



TABLE MOUNTAIN MASONIC LODGE # 124

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

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

Building and Room Rentals

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/186319067527278>

September 2023 Journal and Trestleboard Vol 3, Issue 9,



The Master's Thoughts

Respect is a word that is often misused and misunderstood. There are three rather different types of respect. The first type of respect is that which we show to others in the form of those civilized courtesies and that politeness that are due any person unless they definitively demonstrated otherwise. Those courtesies and that politeness should be a habit cultivated by all Freemasons, and thus should be evident at every Masonic event, and in every Freemason's life. It is our Masonic behavior that truly defines us and differentiates us from other men and organizations.

The second type is the respect that we give to others which reflects our feeling of deep admiration for their abilities, qualities or achievements. In other words, we show by our behavior a form of respect to someone for their demonstrated accomplishments or qualities. While it is nice to receive such respect, we should not be desiring it, and we should not be dependent upon receiving it for our own sense of self-respect, which is the third type of respect.

Self-respect, also referred to as self-esteem, is our confidence in our own worth, abilities or morals. Healthy self-respect/esteem comes from within the person, from their confidence and satisfaction with their own behavior and accomplishments, regardless of the opinions of others. This is the most important form of respect because when one has appropriate self-respect/esteem it is a shield against critical attacks from mean spirited, ignorant or disingenuous people. Healthy self-respect/esteem strengthens us to do what is right in the most difficult circumstances.

It is unhealthy to base one's own sense of self-respect on the opinions of others. In the media we read or hear of individuals demanding respect, or claiming they have been disrespected. Attacks, brawls, destruction, looting and criminal acts are sometimes wrongly or disingenuously justified as demands for respect. Even from peaceful and relatively well-off people we sometimes hear whining about not receiving enough respect. A person with appropriately based self-respect/self-esteem is not dependent on the actions or opinions of others for their own happiness.

Freemasons are never whiners! When one practices the lessons of Freemasonry, one naturally becomes a role model of proper conduct and maturity. Increased self-respect and increased personal resolve are the result of knowing that you are acting with honor, with proper forethought and according to logic and with appropriate ethics.

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Calendar of Events

Table Mountain Masonic Lodge

- Sept 2, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- Sept 16, Saturday - Outdoor Evening 3rd Degree, - (see page 5 announcement)
- Oct 7, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- Oct 21, Saturday, 2nd Degree, starting at 2 pm.
- Nov 4, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- Nov 8, Wednesday, Camp Fire Memorial Event
- Nov 25, Saturday, Train Setup at Shriners Hospital
- Dec 2, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- Dec 9, Saturday, 1st Degree, starting at 2 pm.

Important Future Dates (2024)

- January 20, 2024, Saturday at 1pm – Installation and Hiram Award ceremonies.
- May 6, 2024, Monday, - Paradise School District Awards Night.
- April 18, 2024, Thursday - Paradise Schools District Grand Lodge cornerstone laying.
- Sept 7, 2024, Saturday - Paradise Masonic building Grand Lodge rededication.
- Sept 7, 2024, Saturday - Outdoor Evening 3rd Degree.
- Sept 8, 2024, Sunday – Grand Lodge ritual competition, in Paradise.

Other local area Masonic Events

- **DeMolay** – Sept 7 and 21 at 7 pm. Location to be announced.
- **Rainbow** – Sept 4 and 18 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) -Sept 6 in Oroville, Sept 23 in Paradise
- **Scottish Rite** – Sept 19, Stated Meeting and Dinner at 6 pm, at Sacramento Scottish Rite.
- **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 Produce and Craft Market at TMMC**, Every Saturday, from 8 am to noon
- **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
- **PG&E and contractors** are having regular work meetings in our facility.

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Building and Room Rentals

2023 Officers of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge

Master – Doug Campbell - Phone: 530-519-1695, dgcphd@gmail.com

Senior Warden and Officers coach – Juston Purcell (PM) - 530-845-405, ishiyahu1@gmail.com

Junior Warden – Ehren Hawkins - Phone: 530-801-1254, ehrenhawkins@gmail.com

Secretary - Brian Grandfield (PM) - Phone: 530-864-6323, bgrandfield@gmail.com

Treasurer – Rich Gingery - Phone: 530-519-6089, wppcrich@comcast.net

Chaplain - Bob McElroy - Phone: 530-487-8466, bobnpegchico@gmail.com

Senior Deacon - Cole Hamilton - Phone: 858-342-5031, oldkingcreations@att.net

Junior Deacon – Justin (Oso) Harju - Phone: 928-274-3301, jdharju53@gmail.com

Senior Steward - Phil Howard - Phone: 530-873-1979, howardphil69@gmail.com

Junior Steward - Steve Kane - Phone: 530-990-3641, steveransgroup@yahoo.com

Marshall – Matt Sutter – Phone: 530-23-8722, mcsutter@gmail.com

Tiler – Caleb Chinn (PM) - Phone: 530-877-2161, calebchinn@gmail.com

Committees and Liaisons

Investments Committee

Woody Nelson PM

Caleb Chinn PM

Steve Kane

Building Association

Phil Howard

Frank Beard

Justin (Oso) Harju

Woody Nelson (PM) - ex officio

Doug Campbell - ex officio

Relief Committee

Woody Nelson PM

Bob McElroy

Brian Grandfield PM

Liaisons to the Masonic Youth Groups

Cole Hamilton

Rich Gingery

Liaison to Butte College

Juston Purcell PM

Liaison to Behavioral Health

Woody Nelson PM

Liaison to the Produce and Crafts Community (Community Market)

Cole Hamilton

Paul Colvin

Social Media representative

Cole Hamilton

Liaisons to Scouting

Charlie Haggarty PM

Liaisons to the Schools

Rich Gingery

Matt Sutter

Cole Hamilton

Liaisons to Magalia Parks Association

Rich Gingery

Phil Howard

Liaison to Kirshner Wildlife Sanctuary

Woody Nelson PM

Liaison to the Food Bank

Woody Nelson PM

Liaison to the Shriners Hospital

Woody Nelson PM

RSVP now for the Second Annual Outdoor and Evening 3rd Degree



This unique Outdoor Evening 3rd Degree is on Saturday, Sept 16, at a remote outdoor lodge site near Paradise California.

So that we can plan food and refreshments, please **RSVP** by calling Doug at **530-519-1695** or emailing ParadiseFreemasons@gmail.com . Since this is an evening event, some of you might want overnight lodging. We recommend the [Best Western in Paradise](#) where we have arranged a special room rate (\$124) for you. To get the special rate you must call 530-762-6051 and ask for the Masonic event rate.

Event Schedule – Saturday Sept 16

3 pm - Social Gathering at Table Mountain Masonic lodge. (see map: [from Chico](#), or [from Oroville](#))

4:30 to 6 pm - Dinner available to attendees at Table Mountain Masonic Lodge ([see map](#)). The dinner will be barbecued meats and accompaniments, and will be served by DeMolay. Cost is \$15.

6:30 pm - Degree begins. Please be at event location by this time. Travel to the location from the Table Mountain lodge takes approximately 30 minutes. The road is paved most of the way, then gravel for a short distance. ([see map and driving instructions from Table Mountain Lodge to the event location](#)). There will also be signs posted on the route. **The 3rd degree will be presented by the Scottish Rite / Shrine Past Masters degree team.** Since this is an outdoor evening event in a remote location, **we recommend that you dress comfortably, wear appropriate footwear and bring a jacket.** It is a very short walk from the parking area to the outdoor lodge.

Aug 5, 2023 – Stated Meeting

At 1 pm, Saturday Aug 5 the brothers and guests met for a tasty lunch prepared and provided by brother Don Powell, the most recent Master Mason to join our lodge. There was great attendance, including some of our ladies and other family members, and as normal for our lodge there was lots of conversation and laughter. Please note that family and friends are always 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 Aug 2023 stated meeting business. Our Senior Warden Juston Purcell (PM) assumed the role as Master for Worshipful Doug Campbell who was traveling on vacation. All positions were filled. Approximately 25 brothers were in attendance.

Our Secretary Brian Grandfield (PM) read the minutes of the previous stated meeting and special meetings. The minutes were duly approved. The lodge moved to the business of hearing degree examinations. Brother Jeff Vandergrift satisfactorily completed a long form 1st degree examination, assisted by his coach brother Glenn Story (PM). Then brother Steven James satisfactorily completed a long 2nd degree examination, assisted by brother Oso Harju. After these brothers were congratulated on their accomplishments, the lodge returned to the reports. Our Treasurer, brother Rich Gingery reported that the Lodge's account total was satisfactory. However, he shared his continuing frustration with the Charles Schwab company that has been less than helpful and still hasn't provided us with appropriate access to the IRA gift that the lodge received nearly 6 months ago. Assured that sufficient funds were on hand, our Secretary Brian Grandfield (PM) presented the bills to be paid. All bills were paid.

The building association was asked to report. The brothers heard a summary of the most recent repairs and maintenance, rentals, and an update on the progress on the outdoor lodge. Then the brothers learned that Brother Bob McElroy is still recovering from his ankle and leg injury, and that the rest of the brothers and families were healthy. Brother Woody updated the lodge on the movement, storage and possible future uses to the very large scale model trains and track that was donated to for a DeMolay project.

The Master reviewed the calendar of future events, emphasizing the outdoor and evening 3rd degree on Sept 16. He reminded the lodge that the next 2nd degree would be a multiple one, likely in late October, and that officers would be at advanced stations for that. Also, because the newest candidate is deployed out-of-state with no assured return date, his 1st degree would likely be in late November or early December, after the fire season.

Brother Don Powell was thanked for providing lunch, and brother Jeff Vandegrift was also thanked for volunteering to provide the September stated meeting lunch. The lodge was then ritually closed, brotherly love prevailing.



Table Mountain Masonic Lodges – Facebook Update

Our Lodge Facebook Group

Our lodge Facebook group can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/186319067527278>. If you are a Facebook member, please join the group to receive news and photos about the lodge and its programs and activities. There are currently 74 members of this Facebook group.



**Table Mountain Masonic Lodge
#124**

Table Mountain Lodge Community Market Facebook Page

[Table Mountain Masonic Lodge Community Market | Facebook](#)



Group by Table Mtn. Masonic Lodge Community Market

**Table Mountain Masonic Lodge Community
Market**

+ Invite



Our Community Produce and Craft Market

People often ask why we sponsor a community produce and craft market at our lodge. Sometimes they assume we are earning money from it. Just to clarify, we don't make any money at all! When farmers market stopped appearing in Paradise and the local craft fairs became too expensive for local artisans to participate in, the brothers of our lodge simply saw a need and a way to help the community. Our Saturday morning community produce and craft market provides an important opportunity for local producers and artisans to sell directly to consumers. The community then benefits from having a local source of the freshest fruits and vegetables, and local crafts. The market is on Saturday mornings from 8 am to noon, in the parking lot of the Table Mountain Masonic building in Paradise.





Paradise High School Dedication

On Aug 9th, the Paradise School District celebrated the opening of a new addition to Paradise High School. It was a large community event, assisted by the Paradise Chamber of Commerce. Parents, students, graduates and key individuals from throughout the ridge communities participated. Due to the continuing support our Masonic lodge provides to school district and individual schools, we were invited to participate. The lodge was represented by the current Master, Worshipful Doug Campbell.



Preparation of our Outdoor Lodge

Table Mountain Masonic Lodge is unique in California. We have three lodge rooms for our meeting and degrees. Our upstairs historical lodge room, the large downstairs lodge room, and our have a permanent outdoor lodge in the mountains. The outdoor location is where we hold our annual nighttime 3rd degree. Last year we decided to build the outdoor lodge and have an evening degree to spread the message among all Freemasons in California that despite of the 2018 Camp fire, Freemasonry is alive and thriving in our communities. The first outdoor and evening degree was a success, so we have decided to make it an annual event. We are currently in the process of expanding the capacity of our outdoor lodge from 70 people to more than 200. While some lodges are wealthy in terms of money, and other lodges have large membership lists, our Table Mountain Masonic Lodge is rich in brothers that are willing to commit their time and labor to projects. Throughout the summer, despite the hot weather, groups of brothers met and continued the project. The outdoor lodge will soon be ready for our Sept 16 3rd degree which will be presented by the Scottish Rite / Shrine Past Masters team.



Rainbow and our Paradise / Oroville Eastern Star

On Monday Aug 22, Carol Spears, the Worthy Patron of Golden Feather Chapter (Paradise and Oroville) of Eastern Star attended the stated meeting of the Chico / Paradise International Order of Rainbow Girls Assembly. On behalf of Golden Feather Chapter, she presented a significant donation to the Assembly. The Rainbow Assembly will have events at our Paradise Masonic building in December 2023 and in February 2024.



Lodge Social – Fun, Food and Music

On Friday Aug 25, about 30 of us gathered at Maria's Kitchen on the patio for food, drinks, great conversation, lots of laughs and live music provided by brother Phil Howard and his band.













Masonic Travels

One of the benefits of being a Master Mason is that you can visit any regular Masonic lodge in the world, after some coordination. Recently Brother Doug Campbell was traveling in Nevada and Utah, and he choose to discover Masonic lodges along his route.



Wadsworth Lodge #25, Sparks NV



Tonopah Lodge #20, Tonopah NV



St George Lodge #33, St George Utah



Orient Lodge # 15, Green River, Utah



LaSal Lodge #30, Moab Utah



Eureka Lodge #16, Eureka NV



Lander Lodge #8, Austin NV



Churchill Lodge #26, Fallon NV

Questions and Answers about Freemasonry

Is Freemasonry involved in politics?

No, not as an organization. Regular Freemasonry, at any level, never takes any position on any political or controversial issue, and never endorses or supports any candidates or party for governmental office. Inside a Masonic lodge it is absolutely forbidden to ever discuss a political position, political opinion, an election or anything else related to politics, religion or a controversial social issue. Politics, religion and controversial social issues are inherently divisive subjects, and a Masonic lodge is not a place for divisive or offensive speech or behavior. We may know our brothers for many years, yet have no idea of their political leaning, what church or faith they practice or their positions on any social issue. Today there are many divisive social and political issues in our nation. Our U.S. population is often subjected to divisive or polarizing discussions in the news, media, at professional meetings and even social events. However, Masonic lodges continue to be safe place for its members to meet and work together without hearing or having to engage in polarizing discussions.

Weren't Freemasons involved in our American revolution against the UK, and in other revolutions around the world?

Regular Masonic lodges as an organization have not had any role in political action or taken any political stance. However, throughout history many individual Freemasons have been involved and sometimes the leaders of social and political movements in various places. In the 18th, 19th and into the 20th century some individual Freemasons in the Americas and on other continents had instrumental roles in movements to throw off the yoke of colonialism. It is entirely natural that members of an organization which promulgates to its members the concept that individuals have inherent rights, responsibilities and freedoms, might when faced with abusive and authoritarian regimes join movements to bring radical change. Today one party nation states and repressive theocracies often fear Freemasonry's openness to individuals of different faiths, different political opinions and social positions. These are the reasons that authoritarian and non-representative regimes as well as repressive theocracies have spread lies about Freemasonry, outlawed Freemasonry and often murdered Freemasons. In some places in the world such attacks on Freemasons have backfired on the regimes. Instead of eliminating Freemasons, it only encouraged some Freemasons to active resistance. While applauding such brothers for their courage, the fraternity as a whole and individual lodges as an organization do not join movements. In the U.S., individuals Freemasons are free to hold any political position or be members of any political group or party, as long as they do not advocate the overthrow of our government or constitution. We are also bound by our obligations to be lawful citizens, acting within the bounds of local, state and federal laws. Our organization dutifully enforces those requirements. Many of our nation's leaders have been or are Freemasons, sometimes as members of opposing parties or competing organizations.

Masonic Formation

The Names of God

I was recently approached by a man who saw my Masonic hat and wanted to question me about Freemasonry. He described himself as “not a minister, but a missionary”, and he listed a half dozen second and third world nations where he had worked. He was very nice and polite. I wouldn’t say he was a sceptic, instead I think he truly wanted to expand his knowledge. For the most part, the questions were easy and I had well practiced answers and explanations. I addressed all his questions and he seemed very pleased and relieved. Then I mentioned that to join Freemasonry a man must believe in God. To which he asked, “which God?”

What does the word God mean? Here is my poor attempt to define that which is inherently beyond any simple description.

God, the one supreme or ultimate intellect, without need of physical body, perfect in power, wisdom, and goodness, and is acknowledged in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Bahaism, and by monotheistic Hindus, Buddhists, Taoists and other faiths, as the one and only creator and ruler of the universe.

If I left something out of this definition, I am sorry. I hope I didn’t offend anyone. My point is that our general concept of *the one God* is not exclusive to any one religion, and perhaps because of that all those religions have something very similar to the *golden rule*. Beyond this general concept of the one God and the golden rule, of course religions differ on details, dogma, practices, priorities, expectations and often have different prophets and a unique Messiah. Please note that I am not implying that all religions are equal or the same. However, it is this commonly agreed upon general concept of the one God that has for centuries allowed men of many faiths to put aside religious, social, national and ethnic differences and come together under the banner of Freemasonry, as a voluntary community, to improve themselves and accomplish great projects. When Freemasons say that we are *The Brotherhood of Man, under the Fatherhood of God*, God is singular, it is not Gods even though we may be of different religions.

However, we often meet people who argue that if a member of a faith or nationality is using a different word for God, then it connotes that they worship a different God. Some of these people persist on claiming that our use of Great Architect of the Universe or Grand Master of the Universe indicates that Freemasons pray to a different God. As wrong as this claim is, I have found that people who strongly hold this position are not always open to information that may show that they are mistaken. However, it is rather easy to refute their position.

In different languages, the words for the one God can be very different. Some examples are: in French it is Le Dieu, in Italian it is Dio, in Polish it is Bog, in Greek it is Theos and in Arabic the word for God is Allah, derived from the earlier semitic language words Il, El, or Eloah. While

the word Allah is often associated with the Islamic religion, Arab speaking Christians also use the word Allah for God. Obviously, even though the words are different these are not different Gods, instead they are just different words for the one God.

While the before described general concept of the one God is widely shared, most religions seem to have more than one word or descriptor for the one God. In English language Christianity, the descriptive words Father, Lord, the Almighty and the Creator are commonly used along with many others. These words and others describe our relationship with God, his authority or his power. The use of descriptors to communicate the qualities or aspects of the one God is common to many religions.

Within the many sects of Judaism, the words Jehovah (Lord), Yaweh (to be), Hashem (The Name), Adonai (my Master), El (Deity) and Elohim (Divinity or Godhead) are used for God. Additionally, in the old testament are the following phrases used to describe the one God; El Shaddai (Lord God Almighty), El Elyon (The Most High God), Jehovah Nissi (The Lord is My Banner), Jehovah Raah (The Lord is My Shepherd), Jehovah Rapha (The Lord that Heals), Jehovah Shammah (The Lord is There), Jehovah Tsidkenu (The Lord our Righteousness), Jehovah Mekoddishkem (The Lord who Sanctifies), El Olam (The Everlasting God), Jehovah Jireh (The Lord will Provide), Jehovah Shalom (The Lord of Peace), and Jehovah Sabaoth (The Lord of Hosts).

In Islam, in addition to Allah there are 99 names or phrases used to describe the one God. They are repeated and meditated upon by Muslims to help them understand the complex nature and qualities of God that cannot be conveyed by a single word. An approximate English translation of some of these names/phrases are as follows: The Beneficent, The Merciful, The Eternal Lord, The Most Sacred, The Embodiment of Peace, The Infuser of Faith, The Preserver of Safety, The Mighty One, The Omnipotent One, The Dominant One, The Creator, The Evolver, The Flawless Shaper, The Great Forgiver, The All Prevailing One, The Supreme Bestower, The Total Provider, The Supreme Solver, The All Knowing One, The Restricting One, The Extender, The Reducer, The Elevating One, The Honorable Bestower, - and many more.

It is much same in the other monotheistic religions, many names and many descriptions of the one God. In Zoroastrianism (a 3,000 year of messianic religion with followers from Persia to India), they have 101 descriptive terms for God. Their primary descriptor is Ahura Mazda, meaning Wise Lord. It is believed that their list was the model for the Islamic list of 99. The translations of all the descriptive names and terms are for the most part similar or aligned with terminology used among all the monotheistic religions and sects of the world. There is but one God, whatever name or descriptor used!

In our Lodge meetings and ceremonies, whether the Holy Bible is alone on our altar or if there is an additional Holy book on the altar, we are all still focused on the same concept of the one God, regardless of our different religions, faiths or denominations, or what name or descriptive phrase that we use.

Masonic Formation

Masonic Vocabulary

In our Masonic ceremonies we employ words or combination of words that are not part of the common vocabulary of non-Freemasons. The men who formulated the dialogue we use were highly educated and masters of the English language. They knew the different nuances in the meanings of similar words. Thus, they chose with care the words we still use in our ceremonies to convey very specific meanings. Over time, and through misuse or lack of use by the general public, the former specific meaning of a word can be lost. Even after having heard some words and phrases used in our ceremonies, many of our brethren are still not entirely sure of their exact or full meaning. The purpose of this part of our Journal / Tresleboard is to assist our brethren in deepening their understanding of Freemasonry by developing a better understanding the meanings of key words and phrases.

Due Guard – Our Masonic ceremonies explain what a specific *due guard* consist of, but they do not address the meaning of the term. The etymology and origin of *due guard* is rather obscure. Other than in Freemasonry, the term seems not to have been in common use. Breaking the term in parts, *guard* refers to “one who keeps watch” or to “keep watch over something”. To protect, maintain or preserve. *Due* refers to “expect or planned at certain time”, or “the proper quality or extent”, or “what is owned or obligatory”. None of these definitions or possible combinations seem to make any sense in the way we use or employ *due guard* in Freemasonry. One recent author made the unsupported claim that it is an English abbreviation of the French term "Geste Du Guard" - paraphrased, it would mean "Gesture of Protection". However, that proposed definition of the term would be a stretch to apply to the way Freemasons use the term. Other authors have noted that the use the term “Dieu le garde” was once used within some French trades, and that it sort of connotes “God guard it”. Albert Mackey (1807 - 1881) was an American Masonic author whose works on Freemasonry are still referenced, although today we know them to be of questionable accuracy. His explanation of *due guard* varied. He once claimed that *due guard* was of American origin even though it is found in an English rituals in the 1700s. He also wrote that it was merely a term for a mode of recognition, although in Freemasonry we don’t really use it as a mode of recognition. There are several more interesting but rather fanciful explanations by other authors concerning where *due guard* originated and its original meaning. Unfortunately, It seems that we are left without a firm resolution of original or true meaning of the term.

Star and Garter - *The Star of the Most Noble Order of the Garter*, is a chivalric order created by the English King Edward III in 1348, and it is still in existence. It is the most senior order of knighthood in Britain.

Habiliments – This refers to trappings or clothing characteristic of a specific occupation. In the context of our Masonic ritual, *habiliments* means the appropriate and unique clothing of a free stone mason. The word is derived from the Latin word for “to hold”, and old French word *abillement* meaning to “prepare or fit out”.

Repose – this mean “lie or be at rest”. It is derived from the old Latin word *pauso*, meaning to “halt, cease, pause or rest in a grave”

Hewed – Many old European languages had a similar word, and they all mean to “cut, strike or hammer”. Thus, to hew a stone, would be to break it out or cut it from the quarry in its roughest form. This would be the beginning of obtaining a stone for a structure.

Squared – In the context of operative Masonry, after the rough stone was hewed the workmen began to shape it into a square. In ancient times there were two types of squares. A *perfect square* with all sides being equal, and an *oblong square* which was a rectangular shape equal to two perfect squares set end to end. Not all stone used in construction was squared. In rubblestone construction the stones were laid and mortared together in their natural form. In some construction the stones were only roughly squared and then laid and mortared together. However, in smooth stone construction, such as King Solomon’s temple, the squares were carefully measured and polished so that they fit together tightly without need of mortar.

Refractory – This is a word that has very different meanings depending upon the context or the science referred to. In the context of our Masonic ceremony, it means “resistant to the process”.

Try me – Yet another phrase and word that has different connotations depending upon the context of its use. In the Masonic context, *Try* means to test some knowledge or process.

Ascertain – means “to determine definitely; to learn with certainty or assurance; to ascertain the facts”. A person tasked with ascertaining something has been given the serious task of determine beyond any doubt the facts or situation.

Meriden height – This phrase is another example of how the current definitions often to not explain the Masonic use of a phrase. Currently *Meriden* refers to “a great circle of the celestial sphere passing through its poles and the zenith of a given place”. Zenith, in this context, refers to “a point in the sky or celestial sphere directly above an observer”. However, an archaic meaning of the meridian height was “noon or high noon when the sun is directly above”. This is the context in which we use the phrase in Freemasonry.

Recapitulating - A recapitulation is a short summary. At the end of a long speech or lecture, a speaker or instructor might give a recapitulation to assist the audience in remembering the key points of the presentation.

International Freemasonry

Freemasonry in Greece

To understand the history of Freemasonry in Greece, one has to understand the geography of Greece and some of its history over the last 300 plus years. Greece is a country in Southeast Europe situated on the southern tip of the Balkan peninsula. Greece shares land borders with Albania to the northwest, North Macedonia and Bulgaria to the north, and Turkey to the east. The Aegean Sea lies to the east of the mainland, the Ionian Sea to the west, and the Sea of Crete and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Greece has the longest coastline on the Mediterranean Basin, featuring thousands of islands. Over the millenniums their attractive islands and long coastline have encouraged many visitors from foreign lands, some of them were not friendly.

By the early 16th century all of mainland Greece and most of their Aegean islands were under the control of the Muslim Ottoman Empire (headquartered in modern day Turkey). The Ottoman Empire continued to rule most of Greece until the early 19th century. The first self-governing Greek state since the Middle Ages was established on the Ionian islands during the French Revolutionary Wars in 1800. In 1821, the rest of Greece declared their independence, but did not achieve it until 1829. However, peace and unity did not come quickly. During the 19th and early 20th centuries Greece sought to enlarge its boundaries to include the ethnic Greek population of the Ottoman Empire. This did not always go as planned. As a result of numerous small and large wars, boundaries and political fortunes frequently changed. The British, by treaty, controlled many of the Ionian islands until after the second world war. Even after that war, Greece has remained a volatile place, suffering coups, conspiracies and a major insurgency. Even today Greece has contentious relationship with its neighbors and trading partners, both friends and foes.

During all that time and still today, there have been two primary unifying factors. One is their almost universal pride in their ancient Greek history, the so-called Golden Age of Greece. The other unifying factor has been their religion. The population of mainland Greece and the Greek islands are approximately 90 percent Greek Orthodox (Christian). The rest of their population is a mixture of Jewish, Muslim and Catholics. The areas around Greece had large populations of primarily a different faith. While today the Greek Orthodox church is still the prevailing religion in Greece, at one time it was the official religion and exercised considerable influence over most aspects of Greek life, culture and politics.

While Freemasonry appeared in Greek cities and communities in the early 1700s, in such a volatile environment the safety and rights of Freemasons were often at risk, and secrecy was often a necessary. There is evidence of Masonic activity in Smyrna as early as 1738 and shortly after that in Cyprus. There is reliable evidence that Italian Freemasons established a lodge in Galatsi in 1734 and in Lasi in 1735. Soon there were many other lodges in many Greek cities

and communities. Most of these early lodges were started by foreigners, thus bringing English, Scottish, French, Italian and Russian Masonic influences, to different areas and islands.

1738, Roman Catholic Pope officially condemned Freemasonry but his influence in Orthodox Greece was negligible. However, in 1745, the Greek Orthodox Patriarch denounced the Freemasons, not on the grounds that Freemasonry was a religion or heresy as the Catholic Pope claimed. Instead, the Greek Orthodox Patriarch claimed that Freemasonry supposedly cultivated atheism. Of course, such a claim was ridiculous because Freemasons must believe in God. This condemnation of Freemasonry was likely a result of misinformation from outsiders, and from the clerics that feared that Freemasonry's equanimity toward men of all faiths and social rank. They also feared that Freemasonry might undermine the Greek Orthodox church's considerable influence within Greek communities. It must have been particularly disconcerting to the clerics to see that men of education, influence and means were drawn to Freemasonry where they associated with non-Orthodox foreigners.

The Orthodox Patriarch's condemnation was followed by anti-Masonic activities in many Greek communities. Yet Freemasonry still grew, particularly among those wishing Greece to be independent, free and have a representative form of government. It seems that the combination of Freemasonry philosophic foundations in Judeo Christian religion and history, and the inclusion of concepts and virtues espoused by the ancient Greek and Roman philosophers were naturally aligned with the two primary unifying factors previously mentioned.

By the late 1800's Greece was finally fully independent and for the most part was united under one government, but Freemasonry in Greece was far from united. Many of the lodges held allegiance to various foreign Masonic jurisdictions and thus many lodges followed different Masonic models and practices. Also, while the Greeks share a common language and culture, the geography and history of Greece has always contributed to many internal arguments and conflicts.

In February 1867 seven lodges in mainland Greece that were under the Grand Orient of Italy demanded their independence. Two months later and the newly formed Grand Orient of Greece drafted its Constitution. The first Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Greece soon traveled to the UK, and there he approached the Grand Lodge of Scotland (a different Masonic system). In Scotland he was Initiated, Passed and Raised and entered the Royal Arch. In addition to being Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Greece he also established a Supreme Grand Council 33° for Greece (Scottish Rite), with himself as Sovereign Grand Commander.

From 1910 until 1976 the two dominant Masonic bodies in Greece were the Grand Orient of Greece and the Supreme Council of the 33°. During those years there was a number of schisms caused by personality problems, but for the most part these problems were quickly resolved. These two Masonic bodies, while technically united, worked independently and each thrived.

During this time there were no other Greek Masonic orders and most of the members of Craft lodges felt that joining the Scottish Rite was a natural and expected step. The two bodies jointly publishing a monthly Masonic magazine and they even shared the same building. In 1928 the Grand Orient managed to be recognized as a Foundation, while the Supreme Council formed a private association under the Civil Law. In 1930 the Grand Orient was renamed the Grand Orient/Grand Lodge of Greece and after WWII was renamed Grand Lodge of Greece.



In 1976 several Greek Freemasons decided to import to Greece the degrees of the American York Rite. Initially there was no problem. It is noteworthy that at the Consecration of the first York Rite Chapters in Greece there were present several members of the Supreme Council and the Council of the Grand Lodge of Greece. However, problems began when the leaders of the new Greek York Rite body requested that they be formally recognized by the Grand Lodge of Greece. For reasons that are not entirely clear, both the Grand Lodge of Greece and the Supreme Council of Greece opposed that recognition and threatened their members with expulsion if they joined or remained members of the Greek York Rite. This led in 1986 to the establishment of the National Grand Lodge of Greece by members of the York Rite Chapters. So now there were two competing Greek Grand Masonic bodies that didn't recognize each other; The Grand Lodge of Greece which also contained the Supreme Council (Scottish Rite), and opposing them the National Grand Lodge of Greece.

Shortly after forming, the leaders of the National Grand Lodge of Greece decided to follow the British form in their rituals and operations, thus they abandoned the American York Rite system and instead adopted the British Holy Royal Arch and the other degrees beyond the Craft degrees. The National Grand Lodge of Greece then embarked on a concerted effort to obtain recognition from the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) and other foreign Grand Lodges. This resulted in the UGLE threatening to withdraw its recognition of parts or all of the

Grand Lodge of Greece, supposedly because some lodges had allowed the discussion of political issues, and because of the Supreme Council (Scottish Rite) was part of the Grand Lodge of Greece. The UGLE has historical disliked the Scottish Rite.

Personally, I am surprised that all the Greek Freemasons did not unite and tell the UGLE to stay out of Greek Freemasonry business, just as Freemasons in some nations have done. Instead, the Grand Lodge of Greece capitulated to the UGLE. It amended its Constitution by removing all mentions of the Scottish Rite and changed its title to 'Grand Lodge of Greece A.F.& A.M. Then it introduced the Holy Royal Arch into Greek Craft Freemasonry using the terminology of the United Grand Lodge of England. At first the Supreme Council (Scottish Rite) considered severing its relations with the Grand Lodge of Greece, but friendly relations continued between these now forcibly separated Masonic organizations.

However, UGLE was not finished trying to control Freemasonry in Greece. The UGLE withdrew its recognition of the Grand Lodge of Greece in 1993 and gave it to the National Grand Lodge of Greece a year later. Then they withdrew recognition from the National Grand Lodge of Greece in 1999. It is believed that the UGLE was trying to force the two Greek Grand Lodges to recognize each other. This approach did not work so in 2000 the UGLE restored recognition to the Grand Lodge of Greece. Throughout this period, most of the Grand Lodges of other countries, including the USA and Australia, never withdrew their recognition of the Grand Lodge of Greece.

At present there is the Grand Lodge of Greece, the Supreme Council 33°, and the Supreme Grand Chapter which are recognized by most regular Grand Lodges, Supreme Councils and Supreme Grand Chapters of the World. Separate and distinct is still the National Grand Lodge of Greece which at this time is considered regular, but yet not recognized by the UGLE, but is recognized by the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland and a few of other countries. There has been proposals to place all three of these Greek Masonic organizations under a new United Grand Lodge of Greece. This would supposedly unite them, yet allow each organization to operate separately and maintain their own system. However, this idea has not yet been accepted by the parties.



Quotes suitable for Masonic Reflection

**LIFE IS TOO SHORT
TO WASTE YOUR TIME
ON PEOPLE WHO
DON'T RESPECT,
APPRECIATE, AND
VALUE YOU**

**Respect your efforts,
respect yourself.
Self-respect leads to
self-discipline. When
you have both firmly
under your belt,
that's real power.**

**We must learn to live
together as brothers or
perish together as fools.**

**When you practice
gratefulness, there is a sense
of respect toward others.**

Misc.

Get your Table Mountain Masonic Lodge # 124 Challenge Coin

Each coin comes in a round, transparent, smooth, strong plastic case to protect the surface from damage.

To obtain one of these please contact Doug Campbell at **530-519-1695**, or email paradisefreemasons@gmail.com

The cost is \$20

Cash or check is acceptable.

Any profit will go to Table Mountain
Masonic Lodge #124 general fund.



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

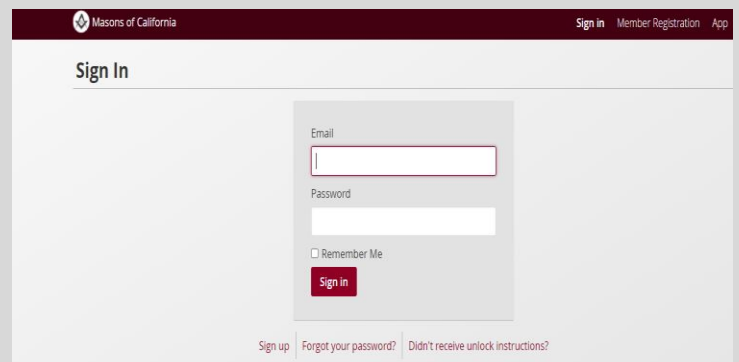
The 150 History of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge # 124

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.

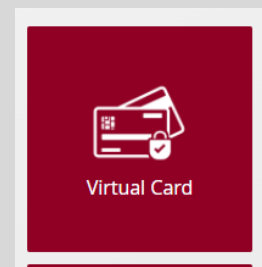
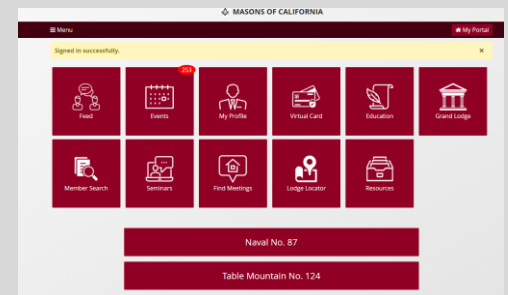
A screenshot of the 'Sign In' page on the Masons of California website. The page has a dark red header with the logo and navigation links: 'Sign in', 'Member Registration', and 'App'. Below the header, the title 'Sign In' is centered. There is a form with fields for 'Email' and 'Password'. Below the password field is a checkbox for 'Remember Me' and a red '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>

Contact Information

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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

emailbobnpegchico@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.