



Anniversaries Are Important

A birthday, wedding, anniversary in fact any day that commemorates something extraordinary, something memorable is observed as a "special" day. There may be a birthday cake, a party, a memorial prayer or a pledge. Whatever the occasion is celebrated makes it just a little bit different from the other days of the week. Why not make a ceremonial out of observing the birthday of Aerie/Auxiliary members. A monthly birthday party honoring the members should be an occasion of dignity and inspiration. The idea outlined can also be used in observing Aerie/Auxiliary anniversaries.

Directions for the Ceremonial

Set six unlighted tall candles upon a low table.

One tall lighted candle, held by the reader, symbolizes the spirit of the club.

Each of the six members who participate holds unlighted candles, and these are lighted from the central candle as the reader describes the wish which the candle symbolizes.

The six members can be chosen on whatever basis the Aerie/Auxiliary chooses, drawing slips, perfect attendance over a certain period, or by alphabet.

The number of birthday celebrants should be determined beforehand. Then, a like number of chairs should be placed up front, near the table holding the candles. At a given point in the reading, the celebrants will be asked to rise and will then be conducted to the chairs where they remain for the remainder of the reading.

The READER will probably be the Program Chairman or the Worthy President/Madam President of the Aerie/Auxiliary. Paste sections on cards rather than read from the paper.

LEADER

This candle, when lighted, adds brightness and warmth to all who are near it.

So would our Aerie/Auxiliary add joy and happiness to our lives?

The candle does not exist for itself but for the service it can give.

So our group has been founded to be of service to all who become members and to remind us that our lives must be ones of contributing usefulness to our communities.

From the candle, symbolizing our club, we would light the candles of our good wishes to you who this month have celebrated your birthdays and our hopes for you for the years ahead.

Those whose birthdays are celebrated in this month please rise.

(When they have arisen, one of the assistants in the ceremony conducts them to the chairs set aside for them near the table with the candles)

(Reader continuing):

Another birthday, another year of life.

What gifts does it bring to us? Let us consider. First there are opportunities.

Our mothers and grandmothers, our fathers and grandfathers spent their old age in rocking chairs.

In many cases this old age began at fifty.

Today, old age is out of fashion. Now, the later years are a time of fulfillment. We have leisure time, for life no longer demands so much of us.

We can learn new skills, keep alive old ones, and lead busy and active lives.

Young in spirit and proud of our new found interests afforded us by our Aerie/Auxiliary. Life can be spent joyously and happily each succeeding year.

We light a candle for OPPORTUNITY.

(The candles are lighted in turn by the six participants as designated, who say, "Let us light a candle for opportunity" and so on.)

There are MEMORIES.

We have more memories today than yesterday, many more this year than last.
Our experiences of today will be our memories of tomorrow.

What of yesterday?

Do we remember things we should forget?

Let us gather happiness in the days that are, that we may have such a store of pleasant memories that there will be no room for others.

We light a candle for MEMORIES.

There is EXPERIENCE

Each year of life adds immeasurably to our sum of experience. As it increases it gives us a deeper understanding of life.

Experience gives wisdom, and each one of us has a matured understanding that can help younger men and women along the way whether we are aware of it or not.

We are grateful for the experience of life, and look forward to new ones with happy anticipation.

Let us light a candle for EXPERIENCE.

As we have come along through life we have each know our times of loss.

This is simpler to plan than a treasure hunt if leaders and time are limited. The following suggested list of articles is not too difficult for a group of women to find.

A scavenger hunt involves a collecting by a group of a specified list of objects within a certain time limit. The lists are planned beforehand and the articles requested are not planted by the leader. It is up to the hunters to beg, borrow or steal the list of objects and to make all arrangements about returning them is necessary.

You can not purchase these items.

Don't include anything on the list that will bring the group against the law.

The more local color you can put in your hunt, the more it will be enjoyed.

Make out as many lists of objects to find as there will be participants in the hunt. Meet at your Aerie/Auxiliary quarters; distribute the slips in sealed envelopes; set a time limit and the hunt is on! At the specified time everyone returns to the

club and the winner is determined (the one who brings the most objects from the list back). It may be advisable sometimes for participants to work in pairs or teams.

Here are some ideas on things you can use on your scavenger hunt:

can opener	needle threaded with thread	women's garter
signature	chalk	cigar
bus or cab ticket	day before paper	banana peel
angleworm	strand of hair	swim suit w/hole
fly swatter	picture card	bird seed
road map	uncooked beet	dental floss
hairnet	flag	picture of movie star

Some of us are more aware of these blessings than ever before because we have a deeper sense of appreciation.

What are these?

One is *BEAUTY!* Beauty still surrounds us; we do not have to travel to find it. All about us is beauty. We need only look and listen.

This candle is for *BEAUTY!*

One is *HAPPINESS!* The place to be happy is here, the time is now. Live today and have a happy anticipation for tomorrow. The days that are new they are the days of promise and fulfillment. Our happiness is the sum of our experience, our warm memories, our present opportunities, our appreciation of beauty, and our joy in our friends.

This candle is for *HAPPINESS!*

These are the good wishes that we wish for each of you today:

New opportunities, happy memories of tomorrow, Rich experience, Beauty, Friendship, Happiness

The candles of the birthday celebrants are now lighted from the candle symbolizing the spirit of the Auxiliary and the whole group joins in singing such songs as "Happy Birthday to You", "Auld Lang Syne", "Memories" and "The More We Get Together".

Birthday Parties through the Year

A birthday celebration, following a regular meeting, can follow the same format each month. Or, this program can be used twice a year, or even only once a year. In that case, it would be a special birthday meeting rather than follow a regular meeting.

Those whose birthday during the past month is observed must as a group performs a stunt or pantomime that has some bearing on the "song of the month". For example, if four birthday sisters claim January, to the tune of Jingle Bells, they could form a star or pinwheel formation by giving right hand to one diagonally opposite. With walking step move 8 steps around on the words, "Jingle Bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way."

The birthday month song might be sung through twice by everyone present to give the group time to get in place and be ready to begin the stunt without awkward pauses. During the stunt the pianist should improvise suitable music.

Have a judge score each group on the basis of originality. At the end of the year, the winning group can be announced.

List the songs by month before using the program. This way each birthday group will have a little time to prepare and think out a program. Props or costumes may be used.

January ...Jingle Bells

February ...Let Me Call You Sweetheart

March ... When Irish Eyes are smiling

April ...April Showers

May ...In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree

June ...Here come the Bride
July ...Yankee Doodle
August ...In the Good Old Summer Time
September ...School Days
October ...Shine on Harvest Moon
November ...America the Beautiful
December ...White Christmas or Silent Night

NATURE HUNT: All items listed must be of nature such as, ten different kinds of tree leaves, mushrooms, 3 kinds of grass, clover, snail, etc....

PUZZLE HUNT: Sometimes the list of items to be gathered is a puzzle in itself and the players have to decipher the terms before they know what they are looking for. The list of course would be shorter than that for a scavenger hunt. This type of hunt can be a great deal of fun, both for those making out the list of objects and those doing the hunting.

Examples: something to cause tears (onion), the staff of life (bread), girls realize there's a shortage (a man)

WEARING APPAREL: Use lists containing the names of wearing apparel only, each list stating five women's garments and five men's garments.

The member who first returns and puts on the greatest number of articles found by him, is the winner.