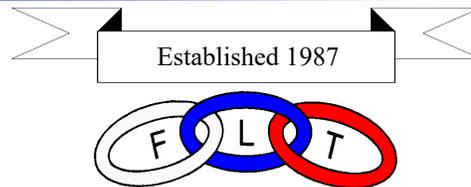


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The Triple Links Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

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Don Lang - Editor
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Connecting Odd Fellows Worldwide

I am proud to announce the launch of Heart in Hand Online (HIHO), one of my two main Grand Master projects for the year. HIHO is a new online chat service for Odd Fellows to socialize and share information. It is based on the popular "Discord" platform for holding real-time conversations across different topics which has already been used in Mountain View Lodge #244 and other lodges for internal communications. On HIHO, members can announce upcoming lodge events, share tips for running a lodge, or talk about what it means to be an Odd Fellow. We even have a "mutual-aid" channel where members can request help from other Odd Fellows in their area. I am sure we will think of plenty of other uses too as the service grows in participation over time.

You can join Heart in Hand Online by visiting "hiho.oddfellows.net" from your computer or smartphone. This is a great chance to connect and make friends with Odd Fellows from around California and all over the world. I hope to see you all there!

By *Michael Greenzeiger, GM*

Hamburger Fry Returns

Sigma Tau Theta Rho girls and their brothers are looking forward to serving you at the Santa Clara Odd Fellows Temple, 1035 Emory St, San Jose on Wednesday, June 30.

Doors open at 5:45 pm. Serving from 6:00pm - 7:00pm.

\$3.25 - Hamburger with all the trimmings
\$3.50 - Cheeseburger with all the trimmings
Chips, Coffee, Soda, and Dessert Available

Hamburger Fries are sponsored by True Fellowship Odd Fellows #52 and benefit Sigma Tau Theta Rho Girls Club #92 and a potential new Junior Odd Fellows Lodge.

By *Debra LaVergne*

Hermenia Rebekah Lodge

Hermenia Rebekah Lodge will plan on Meeting at the Mountain View Lodge Hall starting in September. We still plan on having our regular Craft Sale during the Art & Wine Festival in Mountain View the second weekend in September. We hope you all have a chance to come and visit.

By *Jackie Brown, Secretary*

First in-person lodge social for Mountain View #244

Our lodge held our first social meeting in over a year in person last week. **Sinéad, Debra, Debbie, Mason, Zoe, Sally, Aer, Nick, Bev, Paul, and I** all had a lovely time together. We look forward to doing it again!

By *Jessica Dickinson Goodman*



Initiation Planned for August 30th

Yes, we hoped to be back to normal by the 5th Monday of August and since Cupertino has 4 candidates in waiting, we are planning to have our normal district wide Initiation at the Cupertino Lodge on August 30th. We hope our regular Initiation team will be there plus other interested Odd Fellows. You still have nearly 2 months to round up some candidates for your lodge. Not many lodges initiated any members since the pandemic over the last year and a half, so we all can use some new blood in our lodges.

By *Don Lang, editor*

Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

Michael Dresbach's Health

I received this e-mail from brother **Michael Dresbach**, a member of Cupertino Lodge, who lives in Watsonville.

I apologize for not responding sooner. I rarely check this account.

The best email address for me is mgdbach@gmail.com

I had a CT scan two weeks ago and it revealed that the cancer has moved into some new and exciting places, so this week I started a new chemotherapy regimen which involves infusion of two chemo drugs for two hours every other week. This will continue until mid-September.

I feel fine and have been fortunate that I don't experience the nasty side effects of chemotherapy. My hair will probably fall out again, but I really don't like the hair that came in after my last major chemotherapy, so maybe the new stuff that comes in after September will be better!

I retired from active ministry in February of this year, but I've been filling in at St. James Episcopal Church in Monterey. Their new priest will arrive in July and then I will be able to take it easy again.

Thanks for checking in, and thanks for your prayers.

Please use mgdbach@gmail.com next time as then I will see your message sooner.

Thank you.

Michael Dresbach

Wally Patapoff's Health

Wally called me on this past Sunday telling me how he is doing. I guess his remission with his cancer was too optimistic. He says that his iron count is down again, and he is hoping that they can give him a iron transfusion like they did some time back. This he hopes will go a long way in giving him some of his strength back and allowing him to be less dizzy.

The other problem he has is that he has a constant drip in the back of his throat, and he is worried that it will get into his lungs. He is doing all kinds of things for it, but nothing seems to help.

Please keep him in your prayers and maybe give him a call or send a card. (650) 272-1960.

1611 Kingston Ct, Los Altos, CA 94024

By *Don Lang, Editor*

Cupertino July BBQ, Saturday 17th

On Saturday, July 17th, Cupertino Lodge 70 plans on being back to normal, no more COVID 19, social distancing and masks. We will have our normal Social summer BBQ and start off with our famous Tri Tip Steak BBQ. However, **Don & Mary Lou Lang**, will not be in charge of the BBQ, it will be our **Noble Grand Ron Myres**. This is mostly because Mary Lou is suffering with a bad back. Ever since on May 8th, when they flew to Texas to visit their daughter, Mary Lou started to have severe back pains when getting up from the center seat on the plane. Making a long story short, after x-rays and an MRI, she had a fracture in T12 and some other complications in L2, L3 & L4. Since her condition is still not solved, they could not commit to be in charge of doing the BBQ. Since the lodge still wanted a great menu for July, we stepped our Noble Grand and he volunteered, with many other helpers following.

So the menu will be, accompanying the Tri Tip: giant baked potatoes and carrots, that will be baked at the lodge. The potatoes will have all the trimmings you desire, which will include, sharp cheddar cheese, chopped scallions, sour cream and lots of butter.

Last time, which was 2 years ago, Don BBQed 6 Tri Tip Steaks and served them hot. He had to slice and serve .4 plus delicious juicy Tri Tips before he could sit down and enjoy the meal. There were about 40 who attended and were also entertained by some of our new members and other Hawaiian Club members, both playing the ukulele and even included a Hawaiian Dancer. We picked up 2 new applications that evening.

For dessert we enjoyed a large Chocolate cake from Costco with vanilla ice cream. I am not sure that Costco carries that chocolate cake anymore, but we will have something de-louse. Lets call in your reservations or email to Don on how many will be coming, so we can plan on having enough food. 408 835-7261 You can invite our family and your personal guests and all are free.

By *Don Lang, Editor*



Yes, life, I will take you

Our lodge is opening up. We are meeting in person in July. It has been, and remains, a harsh life, in this pandemic, both when we are directly affected or when we simply feel the weight of collective suffering eating at our spirits and our energy.

I have found myself grasping for encouraging texts, as Chaplain. Some of my favourites have simply been quotes or poems that cheered me up, that I bring to my lodge. Such as this one by **Ellen Bass**:

“To love life, to love it even
when you have no stomach for it
and everything you've held dear
crumbles like burnt paper in your hands,
your throat filled with the silt of it.
When grief sits with you, its tropical heat
thickening the air, heavy as water
more fit for gills than lungs;
when grief weights you like your own flesh
only more of it, an obesity of grief
you think, How can a body withstand this?
Then you hold life like a face
between your palms, a plain fac,
no charming smile, no violet eyes,
and you say, yes, I will take you
I will love you, again.”

In June, I helped hang up the pride flags out front, the second time we did so. Even in the few half hours I've spent out front of the lodge, it's become clear that our reputation's undergone a transformation. We are still approached by people that remember our building as the mysterious, dark, closed-up one. They are outnumbered by the people checking whether we're opening up again, whether they can come visit our lodge. Whether they can come *make music* at our lodge.

We posted signs saying 'everyone is welcome here' in as many languages as people of our extended community could translate. I saw some people pause and take photos of the frame with Hindi. So when I was early for the social meeting to celebrate our reopening, I loitered out front, phone out.

Every two minutes, someone lingers in front of our lodge to read 'everyone is welcome here' in their own language. Many of them Asian Americans.

I realized that, even while our lodge was closed, we have spoken out against the waves of hatred and prejudice that have washed over this country.

A good start, I think, to how our lodge serves our community in these new times.

By Aer van de Water



Summertime!

Pull out those umbrellas and summer shorts because the heat is on. We have come to an understanding that the covid crisis is giving us a break. So many of us have literally gone mad waiting and hoping for some sort of reality that we even pinch ourselves.

I recently returned from the nations capital and was amazed to see so few peoples and visitors at our monuments and memorials. In a way it was a pleasant adventure but still a little nerving knowing so many were missing out on this remarkable site seeing trip. My eyes were slowly amazed at the White House still barricaded and armed guards everywhere. To view such an extraordinary structure from afar was really a strain on your imagination, since you could only get a binocular type perspective from a block away. We can only imagine what our elders would have said at such an event changing moment in history.

I am also reminded of our own lodge and its slow recover period and the much awaited return to in house meetings. Our brotherhood is only more solidified with the brotherly hand shake and the smiling faces behind those daunting masks. We are reminded also of our own rituals and the subsequent dawning of masks which help mystify our new recruits and further the oldest of ritualistic events within our lodges. We look forward to meeting and greeting new members and also are encouraged to help out when ever given the chance. It is only a mere moment in time when you will someday look back at the elders of our lodge and the remarkable efforts they put forward to sustain our community of brothers and sisters and their undying pledge to give ,rather than receive.

We will also look back and ask ourselves if there was anything I could have done to remediate a more pleasant transition or expedited a more perfect plan. Every member has the right and god given will to participate in all our social events. With a stroke of the computer keyboard you are transported into the realm of possibilities and excitement. Don't just join! Rebel! Rebel against staying at home and dust of those cobwebs of despair and cling on to joining hands to help. Helping the lodge is a way of helping the community as well. The perfect end to fulfilling that pledge of our red handbook is only a moment away.

Enjoy your summer without that silly mask when given the chance and rejoice in the joy of family and friends. Unification with the lodge will soon be on the rise. Have a safe and sane Holiday!

By Ron Myres, Cupertino Noble Grand