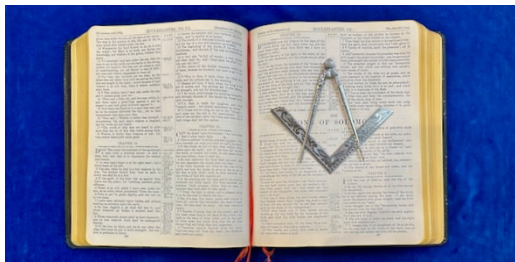


A Man in Your Life wants to be a

## Mason



This brochure will help explain a little about the fraternity and what this new adventure means for the new Mason and hopefully will answer some common questions or concerns.



The Square and Compasses are Masonry's most popular symbol, signifying virtue and self-control.

### Freemasonry is:

- The oldest, largest, and most charitable men's fraternal organization in the world.
- Spiritual but not religious in nature, requiring every member to profess a belief in a Supreme Being of his choice.
- Family oriented with many programs and groups to involve the entire family.
- An opportunity for a man to improve himself. Rich in history, tradition, and patriotism.
- Sensitive to the needs of each community where it exists.
- Open to men of good character regardless of race, creed, or religion.

### Freemasonry is NOT:

- A secret society. Any information about Masons can be found at a well-stocked bookstore or local library.
- Masonic buildings are clearly marked and are listed in public directories and online.
- Many members wear Masonic jewelry.
- The only secret about Masonry is that there are no real secrets.

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*Family values are critical to a Mason. Membership should never interfere with family life.*

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### A little bit of Masonic History

No one knows exactly how old Freemasonry is because the actual origins have been lost in time. Some scholars believe Masonry rose from the guilds of stonemasons who built the majestic castles and cathedrals of the Middle Ages.

In 1717 a formal organization was created in England when four Lodges in London joined in forming England's Grand Lodge.

Freemasonry in America was initiated by our early settlers and was supported by men such as Washington, Franklin, Hancock, Revere and DeWitt Clinton.

In Nevada, our Grand Lodge, which is the supreme Masonic body in the state, was formed in 1865 by the seven lodges located here which had originally been chartered (sponsored) by other states.

### The Degree System of Masonry

Your family member will be going through a unique experience in the modern world as he participates in our three degrees leading up to his achieving full membership as a Master Mason.

Ancient in origin, each degree teaches an important lesson using symbols. There is never any 'hazing' in a Masonic Degree. The Degrees are dignified and

solemn events and when understood can add great value to the Mason's daily life.

All Masons wear aprons at their meetings to symbolize the historic link between our current Brotherhood and the builders of old.



### **Masonic Meetings**

All Lodges meet on a regular basis which allows your family to plan events. Masons receive more of the benefits of Masonry by attending meetings, so long as that attendance does not harm the family in any way.

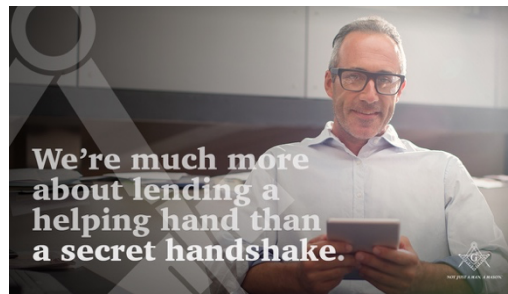
Some Lodges hold family events and dinners, and you are encouraged to attend with him whenever possible.

### **What is the purpose of Masonry?**

The main purpose of Masonry is to take good men and assist them in becoming better husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers. Masonry does this by keeping them exposed to moral and ethical

teachings and by consistently asking them to consider important character-building issues.

One of most important concerns is what each Mason gives back to his community. Masonry's cornerstone is charity. Large sums are given to charity by all Masonic organizations combined. In short, by improving ourselves we are placed in a better position to help others and our communities.



### **Illness or Distress**

Always ensure that your Mason gives you the proper contact information for his current lodge. Should he fall ill or be hospitalized, please contact the Lodge so that Masons may offer their assistance.

### **Ways to Participate**

- Attend public events, installations, parties, dinners, and tours with your new Mason.

- Work with the Lodge on their charitable events such as fund drives, child identification programs, blood drives, drug and alcohol prevention programs, and private charitable work such as visiting the sick and tending to the needs of Masonic widows.
- Inquire about scholarships for your college-bound teens. Many Lodges have programs to support this.
- Become familiar with all the other groups that are part of the Masonic family such as Eastern Star for women, Rainbow, and Job's Daughters for girls, Demolay for boys, and there are others as well.

### **More Questions?**

Ask your new Mason! If he doesn't know, he should bring the question to the Officers of his Lodge who can assist him further.

