

Freemasonry is the oldest and largest worldwide fraternity dedicated to the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of a Supreme Being. Although of a religious nature, Freemasonry is not a religion. It urges its members, however, to be faithful and devoted to their own religious beliefs.

It is a course of moral instruction using both allegories and symbols to teach its lessons. The legends and myths of the old stonemasons and masons, many of them involved in building the great cathedrals of Europe, have been woven into an interesting and effective way to portray moral truths.

One modern definition is "Freemasonry is an organized society of men, symbolically applying the principle of Operative Masonry and architecture to the science and art of character building." In other words, Masonry uses ageless methods and lessons to make each of us a better person.

Masonry stands for certain important principles and beliefs. The primary doctrines of Freemasonry are **Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth**. Its cardinal virtues are **Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice**. These principles or beliefs cover a broad field, actually supplying the pattern to meet every experience in human life.

In the United States Masonry is a strong supporter of constitutional government... of quality public education ... of the freedom of religion and expression ... of the equality of all men and women ... of the need for strong moral character... and of meaningful charity.

"The mission of Freemasonry is to promote a way of life that binds like minded men in a worldwide brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences; by teaching the great principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth: and, by the outward expression of these principles, through its fellowship, its compassion and its concern, to find ways in which to serve God, family, country, neighbors and self."

Simply put, the overall purpose of Masonry is to provide a way to help each member become a better person. We do not propose to take a bad man and make him good; rather, our aim is to take the good man and make him better. We try to place emphasis on the individual man by strengthening his character, improving his moral and spiritual outlook and broadening his mental horizons.

We try to impress upon the minds of our members the principles of personal responsibility and morality; to give each member an understanding of and feeling for Freemasonry's character; and to have every member put these lessons into practice in his daily life. We try to build a better world by building better men to work in their own way in their own communities. Freemasonry believes in universal peace made possible by teaching its doctrine through the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God.

A Mason is a **MAN** and a brother
Whose trust is in **GOD**.
He meets you on the **LEVEL** and
Acts upon the **SQUARE**

CHARITABLE GIVING

From its earliest days, charity has been the most visible Masonic activity. Freemasons have always been devoted to caring for disadvantaged children, the sick and the elderly. In fact, Masons, and the organizations that are within the Masonic family, in North America give away approximately \$3 million to national and local charities each day, of which more than 70% is directed toward the general public. Masonry's charity is given without regard to race, sex, creed, or national origin. Masons are also actively involved in a great deal of community volunteer work.

Although Masonic ritual varies between jurisdictions, a consistent message conveyed to every candidate is that charity is an essential part of Freemasonry. From this philosophy comes much of a 'Mason's work', given freely and willingly. Charity comes in many forms, both large and small.

No one could possibly completely list all of the charitable work done by Freemasons. There are many which are local and private. In fact, much Masonic charity occurs in this quiet way. Other activities, are so broad that they cannot be hidden and are well known such as Muscular Dystrophy Assoc., Children Hospitals, and Learning Centers. In New Jersey the Grand Lodge operates it's own nursing home (originally included orphans) has offered scholarships, and has engaged in numerous other charitable efforts.

Locally Mansfield Lodge has sponsored and assisted many community and school functions, scholarships, Boy Scout Activities, ARC programs, and numerous other local and not so local programs.

Freemasonry
Building a Better World
By Building a Better Man

Appendant & Affiliated Bodies

Scottish Rite
Shrine
SCIOTS
Order of the Amaranth
Order of Eastern Star

Tall Cedars of Lebanon
York Rite
DeMolay
Rainbow
Knights Templar

**MANSFIELD
LODGE**

**Part of the
Washington
Community
Since 1814**



REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS

1st & 3rd Thursday

7:30Pm

Except Legal Holidays

and during July & August

**275 RT 31 NORTH
PO BOX 83
WASHINGTON, NJ 07882
908-689-2533**

mansfieldlodge36@gmail.com

**Serving the Washington
Area
For the Past 195 years**

Masonry General History

The history of history is so extensive and many scholars have spent much time researching this that it is not possible to cover it in this brochure. This not intended to give you a complete history, instead a brief description.

We are not sure at what point in time that our craft was born. Hundreds of Masons have investigated this question, but no conclusive answer has been found, and perhaps never will be. The origins of Freemasonry are unclear largely since records of the beginning are nonexistent. Earliest mention of masonry can be traced back to 1390. It is suspected that Masonry started as a stonemason's guild strictly for the benefit of uniting operative stonemasons. Over the ages Freemasonry, as we now know it, slowly took form. It has evolved into a comprehensive and effective form of fraternal teaching of basic morals, truths and personal fulfillment. In 1717 the Grand Lodge of England was formed. This was the first known effort to formalize the craft and give it some structure with constitution, bylaws, rules and regulations. This also gave the organization some form and purpose beyond operative masonry. While basing much of our ritual around the art and science of the building trades, especially the building of King Solomon's Temple, The purpose of Masonry was developed to profess a brotherhood of moral and charitable way of life amongst its members. This effort paved the way for Masonry to become the largest fraternal organization world wide. This is know as speculative Masonry.

In the United States, Lodges were informally organized shortly after the arrival of the Settlers in the new world. It is suspected that Masons met The first Lodge to officially formalize was St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia in 1731. The first Grand Lodge to be chartered was the GL of Virginia in 1733.

In New Jersey the first Lodge was St. John's Lodge in Newark.

NJ Grand Lodge was formed in 1787. Mansfield Lodge No. 36 was chartered in 1814. The sponsoring lodge was Hope Lodge No. 26 in Hope, New Jersey. Our chartered members included distinguished men of the area.

Our first meetings were held at the Washington House on the corner of Broad and West Washington Ave. They met in a small room petitioned off in the gables of the building. From that we met in two other building in the downtown Washington area. In 1885 we started meeting on the third floor of the bank building located on the same site of where we originally met on the corner of Broad and West Washington Ave.

In 1968 we joined efforts with Oxford Lodge No. 127 and constructed a new building to be shared between the two Lodges at our present location. This was dedicated in 1969 . In 1980 the two Lodges merged.

Most of the furnishings in the Lodge room were crafted at the Cornish Organ Factory.



First meeting location, the Washington House on the corner of Belvidere and Washington Ave.

**A tradition of excellence by
developing community leaders.**

Famous Freemasons

In 1957, William R. Denslow developed a list of 10,000 famous Freemasons. It's virtually impossible to complete a comprehensive list of famous freemasons. Our organization has attracted the likes of many world leaders, our founding fathers, U.S. Presidents, beginning with Bro. George Washington, many other political figures from national to local representatives. Membership to our fraternity has been sought out by many military men, astronauts, entertainers, athletes, many famous business men and possibly even one out your ancestors, relatives, or good friends.

Freemasonry represents men of all walks of life.

If you think you might be ready to join the ranks of many great men over the ages and promote the principals of Freemasonry, just contact a member.

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Freemasonry is not a secret society, instead a worldwide society with a long rich heritage and traditions of secrets. Those who think Freemasonry is a secret society have not yet discovered the internet.

Suggested Informative Masonic Web Sites

www.njfreemasonry.org (Grand Lodge of NJ)

www.nj1stmasonicdistrict.com (1st Masonic District of NJ)

www.americanmason.com

www.mastermason.com/njlore1786 (Lodge of Research)

www.initiatedeye.com