

each member interprets them in his own way. To experience this, one has to take part in the ceremonies. One could read much about Masonry but still not know what it is. It has to be experienced to appreciate its true meaning.

Masonry is not a **religion**. It urges every member to be faithful to his own religious beliefs, honour his country, uphold its laws, and respect those in authority. Masonry contains nothing that should offend adherents of any religion and over the years has attracted members from all faiths. Religion and politics are never mentioned at its meetings.

Masonry is not a **secret society**. It does not conceal its existence, meeting places or activities. Its principles, constitution and rules are available to the public. Countless books outline its history and philosophy and are available at most libraries. Many members proudly wear Masonic insignia on rings and pins.

Masonry is a **silent society** as members seldom talk about their charitable deeds which are carried out at all levels of society. Benevolence and charity are basic principles of masonry. In the middle ages practical Masons maintained a charity chest to help widows, orphans and members in distress. Each Lodge carries on this custom. Our Lodge in Brighton provides scholarships annually to worthy students and has raised money to send a VON nurse to the U.S.A. for training in colostomy therapy; has raised funds for the purchase of a kidney dialysis unit for a Kingston Hospital and assists the Red Cross with Blood Donor Clinics and donations.

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario is a registered charitable organization which supplies bursaries to University and College students, assists hearing impaired children through Autistic Homes of Ontario and is a major partner in deafness and implant programs of The Ontario Deafness Research Foundation. It funds Peer Education in Ontario schools sponsored by

"Parents Against Drugs", the "Council on Drug Abuse" and the "Organization for Alcohol and Drug Concerns" in a program called "Nip Drugs in the Bud". On the North American scene, Shrine-Masons raise over one million dollars per day to fully maintain their 27 Hospitals for crippled children and 3 Burn Hospitals. Services at these Hospitals are provided free of charge to all children up to 17 years of age, regardless of colour, race or religion.

This oldest fraternity in the world is more relevant today than ever. Its concept of the brotherhood of man is needed desperately as the world becomes global village. Hopefully as in the past, powerful and common men will continue to recognize its values.

A review of the pages of Masonic history shows that members come from all fields of human endeavour from royalty to the common man. A few notables have been - Sir John A. MacDonald, Mozart, Robert Burns, Sir Winston Churchill, Lester Pearson, 14 Presidents of the U.S.A., Norman Vincent Peale, John Diefenbaker, Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant), Beethoven, George Washington, Sir Sandford Fleming, Buzz Aldrin (first Mason on the moon), Sir Alexander Fleming (Penicillin), Henry Ford, John Wayne etc. etc.

In our human society there are a few moral principles which are universal and constant and do not change with the whims of contemporary society. They are the same today as they were a thousand years ago. Masonry has always stood for these principles, and its beliefs and ceremonies have changed little over the years. This accounts for its strength and longevity.

The doors of Masonry are open to men who seek harmony with their fellowmen, feel the need for self improvement and wish to participate in making this world a better place in which to live.

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