gratitude, with intention, and with unwavering commitment to the work ahead.

Let's recommit to *Standing **Oziel Strong***.

Thank you and may the light of our Beautiful Star continue to guide us throughout this year.

***Fraternally,  
Sister Joselyn Ortiz  
Grand Lecturer  
Oziel Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star  
Prince Hall Affiliation for the Jurisdiction of New Jersey, Incorporated***