

June 2022 Journal and Trestleboard

Vol 2, Issue 6, Table Mountain Masonic Lodge Journal / Trestleboard

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[Table Mountain Masonic Lodge #124 - Home | Facebook](#)

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Worshipful Master's Corner

Hello Brothers and Friends,

This month begins with the ***Calendar of Events***, followed by a summary of ***our last stated meeting***. Then, we share our lodge's new ***Identity and Mission statements*** which will become part of our lodge's informational material. This is followed by ***Masonic School Awards and Presentation Ceremony***, and then a report on the ***Outdoor Degree in Yuba County***. Then there is the story of ***Eastern Star's recent official Grand Chapter visit to Paradise***. This month Masonic Formation essay is ***The Modern Relevance of the Seven Liberal Arts***. Then this month's Masonic History essay is ***The Development of the Appendant Bodies in the American Masonic System***. Then in our Freemasonry around the world section there is the ***Masonic Rites in Brazil***. Then we share some ***Quotes about Freemasonry***. Under ***Misc.***, there is information on how you can obtain a copy of our impressive historical work, ***150 year History of Table Mountain Lodge***. Also, there is information about the ***Grand Master's Unity Day Picnic***. Finally, there is ***Contact Information*** for our lodge and other Masonic organizations. Your suggestions are always appreciated. Please share this Journal / Trestleboard with interested individuals.



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

Calendar of Events

Table Mountain Lodge Events (3 months)

- June 4, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm.
Lunch at 1 pm.
- June 11, Saturday, 1st Degree starting at 2 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 16, Saturday, Lodge Workday, 1 pm
- July 23, Saturday, possible 2nd degree starting at 2 pm
- Aug 6, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm.
Lunch at 1 pm.
- Aug 20, Saturday, possible degree date.



Inspector's School of Instruction (SOI)

- June 21, at Chico Lodge, at 6 pm, TBA

Golden Feather Chapter Eastern Star (Paradise and Oroville)

- Regular meetings: June 1, 2022, at 2 pm at Oroville
- June 18, 2022 at 2 pm at Paradise

Other scheduled Community Events at the Table Mountain Masonic Center

- June 2, 2022, Thursday, Paradise High School 65th 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 December 2022, 4:30 to 9 pm.
- July 8 and 9, Home Spun Holiday Sale
- For the foreseeable future PG&E and contractors will be having regular work meetings in our facility.
- Intermittent use of the kitchen by various contractors, and private parties for special events. Check with Woody Nelson for available dates

Table Mountain Building/Rooms Rentals - Woody Nelson, (530) 877-7852 or (916) 202-6942
email: paradisefreemasons@gmail.com

Our Recent May 2022 Stated Meeting

At 1 pm, just prior to our Saturday May 7, 2022, Stated Meeting, Brother Ehren Hawkins provided an incredibly delicious and varied Mexican lunch. We stuffed ourselves. Everyone very much enjoyed the meal and the excellent fellowship.

At 2 pm, Table Mountain Masonic Lodge opened on the 1st degree of Masonry, for the purpose of conducting the stated meeting business. The lodge members then addressed and discussed a wide variety of business. After the regular reports of the Secretary and Treasurer, it was reported that our latest petitioner receive a favorable report, so the lodge proceeded to voting. The candidate was accepted and **a tentative date of July 11 was set for his Entered Apprentice degree.**

Worshipful Woody reported on the recent Grand Lodge conducted *Masters and Wardens retreat* that he and brother Campbell attended. He explained that our impression of the guidance provided by Grand Lodge was that it was oriented toward lodges with much larger memberships, and that instead of forming an executive committee to decide the activities of the lodge, our lodge would consider everyone at our meetings to be the equivalent of the executive committee, and that we would therefore decide actions, projects and dates democratically. The brothers unanimously agreed that this was a better approach.

The finances of both the lodge and the building association were discussed at length, and it was determined that at that time we were adequately funded to pay our expenses and pay to Grand Lodge their portion of the dues. Unfortunately, it was necessary to read the names of thirteen brothers who were significantly behind on years of dues. Unless they respond before the next stated meeting, or there is intervention by another brother, those thirteen brothers will be suspended. As a lodge, we also unanimously decided to remit the dues of our members being cared for in the Masonic home and in other long term care facilities. It was clarified that remitting their dues means we would not have Grand Lodge fee for them.

A report was given about the Eastern Star Official Grand Chapter event that occurred the previous evening. It was also reported that we have new renters, PG&E, that would be holding various meetings in our building. Brother Gingery shared that his Shrine group greatly appreciated the support we provided them in having the Shine Oasis event at the lodge after the Gold Nugget Day parade.

The content of the lodge's new identity and missions statements were shared with the brothers for review and feedback. The statements were positively received, and with minor modifications will appear in our updated lodge website and Facebook page. Brother Cole Hamilton was lauded for his work on our Facebook social media website. It was announced that we have regained control of our lodge website currently hosted by Grand lodge, and we

hope to soon have updated content. It was announced that we have a new lodge email (paradisefreemasons@gmail.com), since we lost control of the previous email.

Worshipful Nelson described the work that had been done to prepare for the upcoming Masonic Schools Awards event to be held in the Lodge, and the desired participation of the Lodge's officers.

Brothers Scott Miller, Rich Gingery and Doug Campbell agreed to meet after the meeting to settle on which dates the Grand Master will visit Paradise in 2024. The Grand Master will be performing cornerstone laying on one date, and then return sometime later for the rededication of the Table Mountain Masonic Building.

Brother Steve Kane volunteered to organization a Table Mountain Lodge "day at the range" for our brothers and their families. The Brothers expressed great interest in this upcoming event.

Worshipful Nelson introduced an idea for a new project. He proposed that our lodge lead an all Masonic effort to create a memorial in a Paradise park to the victims, first responders and the people who are rebuilding our ridge communities. He shared his vision of a stone memorial, one side having the names of those that died, another side having the emblems of the various departments that rescued people and fought the fire, another side with appropriate thanks to those that returned to rebuild, and the fourth side displaying the Square and Compass and name of our lodge. Worshipful Nelson also shared that he had received verbal assurances that Grand Lodge would assist with a statewide effort from Masonic lodges. The concept was well supported by the brethren. Two brothers shared their experience and expertise with working with the various special districts in Paradise on projects. They provided wise and sobering insight and advice. After much discussion, the lodge voted to authorize Worshipful Nelson to continue to explore the idea and gather information on likely cost, processes and timeline.

The lodge's calendar of future events was then reviewed, and adjustments were made based on the ideas and feedback of the brothers.

Worshipful Nelson offered to provide the lunch for our June stated meeting. The meeting ended in harmony and good will; a good day's work being done. After the meeting, Brother Phil Howard took the leftover food from lunch to homeless in need.



Our Lodge's new Identity and Mission statements

We are the Freemasons

Freemasonry is a historical and a continuing movement that transcends national, language, ethnic, religious and political boundaries. Freemasonry is a fraternity that has adapted to the circumstances and conditions of each nation and region, and continues to adapt as needed. Thus, regular Freemasonry has many forms. However, all members, everywhere in the world, share the powerful belief that good men of faith, freely acting together as brothers, with tolerance and respect, and in accordance with sound ethics and virtues, can create and sustain positive social change and self-improvement.

To accomplish these honorable goals, Freemasonry everywhere limits its membership to men who voluntarily and without coercion come to the fraternity sincerely seeking self-improvement and new opportunities to contribute to society. Members are provided guidance and symbolic tools to help them discipline their passions, moderate their behaviors, advance their understanding and expand their minds. Members also receive instruction on moral, ethical and scientific principles which encourages the development of good habits and good citizenship.

Through fellowship, members are provided examples of good behavior and of knowledgeable and logical thinkers. When members are faced with personal challenges, the brothers of the fraternity are there to advise, assist and even offer relief if it is within their power. The fraternity strives to assist public schools, communities and charitable organizations without fanfare and without thought of personal or organizational gain.

Freemasonry adapts and therefore has remained relevant throughout the ages and in all lands, and its core message is as powerful today as it was in the past.

The Mission of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge

Our mission is fourfold:

- First, to help make good men be better men through the practice of Freemasonry's principles, morals and ethics.
- Second, to assist and provide relief to our members, family members and those of the greater Masonic community in need of support and assistance.
- Thirdly, to support our public schools and local charitable organizations, and in general contribute to efforts to alleviate the suffering of those in need.
- Lastly, we seek advance, spread and support Masonic principles and ethics throughout our local communities by being examples worthy of emulation by the general public.

Table Mountain Lodge Masonic School Awards and Presentation Ceremony

Prior to the Camp Fire of 2018, Table Mountain Masonic Lodge #124 held a yearly Paradise Unified School District awards ceremony. After the fire and during the pandemic there was a period where we could not hold that awards ceremony. This year, for the first time since that fire, our lodge renewed that tradition.

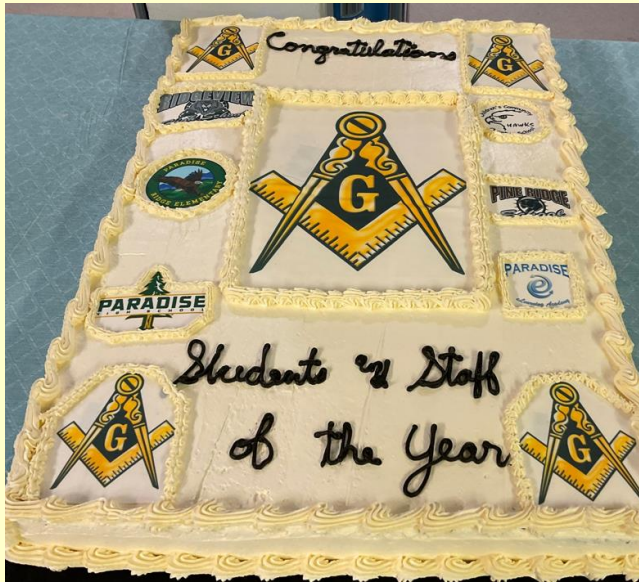
In April, Worshipful Woody Nelson met and worked with the Paradise Unified School District leaders to select this year's Masonic School Award winners and make arrangements for the presentation ceremony.

During the first week of May Worshipful Nelson, brother Rich Gingery (The school district trustees' vice president) and brother Cole Hamilton returned to the Paradise schools to visit classrooms and notify award winners, among the administrators, staff, teachers and students. Each school had its own winners, and they were chosen by administrators, staff and teachers at that school. The students were selected for awards based on a combination of academic achievement, participation, attitude and demonstrated potential. Working with the district, our lodge developed and prepared beautiful awards certificates.

The awards ceremony was held at Table Mountain Masonic Building on May 9th. The event was held in the large lodge room and there was a large crowd of teachers, parents and



students. The officers of the lodge were in formal wear and full Masonic regalia. After the opening prayer presented by brother Rich Gingerly, one of the students sang a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem that brought cheers from the crowd. Then Tom Taylor school district Superintendent along with Worshipful Nelson presented the awards. After the final prayer, again by Rich Gingerly, Worshipful Nelson invited everyone for cake, foods and refreshments in the dining room. Approximately 30 visitors took a tour of the old upstairs lodge room and received information about the history of the building, our lodge and Freemasonry in general. It was a wonderful community event and was well appreciated by all attendees.





The Yuba County Outdoor Masonic Degree

On Saturday May 14, the 222nd Masonic District presented an **outdoor Masonic Degree**, near the Lomo Crossing, Yuba County. Masons from various districts and lodges gathered in the morning, enjoyed the 3rd degree and shared fellowship over an onsite lunch. Table Mountain lodge was represented by Worshipful Woody Nelson, brother Justin Purcell (PM) and brother Doug Campbell. Due to the event being outside, attendees were dressed casually and many brought lawn or folding chairs from which to observe the degree. The setting was very nice, and all in attendance seemed to greatly enjoy the event.





Grand Chapter of Eastern Star's Official Visit to Paradise

On the evening of Friday May 6, the California Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star came to our Paradise Masonic Building to conduct their Official Visit of Golden Feather (Paradise and Orville) Chapter and the Josephine Chico Chapter of Eastern Star. Participants and guests began to arrive at 6 pm, and the event started at 7 pm. The event had a Railroad theme and related the long history of the railroads in Butte County. Our local Deputy Grand Matron Melinda Caven encouraged all to “get on board the party train”. Held in our large lodge room downstairs, there was plenty of fun and festivities. Afterwards, there was food and refreshments, and tours were given of the upstairs historic lodge room.



The Order of the Eastern Star is a Masonic appendant body open to both men and women. It was established in 1850 and adopted and approved as an appendant body of the Masonic Fraternity in 1873. The order is based on some teachings from the Bible, but is open to people of all religious beliefs. It has approximately 10,000 chapters in twenty countries and approximately 500,000 members under its General Grand Chapter.



Masonic Formation

The Modern Relevance of the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences

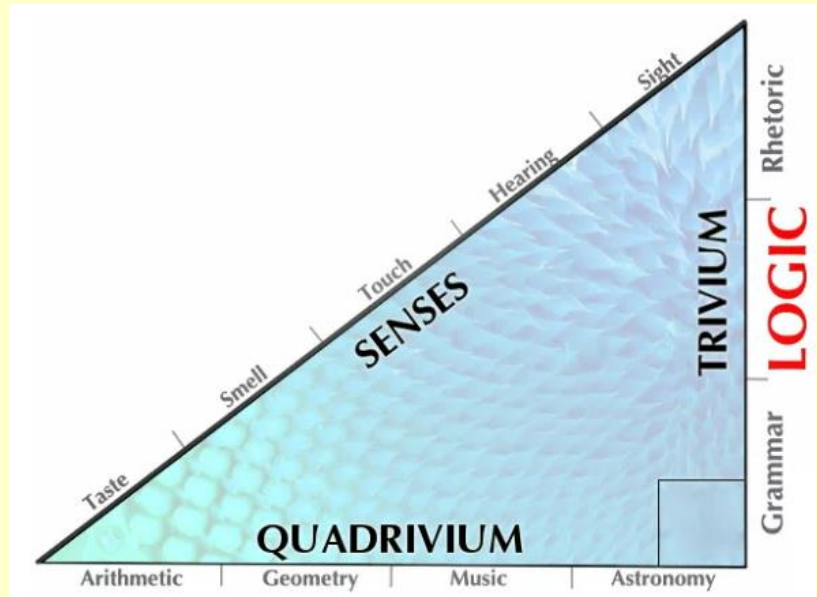
It has been said that:

“The true Mason is an ardent seeker of knowledge” . . .

“Knowledge is the most genuine and real of human treasures; for it is Light, as ignorance is darkness” . . .

“To learn, to attain knowledge, to be wise, is a necessity for every truly noble soul” . . .

The reference to the seven liberal arts and sciences found in our Fellowcraft degree is in part an admonition to all of us that a man requires knowledge and skills to be wise and live an upright and productive life. It is also an admonition that we should empower ourselves and our freedom by obtaining a broad education in the necessary arts and sciences by whatever means available to us.



To better understand the relevance of the seven liberal arts and sciences to Freemasonry and to the Freedoms we enjoy, we must review where they came from, how they have affected civilization, and Freemasonry’s role in public education.

Even before they were formulated by the ancient Greek philosophers, these seven arts and sciences were the recognized knowledge and skills of a master builder or master architect. Consider what our ancient brethren had to know and to take into consideration when building the great temples and monuments of the past. The possession of a nearly exclusive combination of knowledge and skills gave our ancient brethren the unique social status of **free men**, able to freely negotiate and contract for their work.

The ancient Greek philosopher **Pythagoras**, who is commonly mentioned in Masonic legends, founded a school that taught the **quadrivium** (the four sciences of **astronomy, mathematics, geometry, and music**).

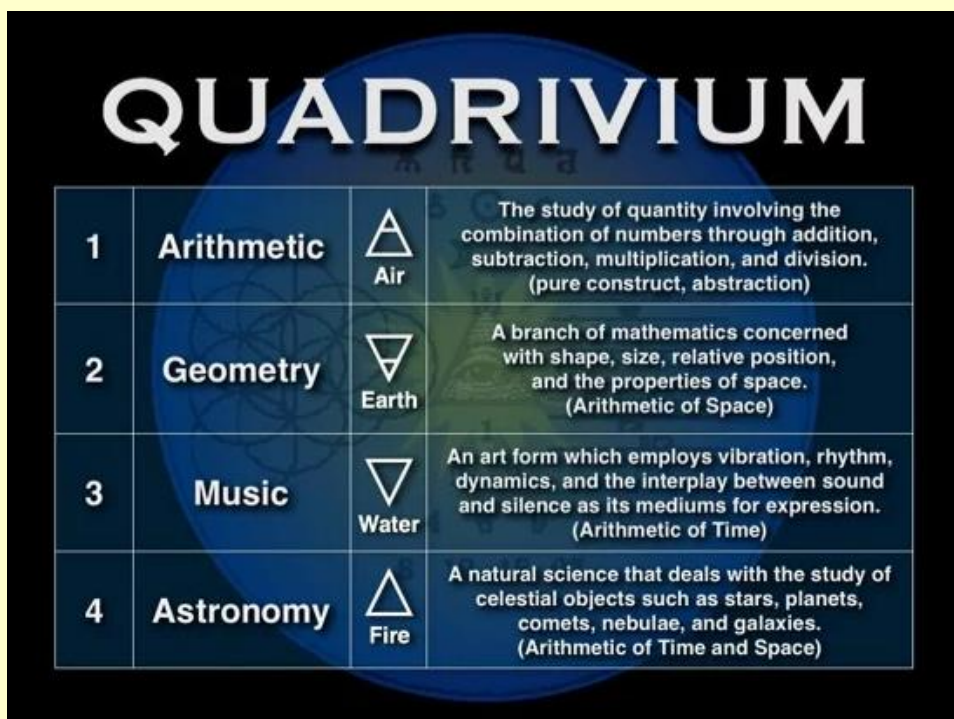
The modern term of **quantitative skills** refers to any use or manipulation of numbers or measurements for the purpose of reasoning using numbers. For example, statistics,

economics, geometry and algebra are essential quantitative skills in today's world. This is the modern equivalent of **mathematics** and **geometry**.

Astronomy was the first science of the many now known **physical sciences** that are concerned with how the universe works and physical nature of things. They are the disciplines that aim to uncover the underlying laws of nature. These including astronomy, chemistry, materials science and physics. These laws are often written in the language of advanced mathematics.

Music is the art of expressing ideas and emotions in forms such as rhythm, melody, tones, harmony, humming, etc. It can be a powerful communication and teaching tool. It can also be a tool to numb the mind, to control emotions, and to stimulate negativity and anti-social behavior. We are more surrounded by music than in any previous time in history. What do you think of the state of today's musical culture? Wouldn't understanding the nature and effects of music be useful in today's world?

The world has changed, complexity has increased, math and science are bigger bodies of knowledge, and digital technology is transforming the world. However, certain foundational elements of education are still needed to avoid intellectual and occupational serfdom. Yet today, in many cases, those foundational elements are inadequately emphasized in our public schools and in our universities.

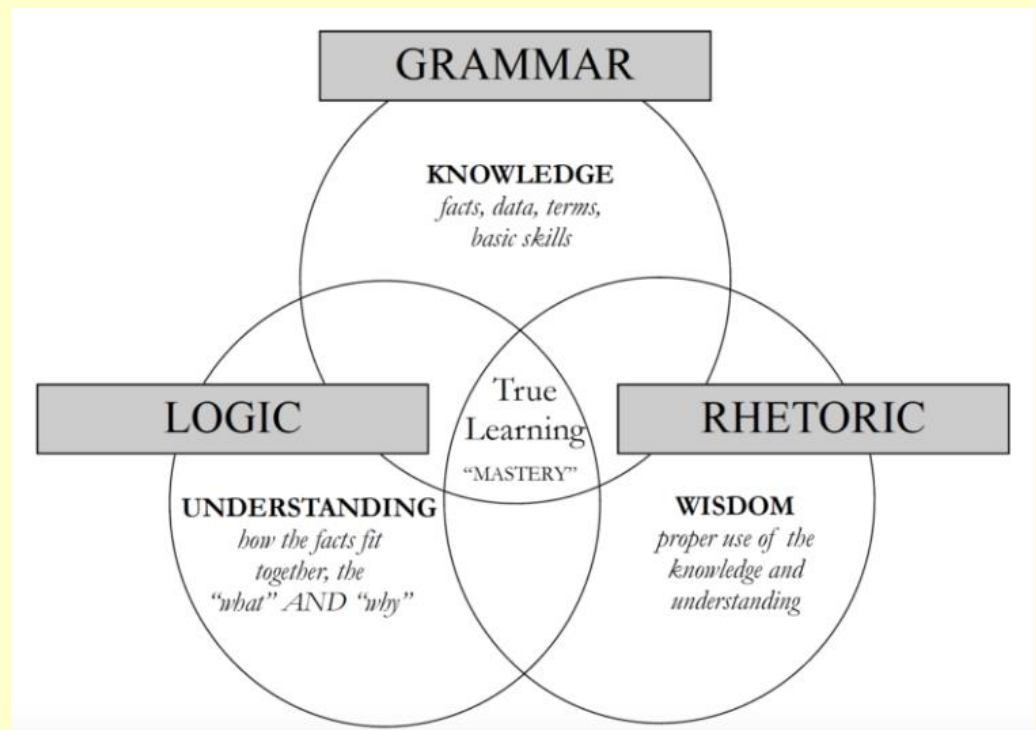


QUADRIVIUM				
1	Arithmetic	△ Air	The study of quantity involving the combination of numbers through addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. (pure construct, abstraction)	
2	Geometry	▽ Earth	A branch of mathematics concerned with shape, size, relative position, and the properties of space. (Arithmetic of Space)	
3	Music	▽ Water	An art form which employs vibration, rhythm, dynamics, and the interplay between sound and silence as its mediums for expression. (Arithmetic of Time)	
4	Astronomy	△ Fire	A natural science that deals with the study of celestial objects such as stars, planets, comets, nebulae, and galaxies. (Arithmetic of Time and Space)	

From later ancient Greek philosophers came the **trivium** (the three arts of **rhetoric, grammar, and logic**). These are closely related because they are all part of the critical process of analyzing data and information, choosing an option, making a decision, planning courses of action, and then communicating and explaining the decision in an understandable and convincing manner. These things the master builders and architects had to do every day to create their grand building with only human labor and simple tools, in remote places.

Logic is a subject that is seldom taught well, if at all in today's schools. Without training in logic, people are easily manipulated by emotional appeals, false logic and other forms of trickery. Without understanding what is logical and illogical, a person cannot form or evaluate any rational or scientific argument for or against something (**Rhetoric**). Without understanding what is logical and not logical, a person is intellectually vulnerable to misinformation and manipulation. **Grammar** is far more than just sentence structure and word tense. Instead, it is all the foundations of clear and precise written communications and of comprehending written communications.

Rhetoric, grammar and logic are still integral parts of the critical process of analyzing data and information, choosing an option, making a decision, and planning courses of action, and then communicating and explaining the decision in an understandable and convincing manner. Therefore, that are just as relevant as in the past.

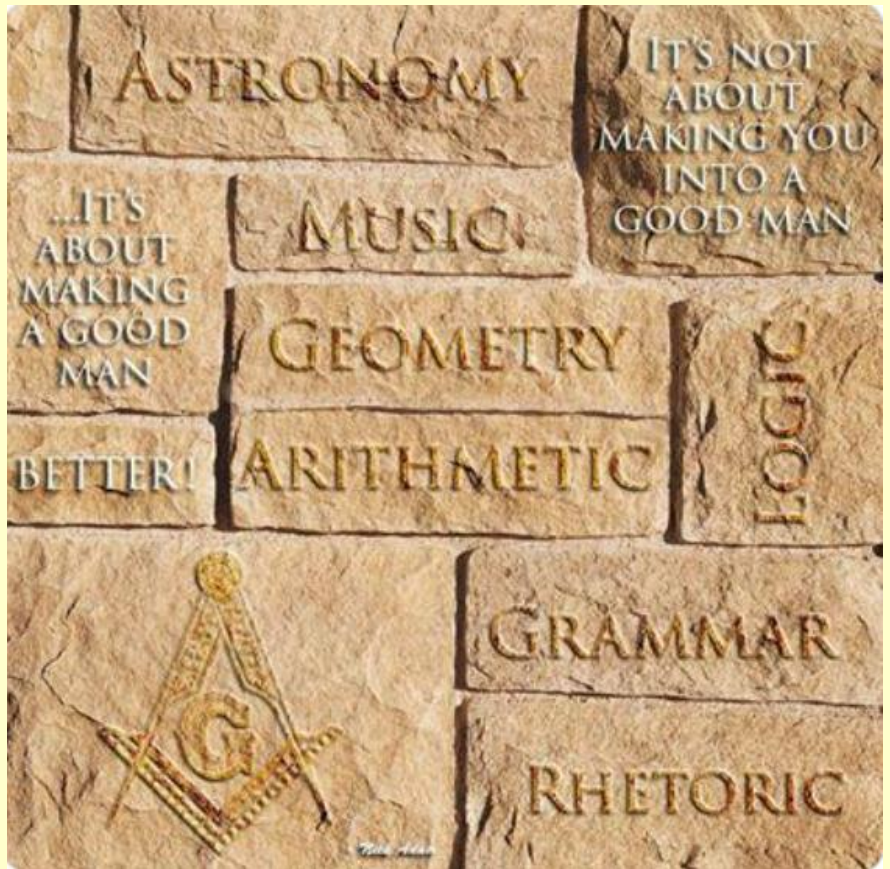


Later they were combined as the **seven liberal arts and sciences**. For much of **The word liberal comes from *liberalis*, meaning worthy of a free person**. In Western history these seven categories were the basis of an education designed to create a person wise and capable enough to be worthy of emancipation (liberated from selfdom), worthy of being a free citizen and equipped to engage in public debate, public duties and deciding one's own profession and other life choices.

The **Age of Enlightenment** (17th and 18th centuries) was a time when a new intellectual and philosophical movements came to dominate Europe, and which eventually had global effects. **It was the education of its leaders in the seven liberal arts and sciences that were the seeds of their innovative ideas concerning the value of human happiness, the pursuit of knowledge obtained by means of reason and the evidence of the senses, and ideals such as liberty, progress, toleration, fraternity, constitutional government, and separation of church and state.**

These ideas were commonly discussed and spread through Masonic social events and lodge meetings, and are today embedded in our degrees. **The spectacular growth in Freemasonry parallels the growth of the seven liberal arts and sciences in education and intellectual activities.**

Thomas Jefferson opined, “**An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people**”. American Freemasonry has long encouraged free public education, continuous self-education and constant self-improvement.



Freemasonry planted in its members' minds the seeds of thought that advances rationality, philosophical and historical considerations in decision making. American Masons had a major influence on the establishment of free public schools and a standard curriculum. Masons in their roles as politicians, scientist, educators, administrators, teachers and community leaders successfully shaped the growth and the content of much of American public education, until recently.

Final thoughts: The placement of the seven liberal arts and sciences in the Fellowcraft degree reminds us of our duty to educate ourselves, to help educate others, and to create a better world. That is a message that is always relevant. Today, we no longer needs to travel to some school or university to become more informed about the arts and sciences. Today, all we need is curiosity, some effort and a computer to draw upon the world's body of knowledge. For a Freemason, education should never cease.



Masonic History:

The Development of the Appendant Bodies in the American Masonic System

The following is just a partial list of Masonic Rites from around the world, both past and present, some regular and some irregular: *York rite* (also known in some countries as the "American Rite"), *Scottish Rite*, *Swedish Rite*, *Zinnendorf Rite*, *Schröder Rite*, *Mexican Rite*, *Ancient and Primitive Rite*, *Emulation Rite*, *French Rite*, *Traditional French Rite*, *National*



Mexican Rite, *Primitive Scottish Rite*, *Rectified Scottish Rite*, *Rite of Adoption*, *Rite of Baldwin*, *Egyptian Masonic Rite of Memphis*, *Ancient Free and Accepted Architects*, *Rite of Memphis-Misraim*, *Rite of Strict Observance*, *Rite of Misraim*, *Ancient and Accepted Rite (Cerneau Rite)*, *Adonhiramite Rite* and *Brazilian Rite (Modern Rite for Brazil)*.

In most nations, but not in the U.S., a Masonic Rite is the complete system of Freemasonry practiced by lodges belonging to a specific Grand Lodge, and there may be more than one Grand Lodge in a nation or state. These Masonic Rites are a complete system of degrees, starting from the first and ending with however many degrees in that system. Just a few examples are the Swedish Rite with 10 degrees, the Zinnendorf Rite with 7 degrees, the Schroder Rite with 3 degrees, and the Traditional French Rite with 7 degrees.

As discussed in previous editions of this journal/tresleboard, Freemasonry is a worldwide movement whose principles and morals have been implemented in the form of Rites (systems) unique to the situation, conditions and needs of each nation. Even within the same system (Rite) there may be differences in each nation where it is practiced. Thus, we have a multitudes of Masonic systems and practices throughout the world. However, the organization of Freemasonry in the U.S., and in those nations modeled on the U.S., is somewhat different.

In the U.S., our Blue Lodges (also referred to as Craft lodges) present our first three degrees. The York Rite and the Scottish Rite are considered appendant bodies of Freemasonry, not separate stand-alone Masonic systems. Instead, they are follow-on degrees of higher learning. Any Master Mason may join the York Rite or Scottish Rite after receiving the degrees of the Blue Lodge. How this unique arrangement came to be is an interesting story.

The ancient manuscript known as the Regius Manuscript - circa 1390, informs us that Ancient Masonry consisted of four degrees. It is acknowledged by the most authoritative researchers that there is reliable evidence of some pre 1717 lodges having three degrees. However, when the first English Grand Lodge was formed in 1717, in an attempt to consolidate control over the many long existing Masonic lodges of the British Isles, there was initially only two degrees. The third degree was added sometime later.

The resulting “official” three degrees that we now have in our American lodges are essentially the first three degrees of the York Rite system. In earlier years of our nation, some Masonic authors referred to our Blue Lodge degrees as such. The first known Royal Arch Chapter in the U.S. was established in 1793 and what we now know as the York Rite was firmly established in the U.S. by 1798. The Rite flourished in the U.S. and developed further thereafter. The York Rite is today recognized as consisting of three bodies: the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Council of Royal and Select Masters, and the Commandery of Knights Templars.

The York Rite supposedly derives its name from a legendary assembly of operative Masons in York, England in the year 926, long before the formation of the Grand Lodge of England, and was possibly the first general assembly of Masons ever held. While the foundation and some of the York Rite degrees came to us from England, the York Rite system, as we know it here, was developed in America and is largely confined to this country. The York Rite degrees perfectly align with the three degrees of our Craft Lodges. Thus, the York Rite was viewed as an easily acceptable addition to American Freemasonry. Taken progressively the York Rite degrees shed light upon the prior degrees and orders. The several divisions of the York Rite are made merely for the purpose of convenience for they are an integrated structure. They are not an aggregation of disconnected Masonic dramas but a complete story in part legendary and in part historical.

In contrast, the Scottish Rite presented U.S. Masonic leaders with a challenge. The Scottish Rite appeared in the U.S. in the early 1800s and quickly flourished. It was a complete system of 32 degrees, the first three being a rather different form of the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees. This Rite was not well received by the leaders of the Grand Lodges in the UK who initially refused to accept it as regular. However, at that time, those leaders were fairly resistant to any innovation in Masonry coming from anywhere outside the UK.

For a short time in our history the first three degrees of the Scottish Rite were presented in the U.S. However, it is generally acknowledged those first three Scottish Rite degrees did not align well with our current first three degrees, and this created some consternation and conflict among American masons. Today in the US, only the 4th thru 32nd degrees are normally presented by the Scottish Rite organizations. The story of how we reached our current arrangement is a bit murky.

Researchers have looked into this arrangement, but found almost no official documentation to explain it. The limited evidence indicates that the current arrangement is the result of an accommodation to prevent conflict within American Masonry and still allow Scottish Rite to flourish. At some time in our history a deal was arranged and the leaders of the Scottish Rite's jurisdictions agreed to not present their first three degrees, while retaining the status of an independent rite, yet becoming an appendant body of Craft Masonry.

The obvious question is, "How different were these Scottish Rite Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees?" The 1783 Francken Manuscript is a foundational volume of Scottish Rite Freemasonry, and describes the 4th through 25th degrees as they were originally written in the early 18th century, but does not address the first three degrees. I found no available copies of the rituals of the first three degrees. However, the ritual of those degrees might be reflected in the explanations that Albert Pike provided in his book *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite*, first published in 1871.

Albert Pike was a highly educated scholar and the author of scholarly books on eastern religions and mythology. This is evident in his writing, specifically in what things he referred to and his choice of language. He often referred to ancient religions, historical events and myths that most people, even today, would have little or no knowledge of. I find it unlikely that these references would have been included in the actual rituals of those degrees. Pike repeatedly referred to our three Craft degrees as York Rite degrees, and directly compares them to Scottish Rite versions. Concerning the Entered Apprentice Degree, while the same symbols are used as in our degrees, Pike gives them different meanings. Our first degree is about the path to perfect oneself. In contrast, the Scottish Rite's first degree is more about perfecting society and government. In other words, in our degrees the individual is taught to seek the perfection of self. In contrast, Pike urges the perfection of the external world. To Pike the perfect square stone did not represent the perfection of an individual, instead it represented the perfect government – fair, just and representative. To Pike, the 24 inch gauge was the symbolic tool to measure the justice of government, and the gavel was the tool used to chip away at the injustices and imperfections of government. Pike also claimed that Masonry is a direct descendent of the ancient Egyptian mystery schools that ancient scholars and scientists attended for instruction. No such claims appear in our three degrees.

In the Scottish Rite Fellowcraft degree there are some beautiful passages on the alignment of faith, truth and science, but there is also some rather divergent content. Also, Pike describes the primary purpose of Freemasonry as overcoming despotism. Again, no such claim appears in our three Craft degrees. I suspect that Pike invented a lot of the explanations in his book. However, assuming that at least some of Pike's explanations accurately reflected the actual first three degree rituals of the Scottish Rite, one might easily understand why such divergence alarmed many American Masons, leading to the current arrangement. However, one can also understand why the Scottish Rite also was highly attractive to many American

Masons whose memory of the spirit of the American Revolution and the War of 1812 against the British was still fresh. I must stress that without seeing the actual Scottish Rite rituals of that period, I cannot assure you that Pike's later interpretations were in fact represented in those degrees at that time. However, it is a reasonable supposition that some of his explanations came from those degree rituals.

There are today lodges in the US that are still presenting the first three degrees of the Scottish Rite in lieu of our three degrees. It is an interesting story. Just a few years ago, in my business travels, I met a brother from Louisiana. While chatting with him he asked me if I was from a Blue lodge or a Red lodge? I really didn't understand what he was asking, so I said that in California we refer to our lodges as Blue lodges. He smiled, and then changed the subject. I thought perhaps he was referring to a York Rite chapter, but recently I came across a Masonic sign outside of a remote town that was Red instead of Blue. It was the standard round sign, had the standard square, compass and G, and the words "free and accepted Freemasons", yet it was red. This inspired me to investigate further.

I found that sometimes a York Rite Royal Arch Chapter is referred to as a Red lodge. However, in general the term *Red Lodges* refers to regular Masonic Lodges authorized by their regular state Grand Lodge to present the first three degrees of the Scottish Rite, as an alternative to our first three Craft degrees. I also learned that in Louisiana there is an entire Masonic district of 10 lodges, and a few other lodges scattered across a few other states (including California), that are authorized by their state Grand Lodge to present the alternate Scottish Rite degrees. I must stress that these are considered fully regular Masonic lodges. However, it is very challenging to find any information about these lodges.

This arrangement in Louisiana of co-existing different Craft degree rituals is due to Louisiana's French heritage and Louisiana's Scottish Rite's council's relative independence. The events leading up to this arrangement are as follows. The U.S. purchased the Louisiana Territory in 1803. Previously that area was owned by Spain, and then France. During this period in history the U.S.'s relationship with France and attitude toward the French was complex. France had helped the fledgling U.S. gain independence, yet France was an autocratic monarchy whose population was greatly oppressed by church and state. The excesses of the French revolution appalled many Americans, yet the motto of the French revolution and of French Freemasonry (equality, fraternity, liberty), appealed to the American ethic.

The French Masonic Rite of Perfection (a 25 degree system) from which the Scottish Rite evolved, had arrived in the 13 colonies circa 1767. Those few lodges that practiced it were never considered regular and while they survived for some time, they never flourished. However, the leaders of those lodges were instrumental in the create of the modern American Scottish Rite. The situation in Louisiana was different. The Louisiana Rite of Perfection lodges were established during the French period, and did flourish. As American

Masons traveled and moved into the new U.S. Louisiana Territory, they encountered established Masonic lodges practicing a version of the French Rite of Perfection. The American Masons of our Blue Lodges were surprised and confused by these French degrees, that were very different from their own. Eventually, the standard American system became dominant, yet there are still today regular lodges in Louisiana authorized by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana to practice an alternate first three degrees, and their choice of an alternative is the Scottish Rite degrees.

Today American Masonic arrangement of craft lodges, and two primary appendant bodies of advanced learning offers the American Mason a common of Craft Lodge (Blue Lodge) experience with other American Mason, yet different paths for advancing their Masonic knowledge. The result is an opportunity for a lifetime of Masonic exploration and learning.

Additional Information: In the United States, the Grand College of Rites focuses on the collection and publication of texts from both Masonic ritual not currently used in the United States, and defunct quasi-Masonic rituals used by other fraternities and societies. One of its stated purposes is the prevention, within the larger community of Freemasons, of the revival or usage of any rituals that are not currently in use in the United States.

Although lesser known, a smaller organization and not in itself classified as a Rite, the Allied Masonic Degrees (AMD) is an appendant order of Freemasonry that exists in some Masonic jurisdictions; its degrees are conferred only by invitation. These are a series of Masonic degrees conferred by Councils of the Allied Masonic Degrees. This organization exists in Great Britain, the United States, Canada, France, Australia and Congo, and their members also educate one another by presenting research papers on Freemasonry.



York Rite Emblems



Scottish Rite Emblem

Freemasonry around the World:

Masonic Rites in Brazil

Brazil is the largest nation in South America, covering a land mass nearly as large as that of the United States, much of which is home to the Amazon Rainforest. It hosts a range of climactic zones from tropical or temperate, and while it is not the only South American country whose primary language is not Spanish, it is the only nation in the Americas whose national language is Portuguese.

Brazil is very culturally diverse. It has rich and varied traditions and customs developed from the mingling of European, native American, Asian and African origins. It is home to a wide variety of music, arts, foods, social traditions and customs, some African inspired religions, and a rich history of Masonic activity.

The ships of various nations carried Freemasonry to Brazil and to the rest of South American in the late 1700s. While there were various unofficial and official lodges for many years, it was not until 1821 that the Grande Oriente do Brazil was founded in Rio de Janeiro.



In 1822 the Brazilian Emperor Dom Pedro, banned Freemasonry, presumably because he felt it was dangerous to his autocratic rule. However, Freemasonry quickly returned after his abdication in 1831. The 1830s and 1840s were decades marked by a burgeoning diversity of masonic forms, Rites, and organizations.

Brazil today is home to many different Masonic Rites, conducted in a variety of languages. No fewer than six distinct rites currently being practiced to a significant degree in contemporary Brazil. These include Rites which are not practiced elsewhere, as well as Rites which have become all but extinct in their homelands. Indeed, one Rite had to be reintroduced to Europe from Brazil, because it had ceased to be practiced in Europe in its original purity.

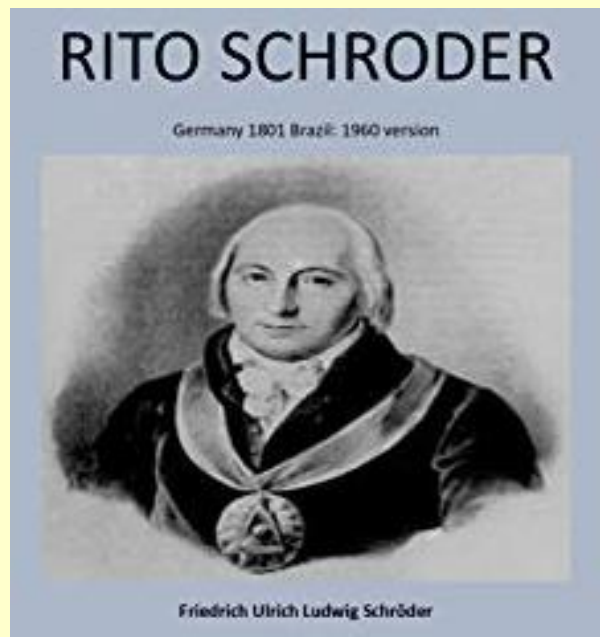
There is of course both the **York Rite** and the **Scottish Rite** in Brazil. However, there are also some Rites not so common in the rest of the world. These have managed to survive and even thrive in the relatively isolated and diverse cultural environment of Brazil. The much debated Memphis Mizraim Rite is still relatively popular in Brazil. The **Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis-Misraïm** is a Masonic rite founded in Naples, Italy in September 1881 by the merger of two older rites; the Rite of Misraïm and the Rite of Memphis. Although founded in 1881, its predecessors have their origins in the 1700s. The system is sometimes known as Egyptian Freemasonry due to its hermetic-derived esoteric symbolism referencing Ancient Egypt in its system of degrees. This Rite is noted for its high number of degrees in its system; a total of 99 degrees.



Perhaps the most unusual is that of **Adonhiramite Masonry**, a Rite that died off in most of the world nearly one hundred years ago. However, today it thrives in Brazil. This Rite employs a doctrine which is said to be a mixture of Christian principles and ancient Egyptian mystery school teachings.



Another Rite still practiced in some Lodges in Brazil is the **Schroeder Rite**. The Schroeder Rite was developed in Germany in 1801. Friedrich Schroeder felt that Higher Degree forms in Masonry had gone astray and wanted a return to a three degree system.



Another very popular Rite is the **Brazilian Rite**. The Supreme Council of the Modern Rite (SCRM) of Brazil was founded in 1842. Re-established in 1968 after years of dormancy, the Brazilian Rite has 33 degrees. Today its leaders strive to continue their historical traditions yet remain open to evolution in the ritual. The Brazilian Rite is unique to Brazil.

The degrees of the Brazilian Rite are distributed over four types of Lodges:

1. **Sublime Chapters** (Grades 4-18) devoted to moral conduct.
2. **Great Philosophical Councils** (Chambers of 19-30 degrees-Kadosh) dedicated to culture -artistic, scientific, technological, and philosophical.
3. **High Grades** (grades 31 and 32) devoted to civic virtue
4. **Supreme Conclave** dedicated to humanistic synthesis.

The degrees of The Brazilian Rite are also divided into two classifications. The first three degrees are classified as *Symbolic* and the fourth through 33rd are classified as *Philosophical*.

<p>Symbolic:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Apprentice 2) Fellowcraft 3) Master <p>Philosophical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Master of Discretion 5) Master of Loyalty 6) Master of Openness 7) Master of Truth 8) Master of Courage 9) Master of Justice 10) Master of Tolerance 11) Master of Prudence 12) Master of Temperance 13) Master of Probity 14) Master of Perseverance 15) Knight of Freedom 16) Knight of Equality 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17) Knight of Fraternity 18) Knight Rose Croix (Perfection) 19) Missionary of Agriculture and Livestock 20) Missionary of Industry and Trade 21) Missionary of Work 22) Missionary of Economy 23) Missionary of Education 24) Missionary of Social Organization 25) Missionary of Social Justice 26) Missionary of Peace 27) Missionary of Art 28) Missionary of Science 29) Missionary of Religion 30) Missionary of Philosophy 31) Guardian of Public Good 32) Guardian of Civility 33) Server of the Order of Fatherland and Humanity
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The last major rite practiced in Brazil is the **French or Modern Rite**. This rite came to Brazil in the early 1800s and has remained much as it was. In the 1960s, several masons in France sought to recapture the original character of their French Rite and made an attempt to reanimate its initiatory and symbolic character. Their research led to Brazil and eventually in 1989 the Supreme Council of the Modern Rite for Brazil accorded the French Masons a patent to establish in France a French Rite Grand Chapter under the name "**Traditional French Rite**", after 150 years of absence. This is the closest rite in existence in France to the Rite practiced in France in the second half of the 18th century.



The Brazilian people are proud and independent thinking. They have adapted various Masonic Rites to their own ways of thinking and their own perceived needs with little concern for what the rest of the Masonic world might think. Another unusual aspect of Freemasonry in Brazil is the good relationships that some of the Masonic Rites have with some Brazilian Catholic clergy. While the Pope and the Catholic church may be officially anti-Masonic, it doesn't appear so in parts of Brazil, as shown in the below pictures taken at a Masonic Memorial Mass for the "Day of the Freemason", celebrated by Father Geraldo de Magela Silva, of the Diocese of Pesqueira (state of Pernambuco, Brazil.)



Quotes about Freemasonry – for personal reflection.

Masonry was not made to divide men, but to unite them, leaving each man free to think his own thoughts and fashion his own system of ultimate truth. All its emphasis rests upon two extremely simple and profound principles, love of God and love of man.

Joseph Fort Newton

The secret of Masonry, like the secret of life, can be known only by those who seek it, serve it, live it. It cannot be uttered; it can only be felt and acted. It is, in fact, an open secret, and each man knows it according to his quest and capacity. Like all things worth knowing, no one can know it for another and no man can know it alone.

William Howard Taft

We Masons are among the fortunate ones who are taught to meet together with others of opposing convictions or competitive ideas and yet respect each other as Brothers.

Albert Pike

The true Mason takes full responsibility for the condition of his character and ever strives for its perfection.

William Howard Taft

I violate no secret when I say that one of the greatest values in Masonry is that it affords an opportunity for men of all walks of life to meet on common ground where all men are equal and have one common interest.

Theodore Roosevelt

The genius of Freemasonry is not our Masonic buildings and temples or the trappings of our organizations. It is not our great charities or community activities. It is not our beautiful rituals or their teachings! It is the 'practice of Freemasonry' by the Freemasons. Yet we cannot practice that which we do not know or understand. Thus, Masonic education is the foundation for our Fraternity.

Carl H. Claudy

Freemasonry is an institution founded on eternal reason and truth; whose deep basis is the civilization of mankind, and whose everlasting glory it is to have the immovable support of those two mighty pillars, science and morality.

George Washington



Miscellaneous

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

The Grand Master's Unity Day Picnic

The Grand Master's Unity Day picnic will be on **July 10th**, 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. Dress comfortable. While there will be picnic table seating, you might want to bring folding chairs / lawn chairs. This is a casual event.

Reminder: Safe travels

Just a reminder that **construction crews are repaving the Skyway road between Chico and Paradise**. Construction is being performed during both day and nighttime hours. Therefore, the Skyway is limited to one lane in either direction, 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.



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Email: oldkingcreations@att.net

[Table Mountain Masonic Lodge #124 - Home | Facebook](#)

Table Mountain Lodge's website - <https://lodge124.freemason.org>

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

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<https://beashrinernow.com>

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

Scottish Rite – David Anderson, Sacramento Valley Scottish Rite.

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<https://www.sacramentoscottishrite.org>

Paradise and Orville Eastern Star – Peg McElroy, Secretary Golden Feather Chapter,

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