

For further information contact.....

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-or write-

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Order of the Eastern Star

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THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

A Way of Life



REVISED 1/2010 by the Membership Committee
of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts
Order of the Eastern Star

*“TOGETHER WE BUILD
A BETTER LIFE”*

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest Fraternal Organization in the world to which both Women and Men can belong. Dr. Rob Morris, the Poet Laureate of Masonry conceived the Order of the Eastern Star in 1850.

Our purpose and goal is to provide an organization where women and men with good moral and social character can reflect the spirit of fraternal love, and the desire to work together in Charity, Truth and Loving-kindness for the benefit of all mankind throughout the world.

Eligibility for Membership: Master Masons in good standing & female relatives of Master Masons:

Wives	Widows
Daughters	Sisters
Mothers	Step-mothers
Granddaughters	Half-sisters
Step-daughters	Step-sisters
Grandmothers	Daughters-in-law
Nieces	Great Granddaughters
Great Nieces	Mother-in Law
Sisters-in-law	Legally Adopted Daughters

Aunts

Members (either active for three years or majority) of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls or of the International Order of Job's Daughters.

Must be at least 18 years of age.

The Master Mason does not need to belong to the Order of The Eastern Star in order for a woman to join. A Petitioner should be of good moral character, believe in a Supreme Being, be willing to assume the obligation of the Order and be able to attend the Ceremony of Initiation. A woman may use her affiliation with a Master Mason who has passed away, provided the Master Mason was a member in good standing at the time of his death.

Dr. Morris created the Degrees of the Eastern Star around the lives of five Biblical women: Jephthah's daughter (Adah), Ruth, Esther, Martha and "the elect lady" (Electa), each of whom are examples of heroic conduct and moral values. These heroines represent the Tenets of the Order which are Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith and Love.

The Order of the Eastern Star is not a religion. It does not pretend to take the place of a religion, nor serve as a substitute for the religious beliefs of its members. Members of all religious faiths may belong to the Order of the Eastern Star. We only require a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.

What does the Order have to offer? The Order of the Eastern Star provides us with a way of expressing compassion and concern for our Sisters and Brothers and loyalty to our friends, our Country, and our God. Each of us has an inner need to do something for others; however, sometimes it is difficult to determine just how to begin. We are truly dedicated to Charity, Truth and Loving-kindness.

The presiding officer usually plans some type of activity after each meeting. The Chapter and State also have numerous social activities for all members, their families and friends including bus trips, group vacations, dinners and dances.

YOUTH GROUPS

The Order of the Eastern Star in Massachusetts provides moral and financial support to members of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls and DeMolay.

HOW TO JOIN

To proceed with joining the Order of the Eastern Star, please complete the petition attached and return to the person who gave it to you or the person whose name

appears on the back of this brochure. You may also contact the

Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, O.E.S.

P.O. Box 600583, Newtonville, MA 02460

The Grand Secretary will contact the Worthy Matron and/or Secretary of the Chapter in your area who will be in contact with you. Following the reading of your Petition at a Chapter meeting, an Investigating Committee comprised of three members of the Chapter will be appointed by the presiding officer. Shortly thereafter, the members of the Investigating Committee will contact you to set up a time to meet with you. This is done to ask a few simple questions, provide you an opportunity to ask and receive answers to any questions you might have, and to verify your Masonic affiliation. The information the Investigating Committee receives will be reported to the Chapter.

If all the information is in order, the report of the Investigating Committee will be submitted to the Chapter at a Stated Meeting and a vote taken. If favorable, you will have been elected to receive the Degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Secretary will notify you of the results of the election and the date of your initiation. Most Chapters meet once a month, therefore, you should be initiated at the next meeting.

BENEVOLENCES

The members support the Eastern Star of Massachusetts Charitable Foundation, Inc., the Educational Fund, E.S.T.A.R.L. (Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership) and the Isadore Forbes Benevolent Fund. We also support other deserving charities.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Is Eastern Star a secret society? No, secret societies are underground and hard to find. We are easily found within the community. While only members are allowed in a closed meeting, non-members, family and friends are always welcome at Open Installation of Officers and other social events.

Are there expenses with membership? Each member is required to pay annual dues to their Chapter. All other expenses are optional.

Is there memory work? There is memory work only if you become an Officer in your Chapter.

Is Eastern Star time consuming? After your initiation into the Order of the Eastern Star you may attend meetings as your time permits. However, the more you participate and become involved, the more you will receive from our Order.

Eastern Star Chapters are located in the following Massachusetts towns

Adams	Middleboro
Agawam	Natick
Amherst	Needham
Attleboro	Newburyport
Auburn	Newtonville
Ayer	North Adams
Barre	North Attleboro
Belchertown	North Grafton
Billerica	North Reading
Braintree	Norwood
Bridgewater	Oxford
Brockton	Plymouth
East Bridgewater	Reading
East Longmeadow	Sandwich
Falmouth	Somerville
Framingham	South Dennis
Gardner	South Westport
Greenfield	South Yarmouth
Haverhill	Taunton
Hingham	Tewksbury
Holliston	Turners Falls
Ipswich	Wakefield
Lee	West Medway
Ludlow	West Stockbridge
Marblehead	Westfield
Marion	Westwood
Marshfield	Williamsburg
Maynard	Williamstown
Melrose	Woburn

Most chapters meet one time per month. Visiting other chapters allows you to meet wonderful friends all across the state and beyond.



Fee: \$ _____

Petition for Degrees

To the Worthy Matron, Officers and Members of _____ Chapter No. _____

Of Massachusetts, Order of the Eastern Star:

The undersigned respectfully petitions to receive the Degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star and become a member of this Chapter.

If accepted, I pledge myself to a cheerful obedience of the Laws of the Order.

I have lived within the Jurisdiction of this chapter (*length of time*) _____

Do you believe in a Supreme Being? _____

I have not petitioned any other Chapter and been rejected within the past two months.

If petitioner is a Majority Rainbow Girl or Job's Daughter, or was active for three years, a copy of the Majority Certificate or proof of the three years membership must accompany the petition. Masonic relationship is not required—mark NA in that area.

Masonic Relationship _____ of _____

Member of _____ Lodge A.F. & A.M., No. _____ of _____

I am a Majority Girl in the International Order of Rainbow for Girls or Job's Daughter or was a member for a minimum of three years at _____ Assembly No. _____ located at _____

(*Sign name in full*) _____ Date _____

Residence _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

Recommended by: (*Two members of the Order*)

Referred to the following Investigating Committee:

The undersigned, your committee appointed to investigate and report upon the forgoing petition, respectfully state that they have

discharged the trust confided in them, and report _____ favorably. (*Signed by Members of the Investigating Committee*)

_____, 20 _____

Name: _____

Birthday (M/D/Y) _____

Presented _____ Elected _____ Initiated _____