



Table Mountain Masonic Lodge #124, Paradise, CA

March 2023 Journal and Trestleboard

Vol 3, Issue 3,

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 begin with the ***calendar of events*** followed by contact information for our lodge officers. There is then a **summary of our last stated meeting**, then information about our recent **Sweethearts Dinner**. That is followed by **Questions that you might be asked about Freemasonry: With answers**. This month we have three Masonic Formation essays. The first is **Who is Worthy?** The second is entitled **Is Geometry still relevant? Yes, it is!**, and the third is **The Characteristics, Qualities or Attributes of a Freemason**. Then we offer another 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 with members of the Masonic community and interested individuals. This Journal / Trestleboard is also posted in our lodge's message board at the Grand Lodge website and at also the Table Mountain lodge website:

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

[Table Mountain Building/Rooms Rentals](#)

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

Calendar of Events

Table Mountain Masonic Lodge

- **Mar 4**, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1.
- **Mar 8**, Wednesday, Funeral Master Training at 6:30 pm.
- **Mar 11**, Saturday, 1st Degree, starting at 6 pm.
- **April 1**, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- **April 15**, Saturday, Tentative 2nd Degree, starting at 2 pm.
- **May 6**, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- **May 20**, Saturday, Tentative Degree, starting at 2 pm.
- **May 8**, Monday, Public Schools Employee and Student of the Year Award Ceremony at 6 pm.



Important Future Date

- **April 29**, Saturday, *Gold Nugget Days*. Parade at noon.
- **May 13**, Saturday, *Paradise Chocolate Fest*, from 10 am to 5 pm.
- **June 6**, Saturday, *Yuba City Outdoor Degree* at 10:00 am. RSVP by June 6. (530) 218-4165 .
- **Sept 16**, Saturday, our *Outdoor Evening 3rd Degree*, to be performed by the Scottish Rite/Shriners Past Masters Team at our outdoor mountain top lodge.

Other local area Masonic Events

- **AGL meeting with officers** – Mar 18, 10 am to 1 pm at the Chico Masonic center.
- **DeMolay** – Mar 2 and 16 at 7 pm. Location to be announced.
- **Rainbow** – Mar 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) - Mar 1, at 7 pm, in Oroville. Mar 18 Initiation at 2 pm, Mar 26, Grand Officers visit in Chico.
- **Scottish Rite** – Mar 18 Setting Maul Dinner with the Grand Master, and Mar 21 Stated Meeting and Dinner at 6 pm, at the Sacramento Scottish Rite center.
- **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**, Mar 25, from 11 am to 4 pm.
- **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.
- **Home Spun Holidays, Mar 11 and 12**, 10 am to 6 pm.
- Intermittent use by various private parties. Check with Woody Nelson for available dates

2023 Officers of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge

Master – Doug Campbell

Phone: 530-519-1695

Email: dgcphd@gmail.com

Senior Warden – Juston Purcell (PM)

Phone: 530-845-4055

Email: ishiyahu1@gmail.com

Junior Warden – Ehren Hawkins

Phone: 530-801-1254

Email: ehrenhawkins@gmail.com;

Secretary - Brian Grandfield (PM)

Phone: 530-864-6323

Email: bgrandfield@gmail.com;

Treasurer – Rich Gingery

Phone: 530-519-6089

Email: wppcrich@comcast.net

Chaplain - Bob McElroy

Phone: 530-487-8466

Email: bohnpegchico@gmail.com

Senior Deacon - Cole Hamilton

Phone: 858-342-5031

Email: oldkingcreations@att.net

Junior Deacon – Justin (Oso) Harju

Phone: 928-274-3301

Email: jdharju53@gmail.com;

Senior Steward - Phil Howard

Phone: 530-873-1979

Email: howardphil69@gmail.com;

Junior Steward - Steve Kane

Phone: 530-990-3641

Email: steveransgroup@yahoo.com;

Marshall – Matt Sutter

Email: mcsutter@gmail.com

Tiler – Caleb Chinn (PM)

Phone: 530-877-2161

Email: calebchinn@gmail.com



February 4, 2023, Stated Meeting

At 1 pm, just prior to our Saturday February 4, stated meeting, the brothers and guests met for a fabulous lunch of homemade smoked salmon, roast ham, fresh sautéed green beans, homemade biscuits and refreshments provided and prepared by Brothers Justin (Oso) Harju and Frank Beard. It was a true feast and greatly appreciated by all who were there. Additionally, there were lively conversations and good fellowship. We were joined by three interested individuals who had their questions answered and received a short tour of facilities. Please note that family and friends are invited to our monthly luncheons and there is no cost.

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 Doug Campbell presided, and all positions were filled. Again, the room's heating system malfunctioned, resulting in room being rather chilly.



However, our brothers had dressed warmly so their enthusiasm was not lessened. Brother Woody Nelson (PM), our building manager promised to deal with the company that had done the previous repairs. After the ceremonial opening, Worshipful Campbell gave each of the officers a small notebook, some of the lodge's business cards and a copy of agenda. He explained that this was done to facilitate note taking, and that every month he would publish and share an agenda before each meeting. Worshipful Campbell also took a moment to welcome our new inspector Worshipful Larry Willis, and to welcome one of newest entered apprentices, Brother Stephen James, to his first stated meeting.

Our Secretary Brian Grandfield (PM) read the minutes of the previous meetings, 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 investigation on our latest petitioner had not yet been returned from Grand Lodge. Worshipful Campbell announced that the interviews of two applicants had been completed and there were favorable reports. Thus, the brothers proceeded to vote that both applicants receive the degrees.

There was no report from Treasurer, due to brother Rich Gingery not being able to attend the meeting. The Junior Warden fund and reports were passed to our new Junior Warden. The only expenditure from the fund since the last stated meeting, was for desserts and refreshment after the recent degree conferrals.

Our Chaplain Bob McElroy explained to the brothers that we had planned on paying tribute to three of our recently departed Brethren, but not all the necessary information was available before the meeting. Therefore, we would do so next month.

Brother Nelson (PM) reported on the Building Association and the proposed Camp Fire Memorial pricing information, which we still have not received from the local stone mason. We were pleased to learn that all our renters are now paid. The subject of specific expenditures to be made by the Building Association and the use of moneys from our investments, will be discussed in our next stated meeting.

Brother Cole Hamilton updated the brethren on DeMolay and also the success of the Community Market we are sponsoring at the Lodge. Brother Harju informed us that Scouting on the ridge appears to have successfully restarted.

This being a new Masonic year, Worshipful Campbell then appointed, with the brothers' assent, new boards, committees and community liaisons. He urged the schools' committee to immediately start work on May 2023 Public Schools Employees and Students of the Year awards event. At our next stated meeting we will discuss the proposed monetary gift that could accompany each award.

Worshipful Campbell then reminded the brothers that any of them could submit materials for the lodge Journal/Trestleboard, simply by emailing him. Also, that we are open to recommended improvements to the publication.

The subject of possible yearly dues and initiation fee increases was left to be discussed at the next stated meeting.

Our Secretary, brother Grandfield (PM) and brother Nelson (PM) gave a brief update on their efforts to clean up the membership list. Some lost brothers have been found, and paid their dues. Unfortunately, we will be suspending individuals in the near future. This is something we need to accomplish soon.

We then reviewed and discussed the status of our petitioner, our candidates and each entered apprentice's progress with their proficiency. This discussion will be repeated at each stated meeting to ensure appropriate efforts and progress are being made.

Brother Glenn Story (PM) then described the Chili Cookoff that will be held at Chico Lodge on Mar 11 from 11am to 3pm. The brothers were encouraged to attend for fun and fellowship with our brothers from other lodges. He emphasized the competitive aspect will be minimal, and any money earned will be shared among the lodges for their charitable projects.

Because some the brothers had privately asked if there was something our lodge could do to alleviate some of the suffering of the *Homeless* in Paradise and Magalia, the subject was

introduced and discussed. It was noted that we have shared our leftover food from our events with selected individuals in Magalia. Brother Howard was commended for those efforts. As we anticipated, there were many differing opinions. However, it appeared that the majority of brothers believed that if we wished to contribute to solutions, it would be best to work through a third party organization that is currently addressing the issue. Therefore, we will explore which third party organizations, if any, that we might want to assist.

Our junior Past Master, brother Woody Nelson, presented several brothers with Table Mountain Masonic lodge name tags. Additionally, our Secretary Brian Grandfield presented those brothers that most recently completed their Master Mason proficiency with the Grand Lodge's Master Mason card, acknowledging their achievement.

Concerning the scheduled double first degree on Thursday February 23, considerable effort and time was taken to ensure that all positions would be filled, and all details and practices were known to the brothers.

We intensely discussed our Saturday Feb 11, 2023, Sweetheart Dinner for our wives / significant others, conceived to show our appreciation to our wives for their support for our Masonic activities. After reviewing the work required and other options, we adjusted our plans, and decided that the event will be held at a nearby restaurant / distillery and winery. Nearly everyone said they would be attending with their spouses.



We then reviewed our calendar for the next three months, to ensure the event dates were appropriate. Particular care was taken to mention and describe the Feb 18, Burns Night event. Although this is not a Masonic event, many Mason are and have been involved in creating and continuing this annual event.

Worshipful Campbell took the opportunity to encourage the brothers to think about and offer original ideas to further tastefully decorate our upstairs lodge room. He asked the brothers to consider how local creations might enhance the appearance and atmosphere of the room.

Our new inspector Larry Willis (PM) then offered his complements and reminded the brothers, especially the pedestal officers, of some upcoming training events.

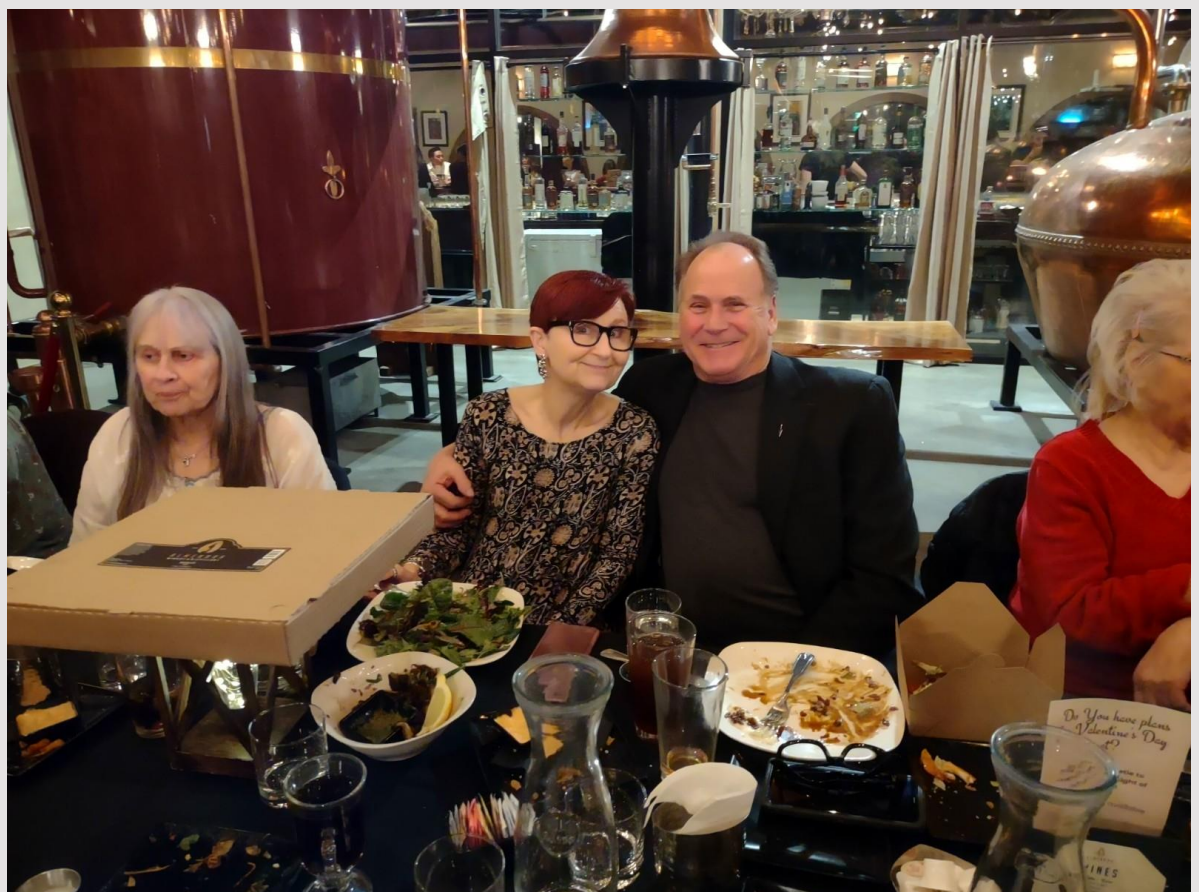
The lodge was then ritually closed, brotherly love prevailing.



Feb 11, 2023 - Sweethearts Dinner

On Saturday evening, February 11 at 6:30 pm, The brothers of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge # 124 and their sweethearts, met at Almendra Winery & Distillery in Durham for dinner and refreshments. The event was conceived as a *thank you* to our spouses and to show our appreciation for their tolerance and support of our Masonic activities.







Questions that you might be asked about Freemasonry: With answers

Why do Freemasons wear a Masonic ring?

Not all Freemasons wear or have a Masonic ring. Perhaps the majority do not. In the 1700s Freemasons were discouraged by their fellow Freemasons from wearing any type of Masonic emblem in public. It seems that Masonic rings first appeared in the US in the early 1800s and grew rapidly in popularity. However, wearing a Masonic ring is strictly a personal choice, and there is no requirement to wear any Masonic emblems, decorative items, or jewelry. In most of Freemasonry, there is not any sort official or an approved ring. The exception is Scottish Rite Freemasonry in the U.S., where the members are gifted a rather plain gold tone ring with only the symbol for *Yod*, the tenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, which is the first letter of the Hebrew name of God. However, even then there is no requirement what-so-ever for the Scottish Rite Freemason to wear it, nor is there any official specifics on how a Masonic ring should be worn. There are a variety of reasons why some Freemasons choose to wear a Masonic ring. Some Freemasons have inherited a Masonic ring, and wear it in memory of the deceased family member. Sometimes a spouse gives a Masonic ring to her husband as a way of saying that she is proud of him for being a Freemason. Some Freemasons wear a ring with the Square, Compass and G symbol facing them as constant reminder of the type of man that they are striving to be. Some Freemasons wear a Masonic ring as a sort of public statement, that they are proud to be a Freemason. There may be some individuals that wear a Masonic ring specifically to identify themselves as a Freemasons to other Freemasons, but I haven't met one. Still other Freemasons will occasionally wear some item of clothing with a Masonic emblem on it, to tell the world that Freemasonry is alive and thriving, and that he is a proud Freemason.

How do Freemasons recruit new members?

Unlike most other organizations, we don't specifically recruit or ask anyone to join our fraternity. Instead, we simply do what we, we don't hide from the public, and we are happy to answer anyone's questions about Freemasonry, and how to join us. People see Freemasons at various events, or they meet a Freemason in the workplace or at a social gathering. Out of curiosity they ask about Freemasonry. Freemasons love to share information about the fraternity and to answer questions. A man must freely ask a Freemason how he can join Freemasonry before he will be given an application. We do it this way because we don't want anyone to ever feel coerced into joining Freemasonry. Once a man asks to join, he will have lots of assistance with the process.

Masonic Formation

Who is Worthy?

Every Master Mason knows that he has an indispensable duty to aid and assist a distressed worthy brother Mason. In two recent conversations with Brother Masons the question arose as to what is meant by *worthy* in the context of our masonic duty? The word *worthy* appears to have been specifically placed within the statement of our Masonic responsibilities. That being such, it seems to imply that perhaps a brother Mason might be deemed *unworthy* under certain circumstances. The questions of who are *worthy or unworthy* are not an abstract issue. In a very real sense these are daily issues for all people that care or value other people and who engage in some form of charitable activity. Therefore, it seems appropriate to explore these questions in this journal.

These questions recently arose in two different contexts. First, I was told a story of some brothers at another lodge bringing up the issue, because they had recently spent considerable time, effort and resources helping a brother Mason that didn't seem willing to do what was necessary to resolve his own personal problems. They were frustrated with the brother, and one person suggested that he wasn't *worthy*, and therefore they were not obligated to provide further assistance.

The other context was in helping individuals, such as the homeless or poor. Some brothers said that they would assist in helping only people that were willing to make the necessary and appropriate personal efforts to help themselves, such as changing their behavior and lifestyle. If the individuals in need weren't willing to help themselves, then they were *unworthy* of assistance.

The wording of our Masonic responsibilities are ancient, so I investigated to see if in the past the word *worthy* had a different or expanded meaning, than what it has today. The definition of the word *worthy* has been essentially the same in the English language since at least the 13th century. Specifically, it was *having merit* or a *person of merit*. The modern definition of *worthy* is *having or showing the qualities or abilities that merit recognition in a specified way*. The consistent definition of the word *merit* over the ages has been *to be entitled to, be or become deserving of*. *Unworthy* is defined three ways: 1) not deserving effort, attention, or respect; 2) a person's action or behavior is not acceptable; and 3) having little value or merit.

If we examine ancient and biblical sources, we learn that the meaning of *worthy* is far from clear. The equivalent Hebrew word means *to be seen*. The equivalent ancient Greek word means *deserving, comparable or suitable*. It may be that our most common understanding of the word *worthy* comes from the Greek definition. The closest Latin equivalent meant *eligible, deserved, deserving, qualified, suitable*. In the earliest parts of the old testament, being *worthy* seems to equate to *being good, moral, upright, holding to honesty and respectable living*.

Later in the Holy Book, the word *worthy* seems to equate to being a righteous person, specifically a believer in God, following the word of God and placing one's trust in God. In parts of the new testament, it is implied that the *most worthy* before God, are those that have suffered for their faith.

Of course, there is the biblical, philosophical and social admonitions to not be judgmental. There is also the biblical reminder, that we too will be judged, and many biblical examples of people being righteously judged. Then there are the physical realities that anyone's or any organization's time and resources are limited, thus we must to some extent ration our resources. Then there is the very real ethical question of complicity. Specifically, are we as guilty as the offender if our charity to another person simply contributes to or facilitates behavior or a lifestyle that is self-destructive or harmful to others?

I asked a very wise Freemason his opinion on what constitutes a *worthy* person or a *worthy* brother Mason. He reply, "those are loaded questions, and I wouldn't touch them with a ten foot pole". He added that "sometimes just advice, even it not accepted, is the best assistance".

Clearly etymologies, various definitions and translations, philosophical and even biblical sources do not give us a clear unequivocal answer upon which to act. If we find ourselves in a situation where we are having to decide whether to help a Masonic brother, a suffering person or a charitable organization, we may face an ethical dilemma.

An ethical dilemma is a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more courses of action, either of which entails transgressing a moral or ethical principle or basic logic. An ethical dilemma can slow or even completely stop a person's normal decision making process. Ethical dilemmas are difficult to negotiate. Some people just give up and make no choice or the easiest and least expensive choice. The process can be even more difficult if there are other people trying to influence your decision with false logic, dire predictions, fear mongering, rants, unrealistic expectations, emotional appeals, threats or some combinations of these. One of the aspects of Masonic virtue of Fidelity, is being true to yourself. In other words, doing what you freely decide is right, which is not necessarily what others think you should do.

In my opinion, we Freemasons are better equipped to deal with ethical dilemmas and resist outside intimidations, because we have had the opportunity through our Masonic experiences and education to clarify our beliefs and values. Also, in the third degree we are vividly reminded of the value of divine assistance and intervention, through the medium of prayer.

Even after significant research, I can offer no actionable answer to the questions of, who is *worthy or unworthy*? **My only advice is to ensure that you personally are a *worthy* brother, for being worthy is the duty of every Freemason.**

Masonic Formation

Is Geometry still relevant? Yes, it is!

The sciences of Geometry, and the natural occurrence of Geometry and the symbolism of Geometry has a special place in Freemasonry. However, recently a non-Mason suggested to me that Geometry is “simplistic and nearly irrelevant in our modern world”. He remarked that “it is only a 10th grade math course”. Luckily, I was prepared to respond to him, so he left with much to think about, and perhaps a slightly smaller ego.

The famous scientist Johannes Kepler (1571–1630) believed in the geometric underpinnings of the cosmos. In recent times, 2010, the well-known Harvard university mathematician Shing-Tung Yau expressed a belief in the centrality of Geometry in science:

"Lest one conclude that Geometry is little more than a well-calibrated ruler – and this is no knock against the ruler, which happens to be a technology I admire – **Geometry is one of the main avenues available to us for probing the universe**. Physics and cosmology have been, almost by definition, absolutely crucial for making sense of the universe. Geometry's role in this may be less obvious, but is equally vital. I would go so far as to say that **Geometry not only deserves a place at the table alongside physics and cosmology, but in many ways, it is the table.**"

Even today most people have very little understanding of the types and complexity of the sciences of Geometry, their uses, and potential uses. Additionally, Geometry's role in the development of human intelligence is not commonly understood. Many people are equally underinformed about the occurrences of natural Geometry and the value of sacred Geometry. The purpose of this essay is to briefly address all these concepts.

The Sciences of Geometry

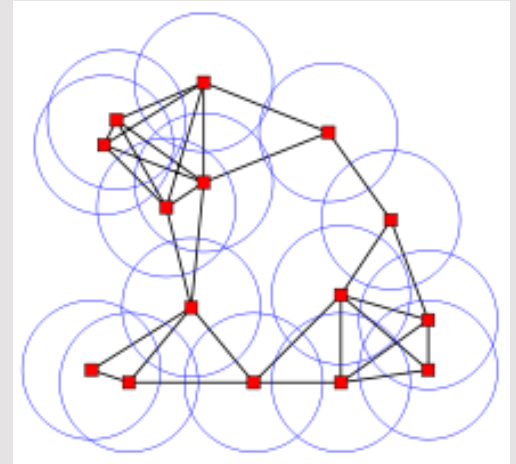
The modern term of *quantitative skills* refers to any use or manipulation of numbers or measurements for the purpose of reasoning using numbers. Geometry and algebra are part of the essential quantitative skills in today's world. These are the modern equivalents of geometry and arithmetic which are among the seven liberal arts and sciences that are discussed in our Masonic learning experiences.

Geometry is concerned with properties of space such as the distance, shape, size, and relative position of figures. Unlike some sciences, all types of Geometry have very practical applications. However, Geometry is a complex and important subject. Only the beginnings of it are taught in our schools, generally about the 10th grade. As a person advances in education and professional preparation they may need to be aware of, or proficient in one or more of the many types of Geometries, some of which are very difficult to understand.

- **Euclidean Geometry:** A mathematical system attributed to the ancient Greek mathematician Euclid, that employees postulates and theorems. It consists of plane geometry, and solid geometry of three dimensions. Basic algebra is needed to negotiate this form of Geometry.
- **Differential Geometry:** A discipline that studies the geometry of smooth shapes and smooth spaces, otherwise known as smooth manifolds. It uses the techniques of differential calculus, integral calculus, linear algebra and multilinear algebra. The field has its origins in the study of spherical geometry as far back as antiquity. Another form of this elliptic geometry was sometimes called Riemannian geometry.
- **Non-Euclidean Geometry:** The study of Geometry on surfaces which are not flat. When a surface is curved, there are no straight lines in the traditional sense, but lines known as geodesics play the role of straight lines. Then the geodesics are used as the basic object to create non-Euclidean circles, triangles and other polygons.
- **Topological Geometry:** This is a necessary science for all forms of surface mapping. It is also a difficulty science to fully master. It deals with incidence structures consisting of a point sets and subsets of the set carrying a topology and all geometric operations like joining points by a line or intersecting lines are continuous.
- **Algebraic Geometry:** Algebraic geometry is a branch of mathematics, studying zeros of multivariate polynomials. Modern algebraic Geometry is based on the use of abstract algebraic techniques, mainly from commutative algebra, for solving geometrical problems about these sets of zeros. On the right is a picture of a shape that would be studied using algebraic Geometry. It is also used to do forms of complex analysis, topology and number theory. Within this type of Geometry is also found Diophantine Geometry used to study Diophantine equations
- **Complex Geometry:** Is the study of geometric structures and constructions arising out of, or described by complex numbers. In particular, complex geometry is concerned with the study of spaces such as complex manifolds and complex algebraic varieties, functions of several complex variables, and holomorphic constructions such as holomorphic vector bundles and coherent sheaves. Complex Geometry has significant applications to theoretical physics, where it is essential in understanding conformal field theory, string theory, mirror symmetry and astrophysics. Space travel will, to a great extent, depend upon Complex Geometry to solve many of the challenges inherent in long interstellar travel.



- **Discrete Geometry and Combinatorial Geometry** are branches of geometry that study combinational properties and constructive methods of discrete geometric objects. Most questions in discrete geometry involve finite or discrete sets of basic geometric object such as points, lines, planes, circles, spheres, polygons, and so forth. The subject focuses on the combinatorial properties of these objects, such as how they intersect one another, or how they may be arranged to cover a larger object.



- **Computational Geometry:** Is a branch of computer science devoted to the study of algorithms which can be stated in terms of geometry. Some purely geometrical problems arise out of the study of computational geometric algorithms, and such problems are also considered to be part of computational geometry. While modern computational geometry is a recent development, it is one of the oldest fields of computing with a history stretching back to antiquity.
- **Geometric group theory:** Is an area in mathematics devoted to the study of *finitely generated groups* via exploring the connections between algebraic properties of such groups and topological and geometric properties of spaces on which groups act.

As you can see from the above listing and explanations, Geometry is not a simple science, but instead an entire class of sophisticated yet very practical sciences.

Geometry's effect on human intelligence

Many people, even those who are mathematically gifted, have difficulty with Geometry, even basic Geometry. Most types of mathematics require and develops a form of intelligence often referred to as Logic intelligence. However, **Geometry requires and develops Spatial intelligence**. Spatial thinking involves visualizing, interpreting, and reasoning using location, distance, direction, relationships, movement, and change in space. Also, spatial intelligence is the ability to hold visually a 3 dimensional image in your mind. This means that learning Geometry is beneficial to the human mind.

A person who has acquired robust spatial thinking skills has an advantage in our increasingly global and technological society. Spatial skills predominates in the arts and sciences, and high levels of spatial intelligence is found among chess players, painters, architects, sculptors, theoretical physicists, war strategists, navigators, aviation pilots, illusionists, graphic artists, designers, cartographers and film makers. Additionally, scientific researchers have a found a direct correlation between higher levels of spatial intelligence and human

creativity/inventiveness. While the study and application of Geometry isn't the only way to improve spatial intelligence, it is still one of the best ways. It seems that our ancient brethren correctly understood the importance of an education starting with Geometry.

Sacred and Natural Geometry

Sacred Geometry is the concept that certain geometric shapes and certain geometric proportions (mathematical formulas and certain numbers) have symbolic or sacred meanings. Certain geometric shapes and geometric proportions are used in the design and construction of religious structures such as churches, temples, mosques, religious monuments, altars, and tabernacles and have sometimes been considered sacred. The concept can also apply to sacred spaces such as temenoi, sacred groves, village green space, pagoda and some gardens and in the creation of religious and spiritual art. Symbols used to communicate profound moral, ethical or religious lessons are sometime considered Sacred Geometry. Sacred geometric shapes and proportions developed from the observations of Natural Geometry.

Natural Geometry come from the study of nature, and the mathematical principles at work therein. Many forms observed in nature can be related to Geometry and mathematical formulas thereof; for example, the chambered nautilus grows at a constant rate and so its shell forms a logarithmic spiral to accommodate that growth without changing shape. Also, honeybees construct hexagonal cells to hold their honey. These and other natural and recurring occurrences were interpreted as Natural Geometry and considered to be further proof of the natural significance of Geometry.

Natural Geometry and Sacred Geometry are associated with the belief that the presence of something so mathematically logical, beautifully symmetrical, and incredible complex yet perfectly integrated as nature, certain geometric shapes, certain geometric proportions, and the science of Geometry are evidence of the divine mind of a universal Deity, the Creator of the universe. In American Freemasonry, the G in the center of the square and compass, is reflective of this understanding.



Masonic Formation

The Characteristic, Qualities or Attributes of a Freemason

I recently came across an essay concerning the “qualities” of a Freemason. I found the list rather too specific, and perhaps too idealistic. My curiosity having been stimulated, I looked for other descriptions. I found them in many forms, listed as either the characteristics, qualities or attributes of a Freemason. Some were short and some long, some specific and some vague. Some were similar, and some were very different. All were a bit idealistic and obviously written by rather opinionated people. Then it struck me that such lists should be idealistic, so that they can help us set our own high goals for personal conduct and Masonic growth. There is value in seeking to perfect oneself, even while knowing that it is obtainable only for brief moments. Therefore, for your consideration, I offer seven, rather different and idealistic perspectives on the characteristics, qualities or attributes of a Freemason. Also, at the end I included the poem IF by the famous Freemason Rudyard Kipling. Although the poem ends with “you’ll be a Man, my son!” to me it should have been “you’ll be a MASON, my son! I suspect that one of these offerings might become your favorite description and become your personal 24 gage with which you measure your Masonic growth.

The Character of a Freemason from the 1893 Farmer’s Almanac

The real Freemason is distinguished from the rest of Mankind by the uniform unrestrained rectitude of his conduct. Other men are honest in fear of punishment which the law might inflict; they are religious in expectation of being rewarded, or in dread of the devil, in the next world. However, a Freemason would be just if there were no laws, human or divine except those written in his heart by the finger of his Creator. In every climate, under every system of religion, he is the same. He kneels before the Universal Throne of God in gratitude for the blessings he has received and in humble solicitation for his future protection. He venerates the good men of all religions. He disturbs not the religion of others. He restrains his passions because they cannot be indulged without injuring his neighbor or himself. He gives no offense because he does not choose to be offended. He contracts no debts which he is certain he cannot discharge, because he is honest upon principal.

Qualities of a Master Mason, from the book, Freemasonry in the 21st Century

- Master Masons do not have selfish interests. All they do, say, and think is for the welfare of others.
- Vanity is dead for them. They see themselves as they are and do not pretend to be something other than what they are.

- Anger is no longer their master. They have found that anger is a defense mechanism of the ego.
- They are not the slaves of possessions. Money, homes, cars, clothes, books, TV's are not evil in themselves; it is being a slave to them that is a problem.
- Master Masons are not afraid to act with courage in their convictions. If they have a fear, they act to overcome it.
- A Master Mason is always a real person. He does not care what others think of him, but he constantly cares for the welfare of others.
- He sees the viewpoints of others. He listens and thinks about what others are saying so as to understand them.
- His emotions are always positive. If hate or anger try to control him, he finds love and understanding and lets them bloom instead.
- He uses his imagination for creative, not destructive, purposes.
- He does not belittle or slander others. His job is to see that anything that comes from his mind, emotions, or mouth is the highest it can be for him.
- Each day he aligns himself with his inner teacher. He does this by spending a few quiet minutes to allow himself to be healed of his vices and shortcomings.
- All his actions have as their basic animating energy the power of Love. Even when he acts as a warrior to destroy darkness and evil, it is with the support of love and freedom.
- He always has a vision, that includes humanity.
- His actions, feelings and thoughts are in harmony with the teachings of ageless Wisdom.
- He is always acting in the best interests of all concerned, and his daily life is an example of sanity and balance.
- He is never fanatical. He is sane, normal, and healthy.
- The most interesting idea about the Master Mason is that he is one who is an example of integration. Integration means that his mind, emotions, and body all work together and not against each other. A true Master Mason has glimpsed the eternal and unchanging reality of life.
- He sees all things as necessary in the Great Plan for unfolding the hidden potential of all creation. As such, mortality and its illusion are overcome by him. As he lives in the eternal, his life reflects that eternal consciousness.

How to Spot a Freemason, by an unknown author.

- He believes in a supreme being (God)
- He is most trustworthy
- He is honorable
- He holds a high and strict moral character

- He supports justice
- He has sound judgment
- He does not prejudge people based on their religious or political views
- He actively practices tolerance
- He has to be a man of mature age
- He has no criminal background
- He is a friend and a brother amongst peers

The “Essential Qualities of a Mason”, from the Grand Lodge of Mississippi

The essential qualities Masons share in their diverse lives are a belief in a Supreme Being and a desire to strive for:

- fellowship with other Masons
- high moral standards
- kindness in the home
- courtesy in society
- honesty in business
- fairness in all dealings

“Characteristics of a Freemason” Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario

The ideal Freemason has developed his basic personality traits and has established his own fundamental approach to the world and its stresses and strains. He is secure in his position in life and is able to live quietly and modestly. He does not have to put on airs to impress others. He is able to fulfill his duties as a man, a citizen, a husband and a father without fanfare. His religious faith is firmly founded. He is able to live piously without being hypocritical. He is able to be benevolent but does not feel compelled to make a great show of it. He is able to feel concern for others and extends help when he recognizes the need. He does so, quietly and unobtrusively, without asking or expecting any return or recognition. He is warm-hearted and friendly and enjoys pleasurable activity. He has his serious side as well and is thoughtful in his attitude toward others. He is able to withstand difficult times without yielding to despair or despondency. Conversely, good fortune will not cause him to lose his perspective and be unmindful of the needs of others. If his high standards are threatened, he will be resolute in maintaining them at whatever difficulty. Because of his first belief in the Great Architect of the Universe, he is able to perceive the high destiny of man and to see in nature the workmanship of God. He is ever faithful to his belief and this is not clouded by superstition. The practice of the virtues of faith, hope and charity are an active and integral part of his life. His dedication to truth is firmly fixed in his

being and he will defend innocence and virtue at whatever cost, even though his personal comfort and even his safety may be threatened. He has set a high standard for himself, but he is not rigid or demanding and he will be tolerant within limits if others fail to measure up to it. He will endeavor to correct aberrations or deviations in the behavior of others but he will not be stubborn in the upholding of his beliefs. He will advocate a conciliatory approach. He will have a clear understanding of his own capabilities, will carefully consider his situation and problems and thereby reach a rational decision in solving them. He is expected to set a virtuous example himself and will recognize virtue in others, even though they are in a humble station. He will not condone or excuse vice, even in persons of high rank. Merit and ability will be his standard for judging worth rather than a position in life. Such a man will be loved by all discerning men, and he will be respected by his superiors and revered by his subordinates. He will not feel the need to draw attention to himself by courting applause nor will he boast of his accomplishments either past or present, but where he sees the need, he will quietly go to work and will do whatever is necessary to accomplish the task. When the work is done, he will not ask for recognition but will continue the quiet tenure of his ways, because he is motivated to do the good act for its own sake and does not expect praise. Such a man personifies brotherly love, relief and truth, and embodies the attributes which we expect and admire in a Freemason.

The Characteristics of a True Mason, by Albert Mackey

"A Mason is a man whose conduct should be squared by strict rectitude and justice towards his fellow creatures; his demeanor should be marked by the level of courtesy and kindness; with uprightness of heart and integrity of action..."

What makes a man a Mason?, unknown author

A Mason is a man who professes a faith in God. As a man of faith, he uses the tools of moral and ethical truths to serve mankind. A Mason binds himself to like-minded men in a Brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethnic, social, cultural, and educational differences.

Rudyard Kipling, 1865 to 1936, Freemason

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,

Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;
If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with triumph and disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;
If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on";
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings—nor lose the common touch;
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run—
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man (MASON), my son!



Masonic Reflections: For your consideration

“Man is not worried by real problems so much as by his imagined anxieties about real problems”

“Other people's views and troubles can be contagious. Don't sabotage yourself by unwittingly adopting negative, unproductive attitudes through your associations with others.”

“If someone succeeds in provoking you, realize that your mind is complicit in the provocation by allowing yourself to be provoked.”

“It is essential that we do not respond impulsively to others; take a moment before reacting, and you will find it easier to maintain control.”

“God has entrusted you with yourself. No man is free who is not master of himself. ”

“Wealth consists not in having great possessions, but in having few wants.”

“The only way to happiness is to cease worrying about things which are beyond your power to control. ”

“Seek not happiness in external things, seek it within yourself.”



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

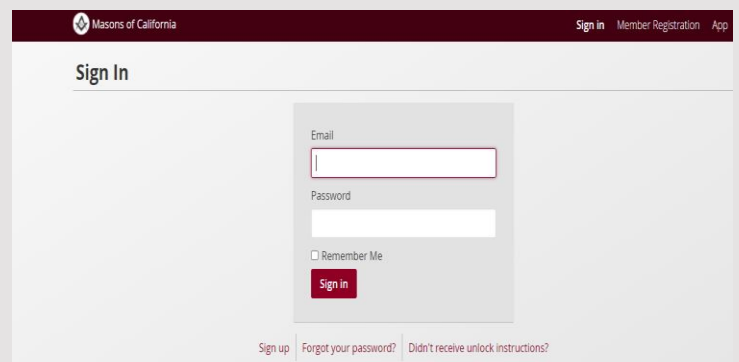
The 150 History of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge # 124

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.

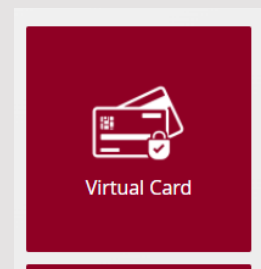
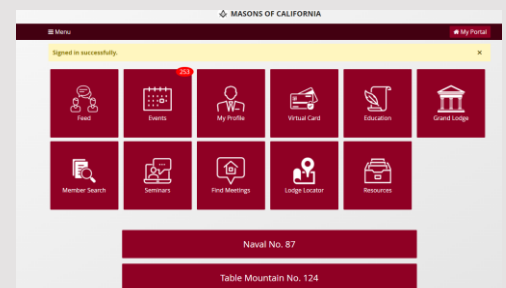
A screenshot of the 'Masons of California' website's 'Sign In' page. The page has a dark red header with the logo and navigation links: 'Sign in', 'Member Registration', and 'App'. Below the header, the 'Sign In' section contains a form with fields for 'Email' and 'Password', a 'Remember Me' checkbox, and a 'Sign in' button. At the bottom of the form, there 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>

How to 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:

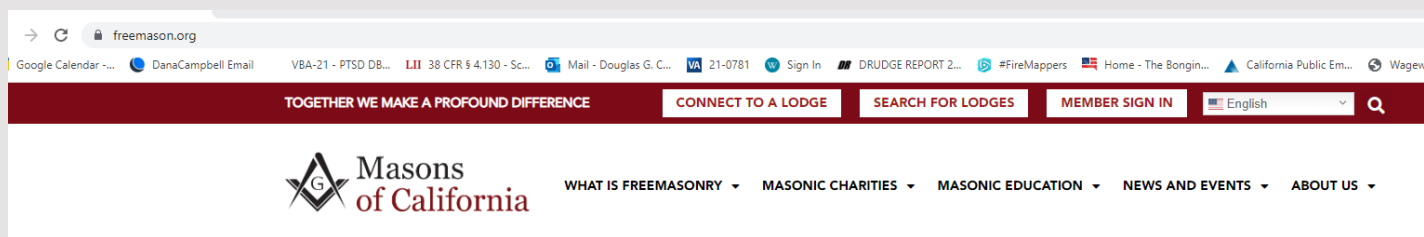
P.O. Box 212, Paradise, CA 95969

Our secretary will send you your dues card.

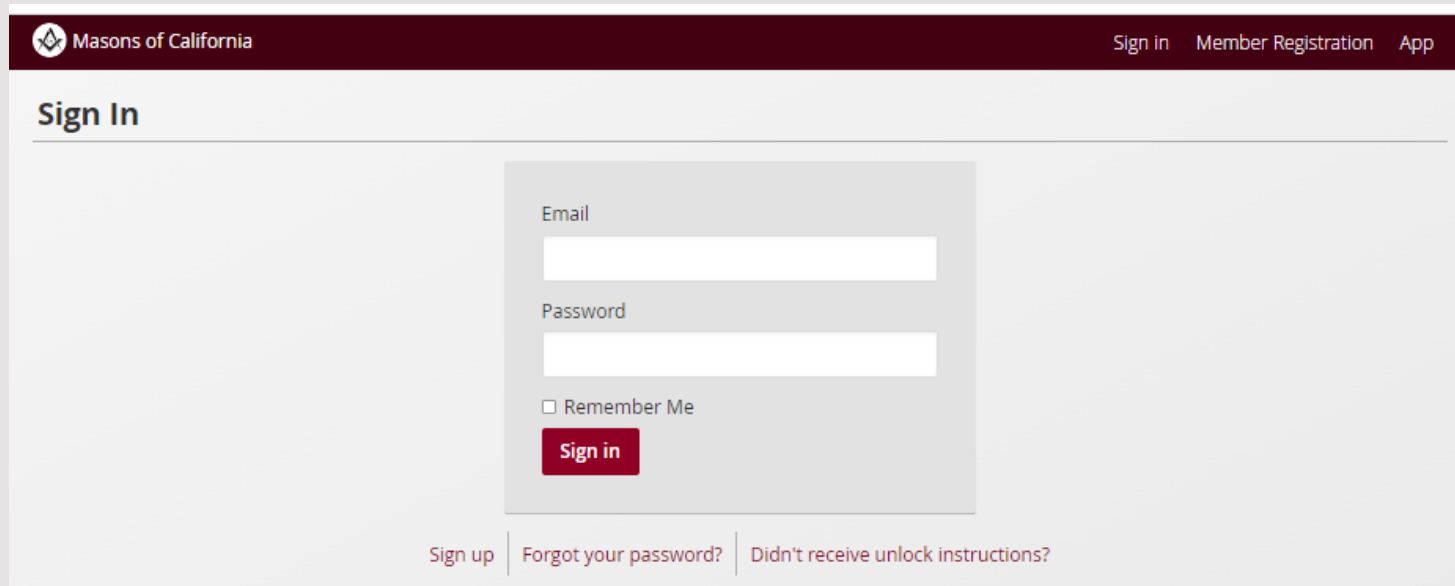
Second option for paying your dues – Do it Online with a credit card.

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**.


MASONSON 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>

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

THE MISSION OF TABLE MOUNTAIN MASONIC LODGE

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.