

TABLE MOUNTAIN MASONIC LODGE # 124

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>

***November 2023 Journal and Trestleboard
Vol 3, Issue 11.***

The Master's Thoughts

A Masonic lodge is not a dictatorship, never has been. It was never intended to be one and it should never become one. Instead it is an organization ruled by a constitution and by-laws, with elected leaders (pedestal officers) and appointed officers, where money is allocated by vote, and things are accomplished through formal and ad hoc teams of volunteers. A Masonic lodge is a model of a republic (*where supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives and operating under a constitution that defines and limits individual and officials powers*). This model of organization works well only as long as the members actively and respectfully participate in its governance while keeping in mind the good of the organization and its foundational principles. However, if the membership fails to actively and respectfully participate, or they cannot be candid in expressing their thoughts and opinions, then the republic is doomed to become victim of the vagaries of tyranny, whether by one individual or a small group. This leads to severe organizational distress, further loss of participation and general dissatisfaction.

I am extremely thankful that the brothers of Table Mountain Lodge are the most active, involved and respectfully candid of any lodge or organization that I have seen in many years. I attribute the success of our lodge in rebuilding and becoming what we are today entirely to their initiative and confidence in the participative process. In a world beset with polarizing and dysfunctional disagreement, I always leave our lodge meetings encouraged and reinvigorated by the example set by our brothers.

In Freemasonry we have a phrase that refers to having no competition within the lodge except who can best agree and best work. Being *agreeable* is certainly a laudable concept because it implies being enjoyable, pleasant, cheerful and nice. However, being agreeable is not a virtue when it manifests as apathy, lack of participation, agreeing just to avoid disagreement, a lack of candor, lack of courage, surrendering one's values or ethics or sacrificing the good of the lodge to placate one or a few members. Being agreeable should never become an ethical or character weakness, for if it does both the individual and the lodge can be manipulated. It is incumbent on every Mason to find his way of being agreeable, yet always honest, forthright, respectfully candid and yet never surrendering a principle. The absolute truth is for any organization to survive and thrive, including a Masonic lodge, the members must learn how to respectfully disagree and respectfully accommodate disagreement.

Table of Contents

Page 3 - Calendar

Page 4 - Officers, Committees, Liaisons

Page 5 - Sept 2 Stated Meeting

Page 8 - Facebook update

Page 9 - Outdoor and Evening 3rd Degree

Page 15 - Questions about Freemasonry

Page 16 - Again, Freemasonry is not a religion!

Why is this difficult for some people to grasp?

Page 19 - ChatGPT (AI) and Freemasonry

Page 27 - Keeping your passions within due bounds.

Page 28 - Freemasonry in Malta

Page 32 - Quotes for Masonic Reflection

Page 33 - Miscellaneous

Page 35 - Contact Information

Calendar of Events

Table Mountain Masonic Lodge

- 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, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- Dec 3, Sunday, breakfast for Rainbow girls
- Dec 19, Tuesday, 1st Degree, starting at 6 pm.
- Jan 6, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- Jan 20, 2024, Saturday at 1pm – Lodge Installation and Hiram Award ceremonies.

Other Important Dates in 2024.

- 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** –A new chapter is being established at Table Mountain Lodge to serve the ridge communities. More information will be forthcoming.
- **Rainbow** – November 6 and 20 at 7 pm at the Chico Masonic center.
- **Ben Ali Shrine, Sacramento** – [Ben Ali Shrine - Ben Ali Shrine](#) .
- **Golden Feather Eastern Star** (Paradise and Oroville) -November 1 in Oroville at 7 pm, November 18 Installation of Officers in Oroville at 2pm.
- **Scottish Rite** – November 21, Stated Meeting at 6 pm followed by dinner, 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 Market at TMMC**, Every Saturday, from 8 am to noon
- **The Paradise Gun Show** – Feb 24 - 25, 2024
- **Rod and Gun Club** – 1st Wed at 6 pm. General membership 3rd Thurs at 6:30 pm.

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

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

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

Building and Room Rentals

2023 Officers of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge

Master – Doug Campbell - Phone: 530-519-1695, dgcphd@gmail.com
Senior Warden– 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
Officers coach - Woody Nelson, Phone: 916-202-6942, woody@wolfranchfarm.com

Committees and Liaisons

Investments Committee

Woody Nelson PM, Caleb Chinn PM and
Steve Kane

Building Association

Phil Howard, Frank Beard, Justin (Oso) Harju,
Woody Nelson (PM) - ex officio, and
Doug Campbell - ex officio

Relief Committee

Woody Nelson PM, Bob McElroy and
Brian Grandfield PM

DeMolay Advisory Council

Brian Grandfield PM, Ehren Hawkins, Woody Nelson
PM, Frank Beard, Cole Hamilton, Lisa Hamilton, Rich
Gingery, and Doug Campbell.

Liaisons to Rainbow

Tara Campbell

Liaison to Butte College

Juston Purcell PM

Liaison to Paradise Chamber of Commerce

Tara Purcell

Liaison to the Community Market

Cole Hamilton
Paul Colvin

Social Media representative

Cole Hamilton, Tyler Freeman

Liaisons to the Schools

Rich Gingery, Matt Sutter and
Cole Hamilton

Liaisons to Magalia Parks Association

Rich Gingery and Phil Howard

Liaison to Kirshner Wildlife Sanctuary

Woody Nelson PM, and Frank Beard

Liaison to the Food Bank

Woody Nelson PM

Liaison to the Shriners Hospital

Woody Nelson PM

Liaison to Behavioral Health

Woody Nelson PM

Director of Communications

Tyler Freeman

October 7, 2023 – Stated Meeting

At 1 pm, Saturday Oct 7, the brothers and guests met for a tasty lunch prepared and provided by brother Paul Colvin. There was great attendance, including some of our ladies and other family members, and as normal for our lodge there was lots of good fellowship. Please note that there is never any charge for lunch.

Then at 2 pm, Table Mountain Masonic Lodge opened on the 1st degree of Masonry, for the purpose of conducting the Oct 2023 stated meeting business. After the formal opening ceremony, our Secretary Brian Grandfield (PM) read the minutes of the previous stated meeting and special meetings. The minutes were then duly approved. The lodge then moved to the business of hearing a degree examination. Brother Paul Colvin satisfactorily completed a long form 1st degree examination, assisted by his coach brother Cole Hamilton. Afterwards brother Colvin was congratulated on his accomplishment.

The Master then took the opportunity to thank the brothers for their hard work on the outdoor lodge, and congratulated them on an excellent outdoor and evening 3rd degree. The Master then directed our newest Master Mason, brother Stephen James to meet him West of the alter where he presented brother James the coin and hat of our lodge. After returning to the East, the Master also thanked brother Paul Colvin for our stated meeting lunch.

The Master then reminded the brothers that elections would be held at the November stated meeting for the elected 2024 lodge officers.

The treasurer's report was then presented by brother Paul Colvin, who was standing in for brother Rich Gingery who was unable to attend. The Master then gave an accounting of the expenses and income from the dinner associated with putting on the outdoor degree. The Lodge's account total was rather large due to receipt of a significant donation, there was a discussion of its use and management. It was decided that a portion would be given to the building association for repairs and improvements to increase building rentals. Another portion of the money would be deposited in our investments to replace money that had been previously drawn from the investments, and the remainder of the money would remain in our checking account to transition us into 2024 until dues were received. Then all the bills were presented by the secretary and the lodge paid the bills.

The Master then announced the suspension of one brother who is 3 years in arrears and showing no effort or interest in paying.

Then the brothers heard that Brother Bob McElroy was still recovering from his ankle and leg injury in the rehabilitation facility, and also that several brothers and family members were entirely well today. Brother Beard, having assumed the position of Chaplain for the remainder of 2023, agreed to send cards to each of them.

The lodge then turned to the reports of committees. After the reports of the building association and school committee, two important discussions took place. The first was of the need to move forward with urgency ordering the materials and plagues for the April 18, 2024, Grand Lodge stone laying ceremony at one of the schools, and Sept 7, 2024, Grand Lodge re-dedication of our lodge. The second discussion involved establishing our own DeMolay Chapter on the ridge. The lodge voted to strongly support such an effort.

Regarding the pending donation to the School District in support of music programs, the brothers were informed that a tentative plan has been developed, but we are awaiting final concurrence from the district superintendent.

Brother Paul Colvin gave a short report on the produce market. Currently it is profitable for those vendors that choose to participate.

Brother Woody updated the brothers on the current plans for the very large scale model trains and track set that was donated. He is working with the Shrine Hospital on a final plan.

The Master reviewed the calendar of future events. He reminded the lodge that the next 2nd degree would be Tuesday October 24 and be a multiple one. Also, that officers would be at advanced stations so that they will qualify for the 2024 installation.

The brothers were reminded that the newest candidate is still deployed out-of-state fighting fires with no assured return date. However, his 1st degree is tentatively scheduled for December 19, Tuesday, starting at 6 pm. Officers will again be at advanced stations so that they will qualify for the 2024 installation. The status of our Entered Apprentices were briefly discussed.

Also, Brother Paul Colvin was thanked for providing lunch, and brother Frank Beard was also thanked for volunteering to provide the November stated meeting lunch. The lodge was then ritually closed, brotherly love prevailing.



Visit our Table Mountain Masonic Lodge Facebook Sites: Our Group and our Market pages

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



FREE 5 YEAR CAMPFIRE MEMORIAL
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
COME TOGETHER
AT SUNRISE

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

DOORS OPEN @ 6:30 AM

LIVE HARPIST
BRENDA LOCKIE KNIGHT

BEAUTIFUL WOOD CARVING
BY LOCAL ARTISAN COLE HAMILTON

PARADISE
ART EXHIBIT DISPLAY

TABLE MOUNTAIN MASONIC LODGE
5934 CLARK ROAD
PARADISE, CA 95969

BREAKFAST INCLUDES
PANCAKES, EGGS,
HASHBROWNS
COFFEE & ORANGE JUICE
6:30 AM - 10:30 AM

COME BACK @ 6:30 PM

FOR AN EVENING
90 MIN CANDLE LIGHT SOUNDBATH
COURTESY OF 432 SOUND



For more details, feel free to contact Tara@pirategypsy.love 530-354-1573

Congratulations to a Masonic spouse

We extend our congratulations to Virginia (Gina) Gingery, wife of Rich Gingery our lodge treasurer. She has been appointed to serve as a Judge in the Butte County Superior Court. She has served as a Commissioner at the Butte County Superior Court since 2021 and was a Research Attorney there from 2019 to 2021. Gina has served as a Professor at Cal Northern School of Law since 2018. She served as a Deputy County Counsel in the Butte County Counsel's Office from 2015 to 2019 and was a Sole Practitioner from 2013 to 2015. Gingery was an Associate at the Law Office of Gregory P. Einhorn from 2008 to 2013. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from Cal Northern School of Law. Gingery fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Sandra L. McLean.

In addition to her legal accomplishments, Gina has been a significant help to our lodge and to Freemasonry in Butte County. She has assisted with many of our lodge events and with DeMolay. She has two sons currently in DeMolay and recently their daughter was initiated into the International Order of Rainbow for Girls. Her husband Rich Gingery, a well-known community leader, is an officer in our lodge, an active Shriner, and is a DeMolay advisor.



Supporting the Schools Music Programs

On October 14, Brother Doug Campbell the Master of our lodge attended the Paradise School District Board of Trustees meeting to present a check for \$1000 to the school district. This money will be used to support the music education programs. Specifically, it will be used for the much needed repair and maintenance of the district's musical instruments. This donation was made in honor of our recently deceased brother Tom Vandegrift, a well known and longtime resident of Paradise and a noted musician. Standing to the right of Brother Campbell is Brother Rich Gingery, treasurer of our lodge and a member of the School District Board of Trustees.



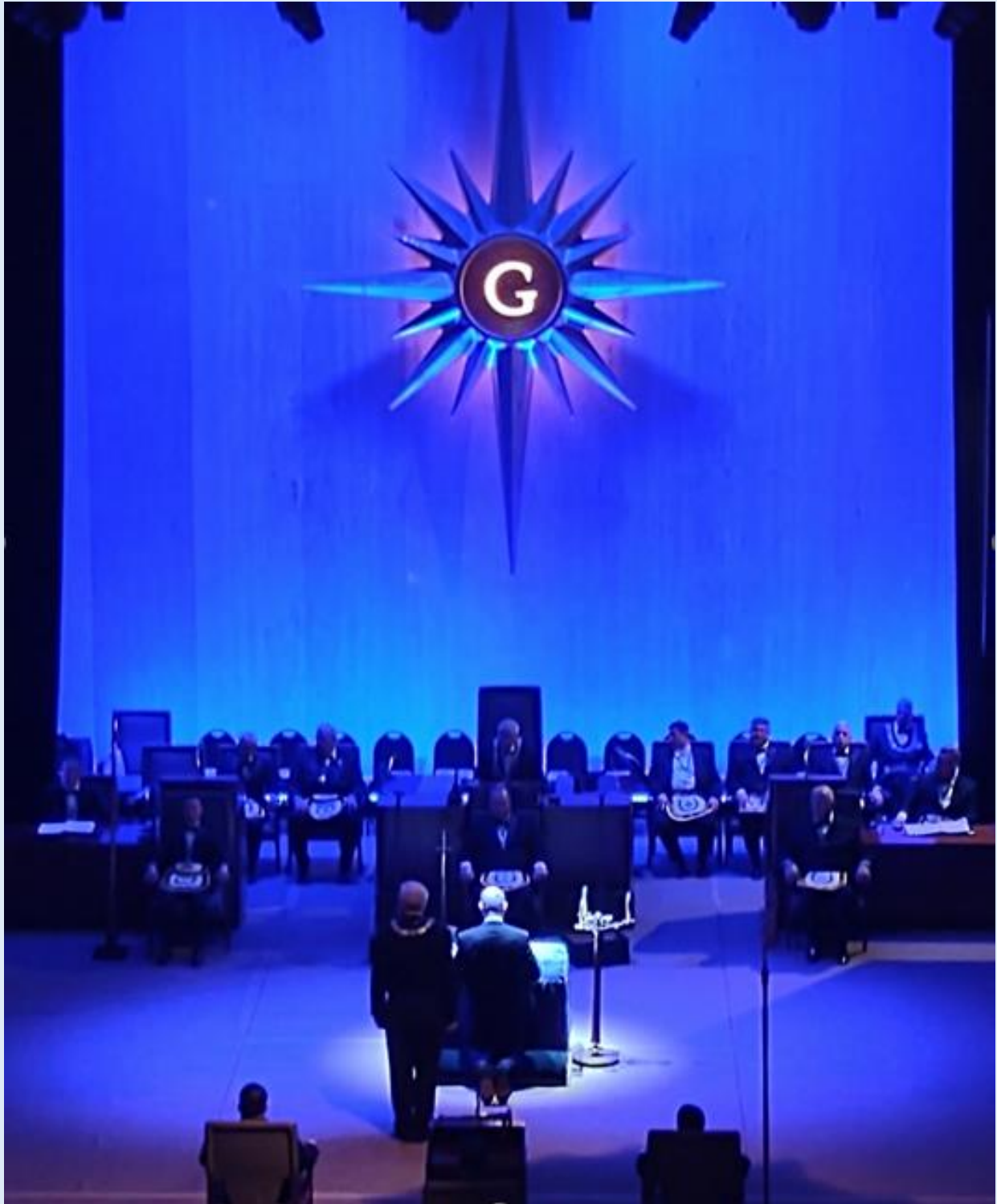
Multiple 2nd Degree

On Tuesday Oct 24, we passed three of our brothers to the degree of Fellowcraft Mason. They were brothers Jeff Vandegrift, Paul Colvin, and Greg Leal. All officers served at advanced stations. Brother Ehren Hawkins served as Master, Juston Purcell (PM) as Senior Warden, Cole Hamilton as Junior Warden, Justin (Oso) Harju as Senior Deacon, Don Powell as Junior Deacon, Rich Gingery as Treasurer, Glenn Story (PM) as Chaplain, Woody Nelson (PM) as Secretary, Matt Sutter as Marshall, Phil Howard as Senior Steward, Caleb Chinn (PM) as Junior Steward, Doug Campbell as Musician, and Steve James as Tiler. The degree was performed in tux with white gloves and music, thereby honoring our older traditions. We were joined by brothers from the Oroville and Chico lodges. Afterwards there were refreshments and chocolate cake.



Grand Lodge Event

The Grand Lodge of California held its Grand Communications event on Oct 27–29, in San Francisco at the Grand Lodge Center in San Francisco. Approximately 1,800 of California's 40,000 Freemasons were present .



Our own **Hannah Ray** of the Chico-Paradise Rainbow Assembly #204 was also recognized at the recent Grand Lodge of California meeting. Hannah is the Grand Worthy Advisor of California, International Order of Rainbow for Girls. In the below picture she is in the middle in the red hoop dress. The others in the photo are the senior leaders of DeMolay and Jobs' Daughters.



Review of the video “Secrets of the Masons”

Secrets of the Masons is a 2018 film that is currently available on Amazon Prime Video. This 58 minute video is suitable for all audiences. The film makers were allowed into the Grand Masonic Lodge of Scotland, in Edinburgh. They were given extensive access to the building, and to members. The film gives a complete history of Freemasonry in Scotland, and a real feel for the traditions of our Scottish brethren, their current state and efforts. Perhaps the only legitimate criticism of the video is that it ends on a bit of a down note.

By reviewing the available records and facts, the video completely puts an end to the claim that Freemasonry, as we know, began in England in 1717 with the advent of a Grand Lodge. The evidence is clearly overwhelming that Freemasonry was complete and operating in Scotland in the 1600s, truly beginning in 1594. The video acknowledges and addresses all the common misrepresentations and silly fears about Freemasonry over many years. The history of fraternity, as explained in the video makes more sense than almost anything else that I have seen or read.

Some of the Scottish traditions and ceremonies displayed in the video would be familiar to any American Freemason, but their explanation of it sometimes differs from ours. Also the Scottish regalia is similar but more extensive and certainly more formal. I want to emphasize that their ceremonies are not based on what we the US refer to as the Scottish Rite. Instead, the ceremonies and organization of the Scottish lodges are different and in some cases predates the Grand Lodge of England.

The video also addressed some of the key historical figures and events of Scottish Freemasonry, including Robert Burns and the first royal charter in 1660. There is an interesting discussion of how the lodges served as meeting places for very talented people to share their ideas and work, and often find support.

There is an interesting description of the after lodge meeting event known as the *Harmony*, where the brothers stay, have drink (yes alcohol), eat, play music and sing. There might even be a few toasts. At one point the United States is humorously referred to as the United Masonic States of American, in recognition of our nation’s Masonic foundations. When the Scottish Grand Master visits the Washington D.C. Grand Lodge installation, the lessor formality of American Freemasonry is emphasized. For example, in Scotland all installations are closed and tiled meetings.

There is also a discussion of where some of the original opposition and conspiracy ideas about Freemasonry came from and the suffering endured by Freemasons. The video is well worth an hour of time.

Questions and Answers about Freemasonry

What happens during the initiation ceremony into Freemasonry?

While we informally refer to it as an initiation, it is instead the first of three educational learning experiences, which we call degrees, that a candidate must complete to receive the full rights and benefits of our ancient and honorable worldwide fraternity. The degrees are *Entered Apprentice*, *Fellowcraft* and lastly *Master Mason*. The degree ceremonies are ancient, beautiful, profound and filled with symbolism. Candidates are often deeply moved and profoundly affected by each degree. Each ceremony is presented by a team of brothers that have long practiced to perfect the experiences, lessons and lectures of each degree. This three stage educational and developmental process is not a passive activity. Instead, each candidate will be an active part of each ceremony, he must respond to questions, follow instructions, verbally repeat information, demonstrate proficiency and memorize important and profound information that he will present from memory at a future meeting. This is a proven process for inculcating values, principles, virtues and profound understandings which in time can result in beneficial and significant personal change. Thus, we say that we strive to make good men, better men.

Why do Freemasons dress up for the ceremonies?

For social activities, practices, classes and charity work, for the most part Freemasons dress casually. However, we still have some symbolic regalia that we wear in meetings and ceremonies, such as the Master's top hat, and each officer's jewels symbolizing the duties of his office. For the most part what members wear to lodge will align with the standards and norms of their local community.

Are there differences between Masonic lodges?

While there is a common philosophical thread within all *regular* Freemasonry around the world, there are differences in ceremonies, content and practices. Within the English speaking nations the forms of Freemasonry are primarily derived from the Scottish and English models. Within the U.S., from state to state, there are mostly small differences in the ceremonies and practices. However, a Freemason from one nation or state is entirely welcome in a lodge anywhere. There are also some differences between lodges that reflect the uniqueness and culture of their community, nation and their circumstances. In the U.S. the demographics of a lodge will generally reflect the community where they are located. Some lodges are rather casual in dress, and in other lodges there is an informal dress code that encourages business dress. Additionally, the activities of any particular lodge reflects the interests of the members, the needs of the community and the resources available.

Masonic Formation

Helping Good men become better men

It has been wisely said that *just doing good works will not make someone a good man, but a good man will naturally want to do good works*. This is very true. Very flawed people will often make a show of doing charity to improve their reputation or for personal gain. While they may temporarily improve their reputation, it does not correct their character flaws. It has been repeated for many years that the purpose of Freemasonry is to *help good men become better men*. It is the phrase that speaks to the primary purpose of our fraternity. Freemasonry gives men the path and opportunity to address their character flaws, and as a result become a better man who contributes to their community without fanfare or need of personal recognition.

Why then is the phrase that best describes our purpose not present on our Grand Lodge website? Instead under the heading of *Freemasonry explained* the first benefit listed is *True Friendship*. It says:

“Masonry offers a combination that’s hard to find anywhere else: shared traditions, shared purpose, and a shared commitment to fostering lifelong relationships.”

While true, it is also true that people can find traditions, shared purpose, share commitment and good friends in many types of voluntary organizations. True Friendships are not unique to Freemasonry, and therefore finding true friendship should not be the primary goal of someone seeking to join Freemasonry. Additionally in the Grand Lodge website is the following:

“Freemasonry has enhanced and strengthened the character of individual men by providing opportunities for fellowship, charity, and the search for truth – within ourselves and the larger world.”

Freemasonry does enhance and strengthen character; however, in the above statement *the sequence is inverted*. Fellowship and charity are not the primary drivers of good character. Instead the development of good character leads to brotherhood with men of good character, and naturally to charitable aspirations. A focus on building character must come first, and that is what the Masonic degree process is about.

A man joining Freemasonry primarily for fellowship and charitable projects will find himself facing the difficult process of moving through the degrees. He might question if negotiating such a challenging process is worth it just to have new friends and help with charitable projects. This might be the reason that lodges report many initiated men do not complete even their first examination and fade away from the fraternity. In our lodge, most of the men completing a petition for degrees are already friends of members of ours or another Masonic lodge. They are clearly not seeking friendship but instead wish to complete the process that will help them be more like their Masonic friends that they admire.

Instead our Lodge's website has the following:

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

Additionally, our lodge website candidly addresses our membership requirements, standards of behavior and the degree process. In phone conversations or face to face meetings with interested men, we practice the same complete transparency.

There are three educational learning experiences and proficiencies, which we call degrees, that you must complete to become a Master Mason and receive the full rights and benefits of our ancient and honorable worldwide fraternity. The degrees are Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and lastly Master Mason. The degree ceremonies are ancient, beautiful, profound and filled with symbolism. Initiates are often deeply moved and profoundly affected by each degree.

We want men for Freemasonry who desire to improve themselves and their communities, and can understand that personal improvement, growth, knowledge, brotherhood and achievement only comes through difficult personal effort. We must explain to them that Freemasonry is an *opportunity* and that what they will get membership in Freemasonry will only equal their efforts to learn and apply what we have to teach them. We want Masons who will strive to fully take advantage of the opportunities within Freemasonry.

The fact that today fewer men take advantage of that opportunity is partially a reflection of our modern society that seems to communicate the ethics, morals, character and lasting relationship are less important than wealth, notoriety, material possessions and personal power. However, there are still many men, that you know, who truly want to improve themselves, instead of just their bank balance or public image. These are men that we need to communicate with about Freemasonry.

I am convinced that our lodge's practice of defining the focus of Freemasonry as helping good men becoming better men, better husbands, better father, better citizens and better friends, along with our upfront transparency about the degree process and examinations, is what has attracted the right men to our lodge. Good men appreciate transparency, seek challenge and don't value that which comes too easily. While we may be a small lodge, for the third year in a row we have all positions installed and brothers waiting to enter the line. We have future Masters in line for every year through 2029, and no repeat Masters in the group. All of them joined our lodge within the last 5 years. We are doing it right!

Masonic Formation

A life worth living

This story about Socrates, the ancient Greek philosopher, is still very instructive. Socrates (469-399 BCE) grew up in Athens over two and a half thousand years ago. At that time, the Athenians had a form of democracy which required all healthy men below a certain age to serve in the army in time of war. Although already well known and no longer young, Socrates served in their army during the war between Athens and the city states of Corinth and Potidaea.

On the morning of the day prior to the bloody battle of Potidaea, his fellow soldiers found Socrates standing still outside of their tents, where he seemed transfixed by some problem or question whose answer eluded him. He did not speak, eat or respond to questions. An entire day passed and Socrates still did not move. Curious to see how long Socrates could keep this up, his fellow soldiers moved their bedrolls so they could keep watch on him during the night. It was not until dawn the next morning that Socrates said a prayer and proceeded to his military duties.

We can never truly know what Socrates was thinking about, but after standing still and thinking, he appears to have become invigorated. It was recorded that in the battle that followed, Socrates fought with such a fierceness and bravery that he exemplified true courage and at one point saved an Athenian commander's life.

I suspect that Socrates was trying to decide how he would behave in the coming battle. He was weighing his ethics and values against the reality of the situation. Would he choose timidity or courage, restraint or commitment, doubt or confidence. In making these choices he was deciding who he truly wanted to be. He was deciding what was going to make his life worth living. These are decisions that many of our veterans, and public safety officers, have had to make. However, everyone may face such a situation many times in their lives. And the answer that a person chooses will define who they really are, and if answered wisely can provide enhanced meaning to their lives.

Every day, what we say we believe and who we say are, we are ethically tested by the reality of life challenges and the people around us. How we choose to act, respond and the path we take can invigorate our spirits and give greater meaning to our lives; or suck the value and fun of living out of our hearts.

Experiencing a life that is truly worth living is a personal choice. People throughout the ages, living in discomfort and even under horrendous threats, have made the choice to live a worthwhile life. To rise above the mere survival or pleasure that lower life forms crave, and to

instead live as a thinking, caring and growing higher order human. They made the choice of the next step or action, and thereby defined their values and standards of honor and behavior.

Freemasonry provides us with touchstones to guide our decisions and actions in the toughest of times. Fortitude, prudence, temperance, and justice, often referred to as the Cardinal Virtues, are our touchstones. These virtues have also played a significant role in moral philosophy and ethical thinking in various traditions, including in ancient Greek philosophy and Christian theology. They are seen as fundamental qualities that help individuals lead virtuous and morally upright lives, which are lives worth living. Here's a brief overview of each.

Fortitude, also known as courage, is the virtue that enables individuals to confront fear, pain, danger, uncertainty, or any other form of adversity with a sense of bravery and inner strength. It is the ability to stand firm in the face of challenges and maintain one's moral and ethical principles. In Freemasonry, fortitude is symbolized by a pillar or column, often representing strength and courage. It encourages Masons to face adversity and challenges with strength and moral courage, maintaining their principles and integrity in the face of difficulty.

Prudence is the virtue of making sound and wise decisions. It involves the ability to judge and choose correctly in various situations, considering the long-term consequences of one's actions. Prudent individuals are thoughtful, rational, and exercise good judgment. Prudence is represented in Freemasonry by the all-seeing eye or the open book, symbolizing wisdom and careful judgment. Masons are encouraged to make wise and well-considered decisions, not only in their personal lives but also in their interactions within the Masonic fraternity and society at large.

Temperance, or self-control, is the virtue of moderation and restraint. It involves managing one's desires and impulses and avoiding excessive or harmful behaviors. Temperance helps individuals find balance in their lives, particularly when dealing with pleasures and desires. Freemasons are taught to exercise self-restraint and moderation in their actions, avoiding excesses and leading a balanced and harmonious life.

Justice is the virtue of giving each person their due. It involves treating others fairly and impartially and upholding principles of fairness and equity in social and moral contexts. Justice is often associated with concepts of rights, responsibilities, and the rule of law. Justice is a fundamental concept in Freemasonry. Masons are taught to be just and fair in their dealings with others, to treat all individuals equally, and to uphold principles of fairness and equity.

These virtues, along with other moral and ethical teachings, are intended to guide Freemasons in their personal development and their interactions with others. Freemasonry places a strong emphasis on moral and ethical values, and these virtues serve as a foundation for the moral teachings and self-improvement that Freemasonry encourages among its members.

Masonic Formation

Charity and Relief – What do they mean for Freemasons.

Charity and Relief are both Masonic virtues, and in our ceremonies are addressed as two separate things. The reason for this is that originally the word *charity* referred to a perspective and certain courtesies toward others. It primarily manifested as refrain from making assumptions and judgements about others. Also by recognizing that everyone has their own struggles and challenges, and their bad moments. It is really a form of tolerance and self-control with others when they are not at their best, or acting in accordance with our expectations. Today this form of charity falls under the heading of show courtesy. *Courtesy* refers to polite and respectful behavior, often characterized by good manners, politeness, and consideration for others. It involves demonstrating respect for social norms and customs and treating people with kindness regardless of their social or economic condition. Of course Freemasons shown be renowned for their courteous behavior.

The word *relief* once referred to giving or sharing materials or finance with someone in need. Today the common usage of charity primarily encompasses the definition of relief. A modern definition of a charitable person is someone who embodies the qualities of generosity, kindness, and a willingness to help others in need. This article addresses (1) the characteristics of charitable people, (2) the benefits of being charitable; and (3) the limits of charity.

The characteristics of charitable people.

As you can see the older definitions of charity and relief combined into the current concept. Being charitable is more than just giving money to causes or organizations; it encompasses a broader set of virtues and actions that contribute to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

- **Non-Judgment:** They refrain from making assumptions about others. They recognize that everyone has their own struggles and challenges, and their bad moments.
- **Generosity:** A charitable person is generous with their time, resources, and compassion. They are willing to share with deserving others, whether it's financial or material assistance , knowledge, or just emotional support.
- **Compassion:** Charitable individuals feel empathy with others that are suffering or having difficulties. They genuinely care about the well-being of people and may be moved to help when they see someone in need.
- **Volunteerism:** Charitable individuals often engage in volunteer work or community service. They often donate their time and effort to causes they believe in, without expecting anything in return.
- **Philanthropy:** Charitable people may also contribute financially to charitable organizations, non-profits, or causes that align with their values and priorities. They understand the importance of financial support in making a positive impact.

- **Acts of Kindness:** Small acts of kindness are a hallmark of a charitable person. They may perform random acts of kindness, such as holding the door for someone, helping a neighbor, or offering a listening ear to a friend in distress.
- **Supportive:** A charitable person may offer support to those facing difficulties or crises by providing encouragement, advice, or assistance.
- **Selflessness:** Charitable individuals often prioritize the needs of others over their own desires or personal gain.
- **Respectful:** They treat all individuals with respect, regardless of differences in background, culture, or beliefs.

Being charitable is not limited to specific acts or gestures; it is a way of life that involves a genuine desire to make the world a better place for others. Charitable individuals often find personal fulfillment and a sense of purpose in their efforts to improve the lives of those around them.

The benefits of being charitable.

Being charitable and helping others can have a wide range of personal and psychological benefits, not only for the recipients of your kindness but also for you as the giver. Here are some of the possible personal and psychological benefits of being charitable:

- **Increased Happiness:** Acts of kindness and generosity often trigger the release of dopamine and endorphins, chemicals associated with happiness. This can lead to an immediate boost in mood and a sense of well-being.
- **Reduced Stress:** Engaging in charitable activities can lower stress levels. Helping others and focusing on their needs can shift your attention away from your own worries and problems.
- **Enhanced Self-Esteem:** Acts of charity can boost your self-esteem and self-worth. Knowing that you have made a positive impact on someone else's life can provide a sense of accomplishment and validation.
- **Improved Mental Health:** Being charitable is linked to improved mental health outcomes, including reduced symptoms of depression and anxiety. It can promote a sense of purpose and reduce feelings of isolation.
- **Greater Life Satisfaction:** Engaging in charitable activities often leads to a greater sense of life satisfaction and fulfillment. It can provide a deeper sense of meaning and purpose.
- **Strengthened Relationships:** Refraining from making assumptions about others and acts of kindness can strengthen relationships with friends, family, and the community. It fosters a sense of connection and bonding, and it can be a shared experience that brings people closer together.
- **Increased Resilience:** Helping others can enhance your ability to cope with adversity and bounce back from setbacks. It builds emotional resilience and can provide a buffer against the negative effects of stress.

- **Positive Outlook:** Engaging in charitable acts can promote a more positive and optimistic outlook on life.
- **Personal Growth:** Charitable activities can foster personal growth and development. They may challenge you to learn new skills, and broaden your perspective on the world.
- **Longevity:** Some studies suggest that being charitable is associated with increased longevity. Acts of kindness and a sense of purpose may contribute to a longer, healthier life.
- **Reduction in Negative Emotions:** Engaging in charitable acts can reduce emotions such as anger, resentment, jealousy and can promote a more positive emotional state.
- **Altruistic Satisfaction:** Many people experience a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment from helping others selflessly. This sense of altruistic satisfaction can be deeply rewarding.

It's important to note that the psychological benefits of charity can vary from person to person, and not every act of kindness will have an immediate positive impact. However, over time, a pattern of charitable behavior can contribute to a more positive and fulfilling life.

The limits of charity

There are ethical and practical limitations to one's charitable practices. Time and resources are always limited. Your true intention is important to know if you are seeking to be a better man. Each of you should consider the following questions before beginning:

- 1) Are you contributing to charitable causes primarily because you feel empathy for the plight of others, or primarily because you are seeking selfish personal pleasure (as describe in the above benefits of being charitable)? *This is likely the most difficult question and the most important question to honestly answer. "Both" is not an acceptable answer. Each of us need to be fully honest with ourselves about what we do and why? Ultimately, your answer may dictate your future actions.*
- 2) Does your charity contributions or work facilitate or encourage bad or good behavior on the part of the recipients?
- 3) How do can you be reasonably sure that your best intentions don't result in negative outcomes?
- 4) Does your charitable efforts encourage or enable the recipients to accept personal responsibility for rising out of their situation?
- 5) Will your charitable efforts contribute to a 1) long term solution, 2) short term solution; or 3) no solution?
- 6) Is your time better spent helping individuals, small groups or large organizations?
- 7) Is your time better spent on individuals, small social causes or large social causes?
- 8) What skills to you have that you can leverage to help those in distress?
- 9) What are your real priorities in life, and how can you best realize them?
- 10) Where and how is your time and resources best spent?

International Freemasonry

Freemasonry in Armenia

Armenia is both a civilization and nation. Existing in the mountainous Caucasus region between Asia and Europe, its fortunes have waxed and waned over many centuries. It is among the earliest Christian nations. It has been a separate kingdom, and a part of various empires. At the end of the first world war it was briefly again independent before being swallowed by the former Soviet Union. With the fall of the Soviet Union it once again has gained its independence, yet it lives a perilous existence located between Russia, Turkey and Azerbaijan.



Armenia's difficult history has left holes in its history of Freemasonry. The earliest recorded reference to Armenian Freemasonry is when a certain "Dr Dionysius Manasse was appointed Provincial Grand Master of Armenia by the M.W. Grand Master Earl Ferrers in 1764, under the English Constitution." While there appeared to be at least one Masonic lodge in Armenia during the 18th century, it wasn't until the 19th century that Freemasonry became significant in Armenia. During the 19th century Armenia was part of the Russian Empire. The earliest recorded Masonic lodges in Armenia were established in the 1820s and 1830s mostly following Russian Masonic traditions. During this time Masonic lodges appeared in major Armenian cities such as Yerevan, Tiflis and Alexandropol. These lodges were often composed of both Armenians and non-Armenians who were living in the region. Freemasonry in Armenia played a role in fostering cultural and intellectual exchange. Members of these lodges engaged in discussions on various topics, including philosophy and science. It provided a platform for Armenians to interact with people from different backgrounds and share ideas.

During the Soviet era, from the 1920s to the 1980s, Freemasonry was banned and Masonic activities were forced underground. However, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Freemasonry began to experience a revival in Armenia, with new lodges forming in the 1990s and beyond.

The Grand Lodge of Armenia was consecrated in the capital city of Yerevan, Armenia, on July 30, 2002. The Grand Lodge of Armenia was consecrated by three Grand Lodges and their respective Grand Masters (Grande Loge National Française, Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, USA, and the Grand Lodge of Russia). The National Grand Lodge of Romania also actively participated in the Consecration Ceremony. This historic event was the culmination of 10 plus years of diligent planning. Since then the Grand Lodge of Armenia has established fraternal relationships with about 100 Grand Lodges around the world. Additionally eleven Chartered Lodges and one Lodge of Instructions were consecrated and are now operating under their Jurisdiction.

Quotes suitable for Masonic Reflection

Modern Freemasonry is partially based on the fact that most of the world monotheistic relations and wisest ancient philosophies share some basic ethical and moral principles. This is why good men of different religions can unite as brothers under those basic principle for self-improvement and to accomplish great things. This month we are focusing on what may be the oldest known complete authentic book in the world for ideas compatible with Freemasonry. The *Maxims of Ptahhotep* or of *Instructions of Ptahhotep* is an ancient Egyptian literary composition written around 2375–2350 BC (a *maxim* is a general truth, fundamental principle, or rule of conduct). Ptahhotep wrote about the various virtues and behaviors that are necessary to live a good life. He was reputed to be 96 years old when he composed these. We can see in his maxims some of the basic ethical and moral principles mentioned above. The following is a short selection of these approximately 5,200 year old maxims that seem to fall within our modern Masonic principles and virtues:

"All conduct should be so straight that you can measure it with a plumb line."

**"Follow the path of God all your life, do not commit excesses and evils,
or harm yourself or others."**

"Do not gossip in your neighborhood, because people respect the silent."

**"Listening benefits the listener. He who listens fully, becomes he
who understands."**

**"The man who does not listen, accomplishes nothing. He equates knowledge
with ignorance, and the useful with the harmful. He does everything which
is detestable, so people get angry with him."**

"Only speak when you have something worth saying."

**"May your heart never be vain because of what you know. Take counsel
from the ignorant as well as the wise"**

**"Do not place any confidence in the accumulation of riches, since
everything that you have is a gift from God."**

"Think of living in peace with what you possess and with whatever God gives."

"Do not repeat a slanderous rumor, and do not listen to such things."

"Those who God guides cannot get lost."

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

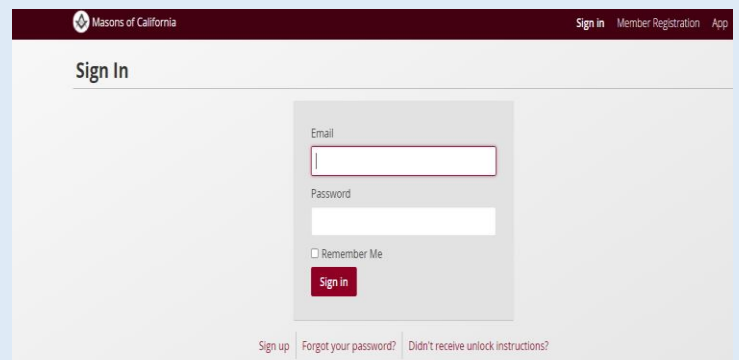
The 150 History of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge # 124

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

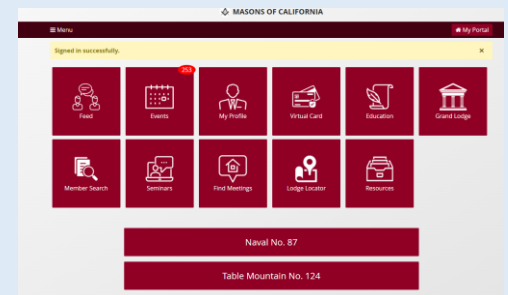
To print your dues card. Using your computer, open your browser and go to <https://freemason.org/>. In the right corner, push “member sign in”

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

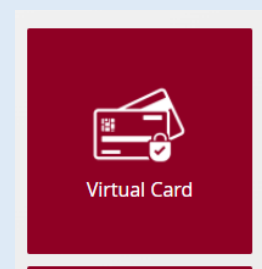
This will be the page you see after signing in.

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



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

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



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

Contact Information

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Table Mountain Lodge Secretary - Brian Grandfield PM, 530-864-6323,

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Table Mountain Building Association President - Phil Howard, 530-873-1979,

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Journal / Tresleboard - Tyler Freeman, 775-800-7484 email: paradisefreemasons@gmail.com

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

Tyler Freeman, 775-800-7484 email: paradisefreemasons@gmail.com

Our Lodge's Facebook Group – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/186319067527278>

Tyler Freeman, 775-800-7484 email: paradisefreemasons@gmail.com

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

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

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

<https://beashrinernow.com>

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

Scottish Rite – David Anderson, Sacramento Valley Scottish Rite.

danders@sacramentoscottishrite.org

<https://www.sacramentoscottishrite.org>

Golden Feather Chapter Eastern Star – Peg McElroy, Secretary

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.