



# May 2022 Journal and Trestleboard

Vol 2, Issue 5, Table Mountain Masonic Lodge Journal/Trestleboard

## Worshipful Master's Corner

Brothers and friends,

This month, as we normally do, we begin with the important *calendar of events*, followed by a *review of our last stated meeting*. Then, we have information and pictures about our *1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees presented in April*, as well as the *Shrine's participation in the Gold Nugget Day parade*. Then there is some information about the recent *Masters and Wardens retreat*. There is a reminder and information about the upcoming *outdoor degree* in Yuba county. Again, there is information on how you can obtain a copy of our impressive historical work, *150 year history of Table Mountain Lodge*. Our lodge's research scientist provides an answer to a reader's question with an excerpt from *The Origins of Freemasonry in Scotland*. Then there is a very informative Masonic formation essay about our *Four Cardinal Virtues*. Then an interesting question is posed and answered in the essay, *Have you ever sat in a Lodge of Giblim?* Then in our Freemasonry around the world section, *Freemasonry in the Netherlands (Holland)* is described. Finally, there is *Contact Information* for our lodge and other Masonic organizations. Your suggestions concerning our monthly Journal and Trestleboard are always appreciated. Please share this Journal / Trestleboard with interested individuals.



to a reader's question with an excerpt from *The Origins of Freemasonry in Scotland*. Then there is a very informative Masonic formation essay about our *Four Cardinal Virtues*. Then an interesting question is posed and answered in the essay, *Have you ever sat in a Lodge of Giblim?* Then in our Freemasonry around the world section, *Freemasonry in the Netherlands (Holland)* is described. Finally, there is *Contact Information* for our lodge and other Masonic organizations. Your suggestions concerning our monthly Journal and Trestleboard are always appreciated. Please share this Journal / Trestleboard with interested individuals.

Our Journal / Trestleboard is posted in our lodge's message board at the Grand Lodge website.

Additionally, it is available at our Facebook page: [Table Mountain Masonic Lodge #124 - Home | Facebook](#)

# Calendar of Events

## Table Mountain Lodge Events (3 months)

- May 7, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- May 9, Monday, 6 pm, Masonic School Awards
- May 14, Saturday, optional visit to the outdoor degree in Yuba County (page 12).
- May 28, Saturday, Degree, starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- June 4, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- June 25, Saturday, Degree starting at 2 pm
- July 16, Saturday, Lodge Workday, 1 pm
- July 2, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- July 8, Friday, Grand Lodge corner stone laying at the Chico VA clinic, at 3pm.
- July 10, Sunday, Grand Master's Unity Day picnic starting at 11am at the Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area.
- July 23, Saturday, possible degree starting at 2 pm



## School of Instruction (SOI)

- May 23, at Orland lodge, at 7 pm, review basic meeting.
- June 21, at Chico Lodge, at 6 pm, TBA
- July TBA

## Golden Feather Chapter Eastern Star

- May 6, 2022, Friday, Official Visit, 6:30 pm, at Table Mountain Masonic Lodge.
- Regular meetings: June 1, 2022, at 2 pm at Oroville Masonic Lodge
- June 18, 2022 at 2pm at Table Mountain Masonic Lodge

## Other scheduled Community Events at the Table Mountain Masonic Center

- June 2, 2022, Thursday, Paradise High School 65<sup>th</sup> reunion social.
- Paradise Rod and Gun Club – Executive meeting first Wednesday of every month at 6pm. General membership meeting third Thursday of every month 6:30pm
- Butte County Family Health classes and counseling, Every Wednesday until May 2022, 4:30 to 9 pm.
- July 8 and 9, Home Spun Holiday Sale
- Intermittent use of the kitchen by various contractors, and several private parties are looking to book our facilities on various dates. When the contracts are finalized, those events will be added to the calendar.

## Our Recent April 2022 Stated Meeting

At 1 pm, just prior to our Saturday April 2, 2022, Stated Meeting, Brother Ehren Hawkins and Brother Doug Campbell combined to provide a satisfying make-your-own-sandwiches lunch. A variety of meats, cheeses, breads and condiments were provided, along with refreshments. Everyone very much enjoyed the meal and the excellent fellowship.

After opening the lodge on the 1<sup>st</sup> degree of Masonry, the lodge reconvened on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree for Fellowcraft Cole Hamilton to present his proficiency. Brother Hamilton was assisted by his coach Brother Phil Howard. Brother Hamilton successfully passed his proficiency, and the members complimented him and his coach on his preparation and presentation. The lodge was then called to work on the 1<sup>st</sup> degree of Masonry to proceed with the work of the stated meeting.

Once again it was a productive and enjoyable meeting. There was the normal business of paying bills, the reading of communications and presentation of reports. The lodge remains financially secure, although it was emphasized that all those wishing to remain members, however distant, need for to pay their dues as soon as possible, or contact the Worshipful Master for special consideration.

We discussed several projects and ideas. Our plans for holding an outdoor degree and that the preparation of the location is a work in progress; however, the degree is tentatively scheduled for Saturday Oct 22, 2022. The brethren were definitely enthused by the plan. To help us prepare the project, some of the brethren plan on attending the scheduled outdoor degree in Yuba county on May 14.

There was unanimous agreement that last month's *Lodge Workday* was a huge success and we agreed to schedule another workday, in the summer, to continue the necessary improvements.

Worshipful Nelson discussed his visits to other lodges and the recent School of Instruction (SOI) that was held by the inspector in Chico. He also notified the brethren of some proposed changes to the SOI schedule. We also reviewed the schedule of upcoming degrees. At that time, we still had two fellowcrafts working on their proficiency, two entered apprentice for the next scheduled 2<sup>nd</sup> degree conferral, and one candidate waiting for his initiation as an entered apprentice. There was generally agreement that starting in May, we hope to limit degrees to once per month, and when appropriate to multiple candidates for each degrees, except for the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, when we will have only one candidate at a time. Also, we are likely to have another petition at our next stated meeting.



Brother Richard Gingery gave an update on the upcoming Shrine Oasis to be held in our lodge building on April 23, just after the Paradise Gold Nugget Day parade. Some of our non-shrine brothers expressed an interest in attending.

Worshipful Nelson and brother Campbell gave the report of our building association which included our renters, our ongoing improvements and our marketing. Also, that the building association has sufficient scheduled income to be financially secure. Brother Campbell said that they would review as to whether some of the Lodge's rent could be returned to the lodge in the near future. Also, brother Campbell asked the brethren to consider alternatives for replacing the upstairs lodge room's very old and worn carpet, either with new carpet, engineered wood or another option. No action on this is currently scheduled.

Worshipful Nelson informed the brethren that our Lodge sign would very soon be posted at the entrance to Paradise. He updated the brethren on our elementary school projects, our upcoming school awards program and community award program.

There was brief discussion of the importance of attending a funeral for a brother Mason, not just as a duty, but as an act of kindness to a deceased member's family.

Worshipful Glenn Story, visiting from Chico-Leland Stanford Lodge, invited the brethren to their stated meetings, practices and degrees. He also gave a short update on the planned district wide barbecue cook-up / potluck outdoor get together. No date had yet been decided upon. Worshipful also shared information about the Grand Lodge cornerstone laying ceremony on July 8, at 3pm at the VA clinic in Chico. Also, the Grand Master's Unity Day picnic on July 10<sup>th</sup>, will be starting at 11am at the Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area, a park located along the Sacramento River in Tehama County. The event is open to all members and family members of all Masonic organizations. There is no cost.

Brother Hawkins offered to provide the lunch for our May stated meeting. The meeting ended in harmony and good will; a good day's work being done.



# A Busy Month of Degree Conferrals

## April 9, 1st Degree (Entered Apprentice)

On Saturday April 9, at 2pm, Table Mountain Masonic Lodge # 124 was opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> degree of Masonry, for the purpose of conferring the Entered Apprentice degree on Brandon Moran-Smith.

Brother Doug Campbell served as the Master of the Lodge for the initiation and presented the lecture, and Brother Ehren Hawkins delivered the Charge. Worshipful Woody Nelson served as Senior Warden, Scott Miller as Junior Warden, Justin Purcell PM as Senior Deacon, Ehren Hawkins as Junior Deacon, Brian Grandfield PM as Secretary, Caleb Chinn PM as Treasurer, Phil Howard as Senior Steward, Cole Hamilton as Junior Steward, and Steve Kane as Marshall. Afterwards, we met downstairs for refreshments and cream pies.



## April 16, 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree (Master Mason)

On Saturday April 16, at 2pm, Table Mountain Masonic Lodge # 124 opened on the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree of Masonry, for the purpose of conferring the Master Mason degree on Brother Cole Hamilton.

Brother Hamilton is a professional artist and a resident of Paradise. Due to the destructive Camp Fire, and then the pandemic restrictions, Brother Hamilton had to wait some time before we could bring him into the lodge. He was already familiar with Masonry, having been in DeMolay some years ago. He received his 1<sup>st</sup> degree in this lodge in October 2021 when three candidates were initiated during the one ceremony.

Brother Hamilton worked hard and soon completed his first proficiency. So, on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 brother Hamilton, along with another brother, was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. Now, Brother Hamilton is first this year, in this lodge, to be raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, thus demonstrating exceptional dedication.

Due to some of our own lodge officers' scheduled work, we were magnificently assisted by other brothers of Chico-Leland Stanford Lodge and Oroville lodge. Worshipful Glenn Story of Chico-Leland Stanford Lodge was Master for the first half of the degree. Our own Brother Bill Wieger PM was Master for the second half of the degree. The charge was presented by Brother Ehren Hawkins.

However, after the ceremony the day's work was not yet done, because Brother Hamilton was then installed as our Junior Steward of our lodge. Mike Johnson PM was Master of Ceremonies, and Brother Larry Willis of Chico was the installing officer. Afterwards, all met downstairs for refreshments and fellowship.

Brother Cole has become a valuable addition to the lodge, participating in degree practices, charitable events, the lodge workday, preparing one of the luncheons, working with the local chapter of DeMolay, assisting with the recent Shrine Oasis, and is managing our Facebook website.



Brother Cole Hamilton in the middle







## The *Shrine* at the Gold Nugget Day parade and celebration.

Paradise's Gold Nuggets Days celebration was held on April 21-24, 2022. The event is named after the discovery of a 54 lb. gold nugget in nearby Dog Town in April 1859.

This event was especially significant to the residents of Paradise and the other nearby ridge communities because it represents the revival and renewal of the ridge communities since the devastating Nov 2018 Camp fire.



There were lots of activities and food options for families and adults. Perhaps the most popular event was the Gold Nugget Days Parade that was held on Saturday April 23. Masonic brothers from our communities, and throughout the North State, participated. Shrine International was well represented.

This year the Ben Ali Shrine *Cibara* team from Sacramento and the Ben Ali Chico Shrine club, displayed their precise driving skills to the enjoyment of the crowd. Afterwards, an Oasis (refreshment and food) was held at our Table Mountain Masonic building.







Shriners International, also commonly known as the Shriners, established in 1870, is an appendant body to Freemasonry, based in the United States. The organization is best-known for the Shriners Hospitals for Children that they support and administer, and the red fezzes that members wear. The fraternity is based on fun, fellowship and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth. There are approximately 300,000 members from 198 Centers (chapters) in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Republic of Panama, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Europe, Brazil and Australia.



# Masters and Wardens Retreat: A personal perspective

Brother Doug Campbell

Worshipful Woody Nelson and I attended the Grand Lodge's Masters and Wardens Retreat on April 22 - 24, at Lake Tahoe. The retreat was well organized and professionally presented.

Whenever I have attended any type of professional conference or retreat, the attendees seem to learn more and gain a better perspective from their discussions with the other attendees, rather than from the content of the speakers' presentations. I would say that was true about this retreat. For me, the most useful part of the event was the opportunity to candidly talk with brothers from all over northern and central California. It seems that as a lodge, we are doing very well, considering our circumstances and recent history. There are some other lodges doing very well, and there are many lodges with challenges far more frustrating than anything we have. Every lodge seems to have a unique situation, requiring local adaptations and initiatives. I was truly impressed with the dedication and commitment of the Masons I talked with.

Upon arrival to the event our name tags were available, along with a variety of information and helpful people. A complete and very professional retreat workbook was available to all participants. The primary meeting room was large, with two giant screens on the back wall, so everyone had a clear view of the presentations. The content of the formal presentations were good, but clearly oriented toward lodges with many more members than we have, and perhaps located in more populous areas. While many of the brothers at our table felt that many of the recommendations of the presenters were in part not relevant or applicable to their situations, still I think everyone took away from the presentations and breakout sessions some ideas worthy of considerations or implementation.

The breakout sessions were well lead and organized, and exceptionally useful for establishing personal contacts and sharing good ideas and experiences. The dinners, which were nice events, were useful for developing rapport with brothers. On the last day, this year's legislation was discussed, and there was a presentation on the finances and budget of Grand Lodge. It was an interesting and transparent overview of the finances, but lacked the line item specifics that some brothers said that they would like to have seen. However, I think most attendees thought the information was sufficient.

While there was no specific free ranging question and answer period, we were able to individually discuss issues, ideas and provide feedback to various Grand Lodge officers. It was also nice to meet some of them socially. A survey of sorts was emailed to attendees as a means of providing some feedback. Overall, I consider it a useful experience, which I will repeat next year. I am not sure why Tahoe was chosen over a more centrally located and inexpensive facility. However, the location and the facility were very nice.



## Pictures from the Masters and Wardens Retreat



## Miscellaneous

### Paradise Schools

On April 29, Worshipful Woody Nelson and brother Rich Gingery met with representatives of the Paradise Unified School district to discuss and coordinate the upcoming Masonic school and students award night to be held at Table Mountain Masonic building. This annual event draws a large crowd of teachers, parents and students.

### The 150 History of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge # 124

Our 150 year history of Table Mountain Lodge, covering the years 1857 thru 2008, is still available to you. This book contains many rare historical pictures, is enjoyable reading and is well indexed for research purposes. It is professionally produced, spiral bound and available to you at our cost. Unfortunately, the price of paper has dramatically increased, so these copies cost \$30 each. To obtain a copy of this important Masonic historical record, please contact our Secretary - **Brian Grandfield PM, 530-864-6323**, email: [bgrandfield@gmail.com](mailto:bgrandfield@gmail.com)

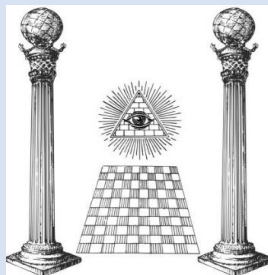
### Safe travels

According to the Butte County Public Works, starting in mid-May and through August of this year, construction crews will be repaving the Skyway road between Chico and Paradise. Specifically, they will begin at Potter Road and proceed to the Paradise city limits. This is needed to repair damage resulting from the cleanup and recovery efforts after the Camp Fire.

Construction is expected to be performed during daylight as well as nighttime hours. The Skyway will be limited to one lane in either direction, or both directions with intermittent full road closure to move construction equipment and perform necessary work.

Motorists can expect delays due to vehicles driving slower than the posted speed limit through the construction zone and there may be vehicles stopped during periods of full road closure for up to 20 minutes.

Please drive carefully and consider the extra time that might be needed. The alternate routes of Neal Road, Clark Road and Pentz road will not be effected by the construction.





# A Special Event for All Masons

On Saturday May 14, the 222nd Masonic District will present an **outdoor Masonic Degree**, near the Lomo Crossing, Yuba county.

## Itinerary Details:

- 9:00 AM Social
- 10:00 AM Degree
- Lunch follows degree at about 12:30/1:00 PM

Dress is casual; outdoor wear, lodge polo shirts, jeans okay.

## Bring your own lawn chair if possible.

Lomo Crossing is located just off State Route 99 north of Yuba City and near Pasquini's Restaurant (just south of Live Oak), near the dryer located next to the restaurant. We are attempting to find good driving instructions and a map of how to get there.

Please **RSVP** to Mike Edwards at (530) 218-4165 or at [sterlingcoins@comcast.net](mailto:sterlingcoins@comcast.net) .

If you are interested in attending, **RSVP** and tell Worshipful Nelson. Arrangements are being made to carpool from Chico's Leland Stanford Lodge.

More information is available at:

[https://freemason.org/gm\\_events/preliminary-outdoor-degree-222nd-district/](https://freemason.org/gm_events/preliminary-outdoor-degree-222nd-district/) .

This will be a good event to attend before we construct our own outdoor lodge and hold an outdoor degree.



## Readers' Questions

*From the response that we have received, it is clear that our Journal / Trestleboard is now being widely obtained and read by my brothers from many lodges throughout California. Some readers have approached me, either in person or by email, with questions. Just recently, a brother of another lodge, having read our journal/trestleboard, expressed concern over my contention that our Grand Lodge and other grand lodges are incorrect to claim that Freemasonry began 300 years ago with the establishment of a Grand Lodge in the UK. After a comprehensive review of reputable and authoritative published materials, the following excerpt is provided as a response.*



### The Origins of Freemasonry in Scotland

By David Stevenson PhD

**By the seventeenth century (1600s) Scotland possessed a network of permanent institutions calling themselves lodges.** Membership, at first, consisted almost entirely of stonemasons, but over time men of other occupations and social statuses were admitted, from craftsmen to noblemen. **Within lodges there was brotherhood, but also a division into two ranks or degrees: entered apprentices and fellow crafts (also known as masters).** Members had secrets, collectively known as the Mason Word, into which they were initiated by elaborate rituals. These contained references to historical traditions relating to the mason craft and lodges, and included secret recognition codes by which initiates could identify each other. Compasses and the square played a part in their symbolism. By the second half of the seventeenth century (late 1600s), and probably much earlier, Scottish lodges had copies of the fifteenth century (1400s) 'Old Charges', which encapsulated the lore of medieval English stonemasons. As well as seeking to regulate the Masons' trade, lodges had charitable funds to help members who fell on hard times. **Thus by 1600 Scotland had clearly developed a form of Freemasonry**

*David Stevenson PhD, D. Litt., is a Professor Emeritus of Scottish History at the University of St Andrews. He is the author of a dozen or so books, the first of which was the Scottish Revolution. The Triumph of the Covenanters (1973). Later works include The Origins of Freemasonry. Scotland's Century, 1590–1710 (1988), The First Freemasons. Scotland's Early Lodges and their Members (1988; 2nd edition, 2001) and an edition of The Letters of Sir Robert Moray to the Earl of Kincardine, 1657–73 (2007).*



A full text of Dr. Stevenson's article can found at:

<http://milwaukeefreemasonryformenandwomen.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Handbook-of-Freemasonry-Henrik-Bogdan-Jan-A.-M.-Snoek.pdf#page=71>

Additionally, Dr. Stevenson wrote:

...the official constitutions of the first grand lodge in published in 1723, openly stated that the work had been "COLLECTED From" the "general RECORDS" and "faithful TRADITIONS" of the "Accepted Free Masons"). Moreover, in a foreword it was openly stated that the author of the work had gone to great lengths to digest "this Book from the old Records," and that the "Company of Masons" was of "**ancient standing**" and had "otherwise been termed **FREE MASONS.**"

While the above excerpts supports the existence of Freemasonry in Scotland well before 1700, one should not assume that early Freemasonry was confined to Scotland, or that Scotland is the origin of Freemasonry. Similar lodges existed in Ireland and in parts of England, and there is evidence of Masonic precursor organizations in parts of Europe. There was much trade and shipping between the British Isles and parts of Europe, and also with earlier colonies in the Americas. There is evidence of at least one pre-1700 lodge in Rhode Island.

While Scotland may not be the origin of Freemasonry, it might be the primary contributor to the modern UK model for Freemasonry. One might ask why Scotland would be so welcoming to Masonic concepts and symbolism? The answer might be geography and historical warfare. Scotland had far fewer forests from which to harvest wood. The land itself was conducive only to limited farming, herd grazing and hunting. However, there was much easily accessible high quality stone with which to build.

There is conclusive evidence of the extensive use of stone in buildings in Scotland, especially in Northern Scotland and the small northern islands, as far back as the neolithic period. The skills and work of stone masons were held in high regard in Scotland, and they were an integral and important part of every community and important to rising power structure. It is likely the principles and morals of the ancient Masons (perhaps from France, the Mediterranean region or elsewhere) found ready acceptance among the stone masons and other crafts in Scotland.

Also, the history of what we call the British Isles is one of much warfare. Whether over the wealth of the region, the right to rule the people, religion, culture or some combination of these, Scotland and England were often at conflict. To the non-stone working men and especially the nobility, the secrecy, peace, and unifying moral principles of Masonry were likely very attractive. This may be why Scotland was fertile ground for the moral community of Masonry.



# Masonic Formation:

## The Four Cardinal Virtues of Freemasonry

Our Entered Apprentices, when studying for their proficiency, are introduced to the four *Cardinal Virtues*: **Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice**. The concept of virtues, and why we identify and apply them are not well known or well understood in today's modern world.



Freemasonry is often described as a moral system. Our cardinal Virtues, when combined with our key principles, values and other guidance constitutes a powerful moral and ethical system to assist us in being better and wiser men, husbands, fathers and citizens.

In the context of virtues, the word *cardinal* is an adjective, describing the quality of these four virtues. *Cardinal* means of the greatest importance or fundamental. The implication being that there may be other virtues, but none more fundamental and important to us than these.

*Virtues* are so called because they are regarded as the basic human mind and character qualities required of an individual to live a virtuous life. *Virtuous*, in this context, means having or showing high moral standards. These cardinal virtues are found in classical Greek and Roman philosophy and Judeo/Christian theology. Putting emphasis on conducting oneself in alignment with a set of virtues, means that you adhere, at least in part, to a system of *virtue ethics*.

The term *ethics* is also commonly misunderstood in today's world. One's ethics play a role in virtually all of life's decisions and therefore everyone should understand the benefits of living according to a set of ethical principles or form of ethical reasoning. Our ethics are reflected in our behavior and our behavioral boundaries. A person's set of ethics or manner of ethical reasoning flows from his ideas, beliefs, reasons and relationships that he holds most precious, that which will not be surrendered for the sake of expediency and if necessary, will be defended with sacrifice. **Fidelity** to our own freely chosen ethics or manner of ethical reasoning is an affirmation of one's individual values and morality.

The choice of one's set of ethics or manner of ethical reasoning is the free choice of one's own standards of personal conduct and, as such, is the greatest act of individuality and freedom. Thus, we always ask our candidates, "**Is this of your own free will and accord?**". Our ethical standards are those ties by which we freely bind ourselves to act within certain



boundaries toward our fellow creatures and ourselves. Those freely chosen ties are the truest expression of our humanity, that which makes us different from baser creatures.

Unfortunately, many people in this world have difficulty grasping the concept of freely chosen self-restraint, because they wrongly believe that freedom only exists in the absence of any restraint.

Our freely chosen ethics are our source of strength to resist the tyranny of the supposed consensus, the emotional draw of the mob, the intimidation of the collective and the pull of ignoble emotions. Only by holding a set of ethical principles inviolate can an individual have the strength and fortitude to walk the path less traveled. It is important for all free people to understand that submission to the opinions of others is not inherently a virtue, and self-confidence in one's own reasoning is not inherently a flaw. **We are free men and we must make our own choices.**

**As Freemasons we strive to live within a system of theological sound virtue ethics. This means that remembering and considering the virtues we wish to emulate is part of the process we use to regulate our actions and make ethical decisions.** As Freemasons, we do not recommend living one's life according to the other two recognized ethical systems, *deontology* and *consequentialism*.

Deontology is an approach that emphasizes an individual's duties to and the safety of following the rules of the system, state or organization that they are a part of. In defending a poor decision, a deontologist might say "I was only following the rules", or "I was only following orders". Of course, such a claim would not be a valid excuse for hurtful or unjust behavior. Truth and justice is always superior to taking orders as a standard of personal conduct.

A consequentialist, sometimes referred to as utilitarian, will make decisions and act based on what they think the likely outcome and or future consequences will be. A consequentialist might say it okay to harm some individuals, for the greater good. There is no more dangerous form of reasoning than the idea that the end result justifies the extreme means.

While following rules and thinking about the consequences of your choices are practically beneficial, these two ways of thinking and decision making are not sufficient to regulate our actions and make sound decisions. We need more than either of those two simplistic approaches offer, and Freemasonry supplies what is needed.

Decision making is a complex function that we do every day to determine our actions or inactions. The ancient philosophers taught that man's decisions are influenced by logic, their values, and their emotions. To them, ideally man would be logical and value driven. However, those philosophers recognized that power of ignoble emotions to cause people to make bad decisions and to harm oneself and others. Those philosophers also noted how unscrupulous

people use emotional appeals to manipulate others, thus figuratively enslaving them to their purposes.

As Freemasons we are taught to **control our passions and desires**, and to focus our minds upon **seeking, knowing and acting based on the truth**, to **practice charity** toward others, and to **build brotherhood**. Also, to practice **temperance** in our considerations and actions, to resist evil and ignorable emotions with **fortitude**, to demonstrated **prudence** in our judgements and always to seek **justice**, whose foundation is always **truth**, and **to trust in God and his teachings**. To better prepare ourselves to make good decisions, Freemasons are taught, through the symbolism of **the seven liberal arts and sciences**, to obtain knowledge and understanding of **logic, argument, mathematics, the arts and the physical sciences**. All things that taken together, help us have the **wisdom, strength and beauty (spiritual) attributes** to being a truly **Free** man capable of good decisions and providing good advice to others, and of being worthy of reward in the afterlife.

## Temperance

A Masonic definition of Temperance may be briefly stated as:

Temperance is that due restraint upon our affections and passions which renders the body tame and governable, and frees the mind from the allurements of vice and ignoble emotions.

Temperance should be the constant practice of every Mason. He strives to avoid excess in all things, to avoid bad habits and indulgences which might lead to ill health, or loss of self-respect or the respect of those they care about. In a very general sense temperance means that one must exercise a degree of self-restraint and self-control at all times, in all the activities of life, including both words and deeds. The key idea is “moderation in all things.” Each person must decide for himself how much restraint and self-control must be exercised in a particular situation.

## Fortitude

Fortitude is closely related to temperance. Often the practice of fortitude is necessary to remaining temperate in difficult situations.

A Masonic definition of Fortitude may be briefly stated as:

That noble and steady purpose of the mind whereby we are enabled to undergo any pain, peril or danger, when prudentially deemed expedient.

Fortitude implies having both moral strength and spiritual and physical courage. Fortitude, therefore, is that quality of character which gives a person strength to withstand temptation and to bear all suffering in silence. Fortitude is a virtue, for it permits one to do his duty undisturbed by evil distractions. It is in great measure, a frame of mind to regulate one's words and deeds with courage and with determination. Fortitude creates courage to do what is right and also creates strength of character to withstand intemperance. It also creates the mental attitude to bear one's burden bravely when all other remedies fail.

## Prudence

Prudence is closely related to both temperance and fortitude. Prudence is the mental reflection we practice to determine what constitutes temperance in any situation and our need to demonstrate fortitude. A Masonic definition of prudence may be:

“Prudence is that which helps us regulate our lives and actions in alignment to the dictates of reason. It is that habit by which we wisely judge, and determine, the effect of all things”.

The ancients often used the words wisdom and right-judgement as interchangeable with prudence. The implication being that if one acted wisely then they had practiced prudence. Prudence means that we will use discretion in our acts and words; that we will use good judgment in what we say and do; and that we will use self-control and demonstrate foresight in matters. It also means that we will act intelligently and with conscious regard of what the consequences will be. The famous French Freemason, Voltaire, wrote “The richest endowments of the mind are temperance, prudence, and fortitude. Prudence is a universal virtue, which enters into the composition of all the rest; and where she is not, fortitude loses its name and nature.”

## Justice

What is justice? That is an ancient question that occupied the thoughts of many ancient Greek and Roman philosophers, for they knew that a people and a society that was not *just* was eventually doomed. However, in the above quote of Voltaire, you might have noticed that he mentions the first three virtues, but not justice. This is because prior to the early 1800 in Europe the concept of individuals being free to judge for themselves what is justice, was considered a dangerous idea. Determining what is just or justice in those times was considered the exclusive right of kings, royalty and the church. Those institutions didn't want anybody questioning their decisions and behavior. They reasoned that such thinking could lead to revolution and their loss of power, and it eventually did. However, one of the basic tenets of the reformation was that each person answers directly to God for their conduct, not through any intermediary. Therefore, each of us is obligated to consider what is justice in action, and act accordingly. Justice is our Masonic standard that helps us separate what is right from what is wrong. Each of us must decide for ourselves what is justice, relying upon our understanding of the circumstances, our reasoning, our knowledge and the guidance of the Great Architect of the Universe.

## Relationships to other Masonic concepts

In Masonic teachings, the four cardinal virtues are said to align with the four perfect points of entry. Temperance is the *guttural*. Fortitude is the *pectoral*. Prudence denotes the *manual*, and Justice is the *pedestal, or pedal*.

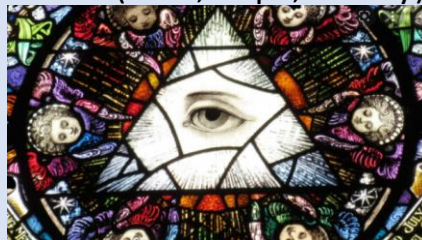


## Representations of the Cardinal Virtues in Art

The four cardinal virtues were primarily depicted in art, anthropically as women. First in pagan representations, and then later in Christian and Masonic representations. There are many speculations as to why women were chosen for these representations, I found no reasonable or reliable evidence to support any of those speculations. Perhaps the most interesting speculation, is the Pagans considered the virtues to be gifts from God, and since God was male, his gifts would therefore be in the form of females. Perhaps that ancient explanation would not be politically correct today.

## Biblical, theological and philosophical foundations of the four Cardinal Virtues

- The cardinal virtues are listed in the deuterocanonical book *Wisdom of Solomon*, which in 8:7 reads, "She [Wisdom] teaches temperance, and prudence, and justice, and fortitude, which are such things as men can have nothing more profitable in life."
- 4 Maccabees 1:18–19, which relates: "Now the kinds of wisdom are right judgment, justice, courage, and self-control. Right judgment is supreme over all of these since by means of it reason rules over the emotions."
- Plato in the *Republic*, Book IV.
- Aristotle expounded upon them in his *Nicomachean Ethics* and in his *Rhetoric*.
- The Stoics philosophers of Rome recognized them and some expanded on them. Cicero wrote "Virtue may be defined as a habit of mind in harmony with reason and the order of nature. It has four parts: wisdom (prudentiam), justice, courage, temperance."
- Roman Emperor and Stoic philosopher Marcus Aurelius in Book V:12 of *Meditations* and views them as the "goods" that a person should identify in one's own mind".
- Saint Augustine of Hippo, described them thusly, "For these four virtues (would that all felt their influence in their minds as they have their names in their mouths!), I should have no hesitation in defining them: that temperance is love giving itself entirely to that which is loved; fortitude is love readily bearing all things for the sake of the loved object; justice is love serving only the loved object, and therefore ruling rightly; prudence is love distinguishing with sagacity between what hinders it and what helps it". (*De moribus eccl., Chap. xv*)[9]
- The "cardinal" virtues are not the same as the three theological virtues: Faith, Hope and Charity (Love), named in *1 Corinthians 13*. Because of this, a group of seven virtues is sometimes seen, containing the four cardinal virtues (prudence, temperance, fortitude, justice) and three theological virtues (faith, hope, charity).



## Have you ever sat in a Lodge of Giblim? I bet you have.

In the early eighteenth century in the UK, a Fellowcraft mason was often called a Giblim, Ghibli, Gebalite or Giblemite (in those days the spelling and pronunciations of words were not as standardized as they are today). The Giblemites are referred to in the 1723 and 1738 Masonic Constitutions as the persons who were employed in the building of King Solomon's Temple, and the word Giblim was described as meaning "stone-cutters and sculptors". Also, in earlier Masonic times all Masons were sometimes referred to as Giblim, but most especially Fellowcraft Masons.

Why Giblim? In the passage 1 Kings 5:18 of the King James version of the Bible, it is written:  
*"And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stone-squarers; so they prepared timber and stones to build the house".*

The scholars that translated the old bible texts written in Hebrew, Aramaic and ancient Greek into English for the King James Bible, translated the word Giblim to stonesquarers. Some more recent English language translations of the old testament have used the word Gebalites or men of Gebal, instead of stonesquarers.

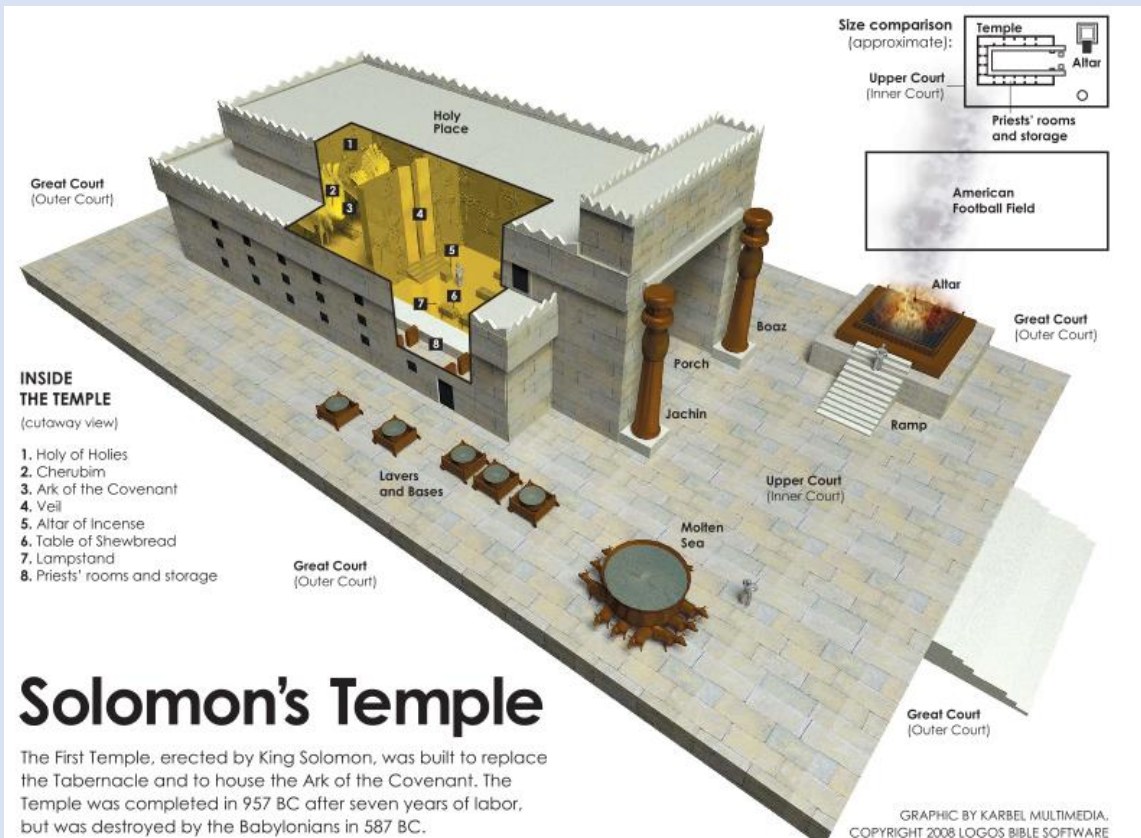
Gebal was an ancient city of the Canaanite civilization and part of the Phoenician culture, on the Mediterranean sea, near Mount Lebanon, approximately 20 miles north of the modern city of Beirut. Today that community is known as Jbeil, Jbail, or Jbayl (English spellings vary), it is one of the oldest continuously inhabited towns in the world (from 6400 BC). It was known as Byblos by the Greeks.



The current city of Gebal / Byblos / Jbeil  
(The word *Gebal* means frontier town or mountain town)



The inhabitants of Gebal, were in ancient times distinguished for their mastery of the art of stone-carving. This is noted in Ezekiel 27, 9, in the First Book of Kings (5, 18), and in other ancient records. King Hiram, friend of King Solomon, was a ruler of Gebal. It is thought that the Giblemites were employed to finish the stonework on King Solomon's temple.



A Giblemite is mentioned in the eighth degree of the Scottish Rite.



Today, some of the ancient ruins of Gebal, note the stonework.



# Freemasonry around the World:

## Freemasonry in the Netherlands (Holland)

The nation of the Netherlands, often referred to as Holland, is located on the coast of Europe, across the sea channel from Great Britain. As far back as the 1200s there was a great deal of trade, educational and social activities between these nations. However, during the 1600s a series of small wars between England and the Netherlands, and France and the Netherlands resulted in a particularly strong trade and educational relationship between Scotland and the Netherlands. Many Scots that lost battles with the English fled to the Netherlands to train and re-arm. However, we don't know if or to what degree Freemasonry might have traveled to the Netherlands prior to the founding of the UK Grand Lodge in 1717. We do know, that with the help of Freemasons from England and France, a Dutch lodge was founded in 1734 in the city named The Hague, in the Lion d'Or inn. That lodge later moved to their House of Lords building. In 1735 another lodge was established, then more lodges in other towns.

Just as it happened in other lands, some the authorities and religious leaders became suspicious of the craft. They considered it strange and unnatural that men of different political signatures and religious affiliations should unite in one organization. So, for several years Freemasonry was officially banned in the Netherlands, and became an underground organization. In 1744 Freemasonry was officially allowed and revived. In 1756 their first Grand Lodge was formed. After the restoration of official Freemasonry, it benefited from Royal sponsorship. During much of the nineteenth century (1800s) two princes from the House of Orange ( the ruling royal family) held the position of Grand Master.



The Dutch traded with and colonized many places throughout the world. Many Dutch Masons settled in the Antilles, Surinam, Ceylon, India, South Africa and Rhodesia, the former Netherlands Indies, China and Brazil. Most of these locations had Dutch Masonic lodges, and today there are still sixteen lodges outside the Netherlands, including in the Netherlands Antilles and Suriname that still align with the Dutch Grand Lodge.

In 1939 the Netherlands Grand Lodge consisted of 67 lodges and more than 4,100 members. The Nazi armies invade the Netherlands during World War 2, banned Freemasonry and imprisoned or killed many of its members. The Masonic library and museum possessions were taken to Germany. The Grand Master of Netherlands was arrested and died in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Shortly after the end of the war, most of the library and historical archives were found and returned. However, after the occupation and the end of

the war in the Far East, there were only three thousand members left, partly due to natural attrition, partly because a number of members had died in German and Japanese camps in the then Dutch East Indies.

After 1945, the number of members in the Netherlands increased sharply, also due to the repatriation of Freemasons from formerly Dutch Indonesia. Until 1970, the growth of the number of lodges was slow but steady. After 1970, the number of lodges increased significantly. Membership eventually reached six thousand, and today it remains constant at that level.



The increase in the number of lodges was mainly a result of the growth of commuter communities, caused by increased industrialization and urbanization. In the southern provinces of the Netherlands, membership growth was also aided by the improved relationship between Freemasonry and the Roman Catholic Church.



**A Masonic lodge in the Netherlands**



The Grand Orient of the Netherlands or Grand East of the Netherlands (Dutch: Orde van Vrijmetselaren onder het Grootosten der Nederlanden) is the recognized regular Masonic Grand Lodge in the Netherlands. It falls within the mainstream Anglo-American tradition of Freemasonry, being recognized by The United Grand Lodge of England and the 51 Grand Lodges in the United States. there are 156 lodges in 73 places in the Netherlands and about 6000 members. Besides these lodges there are some active masonic social circles.



Freemasonry in the Netherlands is based on the Anglo-American system, and therefore consists of the three blue lodge degrees. There are some unique Dutch variations of these degrees and lodge practices, and there are also a large number of rites from other countries practiced in the Netherlands. These include so-called higher degrees similar to our York Rite and our Scottish Rite.

At this time there are ten orders/rites recognized orders working in the Netherlands:

1. Order of Freemasons under the Grand Chapter of Higher Degrees in the Netherlands
2. Department of the Masters' Degree
3. Order of Freemasons under the Supreme Council of the 33rd and final Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in the Netherlands
4. Order of Freemasons of the Holy Royal Arch of the Netherlands
5. Royal Order of Scotland
6. District Grand lodge of Master Mark Masons in the Netherlands
7. Order of Royal and Select Masters
8. United Military Order of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem
9. Knight Templar Priests
10. Order of the Red Cross of Constantine

Furthermore, there is an Oasis of the American Ancient and Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (Shriners), and there is also the English Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia.



## Contact Information

**Table Mountain Building/Rooms Rentals** - Woody Nelson, 916-202-6942  
email: [woody@wolfranchfarm.com](mailto:woody@wolfranchfarm.com)

**Table Mountain Lodge Worshipful Master** - Woody Nelson, 916-202-6942,  
email: [woody@wolfranchfarm.com](mailto:woody@wolfranchfarm.com)

**Table Mountain Lodge Secretary** - Brian Grandfield PM, 530-864-6323,  
email: [bgrandfield@gmail.com](mailto:bgrandfield@gmail.com)

**Table Mountain Building Association President** - Doug Campbell, 530-519-1695,  
email: [dgcphd@gmail.com](mailto:dgcphd@gmail.com)

**Journal / Tresleboard** - Doug Campbell, 530-519-1695 email: [dgcphd@gmail.com](mailto:dgcphd@gmail.com)

**Table Mountain Lodge's Facebook page** – Cole Hamilton, 858-342-5031  
Email: [oldkingcreations@att.net](mailto:oldkingcreations@att.net)  
[Table Mountain Masonic Lodge #124 - Home | Facebook](#)

**DeMolay** - Mike Meyer, 530-514-0252 email: [allaboutlocks@gmail.com](mailto:allaboutlocks@gmail.com)

**Rainbow Girls** (for all of Butte County) – Laura Ray, 530-828-4748,

**Shrine / Shriners** – Woody Nelson, 916-202-6942, email: [woody@wolfranchfarm.com](mailto:woody@wolfranchfarm.com)  
<https://beashrinernow.com>

**York Rite** – <http://royalarch.org/locations.html>

**Scottish Rite** – David Anderson, Sacramento Valley Scottish Rite.  
[danders@sacramentoscottishrite.org](mailto:danders@sacramentoscottishrite.org)  
<https://www.sacramentoscottishrite.org>

**Eastern Star** – Peg McElroy, Secretary Golden Feather Chapter, email [bobnpeg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobnpeg@sbcglobal.net)

