



Table Mountain Masonic Lodge #124, Paradise, CA



Feb 2023 Journal and Trestleboard



Vol 3, Issue 2,

Paradisefreemasons@gmail.com or (530) 877-7852,

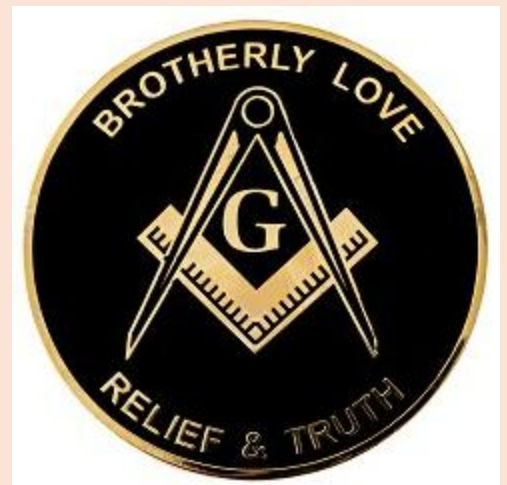
Website: <https://lodge124.freemason.org>

Building and Room Rentals

Worshipful Master's Corner

Hello Brothers and Friends,

This month we have a larger issue of our Journal / Trestleboard, with more pictures. We begin with the ***calendar of events***. Then a **restatement of our Lodge's Identify and Mission**. Followed by a **list of our 2023 Elected and Appointed Officers**. There is then a **summary of our last Stated Meeting**, and then of our **recent double 1st Degree**. Then there are pictures of our **new Lodge decorations**. This is followed by an extensive summary of our **Day of Lodge Celebration (Installation of 2023 officers, Hiram award and the awarding of the Past Master apron)**. Then we cover our recent **Community Market at Table Mountain Lodge**. That is followed by **A Question that you might be asked about Freemasonry: With an answer**. This month we have two Masonic Formation essays. The first is **Time, Patience and Perseverance** and the second is **Variations on the Masonic Square and Compass from around the world**. Then we offer a collection of **quotes suitable for Masonic reflection**. Then, there is an important reminder for brothers to **pay their yearly lodge dues**. There is also information about **obtaining your own custom Lodge polo shirt**, getting a copy of our unique **150 year history of Table Mountain Masonic lodge**, and on **how to print your dues card** using your personal computer. Finally, there is **contact information** for our lodge and other Masonic organizations. Please feel free to share this PDF.



This Journal / Trestleboard is posted in our lodge's message board at the Grand Lodge website and at also the Table Mountain lodge website: <https://lodge124.freemason.org>

Calendar of Events

Table Mountain Masonic Lodge

- Feb 4 , Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- Feb 11, Saturday, Sweetheart Dinner starting at 6 pm.
- Feb 23, Thursday, Double 1st Degree, starting at 6 pm.
- Mar 4, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1
- Mar 11, Chili Cookoff in Chico, starting at 11 am – ending perhaps near 3pm. Feel free to bring your competition chili and your family.
- Mar 18, Saturday, Tentative Degree, starting at 2 pm.
- April 1, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- April 15, Saturday, Tentative Degree, starting at 2 pm.



Other local area Masonic Events

- **DeMolay** – Feb 2 and 16 at 7 pm. Location to be announced.
- **Rainbow** – Feb 6 and 20 at 7 pm at the Chico Masonic center.
- **Ben Ali Shrine, Sacramento** – [Ben Ali Shrine - Ben Ali Shrine](#) .
- **Golden Feather Eastern Star** (Paradise and Oroville) - Feb 1, at 7 pm, in Oroville.
- **Scottish Rite** – Feb 21 stated meeting at 6 pm and Sweethearts dinner at 7 pm, at the Sacramento Scottish Rite center. Feb 25, 5:30pm, all you can eat Scottish Rite Crab Feed, <https://www.sacramentoscottishrite.org/2023-crab-feed> .
- **Chico Leland Stanford lodge** – Stated Meeting, 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.
- **Oroville Lodge** – Stated Meeting, 1st Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.
- **Gridley Lodge** - Stated Meeting, 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm.
- **Forbestown lodge** - Stated Meeting, 1st Saturday of the month at 7 pm.
- **Orland Lodge** - Stated Meeting, 1st Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.

Other Scheduled Community Events at the Table Mountain Masonic Center

- **Community Market at TMML**, Feb 11 and Mar 25, from 11 am to 4 pm in our parking lot and dining room.
- **Paradise Rod and Gun Club** – Executive meeting first Wednesday of every month at 6 pm. General membership meeting third Thursday of every month 6:30 pm
- **Butte County Family Health classes and counseling** , Every Wed, 4:30 to 9 pm.
- **PG&E and contractors** are having regular work meetings in our facility.
- Intermittent use by various private parties. Check with Woody Nelson for available dates

Table Mountain Building/Rooms Rentals

Woody Nelson, (530) 877-7852 email: paradisefreemasons@gmail.com

2023 Restatement of the Table Mountain Masonic Lodge Identify and Mission Statement

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 is fourfold

1. To help good men become better men through the practice of Freemasonry's principles and ethics.
2. To assist and provide relief to our members, our members' family and those of the greater Masonic community in need of support and assistance.
3. To support our public schools and local charitable organizations, and in general contribute to efforts to alleviate the suffering of those in need.
4. We seek to advance and spread Masonic principles and ethics throughout our local communities by being examples worthy of emulation by the general public.

January 7, 2023, Stated Meeting

At 1 pm, just prior to our Saturday January 7, stated meeting, the brothers, their families and guests met for a delicious lunch of homemade chili, corn bread, salad and refreshments provided by Brother Doug Campbell and his wife Dana. Everyone greatly enjoyed themselves and there were lively conversations and good fellowship. Then at 2 pm, Table Mountain Masonic Lodge opened on the 1st degree of Masonry, for the purpose of conducting the January stated meeting business.

Worshipful Woody Nelson was ill with Covid. Therefore, brother Doug Campbell presided, and all positions were filled. The room's heating system had malfunctioned, resulting in a rather low temperature, so we all met wearing our warm coats. However, this did not dampen our enthusiasm and the heating problem has since been resolved.



Our Secretary Brian Grandfield (PM) read the minutes of the previous meeting, and later presented the secretary's report and bills to be paid. All bills were paid. Additionally, our Secretary informed the brothers that the background investigations had come back on our two most recent petitioners and that we could proceed with our investigations. Additionally, the petition of another individual was read.

Our Treasurer Rich Gingery reported that our financial resources had improved significantly and the funds from the estate of our late Brother Moore should soon be available to us. The Junior Warden reported that the amount within JW fund remained the same as in the previous month.

It was reported that two of our brothers were ill and as such were not present. One being Worshipful Nelson who was ill with Covid, and our Chaplain Bob McElroy who was experiencing some difficult back pain.

Due to the unavoidable absence of Worshipful Nelson, only abbreviated reports were presented on the lodge association, our schools project, and our proposed Camp Fire memorial. Brother Campbell did share that the Camp Fire memorial project was put on hold due to an incorrect design and a resulting excessive cost estimate, and that Worshipful Nelson was still addressing those issues with the stone mason. Brother Campbell did share that in December the local high school contacted the lodge for assistance when they

discovered a group of students did not have winter coats. There was an update requested on the status of Boy Scouting on the ridge, which we hope will be discussed next month.

A few brothers took the opportunity to say how much they and their spouses enjoyed our informal Christmas / Holiday gathering at the Handlebar grill in Chico and that we should have such social gatherings regularly, and not limited to the Christmas / Holiday period. All were in agreement with this suggestion.

Due the limited time before the scheduled double first degree, on Thursday January 12th, considerable effort and time was taken to ensure all details and practices were known to the brothers and that they could be available and ready. Likewise, due to our upcoming lodge Installation and Awards Ceremony, we took the opportunity to review the plans for and the sequencing of the event, practice times and the appropriate attire. There were many volunteers to help with preparation. We were informed that on the prior Thursday evening, DeMolay would be in the lodge to practice the flag posting for the installation, therefore they would be available to help setup, and also help during the event. Some brothers volunteered to ensure the new wall decorations would be properly in place. The brothers were also reminded that the Chico Shrine Crab Feed will take place the evening after our Jan 21 event.

We briefly discussed our Saturday Feb 11, 2023, Sweetheart Dinner for our wives / significant others, to show appreciation to our wives for their support for our Masonic activities. Suggestions were made, and some brothers volunteered to help plan and cook. Additionally, the possibility that DeMolay could help was brought up. A few brothers agreed to meet and work on this project.



Brother Cole Hamilton updated the brethren on his success in getting the appropriate license to hold certain types of community events within our parking lot and facilities, specifically concerning the local arts and crafts community and for the local youth. Brother Cole was highly commended by the entire lodge for his excellent work, his focus on our community and its youth. Brother Campbell stated that he would soon be working with him on details and scheduling. However, with the reminder that our utilities bills have increased, and we must at a minimum ensure we cover those expenses. Also, Brother Cole was recognized for attaining the 32nd degree of Scottish Rite Freemasonry, and as such would be receiving his Scottish Rite cap and ring at the January Scottish Rite stated meeting.

This also lead to discussion of adding a small financial incentive to the various student of the year awards. All agreed that this was now feasible and would be done. Then Brother Oso, agreed to work with Brother on a “clean out the freezer and refrigerator” lunch for our Feb stated meeting. The lodge was then ritually closed, brotherly love prevailing.

January 12, 2023 – Double 1st Degree

On Thursday evening, January 12, at 6 pm, Table Mountain Masonic Lodge # 124 opened on the 1st degree of Masonry, for the purpose of conferring the Entered Apprentice degree on Mr. Stephen James and Mr. Robert Hooper. These degree conferrals were delayed from December 22 to January 2023 due to extreme weather and road conditions. Additionally, our degree conferrals are normally presented on Saturdays, but due to the previous delay and our busy schedule of weekend activities, this conferral was held on a weeknight.

Brother Ehren Hawkins served as the Master of the Lodge for the initiation, Juston Purcell (PM) was Senior Warren and Glenn Story (PM) presented the lecture and served as Junior Warden. Brian Grandfield (PM) was Secretary, Rich Gingery the Treasurer, and Caleb Chin (PM) was Chaplain. Cole Hamilton delivered the Charge and was Senior Deacon, Justin (Oso) Harju was Junior Deacon, Marshal was Steve Kane, Senior Steward was Phil Howard, Junior Steward was Frank Beard, and Carlos Ramirez performed the duty of Tiler. The ceremony was beautifully done and afterwards we met downstairs for refreshments, and cream pies. Peace and harmony prevailed.



Our New Lodge Decorations



January 21, 2023 – Day of Lodge Celebration

Installation of 2023 Lodge Officers













Hiram Award

The Hiram Award is among the highest of recognitions that a Freemason can receive. The award is named after an important character in Masonic tradition. Known in Masonic circles as Hiram Abiff, the widows son, he was the architect and the primary supervisor of the building of King Solomon temple in Jerusalem. According to Masonic tradition, he was renowned for skills in the arts and sciences, for his virtuous behavior, for his devotion to the one - ever living God, and for his unwavering integrity. Masonic tradition informs us that he entered into a sacred covenant, giving his word to his peers. Later when faced with death or breaking that covenant, he chose to forfeit his life rather than to sacrifice his integrity. The circumstances of his death has inspired many generations of Freemasons around the world to value and protect their integrity. In current times, the Hiram Award is not given simply based on the number or type of lodge or grand lodge offices that they have held, or based in any way on the number of years they have been a Mason. Instead, the questions considered by the selection committee are, "is it agreed by all that he has been consistently an exemplary role model of the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth, of the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity, and of the philosophical virtues of fortitude, prudence, temperance, and justice"? This year's Table Mountain Masonic Lodge winner of the Hiram Award is Brian MacPherson Grandfield, who has been an exemplary Mason for nearly 28 years, a Past Master of this lodge, and our lodge Secretary for the last 9 years.



The Past Masters Award

Harwood Nelson, known to us as Worshipful Woody, has been a Master Mason for nearly 52 years. In 1970 he joined Scepter Lodge in West Sacramento, to which he is still a member. Later it was our good luck that Woody affiliated with Table Mountain Lodge. In 2020 Woody was the Grand Master's Mason of the Year. That same year he became Master of Table Mountain Lodge, at a time when our membership was decimated by the November 2018 Camp fire, our Masonic facilities were undergoing repairs from the fire, and the Covid epidemic made everything difficult. His leadership, energy and creativity was critical to our survival and to our rebirth as a healthy, dynamic, community involved and rapidly growing Masonic lodge. Today, due to Worshipful Woody, we have our third year of all stations and positions being installed, with a strong line of younger men to advance in future years. It was therefore our great pleasure to present Worshipful Woody with a beautiful Past Master's apron, and the Grand Master's Award.





Food, Refreshments and Fun



Special Thanks to:

- **Brothers Frank Beard and his son, Justin (Oso) Harju and Phil Howard** who built the hanger and hung the new wall decorations in the lodge.
- **Brother Woody Nelson** who ensured everything was in place and ready in the lodge for the installation.
- **Brothers Cole Hamilton, Rich Gingery and the fine young men of DeMolay** for performing the flag posting, for helping with decorations, set up, food and clean-up of the event.
- **Brother Rich Gingery** for obtaining roses for our ladies.
- **Dana Campbell, Tara Campbell, and Vanessa Flournoy** for decorating the dining room and preparing the food and refreshments.
- **Peg McElroy** who provided wonderful piano music for the event.
- **Anthea Campbell and Dana Campbell** for their performance of *To Wonder at Beauty*.
- **All our wives and family** that allow and support all of us in our Masonic activities.
- **The Great Creator of the Universe** (by any name or description), to which we always bow with reverence.

Extra Special thanks to the installation team:

- **Worshipful Keith Wattles** – Past Inspector of Masonic Districts #131 and #125, and Past Master of Naval Lodge #87, Vallejo, California.
- **Worshipful Manual (Chief Sam) Sarmiento**, Past Master of Naval Lodge #87, Vallejo, California.
- **Worshipful Larry Willis**, Inspector-at- large, Past Master of Chico Leland Stanford #111, Chico California.



The Community Market at Table Mountain Lodge

On Saturday January 28, from 11 am to 4 pm, the Table Mountain Masonic lodge hosted the first ridge (Paradise and Magalia) *Community Arts and Craft Market*, held outdoors in our large lodge parking lot. This event is the brainchild our brother Cole Hamilton, himself a successful sculptor. Since the 2018 Camp fire and the resulting depopulation of the ridge communities, our local artisans and crafters have lost their venues in which to show and sell their creations. For many people struggling with economic challenges, making and selling unique arts and crafts are an important part of their income. Thus, by creating this venue we hope to, in some small way, help rebuild the economy of the ridge and help our local artisans and crafters rebuild their business. Table Mountain Masonic lodge is not financially benefiting from this effort. This first event was a clear success, and the people of the community were truly appreciative. Many people commented that we were doing something really positive for them and the community. Also, our building and organization received a lot of positive attention and interest. Therefore, The Community Arts and Craft Market will continue. Our current planned dates are **Feb 11, Mar 25, Apr 8 and 22, May 13 and 27, June 10 and 17, July 8 and 22, from 11 am to 4 pm, at our Table Mountain Masonic Building, 5934 Clark Rd, Paradise, CA.**









A Question that you might be asked about Freemasonry: With an answer

How old is Freemasonry?

That is a good question, but not one that can be answered in just a few words. The foundations of modern Freemasonry are ancient, so ancient that we don't know the date of its beginnings, and we have only limited knowledge of how it passed through the millennia. Its history, as it is generally understood, is as follows. Ancient temples, burial chambers and fortifications were the first large scale human construction endeavors. Temples especially required large contingents of skilled architects, craftsmen and artisans. These experts were often gathered from many lands and peoples for these massive undertakings. Due to their cultural, language and religious differences, rules and behavioral standards along with divisions of labor and communications processes evolved within self-govern societies. These ensured a relatively conflict free environment and an efficient construction process. In various forms such societies of craftsmen and artisans continued to exist and evolve throughout the ages and throughout Europe. These societies taught moral standards of behavior in addition to skills and material knowledge. All human history is one of adaptation and evolution, and so it was with these societies, as they continued to evolve and adapt to unique and changing circumstances. The 16th century brought the reformation, numerous wars throughout Europe and in what is now the UK, struggles for power, and the enlightenment movement that articulated the rights to self-government, freedom of religion, freedom association, the pursuit of happiness and the radical concept that diverse men of faith can work together for mutual and the public benefit. Then there appeared the public education movement with a new focus on science over dogma. These principles of enlightenment movement fit well into the philosophy of the independent thinking free stone masons in Scotland and England. Soon men of all professions sought membership in their lodges, and were accepted. By the 1700's accepted Masons outnumbered free stone Masons. The movement was then codified as Free and Accepted Masons with a focus on morale behaviors, appropriate values, inculcating virtues and charitable activities. This was an important transition point in our history. Starting in the 1700's the Masonic movement spread around the world, adapting local sensibilities and culture, thus becoming a diverse and innovative worldwide phenomenon, yet always true to those original Masonic foundations of brotherly love, relief and true. American Freemasonry has its roots in Scottish and English Freemasonry but has also been influenced by some aspects of early French Freemasonry. Developing in a social and political environment well aligned with Masonic principles, American Freemasonry has played a significant and positive role in our communities from well before the birth of our nation, and we believe will do so far into the future as it continues to adapt and evolve.

Masonic Formation

Time, Patience and Perseverance

Most Master Masons will quickly recognize the statue at the right. Its parts and its meanings are described in detail near the end of the third degree ceremony. The man with wings standing behind the young women represents *Time*, and he is there to remind us of the importance of understanding the role that **Time, Patience and Perseverance** has in achieving our goals and living a happy life.



Time is an important subject in Freemasonry. In the first degree we are taught to divide our time wisely, allowing sufficient time for our work, our service and our personal care. In second degree we are reminded that time does not stand still, and are instructed on the effects of time on civilizations, and yet how the principles and efforts of Freemasonry remain present and relevant. In the third degree we are reminded that death is part of life, that our time on this earth is limited. Also, that our actions can live on affecting others, even when we are gone from this earthly plane.

Time never stops. It is a constant reality that we all live within. It is often said that today we live in a faster paced society where change is constant. People may be perceiving that they are busier and the arrival of new technology comes quicker, but hasn't time and change always been a constant?

Nature does not move faster, plants still take time to grow, the weather still follows the seasons, children still grow over years, and length of the days change only in a consistent and known pattern. Rush as you wish, you only get to work so fast. You can't work at your maximum speed forever, you must rest. An effective meeting or conversation still takes time, even when well presented. Healthy relationships are still nourished by the time you commit to them.

I suspect that our ancestors felt constantly pressured by time, as we do. Their work was often physical and intensive, and they labored from dawn to dusk. I suspect that they always felt that there was too little time in the day for what had to be done, and that they had to rush about filling every minute of daylight to accomplish what had to be done. It not surprising that it was the ancients that first noted the importance of understanding the nature of time, patience and perseverance.

We often act as if we control time, that somehow we can create more time, but that is not true. Instead, we can only choose to wisely use our time. In our modern world we refer to that as *managing our time*. However, the term is misleading, instead we don't manage time, we manage ourselves. We live best, are happiest and most effectively when we accept that some things take more time and cannot be rushed. The *Law of Time, Patience and Perseverance* is, "Patiently continue to work on the problem, situation or process for as long a time as it takes to achieve your desired outcome". Note that this sentence begins with the word *patiently*.

Patience is the strength-of-will to calmly navigate the time, obstacles and challenges you will face as you work through a problem, process, or situation. There will always be situations and people who will irritate or frustrate you. However, if you can be patient, that calm will allow you to more effectively deal with all difficulties and challenges. Patience isn't passive; it is instead proactively waiting for the right time or right moment to act. Perhaps the best way to understand the *virtue of patience* is to first understand what happens when we are impatient. Displaying impatience with others can weaken or destroy relationships, and cause others to lose respect for you. Impatience can look childish to others, and thus damage your reputation. Impatience with others can deeply hurt their feelings and sense of self-respect. Impatience can be a form of abuse. Impatience may cause us to do things that we know we should not do. Additionally, being impatient can affect your sleep, encourage a sense of frustration and helplessness, reinforce negative emotions, and make it difficult to focus on the present. Impatience does not lead to any real progress or positive outcome. While patience is a virtue, impatience is an emotion that we need to keep circumscribed (restricted or within limits).

Perseverance is doing something despite difficulties or delays in achieving success. Impatience diminishes perseverance. Patience empowers perseverance. Patience and perseverance both require focused attention. When you lose focus, you lose patience, which in turn diminishes your perseverance. Life as we know it is never a straight line. It is filled with a myriad of twists and turns. For one to be successful, one must learn the art of perseverance. One must learn to put in consistent effort to achieve whatever you have set out to do despite the failures, challenges, difficulties, or opposition that one gets along the way. Perseverance is what will keep you going when everything seems to be working against you.

Time is the reality, patience is our armor and perseverance is our tool, and when we understand them and employ them appropriately, they empower us to accomplish great things, to be happier, to be healthier, to be better Freemasons and to be of greater service to our families, friends and our communities. And to be a role model, an example worthy of imitation.

Masonic Formation

Variations on the Masonic Square and Compass from around the world

While the Square and Compass is the most recognized symbol of Freemasonry, there seems to be endless variations on the theme. The Square and Compass with G in it, is a US variation. In most nations, the G is not present or replaced or supplemented by another symbol. Type in *Masonic Square and Compass* into your internet browser and you will find numerous variations of our American symbol. All are acceptable in Masonic organizations.



In the UK and Europe, and many former European colonies, the square and compass without the G in the center is most prevalent. The absence of G is not meant to be disrespectful of the Supreme Creator, it is just that G is not necessarily the first letter of the name of the Creator in many languages or religions. Examples; in French God is *Dieu*, in Spanish it is *Dios*, in Greek it is *Theos*, in Polish it is *Bog*, and so forth in other languages and religions. Also, the absence of G is supposed to be more inclusive of men of other religions. Additionally, the square and compass is considered sufficient reference to geometry.

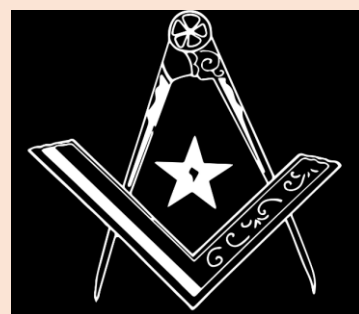


In previous Masonic Formation articles we have stressed that Freemasonry is a historical and a continuing movement that transcends international boundaries and has adapted to the circumstances and conditions of each nation, region and their religious sensibilities. Below are some examples of this. There are pictures of the square and compass with the *all seeing eye* in the middle. The *all seeing eye* has long been a recognized symbol of the supreme deity

overwatching all of humanity. Perhaps the earliest representation of it was in ancient Egypt. Some version of it is commonly found in older Eastern Christian Churches and Eastern Orthodox churches.

At the below middle right is a square and compass with a dot in the middle. The *circumpunct*, a symbol often seen in Freemasonry. In some cultures, the point within a circle represents the supreme deity. In other lands, it represents self in the center, surrounded by the supreme deity represented as a perfect circle.

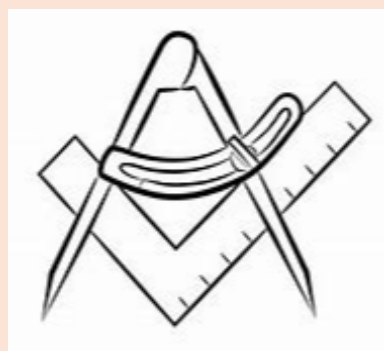
At the below far right is a square and compass with a star in the middle. The star is very old Judeo Christian symbol, often associate with the supreme deity or the coming or arrival of a prophet or the savior. Also, in the modern world it can have political overtones. Note the in the center of the star there appears to be the *Yod* symbol, which is the tenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet and commonly used as a specific reference to God.



The Grand Lodges of some counties have added elements to their Masonic square and compass to express their national characteristics or the dominant form of Freemasonry. As you can see below, some have added greenery, perhaps a reference to the acacia tree which would be a subtle reference to the third degree. One example has both the star and G in the center. From Israel we see the Star of David in the middle with a smaller crescent moon and cross superimposed on it. Thus, indicating that Israel is a Jewish state, but acknowledging its Islamic and Christian populations. From Ecuador, the spade and hammer, as well as an equilateral triangle has been added to the square and compass. The equilateral triangle is an ancient symbol for God, the Grand Geometrician and Great Overseer of the Universe. In some modern forms of Freemasonry, it is a reference to the *Three Great lights*.

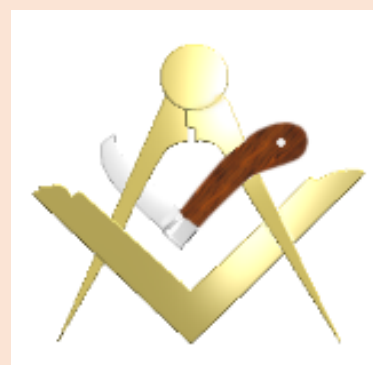


The Swedish Rite of Freemasonry, which is the dominant form of regular Freemasonry in Scandinavia and Iceland, is an exception to the rule. They seldom use any form of the square and compass. Instead, the red cross (shown at the right), known as a St George's cross, is the most commonly used symbol for Freemasonry in Scandinavia. Keeping in mind that the Swedish Rite requires all people to be Christian. It is a red cross on a white background, from the late Middle Ages and is associated with Saint George, the military saint, often depicted as a crusader. This cross was also associated with the Knights Templar, from the time of the Second Crusade (1145). Of course, there is endless debate as to whether Freemasonry's connection to the Knights Templar is historical or merely symbolic.



Variation of the square and compass has been used as a symbol by several **non-Masonic private organizations**, sometimes with additional symbols. Some for these are organizations are respectable, and some of them are not. Below are just a few of the many organizations that have borrowed the square and compass from Freemasonry.

The Order of Free Gardeners, adds an open pruning knife within the square and compasses. This is a fraternal society that was founded in Scotland in the middle of the 17th century and later spread to England and Ireland. Like numerous other friendly societies (and official UK term) of the time, its principal aim was the sharing of secret knowledge linked to the profession and mutual aid. In the 19th century, its activities of mutual insurance became predominant. By the end of the 20th century, it had become almost extinct. In September 2005, the Ancient Order returned to Scotland in 2006 and saw the return of the Grand Lodge of Free Gardeners Scotland from Cape Town back to Scotland. Although the Free Gardeners have always separate from Freemasonry, the history and activities of the two organizations have numerous similarities.



The Independent United Order of Mechanics uses almost that same square and compass symbol. This organization was founded in 1757 in Lancashire, England. During its first hundred years as a strong and growing enterprise, the Order established several Grand Lodges in Northern England and Southern Scotland. In 1878, the Order registered as a Friendly Society in accord with the Friendly Societies Act enacted by the Parliament of the UK. In the late 19th century, the Order spread to South Africa, the Netherlands, British Guiana, and various nations and territories in the Caribbean Sea of North America. The first branch in the United States of America formed in 1910.



The Orange Order is a very questionable organization. They have copied virtually every Masonic symbol and structure, and that is offensive to many people. It is a Protestant fraternal order based in Northern Ireland and primarily associated with Ulster Protestants, particularly those of Ulster Scottish heritage, but has lodges in a variety of countries. It is a strictly Protestant society and very anti-Catholic. In Northern Ireland its marches through Catholic neighborhoods have often resulted in violence. Due to its reputation for being associated with violence, it is poorly thought of in many parts of the world. Even though this organization uses virtually all Masonic symbology **it has nothing to do with Freemasonry**. As you can see from the picture at the right, it can easily be confused with Freemasonry by people not familiar with this organization and Freemasonry. It is important that we quickly correct that misunderstanding should we encounter it.

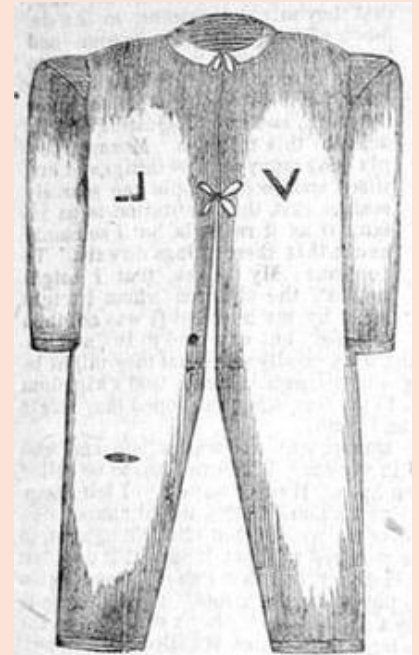


The Worshipful Company of Carpenters is another respectable organization that incorporates a square and compass into the emblem. This organization was a livery company in the City of London. The Carpenters were traditionally different from a fellow wood-crafting company, the Worshipful Company of Joiners and Ceilers (who also incorporates a square and compass in the emblem), in that carpenters utilized nails while joiners used adhesives to attach wood. The organization existed in 1271; it received a Royal

Charter in 1477. As is the case with most of the other livery companies, the Company no longer has a role as a trade association of tradesmen and craftsmen. Instead, it acts as a charitable institution and supports education in wood-related fields. In 1767 the Company purchased an estate at Stratford, London. In 1886 it opened an evening institute on the Carpenters Estate there, offering classes in carpentry, joinery, plumbing, geometry, mechanical drawing and cookery.



The religion or church commonly known as the Mormons, or **LDS** or officially as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has at least in the past used the square and compass on some temple garments. It is also said that some other aspects of Freemasonry are used in their private practices. This is second hand information, because I do not have any firsthand knowledge or observation of this. However, it is generally acknowledged to be true. This is somewhat controversial among Freemasons. Some of our brothers do not like such unauthorized usage of our symbols and practices. However, as noted in this article, many organizations have borrowed symbols and aspects from Freemasonry. At times the relationship between the LDS church and some Masonic Grand Lodges have been strained. However, today there are very many excellent Freemasons among the members of the LDS.



Perusing the internet for square and compass designs, you will likely come across some variation of the square and compass with a **skull and bones in the middle**. The skull and bones is old Masonic symbol meant to remind us that our physical life is time limited, and that none of us know when we might depart this physical world. Thus, we are encouraged to make good use of our remaining time on earth to leave a good legacy. Some Masonic motorcycle clubs have or are using this emblem. However, we should remember that many of the general public might associate the skull and bones with piracy or with the Harvard university club known as the Skull and Bones society (a non-Masonic organization).



This has been only a small selection of the many square and compass images that you will find on the internet.

Masonic Reflections: For your consideration

“One ought, in truth, to write or speak against no other in this world. Each man has enough to do, to watch and guard over himself.”

Albert Pike

“We all have problems. How we deal with them is a measure of our worth.”

"Truth is incontrovertible. Panic may resent it. Ignorance may deride it. Malice may distort it. But there it is."

Winston Churchill

“Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind; it is not a matter of rosy cheeks, red lips and supple knees; it is a matter of will, a quality of imagination, a vigor of emotions; it is the freshness of the deep spring of life.”

“Ethics is a kind of knowledge, and can therefore be taught and acquired.”

Socrates

The most difficult question to honestly answer is, “Are you the man that you want to be?”

“Be tolerant of others and strict with yourself”.

Marcus Aurelius



Miscellaneous

Get your Table Mountain Masonic Lodge Polo Shirt

Show your pride with this attractive lodge shirt.

Embroidered with the **Table Mountain #124 logo**, this high quality, breathable 100% polyester polo shirt is highly attractive and comfortable. Only one color, graphite. The shirt is made by *Port Authority*. The embroidery is done locally. Yours for just \$40.

To obtain one of these please contact brother Doug Campbell at **530-519-1695**, or email paradisefreemasons@gmail.com. Please give your name, shirt size and phone number.
Cash or check is acceptable.



Available for Rent – Special Events and Gatherings Historic Table Mountain Lodge Building Link to [Building and Room Rentals](#)

Woody Nelson, [\(530\) 877-7852](tel:5308777852) or email: paradisefreemasons@gmail.com

Table Mountain Lodge Building is located at 5934 Clark Rd, Paradise,

A beautiful and historic venue for meetings, services, and special events. We have hosted weddings, anniversaries, parties, business meetings, memorials, church and funeral services and a wide variety of community fairs and events.

Our facilities include a commercial kitchen, a large dining area, an event hall that can accommodate up to 299 guests, meeting space and plenty of parking. the Historic Lodge Room is perfect for weddings and special ceremonies.

To better serve the community our prices are kept very affordable and we are very accommodating.

Our facilities are fully accessible.

For more information and a tour of our facilities, please contact Woody Nelson at **(530) 877-7852**, email: paradisefreemasons@gmail.com

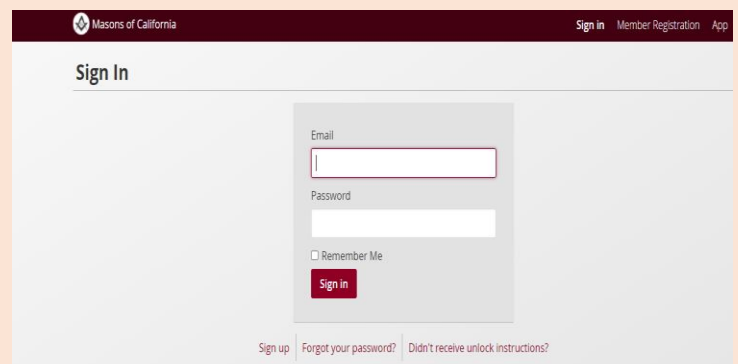
The 150 History of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge # 124

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

Printing your own Dues Card

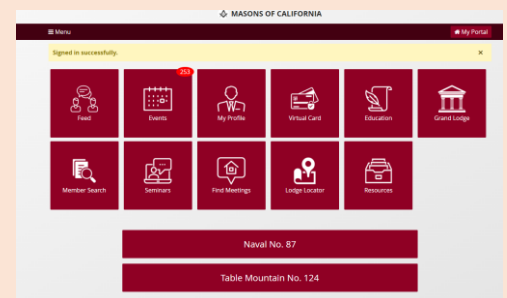
To print your dues card. Using your computer, open your browser and go to <https://freemason.org/>. In the right corner, push “member sign in”

This is the “sign up” and the “sign in” page. If you have never been to this website before, then go to “Sign up” in the lower left. It will only take you a minute to create your password. You will need your member number which is on your dues card. After that you sign in using your email and password.

A screenshot of the 'Sign In' page on the Masons of California website. The page has a dark blue header with the logo and navigation links: 'Sign in', 'Member Registration', and 'App'. The main content area is white and titled 'Sign In'. It contains a form with fields for 'Email' and 'Password', a 'Remember Me' checkbox, and a red 'Sign in' button. Below the form are links for 'Sign up', 'Forgot your password?', and 'Didn't receive unlock instructions?'.

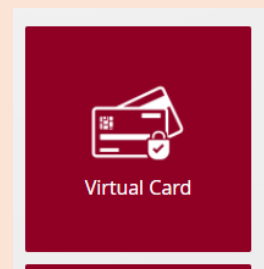
This will be the page you see after signing in.

There will be a notice posted on this page if you have not paid your dues. There will also be a link so that you can immediately pay your dues using a credit card.



To download and print your dues card, go to “Virtual Card”

Follow the very simple instructions to print your Dues card. The new dues card does not have to be signed by the lodge secretary.



There is also an I Member 2.0 app for your smart phone. Find out about it at: <https://masonichome.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Intro.iMemberLOApp.pdf>

Have you paid your Table Mountain Masonic Lodge Annual Dues?

First option for paying your dues – Paying by check.

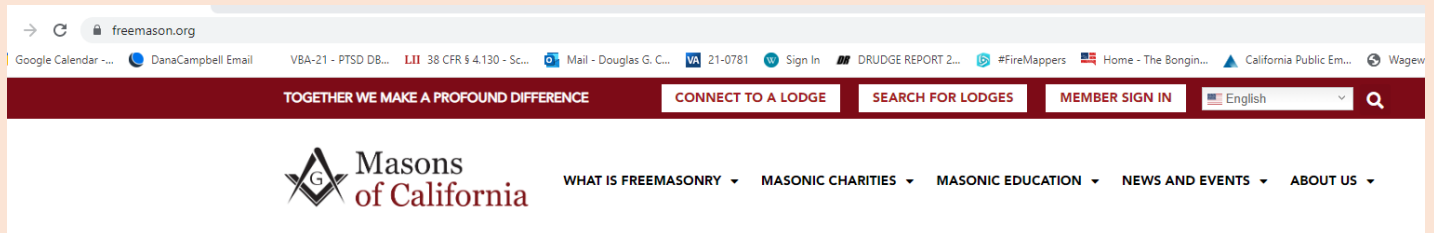
Write a check for **\$189** to Table Mountain Masonic Lodge #124, and mail it to:
P.O. Box 212, Paradise, CA 95969

Our secretary will send you your dues card.

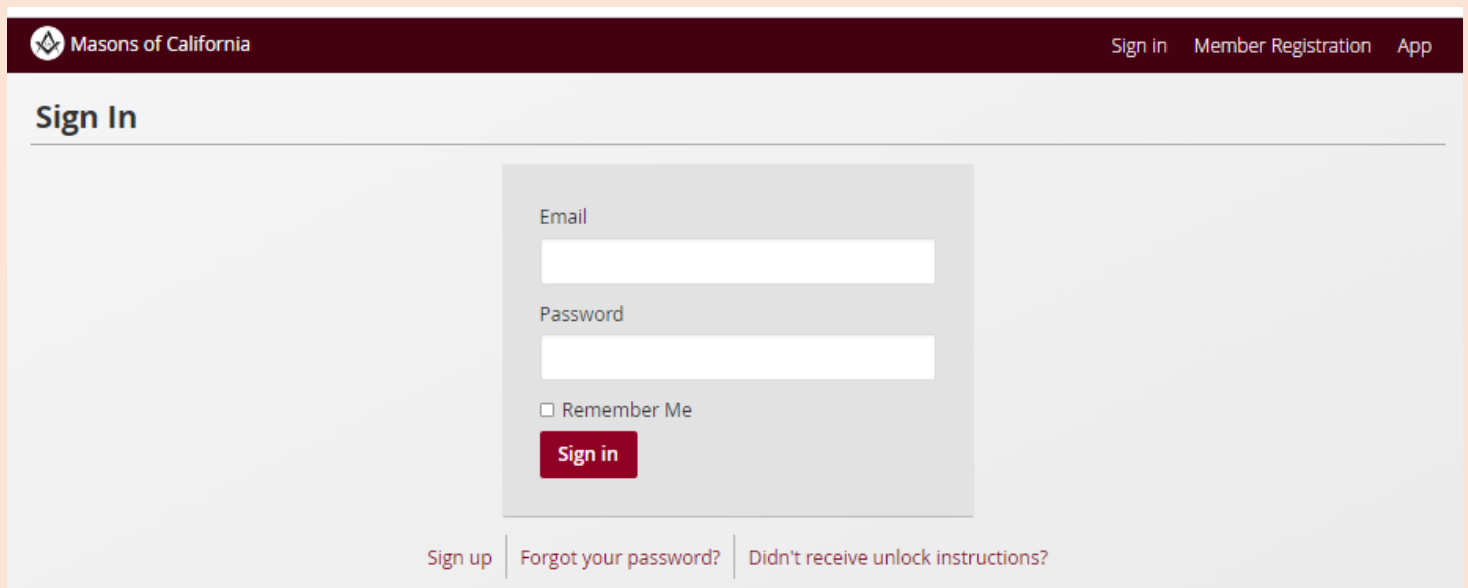
Second option for paying your dues – Do it Online with a credit card.

Using your computer, open your browser and go to <https://freemason.org/>

You will see the following at the top of the internet page, go to **Member Sign in**



Member Sign in will take you to the following page. If you have not already used the Sign in and this Grand Lodge webpage, then go to **Member Registration**.



At **Member Registration** you will see the below page. Note that you will need your **Lodge number (124 for Table Mountain Lodge)** and your **Member ID (which is on your dues card, or you can get it from the lodge secretary)**. There is a video to show you how to do all this.

Membership Registration

Lodge Number

Member ID ~ Exclude Leading Zeroes ~

Last Name ~ Case Sensitive ~

[Check Membership Status](#)

Once you are properly signed into the system, you will see something similar to the following page. **It will show each lodge that you are a member of, and how much you owe.** Go to the right and push **PAY NOW**.

MASONS OF CALIFORNIA

Menu

My Portal

Lodge

You have an outstanding balance of **-\$276.75** for **Naval No. 87**. [Print Dues Notice](#)

PAY NOW

You have an outstanding balance of **-\$189.00** for **Table Mountain No. 124**. [Print Dues Notice](#)

PAY NOW

2

Feed

155

Events

My Profile

Virtual Card

Education

Grand Lodge

On the next webpage you will be able to **pay your dues with a credit card**, and **print a receipt and your 2023 dues card**.

Contact Information

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

Table Mountain Lodge Worshipful Master - Doug Campbell, 530-519-1695,
email: dgcphd@gmail.com

Table Mountain Lodge Secretary - Brian Grandfield PM, 530-864-6323,
email: bgrandfield@gmail.com

Table Mountain Building Association President - Woody Nelson, (916)202-6942
email: woody@wolfranchfarm.com

Journal / Tresleboard - Doug Campbell, 530-519-1695 email: dgcphd@gmail.com

Table Mountain Lodge's website - <https://lodge124.freemason.org>
Doug Campbell, 530-519-1695,
email: dgcphd@gmail.com

DeMolay - Cole Hamilton, 858-342-5031, email: oldkingcreations@att.net

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

Shrine / Shriners – Woody Nelson, 916-202-6942, email: woody@wolfranchfarm.com
<https://beashrinernow.com>

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

Scottish Rite – David Anderson, Sacramento Valley Scottish Rite.
danders@sacramentoscottishrite.org
<https://www.sacramentoscottishrite.org>

Paradise and Oroville Eastern Star – Peg McElroy, Secretary Golden Feather Chapter,
email bobnpegchico@gmail.com

