

Order of the Eastern Star

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The **Order of the Eastern Star** is a fraternal organization that both men and women can join. It was established in 1850 by Rob Morris, a lawyer and educator from Boston, Massachusetts, who had been an official with the Freemasons. It is based on teachings from the Bible,^[1] but is open to people of all theistic beliefs. It has approximately 10,000 chapters in twenty countries and approximately 500,000 members under its General Grand Chapter. Members of the Order are aged 18 and older; men must be Master Masons and women must have specific relationships with Masons. Originally, a woman would have to be the daughter, widow, wife, sister, or mother of a master Mason, but the Order now allows other relatives^[2] as well as allowing Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, Members of the Organization of Triangle (NY only) and members of the Constellation of Junior Stars (NY only) to become members when they become of age.



General Grand Chapter logo

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History

The Order was created by Rob Morris in 1850 when, while confined by illness, he set down the principles of the order in his *Rosary of the Eastern Star*. By 1855, he had organized a "Supreme Constellation" in New York, which chartered chapters throughout the United States.

In 1866, Dr. Morris started working with Robert Macoy, and handed the Order over to him while Morris was traveling in the Holy Land. Macoy organized the current system of Chapters, and modified Dr. Morris' *Rosary* into a *Ritual*.

On December 1, 1874, Queen Esther Chapter No. 1 became the first Prince Hall Affiliate chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star when it was established in Washington, D.C. by Thornton Andrew Jackson.^[3]

The "General Grand Chapter" was formed in Indianapolis, Indiana on

Part of a series of articles on

Freemasonry



Core Articles

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History

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November 6, 1876. Committees formed at that time created the *Ritual of the Order of the Eastern Star* in more or less its current form.^[4]

Emblem and heroines

The emblem of the Order is a five-pointed star with the white ray of the star pointing downwards towards the manger. In the Chapter room, the downward-pointing white ray points to the West. The character-building lessons taught in the Order are stories inspired by Biblical figures:

- **Adah** (Jephthah's daughter, from Judges)
- **Ruth**, the widow
- **Esther**, the wife
- **Martha** (sister of Lazarus, from the Gospel of John)
- **Electa** (the "elect lady", from II John), the mother

Officers

There are 18 main officers in a full chapter:

- **Worthy Matron** - presiding officer
- **Worthy Patron** - a Master Mason who provides general supervision
- **Associate Matron** - assumes the duties of the Worthy Matron in the absence of that officer
- **Associate Patron** - assumes the duties of the Worthy Patron in the absence of that officer
- **Secretary**- takes care of all correspondence and minutes
- **Treasurer**- takes care of monies of the Chapter
- **Conductress** - Leads visitors and initiations.
- **Associate Conductress** - Assists with introductions and handles ballot box.
- **Chaplain** - leads the Chapter in prayer
- **Marshal** - presents the Flag and leads in all ceremonies
- **Organist**- provides music for the meetings
- **Adah** - Shares the lesson of Duty of Obedience to the will of God
- **Ruth** - Shares the lesson of Honor and Justice
- **Esther** - Shares the lesson of Loyalty to Family and Friends
- **Martha** - Shares the lesson of Faith and Trust in God and Everlasting Life
- **Electa** - Shares the lesson of Charity and Hospitality
- **Warder** - Sits next to the door inside the meeting room, to make sure those that enter the chapter room are members of the Order.
- **Sentinel** - Sits next to the door outside the chapter room, to make sure those that wish to enter are members of the Order.

Traditionally, a woman who is elected Associate Conductress will the following year be elected to Conductress, then the next year Associate Matron, and the next year Worthy Matron. A man elected

Masonic Bodies

Masonic

Masonic bodies · York Rite · Order of Mark
 Master Masons · Holy Royal Arch · Royal
 Arch Masonry · Cryptic Masonry · Knights
 Templar · Red Cross of Constantine · Scottish
 Rite · Knight Kadosh · The Shrine · Royal
 Order of Jesters · Tall Cedars of Lebanon ·
 The Grotto · Societas Rosicruciana · Grand
 College of Rites · Swedish Rite · Order of St.
 Thomas of Acon · Royal Order of Scotland ·
 Research Lodge · Corks

Masonic groups for women

Women and Freemasonry · Order of the
 Amaranth · **Order of the Eastern Star** · Co-
 Freemasonry

Masonic Youth Organizations

DeMolay · A.J.E.F. · Job's Daughters ·
 International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

Views of Masonry

Anti-Masonry · Anti-Masonic Party · Anti-
 Freemason Exhibition · Christianity and
 Freemasonry · Catholicism and Freemasonry ·
 Suppression of Freemasonry · Masonic
 conspiracy theories · Taxil hoax

People and Places

Masonic Temple · James Anderson · Albert
 Mackey · Albert Pike · Prince Hall · John the
 Evangelist · John the Baptist · William Schaw
 · Elizabeth Aldworth · List of Freemasons ·
 Lodge Mother Kilwinning · Freemasons' Hall,
 London · House of the Temple · Solomon's
 Temple · Detroit Masonic Temple · List of
 Masonic buildings

Other related articles

Great Architect of the Universe · Square and
 Compasses · Pigpen cipher · Eye of
 Providence · Hiram Abiff · Sprig of Acacia ·
 Masonic Landmarks · Pike's *Morals and
 Dogma* · Propaganda Due · Dermott's *Ahiman
 Rezon*



Associate Patron will usually the next year be elected Worthy Patron. Usually the woman who is elected to become Associate Matron will let it be known who she wishes to be her Associate Patron, so the next year they will both go to the East together as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron. There is no male counterpart to the Conductress and Associate Conductress. Only women are allowed to be Matrons, Conductresses, and the Star Points (Adah, Ruth, etc.) and only men can be Patrons.

Headquarters

Main article: International Temple

The General Grand Chapter headquarters, the International Temple, is located in the Dupont Circle neighborhood of Washington, D.C., in the former Perry Belmont Mansion. The mansion was built in 1909 for the purpose of entertaining the guests of Perry Belmont. This included Britain's Prince of Wales in 1919. General Grand Chapter purchased the building in 1935. The secretary of General Grand Chapter lives there while serving his or her term of office. The mansion features works of art from around the world, most of which were given as gifts from various international Eastern Star chapters.

Charities

The Order has a charitable foundation ^[5] and from 1986-2001 contributed \$513,147 to Alzheimer's disease research, juvenile diabetes research, and juvenile asthma research. It also provides bursaries to students of theology and religious music, as well as other scholarships that differ by jurisdiction. In 2000 over \$83,000 was donated. Many jurisdictions support a Masonic and/or Eastern Star retirement center or nursing home for older members; some homes are also open to the public. The Elizabeth Bentley OES Scholarship Fund was started in 1947.^{[6][7]}

Notable members

- Clara Barton^[8]
- J. Howell Flournoy^[9]
- Eva McGown^[10]
- Lee Emmett Thomas^[11]
- Laura Ingalls Wilder^[12]



Officers representing the heroines of the order sit around the altar in the center of the chapter room.



Eastern Star meeting room



The International Temple in Washington, D.C.

See also

- Order of the Amaranth

References

- [^] "Installation Ceremony". *Ritual of the Order of the Eastern Star*. Washington, DC: General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. 1995 [1889]. pp. 120–121.
- [^] "Eastern Star Membership" (<http://www.easternstar.org/eligibility.html>) . General Grand Chapter. <http://www.easternstar.org/eligibility.html>. Retrieved 2010-06-03. "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 and daughters of sisters or brothers of affiliated Master Masons in good standing, or if deceased were in good standing at the time of their death"
- [^] Ayers, Jessie Mae (1992). "Origin and History of the Adoptive Rite Among Black Women" (<http://www.jabron.net/oeshist.htm>) . *Prince Hall Masonic Directory*. Conference of Grand Masters, Prince Hall Masons. <http://www.jabron.net/oeshist.htm>. Retrieved 2007-10-25.
- [^] "Rob Morris"



Eureka Masonic College, also known as The Little Red Schoolhouse. Birthplace of the Order of the Eastern Star



Order of the Eastern Star birthplace. Signage at the Little Red Schoolhouse

(<http://web.archive.org/web/20070928205954/http://www.oescal.org/2005/2005RobMorris.htm>) . Grand Chapter of California. Archived from the original (<http://www.oescal.org/2005/2005RobMorris.htm>) on 2007-09-28. <http://web.archive.org/web/20070928205954/http://www.oescal.org/2005/2005RobMorris.htm>. Retrieved 2007-10-01.

- [^] <http://www.easternstar.org/oescharities.htm>
- [^] "Elizabeth Bentley Order Of The Eastern Star Scholarship Award" (http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/advanceded/sfa/scholarships/elizabeth_bentley.html) . Yukon, Canada. http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/advanceded/sfa/scholarships/elizabeth_bentley.html. Retrieved 2009-11-05.
- [^] "Eastern Star has enjoyed long history" (<http://www.bclocalnews.com/lifestyles/67051602.html>) . *Black Press*. <http://www.bclocalnews.com/lifestyles/67051602.html>. Retrieved 2009-11-05. "The Eastern Star Bursary, later named the Elizabeth Bentley OES Scholarship Fund, was started in 1947."
- [^] Clara Barton, U.S. Nurse Masonic First Day Cover (http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/masonicmuseum/clara_barton_fdc.htm)
- [^] "Sheriff 26 Years – J. H. Flournoy Dies," *Shreveport Journal*, December 14, 1966, p. 1
- [^] <http://www.akpub.com/akttt/stmatts/choirwindow.htm> by Helen L. Atkinson at *ALASKA INTERNET PUBLISHERS, INC*
- [^] "Thomas, Lee Emmett" (<http://www.lahistory.org/site37.php>) . Louisiana Historical Association, *A Directory of Louisiana Biography* (lahistory.org). <http://www.lahistory.org/site37.php>. Retrieved December 29, 2010.
- [^] Big Muddy online publications (http://www6.semo.edu/universitypress/bigmuddy/NF/Laura_Ingalls_Wilder.htm)

External links

- General Grand Chapter homepage (<http://easternstar.org/>)
- New York Grand Chapter homepage (<http://nyoes.org/>)
- Eastern Star Organizations (http://www.dmoz.org/Society/Organizations/Fraternal/Freemasonry/Related_Organizations/Eastern_Star/)

at the Open Directory Project

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