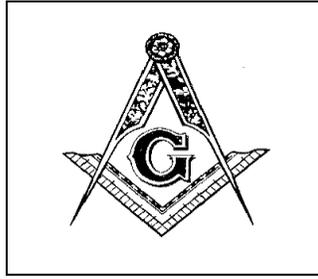


912-977-1735



1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday  
7:00 PM

Hinesville Masonic Lodge No. 271  
PO Box 725  
Hinesville, GA 31310

EA's Name,

As you and wife's name start your Masonic Journey, I wanted to take a few moments of your time and answer a few myths/questions that you may or may not heard about Masons and the Masonic fraternity. Please take a few moments and at your leisure, read this document and we can discuss at our next sit down.

#### Is Free Masonry a Secret Society?

The answer is no. A secret society is one in which the membership is concealed, the meeting places are kept secret, and knowledge of its organization and principles is unknown to the public. True, we have a few secrets in Freemasonry: a part of our ritual, our modes of recognition and the business of the Lodge. Portions of our ritual have been handed down within Freemasonry for centuries and form a part of our tradition. However, our purposes, ideals and principles may be learned by anyone who inquires. There are numerous books on these subjects available to the public. All printed Masonic information, with the exception of our esoteric work, may be freely discussed in public. As Masons, we wear lapel pins and other Masonic jewelry, march in parades with our distinctive aprons, advertise the time and place of our meetings and openly sponsor charities. We can hardly be called a secret society. We do prefer to keep our rites confidential, because keeping them sacred and solemn can only enhance their initiatory value.

#### Is Free Masonry a Religion?

Again, the answer is no. Because of the nature of the teachings of Freemasonry, we require our candidates to acknowledge a belief in a

**Peace and Harmony**

Supreme Being and the immortality of the soul. Otherwise, the ceremonies would be meaningless. But there is no requirement that one belong to a particular religion or a particular church. That choice is a personal decision. It is the opinion of our Order that membership in our Fraternity will only enhance a man's experience in whatever religious community he chooses to belong.

### Can an Atheist become a Mason?

An atheist cannot become a Mason, because he cannot express a belief in a Supreme Being.

### Which subjects not proper for Discussion in Lodge?

Religion and politics should not be addressed in Lodge, and there are good reasons for this. When we meet in a Lodge, we are all on a common level, and are not subject to the classes and distinctions of the outside world. Each Brother is entitled to his own beliefs and convictions. Our objective is to unite men, not to divide them. These subjects create honest differences of opinion that might well cause friction between brethren.

### Free Masonry and Politics.

Politics and any other subject, which might disrupt the peace and harmony of the Lodge, should not be discussed in Lodge. We are taught to eliminate from our lodge room discussions on all questions likely to involve party or fractional strife.

### Why is it called a BLUE lodge?

Our Lodges are referred to as “Blue” or “Symbolic Lodges”. The color blue is emblematic of Friendship, a characteristic peculiar to our ancient craft Lodges as well as our Lodges today.

### Is “HAZING” allowed?

There is no place for horseplay or hazing during our ceremonies and the candidate can be assured that there will be none. The rituals are serious and solemn, and we try to teach moral lessons with great dignity. Anything, which is told to the candidate in a joking manner, serves only to desecrate

the honorable purposes of Freemasonry. The candidate should have no apprehension about entering a Lodge. He is always entering a society of friends and brothers where he will be treated with dignity and decorum at all times.

### The Heart of the Masonic Family.

Freemasonry is not just another fraternity or association of men banded together for social, political or economic advantages. Our foundation is built on a philosophy of friendship and brotherly love. We also make many worthwhile contributions to our society and community.

### The Masonic Home:

The Home is non-profit organization that is funded by the Masons of Georgia. Presently in Georgia there are 433 lodges with over 47,000 members. It is also a residential child care facility that provides basic care to children in need. It cares for disadvantaged children, both those who are related to a Mason and those who are not.

### Preparation for Initiation:

Ensure that you pay strict attention to every part of the ceremony, in order that you may gain some understanding of the teachings of Freemasonry. The methods we use in teaching may be new and unusual to a candidate, but these methods have been used for many centuries and have not changed significantly since they originated. Finally, you should remember that every Mason in the Lodge room is your friend and brother.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Fraternally and Sincerely,