

# Freemasonry and The Order of the Eastern Star

## *The Synergy of Fraternalism*

**Synergy** may be defined as two or more things functioning together to produce a result not independently obtainable.

### **What is the Order of the Eastern Star?**

The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization to which both men and women belong.

### **What is the difference for membership in Freemasonry and the Order of the Eastern Star?**

To join Freemasonry you need to be recommended by a brother and be of good moral character.

To join the Order of the Eastern Star, as a Mason, you must be a member in good standing. A woman must be of good moral character, but must also be related to a Master Mason in order to join.

This is why it is so important that Freemasonry and the Order of the Eastern Star work together to strengthen each organization.

### **Who are the members of the Order of the Eastern Star?**

They are Master Masons in good standing, wives, or other female relatives of affiliated Master Masons in good standing, or if deceased were in good standing at the time of their death, as well as members—either active for three (3) years or majority—of the order of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls or of the

International Order of Job's daughters, each of whom have attained at least the age of eighteen (18).

### **Did you know?**

Dr. Robert Morris, the poet laureate of Freemasonry founded the Order of the Eastern Star. It was in 1850, while confined to his home following an accident that Morris wrote the initiatory Degrees of the order. He first initiated his wife and daughters and expanded to some neighbor ladies. The signs and modes of recognition given to them, he freely communicated to Masons so that they would be able to recognize the newly initiated women.

Robert McCoy who came onboard in 1860 and wrote the rituals of the order, as they exist today. These degrees centered on the lives of five biblical heroines, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa with each one representing one of the five principles of the order, which are Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith and Love.

### **What is our mission?**

To help aid and support the widows, mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters of Freemasons. To aid and support members in time of need and to give cheer in their happiness and sympathy in their time of sorrow.

### **What do we do?**

#### *Through Grand Chapter...*

Support the local International Order of Rainbow for Girls Assemblies and DeMolay Chapters.

Award Scholarships through our Grand Chapter, as well as individual Chapters.

The Grand Chapter also awards scholarships to those pursuing religious education specifically.

Isadore Forbes Benevolent Fund, in a confidential manner, gives financial assistance to members who have had a catastrophic event or illness that has placed them in sudden financial distress.

Eastern Star of Mass Charitable Foundation, Inc., in a confidential manner, gives assistance for the various needs of our elder members, such specific items as wheel chairs, eyeglasses hearing aids, home health care, etc.

Support Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron's charity of choice during their year of service.

### *Annual State Wide Events*

Annual Family and Friends Cookout (all fraternal bodies invited).

Join with the Scottish Rite in their Canobie Lake family event.

Participate in the Grand Master's Fair.

Hold four balls/dances each year proceeds to support our scholarships or benevolences.

Support the MDA by holding an annual walk around Lake Quinapowett in Wakefield, as well as man phones during the Labor Day telethon.

Worthy Grand Patron's annual summer fun trip.

Worthy Grand Patron's annual winter fun trip usually a cruise or trip to warmer climates.

Annual holiday party including dinner and dancing.

### *Through our Individual Chapters...*

Participate in local food banks or other community services.

Contribute to local homeless shelters.

Ring the bell at Salvation Army Kettles during the Christmas season.

Put on dinners for Masonic Lodges.

Participate in local Masonic *myCHIP* events.

Participate in Masonic Blood drives.

Hold monthly breakfasts for the community.

Family outings: e.g.: mini-golf, bowling, horseback riding and many other activities.

Hold theme Table Chapters including a yearly Halloween Theme.

Mystery dinner theaters and theme fun nights.

*In conclusion, Freemasonry and The Order of the Eastern Star have a lot in common. We both want to enjoy our Lodges and Chapters by having fun times but we do hold similar values and purposes. The only significant difference is that in the Order of the Eastern Star, men may interact with their wives, mothers, daughters and sisters, thereby helping to strengthen the family and promote the fraternal life of good citizenship.*

### *For further information*

contact your local Chapter or the  
Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of  
Massachusetts Order of the Eastern Star

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***We Invite and welcome you,  
a family member, a friend,  
to join the  
Order of the Eastern Star  
and continue the  
Synergy of Fraternalism.***

### **Who may join:**

Only men who are Masons are eligible and only women with specific Masonic affiliation may be members. These affiliations include:

- Affiliated Master Masons in good standing
- the wives
- daughters
- legally adopted daughters
- mothers
- widows
- sisters
- half sisters
- granddaughters
- stepmothers
- stepdaughters
- stepsisters
- daughters-in-law
- grandmothers
- great granddaughters
- nieces
- great nieces
- mothers-in-law
- sisters-in-law
- aunts

and daughters of sisters or brothers of affiliated Master Masons in good standing, or if deceased in good standing at the time of their death; as well as members – either active for three (3) years or majority – of the International Order of Job's Daughters or of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, each of whom having attained at least the age of eighteen (18) years, are eligible to membership in the Order of the Eastern Star.



Membership Committee  
of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts  
Order of the Eastern Star

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