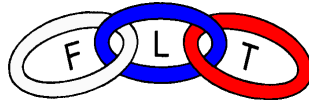


Established 1987



Odd Fellow Initiation July 31

Cupertino Lodge members, with the help of the District, will hold Initiation at the Cupertino Lodge hall on Monday, July 31 at 7:00 PM. All members and candidates are requested to be there by 6:30 PM. We know that there will be at least 2 candidates from Cupertino who will be initiated. Odd Fellow members are urged to be present for this, in order to help with the initiation or cheer on their brothers and sisters taking part

By **Don Lang, Editor**

Rebekah Initiation August 7

Clara Rebekah Lodge #34, will be hosting a Rebekah Initiation at True Fellowship Lodge on 1035 Emery Street in San Jose, on Monday, August 7 at 7:00 PM. Rebekahs in the District are asked to come and support this, in order to fill a few needed spots on the initiation team. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Hope to see you there.

By **Don Lang, Editor**

Grand Warden to Visits Mountain View Lodge

The **Grand Warden Rita Cooper**, will visit the Mountain View Odd Fellow Lodge #244 on Thursday September 21 at 8:00 PM. This will be Rita's Official Visit. This visit is similar to the **Grand Master Fred Dolling's**, visit to Cupertino last month. Rita is the first female Grand Warden to take this position and will be the first female Grand Master when she becomes Grand Master. So she is special. All Odd Fellows in the area are able to attend the meeting. But you might want to contact the **Noble Grand, Ria Toolis** to let her know you will be coming.

By **Don Lang,**



Women's Civil War History

True Fellowship Lodge no.52's **Warden & Trustee Andrew Crockett** is having a history-birthday party, and his Brothers and Sisters in the Odd Fellows are invited! His birthday wish is that we can support the completion the extraordinary women's civil war history documentary [Reenactress](#) through attending his party!

This history birthday fundraiser will take place at the San José True Fellowship Lodge on Saturday, August 12th beginning at 3:00pm with a sneak preview of portions of the film followed by a Q&A with Director **J.R. Hardman**, who has been bringing this project to completion after 12 years of effort.

After the presentation, we'll have a birthday potluck - so bring something to share if you can! We have access to a kitchen, so food can be re-heated if needed. Then, we will have a Contra Dance with live musicians - with the dance called by the magnificent dance instructor **Alan Prince Winston!**

To attend, we're asking for a minimum [\\$25/attendee donation](#) toward the completion of this feature-length documentary film, and everyone who has already contributed is also invited!

LOGISTICS:

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2023

3:00PM - 9:00PM

3:00PM - Reenactress Film Preview

5:00PM - Potluck Birthday Dinner for Executive Producer Andrew Crockett

6:30PM - Called Contra Dance

[San José Odd Fellows Community Center](#)
[1035 Emory St, San Jose, CA 95126](#)

WHAT TO BRING:

A Potluck Item To Share

WHAT TO WEAR :

This is a casual event, though if you would like to dress up, 19th century fashions are encouraged (such as Victorian style, Edwardian style, and Civil War uniforms), including variations on those themes (such as Steampunk).

Please note that shoes with metal plates or hobnails, as well as high-heeled shoes are not allowed into the main hall where we will be dancing because they will damage the hardwood floor.

RSVP:

Remember to donate a minimum of \$25/attendee

at www.reenactress.com/donate, then

email reenactress@gmail.com the names of all attendees you donated to cover.

By **Mason Wolf**

Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

Cupertino 70 Social

The social will be a Summer BBQ and it will be held on Monday August 28 at the Cupertino Lodge. **Richard and Karen Sanico** are in charge. The BBQ'd steak Burgers, with Vegie options, include: Steak Fries, Green Salad, Watermelon, Brownies with Ice Cream & toppings.

Doors open at 6:00 PM with dinner service from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. The social is free to members and there families. Hope to see you there. Come & enjoy.

By *Simona Benjamin, NG*

Grand Master Fred Dolling's Visit

The **Grand Master Fred Dolling's** Official Visit to the Cupertino Lodge was enjoyed by all. Fred and his **Grand Marshall Ernest Albice** showed up early and even helped in setting up the dining room. The dining room really looked beautiful with our new black chair covers and our white cloth table covers. Each table had a bouquet of fresh cut flowers on them. The dinner was catered by our favorite place, Golden Harvest, but this time it was with a Chinese theme, plus our usual poached salmon dish. We had around 45 at dinner and around 45 at the special meeting.

The meeting went fine and our extra time of practicing paid off. Our Noble Grand lead us through the meeting with flying colors. We even wore our special sash regalia for the meeting and most had their Cupertino Lodge polo shirts on.

At the end of the meeting Fred gave a little talk and explained his program. We all could see he was speaking from his heart and was dedicated to do a great job this year. The lodge presented Fred a small donation for his projects.

After the meeting we all gathered together and **Tom Blackburn** took a group picture of all of us. We then proceeded to retire to the dining room where we were treated to an assortment of tasty cakes & pastries.

We all went home feeling good about ourselves and the lodge and we were proud of our Grand Master Fred.

By *Don Lang, Editor*

Ukrainian Fundraiser

Odd Fellows Lodge 70 in Cupertino and NorCal PCA did it again. Ukrainian Sunflower Fundraiser to help bring medical ambulance to much needed Ukrainian front. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to **Ed's Friends Ukraine** <https://edsfriends.org/>

We have raised \$5000 and the donation link will be open until August 15, 2023. If you did not have a chance to donate please do so by August 15, 2023 <https://www.norcalpca.org/events/ukrainian-fundraiser>

Of course, no Ukrainian fundraiser would have been complete without food and entertainment! 80 guests and many volunteers enjoyed a delicious Ukrainian meal along with traditional music and dance. Ukrainian vendors displayed their creations & art, members and attendees made purchases and 20% of vendors sales will be donated to help with the fundraiser.

By *Simona Benjamin, NG #70*



An Odd Fellow & Rebekah's Fall Seminar

"A MEETING OF THE MINDS"
(A Seminar on Membership and Procedures }

PLACE:

BASQUE CULTURAL CENTER
599 RAILROAD AVENUE
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. 94080
650 583-8091

SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY 9/30/23:

TIME : 10:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M. INTRODUCTION AND CLASS

1:00 P.M. TO 2:30 P.M. LUNCH (PAY YOUR OWN)

AGENDA:

NAME TAGS AND RAFFLE TICKETS
OPENING: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND STAR-SPANGLED BANNER.

INTRODUCTIONS:

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS
SOVEREIGN GRAND LODGE OFFICER.
ODD FELLOW MEMBERS ATTENDING
PUBLIC OFFICIALS.
ANY STUDENTS.HAND OUTS AND APPLICATIONS.

PRESENTATIONS:

- * PARLIMENTARY PROCEDURE. **PETER SELLARS.**
- * NOBLE GRAND AND VICE GRAND DUTIES. **RITA COOPER.**
- * HOW TO GAIN MEMBERS, **RON CARREY.**
- INVESTMENTS FOR SENIORS AND RETIREES. **DOUG CAESARE.**

QUESTIONS TO THE SPEAKERS.
RAFFLE PRIZES

PLEASE R.S.V.P. BY 09/25/2023
FRATERNALLY IN F.L. & T.

By **RONALD J. CARREY**

ASSISTANT TO THE GRAND INSTRUCTOR GRAND
LODGE OF CALIFORNIA.

RF.S.V.P. TO:

papacarrey@yahoo.com

408 515 8213

Mountain View Craft Sale Sept 8 –17

This week long Craft Sale will be held at the Mountain View Odd Fellow #422 Lodge at 823 Villa St, MV, by the Hermenia Rebekah Lodge #49. The hours are 10AM to 4:30 PM each day. The sale will feature baby items (hats, scarves, afghans, coasters, win bags, pot holders, etc.) Why not drop by and support these Rebekahs.

By **Jackie Brown**



The **Awed** car award went to a Chevy 1938 Master Deluxe

Saratoga IOOF Lodge #428 Member Outreach Event

Saratoga Lodge members, **Paul Milleson, Mike Bever, Richard Kraus, Terry Neff and Bia Baker** helped to staff a table at the Saratoga Village Classic Car Show on July 24 to provide outreach and info regarding the Odd Fellows and the Saratoga Lodge. Many thanks to our member, **Steve Guruwaiya** for sponsoring the booth. We also sponsored a car award for the "Awed" car.

A few folks we met at the Car Show also stopped by our Reception and Open House at the Lodge a couple days later and applied for membership. We continue to sponsor monthly Socials at the Saratoga Lodge on Oak St. at 6 PM on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Please join us!

For more info call **Paul Milleson, 408 802 3352.**

by **Connie Hall**





• Afternoon of Hula workshop
 • Evening of "Ka Hula Pili Aloha"
 • Where: Odd Fellows Cupertino
 Lodge 70
 20589 Homestead Rd
 Cupertino, CA 95014
 • When: Wednesday Aug-02-2023
 • Times:
 Workshop 3:30pm-5:00pm
 "Ka Hula Pili Aloha"
 5:30pm-7:30pm
 For sign ups and more info contact:
 Karen Sanico
 Email: ksanico25@gmail.com

Aloha San Jose
 She's Back!!!

Kumu Meleana

Premier solo hula dancer at Grand Naniloa Hotel
 Received 'uniki rites from Uncle George Na'ope
 Kumu for Halau Ke 'Olu Mahani O Mauna Loa for 30+ years
Hails from Volcano, Hawaii.



Kumu Meleana will be joined by
 "Na Hoku" nominee entertainer
 Leina'ala Lassiter of Hilo, HI
 **Discover 'ike and mana'o at the workshop.
 Witness gracious hula and mele of Ka Hula
 Pili Aloha; a special intimate presentation.
 Creating a memorable experience.

Lodge Hula & 'Ukulele Classes

Cupertino Lodge 70 added a 3-class session of 'ukulele instruction called "Songs and Strums" to its drop-in hula evenings. More than 30 enthusiastic students attended the first 'ukulele class on July 19 and learned a basic strum, some chords, and 3 Hawaiian songs. The donation-based classes are led by member Karen Sanico, who volunteers her 25 years of experience playing, teaching, and performing the hula and 'ukulele. These pleasurable learning events familiarize possible prospective members with our Lodge. For information and future classes, see our website: www.cupertinooddfellows.org.

By Karen Sanico



Philotesian Rebekah Lodge #145 Tea Party, August 13

Besides spending a Sunday afternoon at a tea party you will be able to hear and learn first hand on what is happening at the Rebekah Children's Services in Gilroy. Their programs and successes are growing. You will get the chance to ask them questions that you have. Many of our lodges support RCS with their programs and by charitable donations.

By Don Lang, Editor

Tea Party

Sunday, August 13, 2023

2:00pm to 4:00pm

\$10.00 donation

Home made Scones, Lemon Curd,
 Sandwiches, sweets & fruit.

Philotesian Rebekah Lodge

20589 Homestead Road

Cupertino CA 95014

Phone 408-252-3954 for reserva-

featuring

Rebekah Children's Services

Come see programs that

support children, youth and

families in Santa Clara and

San Benito Counties.

The Final degree of Odd Fellowship

"In a little while, the ever-burning furnace of time will consume to ashes all that hath life and vigor in this terrestrial sphere." -- from the Odd Fellows funeral ceremony

Odd Fellowship, as we know, is premised on three principles - friendship, love, and truth. These are the links that bind members together in a fraternity that's lasted centuries. But these principles are hardly mentioned when we initiate new members. Instead, our first and most important lesson is that everything we are in this life is but a passing moment. We become Odd Fellows by being reminded of our end, something that is almost heretical in our culture that hides death away and does everything possible to pretend that it doesn't exist.

"Often have we been reminded in the solemn ceremonies of our order, of the great truth that all that is born must die." We don't ignore death. Awareness of our own mortality is harnessed with deliberate intent, that we maximize our time in this world, doing good that will hopefully outlast us. And when death comes, we have a degree for that.

The funeral ceremony is incredibly simple, requiring just a noble grand and a chaplain. But it is so powerful, and so beautiful. It calls back the lessons of the initiatory degree, and adds one more lesson -the hope of immortality, the faith that we shall one day see our beloved bothers and sisters again.

Euphemistically referred to as "the last degree", it was written in the style of one of our degree ceremonies. It has no sign or password, but it does have a memento, the evergreen branch, which reminds us that the virtues of our departed brother or sister will remain ever green in our memories.

Recently, I had the honor and the burden to perform the funeral ceremony, together with my Aunt **Debra LaVergne**, to mourn the passing of my grandfather, **Richard Brouse**. It was a sober reminder that our Order is more than a community service organization, a social club, or secret society - though it has aspects of all of these. The people we see at lodge are a chosen family who have made a commitment to work alongside us in life, mourn us in death, and honor our memory into the years ahead.

"No more will he labor with us, yet the results of his labors will continue through years that are to come."

Yes, we have fun with our "odd" little club, and that's a good thing. But let us never forget that we have a final degree ahead of us. Life and death are serious matters, so we treat them as such. And personally, I am convinced that my grandfather's life was so much fuller and more blessed for that awareness he had, that he would one day leave this "terrestrial sphere". For my part, I will honor his memory while carrying that same awareness as a motivation to do as much good as I can in the brief time that I have left.

I'll conclude by sharing a poem that recently came across my desk, through an odd turn of events that still strikes me as too strange for mere coincidence. I shared this poem at my grandfather's funeral, and before that, I read it to him a week before he passed away, the last time I saw him in life.

By **Mason Wolf, NG #52**

Odd Fellow Poem

A brother lived in an Odd Fellow Home.
He was feeble and old and gray,
With tottering limbs and low bowed head
Just at the close of the day.
And there by a row of evergreen trees,
An angel from heaven flew down,
He looked the old man direct in the eyes,
An angel with a flowing gown.
The old man peered at the heavenly form
And asked, "Are you looking for me?"
"For you, my brother," the angel replied,
"It is time for the last degree."
"You have passed through the wilderness of life,
And you've traveled its treacherous sand,
But I'll conduct you to a Lodge of Love,
And the greatest of all Noble Grand."
The old man said, "My teeth are gone.
My eyes are dim and dried.
My feeble old hand is wrinkled now,
Though still is open wide.
"And the weight of the years is on my brow,
My hearing is nearly gone.
My memory, too, is fading fast,
And the race of life is nearly run.
"But I am filled with a longing to see again
My brothers up there with the blest.
My weary old head is bowed with years
And I'm ready to go to my rest.
"Conductor, I'm ready to enter the hall
And I hope they'll not reject me.
Please carry the word to our great Noble Grand,
I'm ready for my last degree."

By **Harry Bonde Rutland, Iowa**



Cave Degree Hamburger Fry Fundraiser at True Fellowship

On Wednesday, July 26th, the True Fellowship lodge hosted its usual monthly hamburger fry with a twist. Meals were still grilled to perfection by **Ben Shuler**, but the price was simplified - \$10 for everything - burger, side, dessert, chips, and a drink. And more importantly, the money was going to a new cause - the cave degree in Yreka.

The food was donated, so everything raised was benefiting the cause. In all, the lodge was able to donate about \$1000. However, a huge thanks belongs to the members of Cupertino Lodge #70, who agreed to purchase 30 burgers for their "kani ka pila" Hawaiian music event, and then added an extra donation on top of it, for a total donation of \$500.

As people finished their meal, **Mason Wolf** and **Debbie Shuler** gave a presentation about the cave degree, and what it means for the order, and the two of them in particular.

So what is the cave degree? Basically, the second degree is intended to be performed outdoors, and since 1940, the odd fellows have been using a cave in the side of a cliff in Yreka, California for that purpose. The view is breathtaking. When the date is selected, they consult the lunar tables so that, just as the degree starts, the full moon rises over Mount Shasta, bathing the interior of the cave with a soft pale glow as the degree team teaches the foundational lesson of the degree of love, in a way that the candidates are unlikely to ever forget.

Sadly, after years of wear and exposure, the stairs leading to the cave, as well as the stage on which the degree is performed, have exhibited signs of rot and corrosion, making it unsafe for continued use. The grand lodge has taken over the cave degree from Yreka #19, in order to properly restore it. It won't be cheap, so they're raising funds for it, and asking lodges throughout California and Oregon to contribute to the project.

The goal is to rebuild the stage and stairs this year, in a way that ensures this amazing experience can be held once more beginning in 2024. If you or your lodge would like to contribute, please send a check to the Grand lodge, with a memo designating the funds for "cave degree." Working together, we will bring back this crown jewel of Odd Fellowship in California.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our fundraiser!

By **Mason Wolf, NG #52**



Taco Thursday with Barnes Encampment

Come learn about another branch of the Odd Fellows while enjoying a steak and tilapia Taco Bar dinner. Eat all you want for \$10!

The Watchwords of Odd Fellowship
- **Friendship, Love and Truth** -

Are strengthened and supported by
- **Faith, Hope and Charity** -

Thursday, August 10
6:00PM to 8:00pm
1035 Emory Street
San Jose 95126

By **Debra LaVergne**

Cupertino Lodge 70 Kanikapila

Cupertino Lodge's monthly Kani-
kapila, or Hawaiian music-making
event, featured a partnership with
True Fellowship Lodge along with
the usual fun: getting together with
friends, singing, 'ukulele- and guitar-
playing, and hula dancing. Members
Les Wong and **Jim Kabage**, who
put on the Kanikapila, asked the
Lodge to approve a donation to True
Fellowship's hamburger fundraiser
for the Cave Restoration. Their pro-
posal was approved and since the
fundraiser happened concurrently
with the Kanikapila, 30 hamburgers
were ordered and picked up for the
Kanikapila's potluck dinner. Partici-
pants, most of whom are non-
members, were able to enjoy grilled
hamburgers with all the fixings
along with the music, knowing that
the burgers were because of Lodge
70's charitable donation.

By **Karen Sanico**

