



TABLE MOUNTAIN MASONIC LODGE

5934 Clark Road, Paradise, CA 95969

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

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

[Building and Room Rentals](#)

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

July 2023 Journal and Trestleboard

Vol 3, Issue 7,



The Master's Thoughts

Many organizations, at one time or another, decide that they must reinvent themselves. They do so to adapt to changing times, members preferences, new technology, new tastes and evolving demographics. Any organization that does not successfully reinvent itself in a changing world, will eventually not attract new members or new customers, and the average of age of its membership or customers will grow older until the organization eventually dies.

However, the exceptionally well led and well managed organizations are the ones that are constantly striving to reinvent themselves. They are always willing to consider new ideas, and they actively seek to do new things, and new ways of doing the required work. Bigger, better, more impressive, more meaning and more impactful are their goals. They strive to keep the landmarks of the organization, but also to never become boring, repetitive or entirely predictable.

Reinventing an organization is a challenging process. However, reinventing the processes and activities of a Masonic lodge to keep and attract new members is something that successful Masonic lodges have always done. The process begins with focusing on the future, instead of constantly referring to the past.

In a very real sense, the devastating 2018 Camp fire destroyed much of this lodge's connections to the past. Most of our oldest and most experienced members moved away. We really had no real choice other than to focus on the future and adapt to our new reality. Due to the efforts of a small cadre of remaining brothers, we are now a successful and growing lodge. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Past Masters Caleb Chinn, Charlie Haggarty, and Woody Nelson who allowed the brothers to challenge assumptions and old ways doing things, and encouraged new ideas and innovation, thereby changing the culture of Table Mountain Masonic lodge. We owe a special thanks to brother Bill Spencer (PM) who oversaw all the insurance bills and repairs to our facility. Without him we might not have our present facilities.

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Calendar of Events

Table Mountain Masonic Lodge

- July 1, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- July 2, Sunday, Grand Lodge Masonic Family Picnic, Cone Grove park, 24280 Cone Grove Rd, Red Bluff, 10am to 2pm. Barbecue served at Noon.
- July 15, Saturday, Tentative Social or Degree.
- August 5, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- August 19, Saturday, Tentative Degree, starting at 2 pm.
- Sept 2, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- Sept 16, Saturday - Outdoor Evening 3rd Degree, - Performed by the Scottish Rite/Shriners Past Masters Team at our outdoor mountain top lodge.

Important Future Date

- 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.

Other local area Masonic Events

- **DeMolay** – July 6 and 20 at 7 pm. Location to be announced.
- **Rainbow** – July 17 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) - Dark July and August.
- **Scottish Rite** – July 18, 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 Market at TMMC**, Saturday, July 1, at 8 am to 12 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.
- Intermittent use by various private parties. Check with Woody Nelson for available dates

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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 Arts and Crafts

Community (Community Market)

Cole Hamilton

Social Media representative

Cole Hamilton

Liaisons to Scouting

Charlie Haggarty PM

Liaisons to the Schools

Rich Gingery

Matt Sutter

Cole Hamilton

Liaisons to the Magalia Parks

Association

Rich Gingery

Phil Howard

Liaison to Kirshner Wildlife

Sanctuary

Woody Nelson PM

Liaison to the Food Bank

Woody Nelson PM

RSVP now for the Second Annual Outdoor 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.



You are Cordially Invited to Attend

MASONIC FAMILY UNITY PICNIC

To be held at Cone Grove Park

24280 Cone Grove Road, Red Bluff, CA

July 2, 2023 from 10 am to 2 pm

Special Guest



Right Worshipful Sean Metroka

Deputy Grand Master of Masons in California

BBQ Lunch provided at no charge:

Please bring your lawn chairs as seating may be limited



June 3, 2023 – Stated Meeting

At 1 pm, Saturday June 3 the brothers and guests met for a fabulous lunch of homemade spaghetti sauce, pasta, kale salad and garlic bread, prepared by brother Steve Kane, and desert provided by brother Caleb Chinn (PM). There was great attendance, including some of our ladies, and as normal for our lodge there was lively conversation and lots of good humor. 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 May 2023 stated meeting business. Worshipful Doug Campbell presided, and all positions were filled. During the opening ceremony a selection of appropriate recorded music was played, specifically for the officers march, for the opening of the Holy Book and the national anthem prior to the pledge of allegiance.

The lodge was then called to refreshment for the purpose of an open installation. The ladies were invited to join us. Worshipful Larry Willis, Inspector-at-Large, was invited to serve as Installing Officer. Woody Nelson (PM) served as Master of Ceremonies. Then brother Cole Hamilton was formally installed as Senior Deacon.

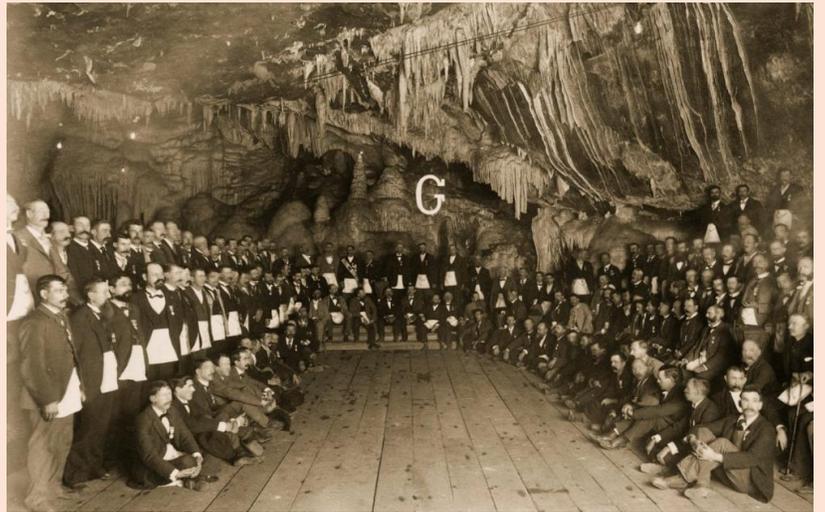


Our Secretary Brian Grandfield (PM) read the minutes of the previous stated meeting and special meeting. Our Treasurer, brother Rich Gingery reported that the account total remained significant. However, that because the IRA gift that the lodge is to receive has not yet arrived from the investment firm, the matter is now being handled by our attorney.

Assured that sufficient funds were on hand Our Secretary Brian Grandfield (PM) presented the bills to be paid. All bills were paid. The pending petition was not ready to be voted on, and pending affiliation was still awaiting approval of Grand Lodge.

The Master then took the time to thank everyone involved with and who attended the May 8 schools awards night and the open house.

The Master also congratulated the brothers on an excellent recent 2nd degree, specifically complementing brothers Juston Purcell (PM) and Cole Hamilton. He also thanked brother Steve Kane for the wonderful lunch.



Brother Rich Gingery reported that cost of the food and refreshments for the recent school award night would be borne by him as a donation to the lodge. Therefore, all the money for that event allocated by the lodge, are returned to the lodge. All the brothers then expressed their admiration of brother Gingery.

Then the status of each current Entered Apprentice's progress on their proficiency was reviewed, and each Entered Apprentice and their coach reported on their progress and their efforts to facilitate the process. Brother Paul Colvin stated that he intends to be ready by June 24, for the scheduled 2nd degree. With this assurance the Master agreed that we would proceed with the June 24th second degree at 6 pm. The Master then urged the other Entered Apprentices to seek to be ready as soon as possible.

There were no reports of sick or injured brothers. However, the brothers were then reminded of the Masonic graveside memorial for brother Stan Englebrite, on June 23, Friday, 11 am, Manzanita Cemetery, Manzanita Road Lincoln, California.

The upcoming Masonic memorial for brother Tom Vandegrift was discussed. The date is Saturday June 17 at noon. The sequence, positions and appropriate clothing were set. Due to likely large attendance for this memorial, maximum participation from the brothers was emphasized.

The building association was asked to report. Member brother Woody Nelson (PM) then recognized the members of association for all the repair and maintenance work that they done in the dining room and big lodge room. The brethren then expressed their appreciation to them. President of building association, brother Phil Howard, then spoke. He emphasized that with the amount of work that needs to be done both in our lodge building and at the outdoor lodge site, that more brothers are needed to get the work done. The Master then offered to

coordinate with brother Howard to schedule official lodge work days to get the work done. Brother Ginger then volunteered the assistance of DeMolay to get the work done.

The investment committee informed the brothers that next month they will present our quarterly investment report. Brother Harju reported some challenges with the local scouting program, and as a result he has chosen to no longer be associated with it.

Brother Cole Hamilton reported on the continuing success of our community market, and the growing need for it. He also reviewed the current activities of DeMolay, and brought up the financial needs of our local chapter of Rainbow girls. After some discussion of that situation, and the brothers were informed of a non-Mason's willingness to match any donation that our lodge would make to Rainbow, the brothers then proceeded to vote to give a significant donation to Rainbow.

The brothers then return to the task of ensuring the future financial stability of the lodge. After reviewing a rough estimate of next year minimum expenses and income based on the estimated paying membership, the brothers unanimously voted to finalize the 2024 dues increase. Starting in 2024, annual dues will be \$250 plus per capita. Per capita being the amount per member we owe to Grand Lodge each year. The Master expressed his appreciation for the brothers dealing with a difficult task in so professional a manner.

To start the long range planning process, the currently scheduled key 2024 events were reviewed. The schools committee, accepted responsibility for the **May 6, 2024**, School Awards night and open house, and for the for the **April 18, 2024**, Paradise Schools District Grand Lodge cornerstone laying. The building association accepted responsibility for the **Sept 7, 2024**, Grand Lodge Paradise Masonic building rededication, and brother Woody Nelson (PM) accepted responsible for having the outdoor lodge ready for the Outdoor Evening 3rd Degree to be held on the same day. The Master shared that a special guest group had agreed in principle to performed the outdoor 3rd degree in 2024. The Master then urged the association and committee to review the available guidance for each event and begin the planning process.

Then the calendar of events for the next 3 months was briefly reviewed. The Master thanked Brother Frank Beard for volunteering to provide our July stated meeting lunch. There being no further business, the lodge was then ritually closed in short form, brotherly love prevailing.



Table Mountain Masonic Lodges – Facebook Update

Our Lodge Facebook Group

Our lodge has a new Facebook group <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.

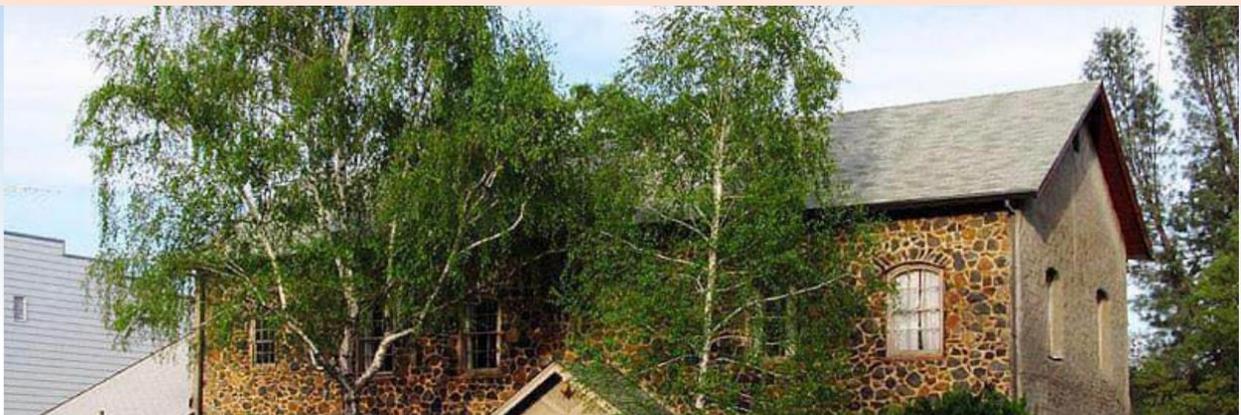


**Table Mountain Masonic Lodge
#124**

The participants have created a Facebook group page, to advertise the event and to update the public on dates and planned activities. There are currently 873 members of this Facebook group. The link to the group is below.

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

June 1 – Masonic Travels

Freemasons love to visit other Masonic lodges and eat good food. The Master of Table Mountain Masonic lodge, Doug Campbell, recently visited Naval Lodge 87 in Vallejo California for their Stated Meeting and Filipino Heritage celebration. The main course was a whole pig roasted Filipino style, lots of refreshments and great fellowship.



June 5 - Helping the Kirshner Wildlife Sanctuary

"The mission of the Barry Kirshner Wildlife Foundation is to provide rehabilitation and long-term care for exotic and native species, as well as to provide educational programs on all levels emphasizing wildlife and habitat conservation."

<https://www.kirshner.org/>



Brother Woody Nelson (PM) has been a longtime supporter of Barry Kirshner Wildlife Sanctuary, which is located between Paradise and Oroville. Woody regularly delivers donated supplies to the facility.

The Barry Kirshner Wildlife Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1994. It is the only organization of its kind from the San Francisco Bay area to the Oregon state line. Through its education and conservation programs, the public has become more enlightened about the importance of both native and exotic wildlife and their habitats, and practice responsible care and preservation of all animals. The Kirshner Wildlife Sanctuary is home to a remarkable variety of non-releasable, endangered, and exotic live animals. It houses a variety

of species from all across the globe. Some of the local native species include Mountain Lions, Bobcats, Coyotes, Foxes, Great Horned Owls and Hawks. Global species include African and Asiatic Leopards, Bengal and Siberian Tigers, Lions, Ligers, Servals, Lynx, Caracals, Snow and Clouded Leopards, and Ocelots. The Kirshner Wildlife Sanctuary is also home to Coatimundis, Fennec Foxes, a Ring-tailed Lemur, a Wallaby, Black Bears, and an assortment of exotic birds and reptiles, including Burmese Pythons, an Alligator and an assortment of Tortoises.

A priority of the Kirshner Wildlife Sanctuary is to provide these animals with all they need to keep them healthy and content. This involves giving them the best quality care, including daily exercise, attention, and the highest quality foods. Visitors have an awe-inspiring opportunity to witness first-hand their beauty and value as a natural part of the world's ecosystems. On the day of our recent visit, an abandoned baby deer, just a week old was brought in to be cared for by the volunteers.

The Kirshner Wildlife Sanctuary is dedicated to education and conservation. As such it provides the people of our local communities and all of Northern California with a valuable educational resource. Their educational programs are approved through the state university system, so students have an opportunity to obtain units towards their degree.

To further the mission of the Kirshner Wildlife Sanctuary, they offer both on-site and outreach educational programs led by one of their trained animal handlers and wildlife experts.

Table Mountain Masonic Lodge plans on further assisting this wonderful organization. All part of our greater goal, to support education and assist those in need (animals too).



Brother Woody Nelson cuddling a baby skunk.

June 10 – OES visits Abbey of New Clairvaux

On Saturday June 10, some members of the Paradise/Oroville chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, and members from the Chico chapter, visited the Abbey of New Clairvaux. The Abbey of New Clairvaux is a rural Cistercian monastery located in Northern California in the small town of Vina in Tehama County. The farmland, once owned by Leland Stanford, is now owned by the monks. They grows prunes, walnuts, and wine grapes that the monks harvest to sustain the community. The New Clairvaux winery is known for the quality of its wines.

One of the monks, brother Luis, gave an excellent presentation of the history of the land, the Cistercian order and the Abbey itself. He opened the old brandy storage building to show the group the many hundreds of stones from a 15th century Abbey in Spain that have not yet been reconstructed. Then he gave a tour of the new constructed chapter room and public area. He also played the organ for us and invited one of the OES ladies to play it.





June 17 – Memorial for Tom Vandegrift

On June 17 at noon, the Brothers of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge, and nearly 200 friends and family of Brother Tom Vandegrift gathered to remember and celebrate his life.

SACRED ROLL

Brother Thomas Brian Vandegrift

of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge #124

Entered into Rest on the 28 day of April 2023

At the age of 66 years and 244 days

Masonic Honors and Office

Initiated Entered Apprentice February 22, 2001

Passed to Fellowcraft April 26, 2001

Raised to Master Mason June 21, 2001

Chaplain 2002

Junior Deacon 2003 and 2004







Masonic funeral services and memorials are integral part of our Craft, and are one of the few times that the general public witnesses a Masonic ceremony. No one is sure when or where the first Masonic funeral or memorial took place. We know that it is a very old tradition. In the 1920 book in *The Evolution of Freemasonry*, is says

“The first account of a Masonic funeral will be found in Reed’s Weekly Journal under date of January 12, 1723. The article provides a description of the obsequies of Mr. Birkhead, a comedian.”

There were, of course, Masonic funerals far earlier than that one. The rules concerning who can receive a Masonic funeral or memorial, and the specifics of the ceremony (words, clothing, instructions, music and attendance) can vary greatly from one Masonic jurisdiction to another.



June 19 – Visiting the Rainbow Girls

On Monday June 19, at 7 pm, some of the brothers of Table Mountain Masonic lodge visited the stated meeting of the Chico / Paradise International Order of Rainbow Girls Assembly. Their meeting was held in Chico at the Masonic Center. Worshipful Doug Campbell, brother Rich Gingery and brother Cole Hamilton presented to the Worthy Advisor a significant donation from Table Mountain Masonic lodge. Additionally, Dana Campbell, Esquire and Tara Campbell, members of the Paradise/Oroville/Quincy Eastern Star chapter, also presented a significant donation to the Assembly.





June 23 – Memorial for Stan Englebrite

A Masonic graveside memorial for brother Stan Englebrite, was held on Thursday, June 23, at 11 am at the Manzanita Cemetery near Lincoln, California. Worshipful Doug Campbell served as both Funeral Master and Chaplain. The memorial was attended by family and friends.

SACRED ROLL

Brother Gene Stanley Englebrite

of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge #124

Entered into Rest on the 17th day of January 2023

At the age of 85 years and 262 days

Masonic Honors and Offices

Initiated Entered Apprentice March 22, 1979

Passed to Fellowcraft July 17, 1987

Raised to Master Mason Aug 26, 1987

Marshall, in Nicolaus lodge #129 in 2004



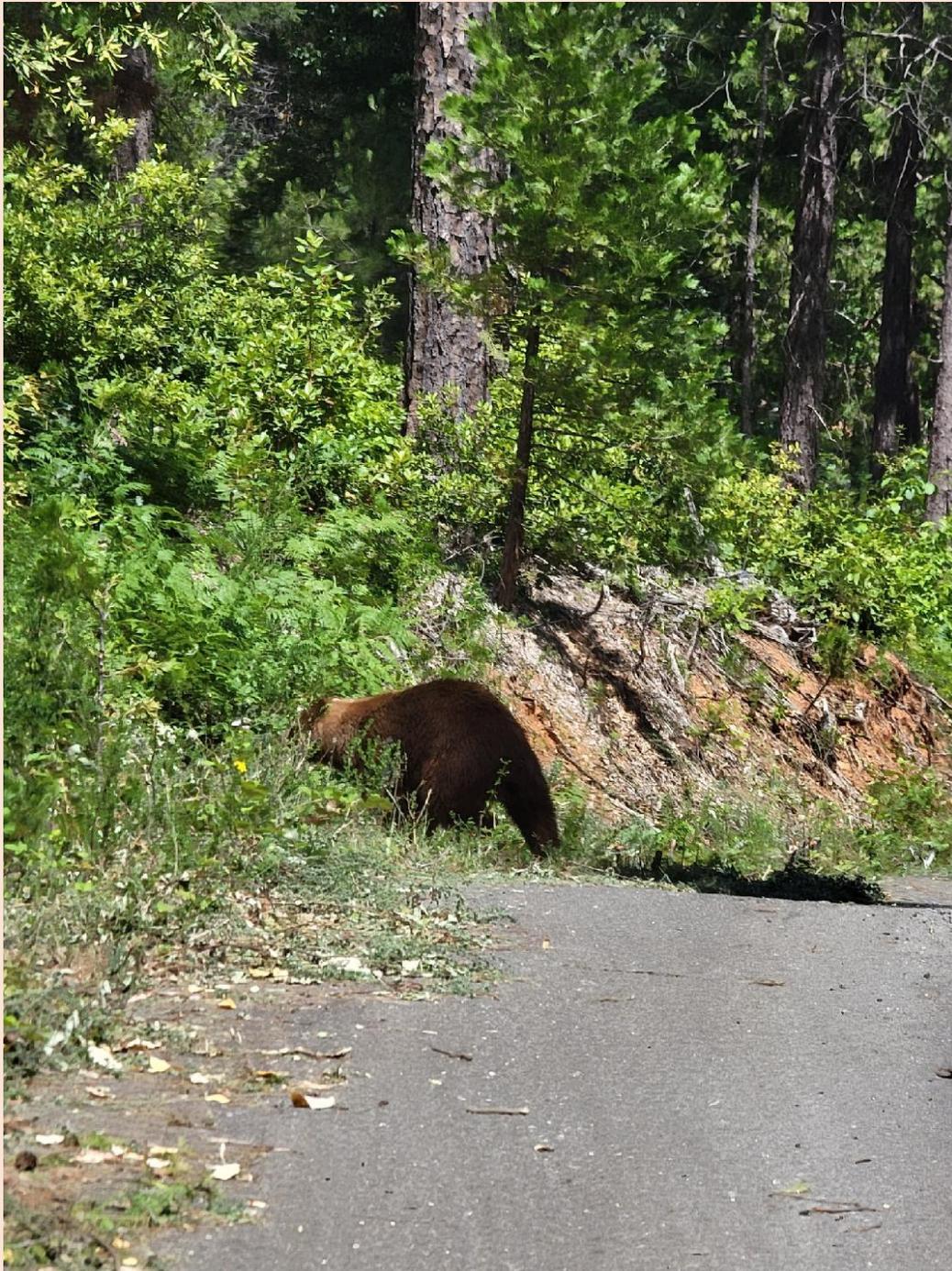
June 24 – OES friendship meeting in Paradise

At noon on June 24, the members of the Golden Feather #35 (Paradise, Oroville and Quincy) chapter of the Order of Eastern Star met at the Table Mountain Masonic Building in Paradise for the annual friendship meeting. After the devastation of the 2018 Camp fire the Paradise chapter found itself with reduced membership as a result of many members having moved away. Thus, it was necessary for it to combine with the struggling Oroville chapter, resulting in a healthier chapter renamed Golden Feather. The 2022 fires in the mountains similarly affected the Quincy chapter. They too found it necessary to combine with another chapter. Of the two alternatives they found Golden Feather to be most closely aligned with their personalities. Thus, Golden Feather chapter now has membership in Paradise, Oroville, Quincy and from other nearby communities. Some Eastern Star members in Chico have chosen to be part of Golden Feather chapter as well. At this June 24 meeting, members of five California, and one Nevada chapter attended the event. The below picture is of the large lodge room setup for the chapter ceremonies.



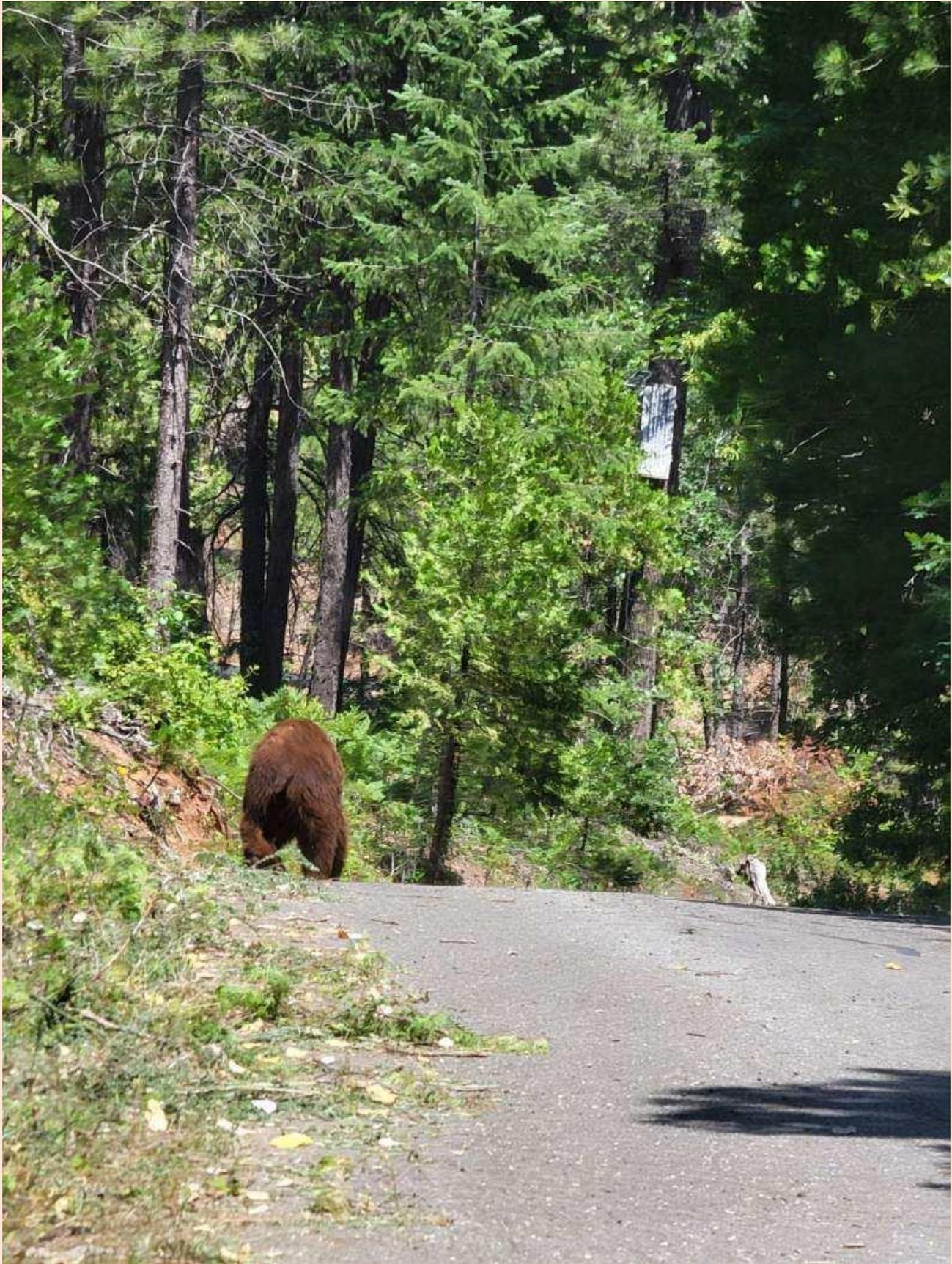
June 25 – Workday at our Outdoor Lodge

Table Mountain Masonic Lodge is unique in California. We have three lodge rooms for our lodge to meet in. We have the upstairs historical lodge room with a capacity of 70, the large downstairs lodge room that holds about 300 people, and we have a permanent outdoor lodge in the mountains. The outdoor location is where we hold our annual nighttime 3rd degree. On June 25th about a dozen brothers, a supportive spouse, a pet dog and one local bear gathered on the mountain to work on expanding the capacity of outdoor lodge from 70 people to a capacity of more than 200.









A days work well done!

Our Newest Lodge Decorations

Over the last month we added two new decorations to our historical upstairs lodge, and redecorated the second floor landing with esoteric prints, lodge pictures and information.







WATCH YOUR **THOUGHTS**,
FOR THEY BECOME **WORDS**.
WATCH YOUR **WORDS**,
FOR THEY BECOME **ACTIONS**.
WATCH YOUR **ACTIONS**,
FOR THEY BECOME **HABITS**.
WATCH YOUR **HABITS**,
FOR THEY BECOME YOUR **CHARACTER**.
WATCH YOUR **CHARACTER**,
FOR IT BECOMES YOUR **DESTINY**.
**WHAT WE THINK,
WE BECOME.**

Fixing up the outside of the lodge

A big thanks to brother Frank Beard and son Travis, and brother Phil Howard for cutting down, cutting up and removing the fallen trees and brushes that have been blocking the bottom of our parking area and the rear vehicle exit. We have great brothers!





Thinking about renting an event space? Consider our Table Mountain Masonic Building



Our upstairs lodge room is impressive venue for a small to medium size wedding.



Our dining room works well for a reception, celebration or meeting.



Our big room seats over 300 people, and has hosted concerts, fairs, community meetings, celebrations, craft fairs, and musical events.



Questions and answers about Freemasonry

What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is a historical and a continuing movement that transcends national, language, ethnic, religious and political boundaries. Freemasonry is a fraternity that has adapted to the circumstances and conditions of each nation and region, and continues to adapt as needed. Thus, regular Freemasonry has many forms. However, all members, everywhere in the world, share the powerful belief that good men of faith, freely acting together as brothers, with tolerance and respect, and in accordance with sound ethics and virtues, can create and sustain positive social change and self-improvement. To accomplish these honorable goals, Freemasonry everywhere limits its membership to men who voluntarily and without coercion come to the fraternity sincerely seeking self-improvement and new opportunities to contribute to society. Members are provided guidance and symbolic tools to help them discipline their passions, moderate their behaviors, advance their understanding and expand their minds. They also receive instruction on moral, ethical and scientific principles which encourages the development of good habits and good citizenship. Through fellowship, members are provided examples of good behavior and of knowledgeable and logical thinkers. When members are faced with personal challenges, the brothers of the fraternity are there to advise, assist and even offer relief if it is within their power. The fraternity strives to assist public schools, communities and charitable organizations without fanfare and without thought of personal or organizational gain. Freemasonry adapts and has remained relevant throughout the ages and in all lands, and its core message is as powerful today as it was in the past.

Why do Freemasons use the term Great Architect of the Universe?

In Freemasonry we use many descriptions of God, and sometimes we just say God. Throughout the world, different religions, cultures and languages use or have used a wide variety of names and terms to describe God. Some names are generally associated with a specific religion or church, although their spelling and pronunciation might differ among members and branches. In the English language the word God most often refers to the one supreme deity. To be as inclusive of all religions, churches and cultures, and to be as non-offensive as possible, Freemasonry often uses some of the many elegant descriptions of God's nature, power or omnipotence. All religions use descriptions of God. Even the terms *father* and *almighty* are used to describe an element of our relationship to God or the power of God. The terms such as *Great Architect of the Universe*, *Architect of the Universe*, *Creator of the Universe*, *Divine Artist* and *Supreme Master* have been used in Judeo and Christian theology for at least a thousand years. Sometimes in our meetings or ceremonies we might also use the descriptor *Grand Master of the Universe*. However, at all times we are referring to the one supreme deity of all humankind, and doing so in a way that is acceptable to all Freemasons.

Masonic Formation

Editor: Self-discipline or self-control is the subject of this Masonic formation essay. Self-control, an aspect of inhibitory control, is the ability to regulate one's emotions, thoughts and behavior in the face of temptations and impulses. As an executive brain function (a higher level mental process), it is a cognitive process that is necessary for regulating one's behavior in order to achieve specific goals. A related concept in psychology is emotional self-regulation. Self-control is thought to be like a muscle, in that it strengthens with exercise. Classically, the virtue of self-control was usually called "continence".

Exercising Self-discipline

By Brother Todd E. Creason

Just like any muscle in the human body, character traits also grow stronger when they are exercised. Of these, I think most will agree that self-discipline is key to many of those most desirable traits. It's also the most difficult to master—if we ever really do master it. If you look at just a few of the virtues a Mason strives towards, temperance, fortitude, and prudence, you'll realize that without self-discipline there is little hope of making progress in any of those virtues.

Temperance is not about abstinence as many believe today, it's about moderation. It's about maintaining a balance, and applying due restraint to our passions so that we aren't tempted by the allurements of excess. Masons are taught to avoid excess in all things, and temperance is that virtue that reminds us to practice all things in moderation. That requires a level of self-discipline.

Fortitude is that virtue that provides us with strength. As we're taught, fortitude is that steady purpose of mind that enables us to withstand any pain, peril or danger. It allows us to stand strong in our words and deeds and not stray off the noble path. Again, this requires a mastery of self-discipline because standing strong in the face of danger or even criticism is a very difficult thing to do.

Prudence is a virtue closely related to both temperance and virtue. It is a virtue that helps us regulate our lives by applying reason and wisdom to any given situation to help to determine the proper path. It is the wisdom to know when to act, and when not to act. It is the wisdom to know when it is best to speak, and when it is best to remain silent. It is the wisdom to know when to fight, and when to flee. Prudence is the balance between temperance and fortitude. And without question, prudence requires a great deal of self-discipline.

I'm an impulsive person by nature—self-discipline is not something that has come easy to me.

It's something I've worked very hard on since I've become a Mason, and I've made tremendous progress over the last thirteen years. Much of the progress I've made is because I practice self-discipline every day.

I discovered early on in my life, that I do great at self-discipline until I'm tempted, or I was put under stress, or I was challenged in some way—then my self-discipline vanished in an instant. That's because I had self-discipline in theory only, but not in practice. I'd have a great day and meet all my diet and exercise goals, and then I'd drive by the Dairy Queen on the way home, and suddenly I'd be eating a peanut buster parfait. I'd stop by the tavern on the way home at 5 o'clock for "one beer" and I'd still be there at 10 o'clock (or later). I'd make an effort to control my temper, until somebody said something I didn't like and in a flash . . . well, you get the idea. So, I decided to teach myself self-discipline the same way I learned how to write books and play the piano. I practice it over and over again every day, and over time it becomes easier to apply in those situations when I'm tested.

I have a number of daily exercises I use. The purpose of these exercises is to challenge myself, and make myself pay particular attention to my words, my actions, and my attitudes in an area that I feel I need improvement in. I intentionally make myself live outside my comfort zone in different areas so that I can better handle myself in a proper manner when real challenges present themselves. Some of the daily challenges are fairly easy, but require me to think about one particular area for a day. Other challenges are very difficult for me, and I'll often have to repeat them for a few days in a row until I move on—and I'll go back to those again and again until they get easier to accomplish. Some of my challenges I'll set up to last a week. Some of my challenges involve diet and exercise. Some involve my interactions with other people. Some involve distractions that I need to eliminate. Some involve productivity. Some involve getting out of a rut I've found myself in. Some involve changing the way I think about things that repeatedly seem to irritate me. Patience is something I'm particularly challenged with at times, so those are exercises I go back to time and again. One thing you can be sure of, is that I'm working on something every day.

And it works. The more you exercise something, the stronger it gets—makes no difference if it's a muscle or a trait. And just like with athletes, the time they spend training and working out off the field prepares them for the challenges they face on the field. As I've said many times before, it's not just about doing Freemasonry, it's about living Freemasonry. A big part of Freemasonry is that idea of personal growth and self-improvement. You can learn the principles of Freemasonry from books, but you can only apply the principles of Freemasonry through practice in your daily life.

Freemasonry isn't three degrees and done. It's a lifetime commitment to keep chipping away throughout our entire lives on that rough ashlar.

Masonic Formation

Brother Ari Roussimoff - Masonic Artist

If you have looked for Masonic themed art you might have noticed that a great deal of what is available are reproductions of old Masonic art. Today, it is difficult to find a current artist employing Masonic themes. Ari Roussimoff is an acclaimed Russian-American painter. He also a prolific artist of Masonic themed paintings, some of them done on Masonic aprons. His paintings capture Russian, Ukrainian, Jewish and American images in fascinating fantasy-rich themes. Increasingly those are Masonic inspired themes.

Roussimoff has shared that while walking through cities in the U.S. and Europe, he was attracted to old buildings that incorporated mystical looking designs. Later he learned that those designs were often associated with Freemasonry, so he became curiosity about Freemasonry. He began to read everything he could find about Freemasonry. The Masonic symbols reminded him of some of the iconography in early Christian art, specifically in Eastern European Christian art. He noted that the All Seeing Eye of God was an important component of both Freemasonry and Christian art. He also became fascinated with the moral philosophies of Freemasonry, and awed by the abundance of its illustrious members, the great philosophers, leaders, authors, artists, musicians, philanthropists, scientists, inventors, poets, physicians. Eventually Roussimoff visited the Chancellor Robert R. Livingston Masonic Library & Museum of the Grand Lodge of New York in Manhattan. He was awed by the collection of materials and that they were generously made available to him.









International Freemasonry

Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland

Among knowledgeable people, Scotland is accepted as the true location where modern Freemasonry came into being. This is made abundantly clear at the website of the Grand Lodge of Scotland where it says, “Home of the oldest Masonic heritage in the world”. The website is well worth your time to visit. There is a lot that we can learn from Scottish Freemasonry. This is the link to it: <https://www.grandlodgescotland.com/> .

“The earliest known minutes of a Masonic Lodges dates to January 1599, and from Lodge Aitchison’s Haven in East Lothian, Scotland, which closed in 1852. Six months later, in July 1599, the lodge of Mary’s Chapel in Edinburgh started to keep Minutes. Many of which are available in the museum of the Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland, highlighting Lodges with the oldest masonic heritage in the world today.”

Scottish Freemasonry is not just in Scotland, instead it is a worldwide organization located in over 40 countries. The structure of the Grand Lodge of Scotland includes 32 Provincial Grand Lodges in Scotland, 26 District Grand Lodges overseas, two Superintendents overseeing Lodges in smaller territories and individual Lodges that are under the direct supervision of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.



Keeping in the tradition of Scottish independent thinking, Freemasonry in Scotland marches to a different drum. The Grand Master of the Scottish constitution bears the unique title Grand Master Mason, an office which has been held by distinguished members of Scottish society. However, unlike some other regular Masonic jurisdictions, all members, whatever their rank or position are addressed simply as “Brother”. “This differentiates Scottish Freemasonry from much of the other Masonic traditions and keeps to the true teaching of the Fraternity and being on the level”.

Another significant way that Scottish Freemasonry differs from Freemasonry in the US, is the amount of independence that each lodge has to differentiate itself by having slightly different rituals and maintaining their own traditions. Under the Scottish Constitution individual lodges are sovereign bodies in their own right, and thus have a considerable degree of control over their own affairs. Those many Scottish lodges that pre-existed any Grand Lodge zealously guarded their traditions, and retained their own procedures, regalia, and *distinctive rituals*. The Grand Lodge of Scotland having accepted the principle of independence of old Lodges, found it was impossible to deny Lodges founded after 1736 the same level of independence. Of course, the rituals used in the various lodge must contain the *principal points of each* degree. However, the allowance for elaboration is considerable, and as such there are numerous interesting variations. Additionally, Scottish lodges have the right to choose the colors of the lodge’s regalia, thus lodge meetings are very colorful, especially if visitors from other lodges are present. Some Scottish lodges incorporate traditional Scottish tartan patterns into their regalia. The colors reserved for Provincial Grand Lodges and Grand Lodge itself are green and gold, although some older lodges also have these colors.



Craft Lodges under the Scottish Masonic Constitution offer the three traditional Masonic degrees and the Mark degree as well as the rank of Past (or Installed) Master.



As in many other Masonic Constitutions, brethren in Scotland who have attained the degree of a Master Mason can choose to, or be invited to, extend their Masonic experience by taking further degrees in approved appendant bodies. Most Freemasons in Scotland choose to be advanced as Mark Master Masons after completing the three degrees of Craft Freemasonry. The Mark degree is considered to be a part of the Craft lodges. However, a smaller number Freemasons in Scotland subsequently apply to join the Holy Royal Arch and take their Mark degree in that body.



Editor's Note: I really like some of the different rules of Scottish Freemasonry. I like the idea that of all brothers, regardless of past positions or Grand Lodge positions are referred to as just brother. Currently there are a lot of Masonic titles in our jurisdiction that some brothers wear like medals. Honorifics are fine, but in my opinion their constant use detracts from our foundational principle of meeting as equals. I also like the idea of lodges having greater freedom to express their uniqueness by having unique customs and additions to the ceremonies and rituals. Scottish Freemasonry appears to understand that standardization is not a solution to anything, instead it can be merely the illusion of progress. Allowing more innovation and uniqueness can lead to identifying improvements for broader application.



Quotes suitable for Masonic Reflection

“Freemasonry teaches not merely temperance, fortitude, prudence, justice, brotherly love, relief, and truth, but also liberty, equality, and fraternity, and it denounces ignorance, superstition, bigotry, lust, tyranny and despotism.”

Brother Theodore Roosevelt

“I ask of each Mason, of each member, of each brother, that he shall remember ever that there is upon him a peculiar obligation to show himself in every respect a good citizen; for after all, the way he can best do his duty by the ancient order to which he belongs is by reflecting credit upon that order by way in which he performs his duty as a citizen of the United States.”

Brother Theodore Roosevelt

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

Brother Theodore Roosevelt

"A thorough knowledge of the Bible is sometime worth more than a college education."

Brother Theodore Roosevelt

“Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty... I have never in my life envied a human being who led an easy life. I have envied a great many people who led difficult lives and led them well.”

Brother Theodore Roosevelt



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

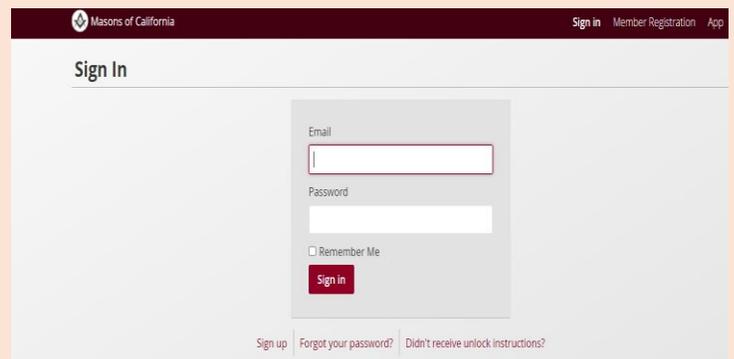
The 150 History of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge # 124

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

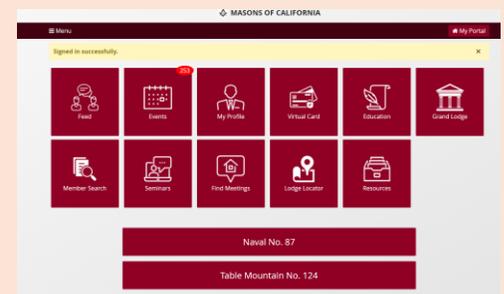
To print your dues card. Using your computer, open your browser and go to <https://freemason.org/>. In the right corner, push “member sign in”

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.



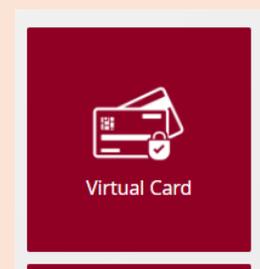
This will be the page you see after signing in.

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>

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

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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.