

# 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 who are devoted to the ideals of charity, truth and loving kindness.

### 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, and 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 Master Masons in good standing, or if deceased, were in good standing at the time of their death, as well as a Majority member and/or a member for at least three (3) years

or more and is 18 years of age, of The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls and/or Job's daughters.

### 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 The Elect Lady with each one representing one of the five principles of the order, which are Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith and Love.

### What is the Mission of Eastern Star?

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 our Individual Chapters...*

Sponsor local assemblies of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls and support DeMolay Chapters  
Participate in local food banks or other community services.

Contribute to local homeless shelters.  
Through outreach in our communities, we support many charitable organizations.  
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.

#### *Through the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts...*

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 gives financial assistance to members, in a confidential manner, who have had a catastrophic event or illness that has placed them in sudden financial distress.  
Eastern Star of Mass Charitable Foundation, Inc. gives assistance, in a confidential manner, 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.

**Through the General Grand Chapter, Internationally...**

We support Service Dogs. In Massachusetts, we have adopted dogs through the *NEADS* program.

**Annual State Wide Events...**

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

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.

*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 and we do hold similar values and purposes. The only significant difference is that in the Order of the Eastern Star, men may participate with their wives, mothers, daughters and sisters, thereby helping to strengthen the family and promote the fraternal life of good citizenship. An added benefit is to enjoy social fraternal and charitable events with your female relatives, thus strengthening the family bond.*

**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,  
and your family members,  
to join the  
Order of the Eastern Star  
and continue the  
Synergy of Fraternalism.**

**Who may join:**

All Master Masons in good standing\* and their affiliated female relatives. These affiliations include:

- 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
- 1st & 2nd cousins

as well as a Majority member and/or a member for at least three (3) years or more and is 18 years of age, of The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls and/or Job's daughters.

*\*and in good standing at the time of their death.*

**NOTE:** A female with Masonic affiliation can join Eastern Star even if her Masonic affiliation does not belong to Eastern Star.



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

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