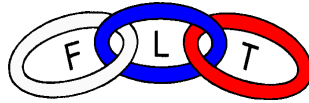


Established 1987



Initiation Held on

True Fellowship 52 welcomed 3 new members this month – **Kash Gorman, Paul Klunder, and Liana Hildalgo**. We hosted the Feast of Odd Fellowship for them, [a newer initiation ritual](#) that's only been available for about 6 years. It was our first time doing an initiation in the lodge itself in many years. Normally we rely on the members of [Cupertino Lodge](#) to provide this service, and we're grateful for it. But the schedule didn't work this time. Luckily, we have an amazing wardrobe to draw on for our ceremonies, and it was a ton of fun to break it out! While I'm sure we'll continue to do most of our initiations at our sister lodge, it's fun to try new things sometimes, if only to know we can.

I want to thank **Sister Linnea Bredenberg** for writing the new ritual, and **Brother Michael Greenzeiger** for working to get it adopted by Sovereign. For those unfamiliar with it, two of its virtues are its ability to be done by a smaller cast of speaking roles, and the fact that the lodge members (except for the conductor) remain seated throughout. This makes it ideal for lodges where many of the members may have mobility challenges, or where they don't have enough members to do the more familiar form.

I know that many lodges in that situation have to resort to the DVD version of the initiatory. And I don't mean to cast any disrespect on the DVD – I've watched it, and it's a beautifully-done version of the initiation ritual. But there is truly no substitute for having the teachings of the degree delivered live and in person. This newer degree gave us the ability to do that with just 9 people, and technically it could have been done with as few as 5. Thank you to everyone from True Fellowship who participated in our first initiation in a few decades, and especially **Ben and Debbie Shuler**, for preparing the delicious food!

By *Mason Wolf*



Another Initiation

Bayview Lodge No 109 in Redwood City is excited to welcome six new members, all initiated in May 2023. From left to right: **James Castro, Hannah Koury, Carol Fung, Valentina Lemon, Reed Sutton, and Amy Zerges**. They are standing with current Lodge Secretary **Robert Jones** who was guiding them as they signed into the Lodge's historic registration book. Welcome new members! -In FLT,

By *Steven Koury*.



AMOS Degree on Sunday

Xanadu Sanctorum #321 is pleased to announce that on Sunday, July 9th we will be performing the Humility Degree for our largest class of Neophytes since the group was formed in 2014. **Grand Master Fred Dolling** and **Grand Marshal Ernie Albice** will already be in town for the official visit to Cupertino Lodge and are ready to join the ranks of the Ancient, Mystic Order of Samaritans. We also have several other candidates expected from California as well as some brothers driving down from the Jurisdiction of Nevada.

We're pulling out all the stops for this one with Neophyte **Joseph Ouellette, Jr.** of Morning Star Lodge #20 catering a steak dinner afterwards. It's not too late to sign up to take the degree. AMOS is a light-hearted social order open to all male Odd Fellows. Those who wish to take the degree and become members should email **Michael Greenzeiger** at greenzeiger@gmail.com to sign up for the event. Members of Xanadu Sanctorum are asked to arrive by 2 PM with candidates to arrive at 3 PM. Dinner will be served around 4:30 - 5:00 PM. Looking forward to a great time helping our Neophytes cross the Burning Sands!

By *Michael Greenzeiger*

Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

A Visit by the DDGM

On Wednesday, June 7th, True Fellowship was pleased to welcome **Zoe Timmerman**, the recently installed District Deputy Grand Master for District 107. Past Grand Master **Michael Greenzeiger** served as Zoe's marshal.

This was also Zoe's first official visit to any lodge in district 107, as they'd only been installed a couple of weeks earlier, taking over the role last held by **Annie Cronin**. True Fellowship was delighted to go first. When it was time to introduce visitors, the floor ceremony went something like this: As a past president of the Rebekah Assembly, **Debbie Shuler** and Zoe retired together. They were announced at the inner door by our inside guardian **Greg Gentile**, admitted to the lodge in form, and introduced by Michael. Then the assembled members were led by warden **Andrew Crockett** in giving the honors of the order. Finally, Zoe was led to a seat beside the Noble Grand's chair. Meanwhile, Noble Grand **Mason Wolf** tried (and occasionally succeeded) to remember when to call the lodge up and when to sit them back down. It's safe to say we're all still learning, but the pomp and ceremony is kind of fun!

In addition to making an official visit, Zoe and Michael were there to install **Debbie Wolf** as the lodge's new Vice Grand. We'll definitely miss having Debbie as our secretary, but by holding the vice grand seat for the remainder of 2023, she will be eligible to be installed as Noble Grand for 2024, and we know that it's important to give new people the opportunity to lead the lodge.

We certainly miss our previous Vice Grand, **Randy Richmond**, and appreciate that he managed to be present by phone for most meetings in the current term, but it has been difficult for him to attend, even in that remote capacity, and it was time to have the seats filled again.

Zoe and Michael both seemed satisfied with how we run our meetings (though Zoe did provide a few notes for our Noble Grand), and both seemed delighted and surprised by the fact that we actually do sing the odes, thanks to **Honor Wolf**, our lodge musician.

At the end of the meeting, Zoe took an opportunity to extend warm wishes from our grand master, Fred Dolling, and inform the lodge about the causes he's raising awareness for. Impressed and delighted with these causes, the lodge agreed to make a contribution to each – the **Rose Parade float**, the **Culinary Institute** associated with Rebekah Children's Services, and the **Three Links Camp**.

Great job, True Fellowship! And thank you again, Zoe and Michael, for adding a little gravitas to our Wednesday night.

By Mason Wolf

Initiation will be Held on July 31

The District's next Initiation will be held on Monday, July 31 at the Cupertino Odd Fellow Lodge at 8:00. If it seems like there are a lot of initiations taking place, you are right. Cupertino always hold them on the 5th Monday day of the month at the Cupertino Lodge. But if it is too long to wait, for instance, if the candidate had to miss the last degree, than another lodge is free to hold the extra initiation. The surrounding lodges usually support the lodge holding the degree if at all possible.

Anyway, you are always welcome to bring your candidates to Cupertino, just let us know before hand and bring a letter saying that the candidate is sponsored by your lodge. We currently have 3 candidates waiting, 1 from True Fellowship and 2 from Cupertino Lodges.

By Don Lang, Editor

Richard Brouse Passes

I am sad to report that brother **Richard Brouse** passed away in his sleep on the morning of July 3rd. Richard was the father of **Debra LaVergne** and **Denise Cater**, both of who are members of Philotesian Rebekah Lodge. Richard was living at the Napa Odd Fellow Retirement Home with his wife **Dorothy**. Richard was on dialysis for some time. He will be buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Orland. He was Major General in the Department of California, Patriarch Militant. We send the family our condolences.

By Don Lang, Editor

Hula Dance Class

Sister Karen Sanico, a member of Cupertino Lodge #70, is giving a Hula Dance Class at the Cupertino Lodge, every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 to 7:00. Non members of Cupertino Lodge are asked to donate \$5.00 which goes to the lodge for the use of the hall. This has been going on for a month now and has been very successful. Over 30 plus dancers and beginners have been attending. We thank Karen for taking on this project, which benefits many different people and the lodge in different ways. We hope it will also bring in future members to our lodge.

By Don Lang, Editor



BYLAW RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Philotesian Rebekah Lodge No. 145's members have been meeting for the past three years only once a month due to the fact that it was difficult to get a quorum during the COVID Pandemic, and

WHEREAS Philotesian Rebekah Lodge No. 145 has no need of a second meeting during the month to accomplish the Lodge's business, and

WHEREAS Cupertino Odd Fellows Lodge No. 70 requested that we change our meeting day to Second Wednesday in order that they could hold dance classes on the First and Third Wednesday's, and

WHEREAS True Fellowship Odd Fellow Lodge No. 52 also meets on the First and Third Wednesdays.

We the members of Philotesian No. 145

RESOLVE: That we cross out and omit the meeting held on the First and Third Wednesday of every Month as stated in ARTICLE I Section 2 and insert the Second Wednesday of every Month.

This Resolution becomes in affect as of the Approval of the Rebekah Assembly Committee on Laws of Rebekah Assembly and/or on October 1st of 2023.

First Reading: June 7TH, 2023

Second Reading: July 5th, 2023

Third Reading: August 2nd, 2023

By *Mary Lou Lang*

First Degree Held

Mountain View Odd Fellows Lodge #244 was proud to host our quarterly First Degree on June 28th. Our next degree is August 31st, players to arrive at 6, candidates and audience at 7 for a light reception, and the degree to start right at 8.

Thank you to **Debra, Aer, Jane, Paul, and Tom**, it was a pleasure to direct and play with you. Thank you also to **Debbie and Zoe**, hopefully you can come play next time! We had candidates from 2 lodges, Cupertino and Emory Street, and hope to welcome some from Mountain View and Bay View at the August degree.

If you're interested in doing tech or playing a role, please fill out this form to get a notification of weekly 30 minute rehearsal times: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1G8IYko9-mH5OnkFnAfj7YSRb5IxirkAk1PvQkaqSTMk/edit>

By **Jessica Dickinson Goodman**

Tea Party

Sunday, August 13, 2023

2:00pm to 4:00pm

\$10.00 donation

Home made scones & Lemon Curd

Philotesian Rebekah Lodge

20589 Homestead Road

Cupertino CA 95014

Phone 408-252-3954 for reservations

featuring

Rebekah Children's Services

Come see programs that support children, youth and families in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties.





Ukrainian Fundraiser

Last summer we had a wonderful Ukrainian Sunflower Festival that raised \$10,000 for a non-profit in Ukraine to support housing for refugees and internally displaced people. Following the success of last year's fundraiser, we are doing it again in collaboration with the folks at the Cupertino Odd Fellows Lodge! This event will feature a 3-course meal and traditional Ukrainian music and dance, and funds raised will facilitate the purchase of medical supplies and equipment in collaboration with [Ed's Friends](#), an organization founded by Ukraine RPCV Edward Ma.

Even if you cannot attend, we invite you to make a donation to support this important cause at whatever level is meaningful to you. For Donation and Ticket Information, please visit the [Northern California Peace Corps Web Site](https://www.norcalpca.org/events/ukrainian-fundraiser) (<https://www.norcalpca.org/events/ukrainian-fundraiser>).

By **Jim Kabage**



Water Lantern Festival

The members of True Fellowship Lodge #52 invite you to their booth at the Water Lantern Festival in San Jose. We'll be there on Sunday, July 23rd at Almaden Lake Park. Tickets are available at <https://www.waterlanternfestival.com/sanjose.php>

From the organizers: "Water Lantern Festival is filled with fun, happiness, hope, and great memories that you'll cherish for a lifetime. This is a family friendly event that can be shared by everyone."

By **Mason Wolf**

Grand Master Official Visit Monday July 10th

Grand Master Fred Dolling will be making his Official Visit to Cupertino Lodge #70 on Monday evening July 10th. He will be greeted with open arms, starting off with a dinner at 6:00 PM and then joining us at 8:00 PM for our meeting. The Grand Master or the Grand Lodge Officer who he assigns, usually only visits one lodge in each district per year. He will visit at least 1/3 of the lodges in the state annually. We would like to encourage all lodges in the district, (#107) for their members to join in on this special occasion. We have plenty of parking and fellowship.

At the end of the meeting, Fred will address all of us and give us his message and words of wisdom. After that we will proceed to the dining room where we will enjoy conversation and dessert.

Please RSVP to us at the following link so we know how many to expect.

<https://cupertinooddfellows.org/gmvisit/>

By **Don Lang, editor**



Grand Master of CA Fred Dolling

Silicon Valley Odd Fellows

The Joys of Sister(Lodge)hood

The lodge is a special place in Odd Fellows. Everything we do in the order ultimately relates back to our brothers and sisters in our home lodge. They're the ones who know us best, are first to support and encourage us, join us on the various projects we decide to partake in, and they're the ones we share our stories with: good of the order in the better times, sick and in distress in the bitter times.

But that familiarity, as wonderful as it is, often leads members to view their entire experience in Odd Fellows as beginning and ending with their local lodge, and I think that risks missing out on one of the greatest benefits of being in a fraternal society – sister lodges.

When all you know of Odd Fellows is your experience in your home lodge, it is natural to assume that every other lodge is basically the same. After all, we all have the same red books that say how we're supposed to run a meeting. But those of you who've visited other lodges know that couldn't be further from the truth! Some lodges just sit around a kitchen table, while others use grand meeting spaces while wearing full regalia. Some spend time eating together before or after every meeting, while others might play games afterward, or break into committees. The point is that each lodge has its own way of doing things, and that's actually kind of cool.

Visiting sister lodges are a fun way to find out what other flavors of odd fellowship are like. I'm a member of True Fellowship in San Jose, but I'm also an associate member of Mountain View Lodge. And I love being able to bring ideas from one lodge to another, to be able to say, this is working in lodge X, maybe we should give it a try here? We should be open to looking beyond "the way we've always done it here," and one way that starts is by finding out what our sister lodges are doing.

The easiest way to get involved beyond your home lodge is by checking out the other lodges in your own district. Here in District 107, we have lodges in Cupertino, Mountain View, Redwood City, San Jose, and Saratoga and even in the Saratoga Odd Fellow Retirement Home. None are a terribly long drive from any of the others, and each has its own unique character.

And by the way, this isn't like me saying, "I know it tastes bad, but eat it anyway, it's good for you." It really is a treat to visit another lodge! It's fun to be introduced as a visitor. They're always very welcoming and make you feel special. You get to see the way they do things, and while you can't vote, you can get the inside scoop on what they're up to, which often sparks all kinds of ideas about how something might be adapted for your own lodge.

And if you've got a project you want to tackle that's simply too ambitious for your lodge to do on its own, sister lodges can also be a great source of energy and fresh volunteers. Around the beginning of the year, my lodge decided to get involved with the city of San Jose's "Viva Calle" event. And before long, it became clear that our reach had exceeded our grasp. On our own, we just didn't have the people and resources we were going to need in order to make the event a success. But luckily, the Mountain View and Cupertino lodges were interested in partnering with us. In fact, Cupertino ended up providing as many people as our own lodge did, and even brought a live band to keep us entertained! What could have been a demoralizing disaster ended up being a wonderful and fun day for all who joined. And about 10,000 people (we counted) got to see us volunteering in their community, helping to organize an event that they cared about.

So get to know your local lodges. Make some new friends, hear some new ideas, try some new experiences, and be inspired! There's actually a lot more to odd fellowship than what goes on in your own lodge, and I would love to welcome you at one of our meetings.

By *Mason Wolf*

Richard Brouse Passes

Richard Brouse was initiated into Cupertino #70 Odd Fellows on April 26, 1976. He was initiated into Philotesian Rebekah Lodge #145 later that year with his youngest daughter **Danita Schwemer**. His wife **Dorothy** served as Conductor and his oldest daughter **Debra LaVergne** served as Warden for that initiation class.

He maintained his membership in Odd Fellows through several moves across country. In one of the few times he successfully surprised Dorothy, he arranged for daughters Debra and **Denise Cater** to attend the Installation in Arlington, Texas when they became Noble Grands of the Odd Fellows and Rebekah Lodges.

After they returned to California and he retired from IBM, they moved back to Orland, where they had met in high school. Retirement gave him time to be an appointed officer, and he served as Grand Color bearer for Grand Master Ed Reedy in 1991-1992. He also joined the other units of the Order, and since he would not join anything without supporting it wholeheartedly, he served the Grand Encampment as Grand Instructor for Grand Patriarch **Barry Cheney** in 1997-1998. He was Department Commander of the Patriarchs Militant of California while Dorothy served as President of the Department Association LAPM in 2002-2004. When **Jack Reasoner** served as General Commanding of the General Military Council in 2006-2007, Richard served as Inspector General.

He was asked many times to run for Grand Warden of Grand Lodge or for Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Encampment, but he declined. He felt that he could have more impact in the Patriarchs Militant than in the other grand bodies. Besides, Dorothy did not want him to.

While living in Orland, they got involved in many activities, such as Friends of the Library, Blood Bank, Pantry, and the Federated Church of Orland. They were recognized for their civic contributions by being named Citizens of the Year in 2011. Getting them to the city 4th of July celebration took help from his sister **Lorraine**, because Richard had planned to spend the day working on the parsonage. Lorraine told Richard that Dorothy was being honored, and told Dorothy that Richard was being honored.

Finally they retired from being retired and moved to the Meadows of Napa Valley in 2014. Richard promptly started participating in the bridge and Scrabble games, and started regular Pinochle games, teaching anyone who wanted to learn. He served in desk offices for Napa Odd Fellows #18 and Ivy Rebekah Lodge #23 until the end of 2022. When he and Dorothy decided to move into assisted living, he laid his lodge duties down.

He passed away in his sleep on July 3, 2023 at 90 years of age. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, 4 daughters (and their husbands), 6 grandsons and 1 granddaughter, and 10 great grandchildren. Two daughters are active members of the Order, and grandson **Mason Wolf** is currently Noble Grand of True Fellowship Odd Fellows Lodge, with his wife **Debbie** as Vice Grand and daughter Honor as Musician.

By **Debra LaVergne**

What **Mason** says about his grandfather,

He was clever, curious, and kind. He liked puzzles, was a whiz at scrabble, and had an amazing memory. And he loved being around people - meeting people or spending time with ones he knew. He was 90 when he passed, but amazingly, he was good at Facebook! He didn't have much use for memes, but shared interesting articles with his own brief comments, and interacted well with posts shared by others. In his later years, he was passionate about 2 causes - universal basic income and climate change. He was concerned about the world he would be leaving behind, because even though he had succeeded in giving himself a comfortable retirement, he loved people too much not to care about what would happen after he left us. I will miss him more than my words can express, and I will honor him by carrying his memory and working to make this world a better place, just as he tried to do in his time, and as I hope my children, and any future grandchildren, do in theirs.

By **Mason Wolf**

