



Introducing a new improved district 107 Calendar

There's a new website for our district – siliconvalleyoddfellows.org. At its core, it is a [calendar combining all of the lodges in our district](#), in order to easily see what events are coming up.

It's true that our district already had a calendar, provided courtesy of past DDGM **Adam Potolsky**, who back in 2017 realized the value of each lodge being able to let the others know what they were doing. But it had some drawbacks. For instance, some lodges didn't use it because they already had their own calendar, and it was a pain to update multiple calendars with the same information. And for lodges that did rely on it, it was their main calendar, and became filled with every single event happening at their lodge, 90% of which weren't of interest to anyone else in the district. It also wasn't clear who owned it. For a new person to get access required going on a daunting odyssey to figure out who could share permissions with them. And probably the biggest drawback was that, once someone did get that permission, there was no way to prevent them from accidentally deleting or modifying events that didn't belong to them.

The Silicon Valley Odd Fellows website seeks to preserve the utility of a district calendar, but in a way that addresses each of those issues. First, it's not exactly a calendar so much as an aggregator of calendars. From the main calendar page, the visitor is treated to a grid displaying the public and member-only events for every lodge. For filtering, you can check or uncheck particular feeds you're interested in. If you just want to see what's happening in Mountain View and Cupertino, for instance, you could uncheck the other lodges' feeds. Likewise, if you only want to see events that you could invite your non-member friends to, you could uncheck all the member-only feeds.

Each lodge is responsible for only its own events. No one else can modify them. And third-party events, such as rentals or recurring meetings from outside groups, aren't included on it.

However, as it's extremely useful to most lodges to have a way to see everything that's scheduled for their building in one place, lodges are invited to provide a feed for those third-party events as well. If they do, a dedicated calendar page will be created for them, showing all of the activities in their building in one handy location. Since it's not necessary to name specific renters just to see when a building is in use (and that could be a violation of a renter's privacy), those events merely show up as "busy," together with a start and end time.

The [homepage for siliconvalleyoddfellows.org](http://siliconvalleyoddfellows.org) showcases some of the upcoming events in our district, along with events that have recently concluded. To submit an event for the homepage, send a picture and a description to me, **Mason Wolf**, and I'll publish it. I hope this new website makes it easy to keep on top of the great things all of the lodges in our district are doing. Please bookmark it and check it out regularly!

By Mason Wolf, NG

True Fellowship #52 public True Fellowship #52 members-only Mountain View #244 public Mountain View #244 members-only Cupertino #70 public Cupertino #70 members-only Saratoga #428 public Saratoga #428 members-only Bay View #109 public Bay View #109 members-only						
← July 2023 August 2023 September 2023 →						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm Aikido Classes	2 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm First Wednesday Meeting - True Fellowship Lodge no.52 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm First Wednesday Business Meeting	3 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm MV Lodge Meeting (1st Thurs)	4 ALL DAY MV Lodge Cleanup	5 ALL DAY MV Lodge Cleanup 10:00 am – 3:30 pm First Saturday Game Day - True Fellowship Lodge no.52
6 ALL DAY MV Lodge Cleanup	7 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Clara Rebekahs	8 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm Aikido Classes 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Saratoga 428 Business Meeting	9 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm 2nd Wednesday Potluck - True Fellowship Lodge no.52	10 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Taco Thursday with Barnes Encampment	11 ALL DAY MV Lodge Cleanup	12 ALL DAY MV Lodge Cleanup 2:00 pm – 9:00 pm Reenactress Promotional

Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

Initiation Held on Aug 31th

We had a small class of initiates for the Initiatory Degree held on August 31 at Cupertino Lodge, but the team performed beautifully with all the bells and whistles. Cupertino picked up 2 new members, **Stephen Franke** and **Haumani Neil**. Congratulations, and welcome to Cupertino Lodge #70.

By **Don Lang**, editor



Hawaiian Cowboy BBQ Social

The Cupertino Lodge 70's Odd Fellows August social event theme was Hawaiian Cowboy. It included a delicious menu with bbq steak and all the fixin's!

There was a short presentation to our guest to promote our membership drive. It included a background of our lodge and outlined the various community services and charities we provide. There was a generous donation to the Maui Relief fund. Entertainment was provided by our own Laule'a, **Karen, Richard** and hula dancers!

Everyone enjoyed the bbq and luscious desserts, ending the evening with three membership sign-ups plus other applications given away!

By **Richard Sanico**



Silicon Valley Odd Fellows

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows A Brief History (and Some Speculations)

Many of the facts regarding the origin of Odd Fellowship are lost in history. Even the origin of the name "Odd Fellows" is uncertain. A commonly repeated explanation is:

In 17th century England it was "odd" to find people organized for the purpose of giving aid to those in need and of pursuing projects for the benefit of all mankind. Those that belonged to such an organization were called "Odd Fellows."

However, this explanation is unlikely to be correct, since the word "odd" probably did not yet mean "peculiar" at that time.

An alternate possible origin of the name and other characteristics of the Order related to "guilds" that were common in the middle ages, as early as the seventh century. According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, these guilds were at first formed for religious and social purposes and were voluntary in character. The members were associated with almsgiving, care of the sick, burial of the dead, and in providing Masses for the souls of deceased members. (Note that these characteristics are very close to those present today in the fraternal orders.)

By the eleventh century, merchant guilds were formed, which possessed the power to control and monopolize all the trades in the town. The guildsmen, like members of the earlier social guilds, took part as a corporate body in religious celebrations, organized festivities, provided for sick or impoverished brethren, undertook the care of their orphan children, and provided for Masses and dirges for deceased members.

With the success of the merchant guilds, craftsmen, ever increasing in numbers, sought the right to supervise their own body by forming "craft guilds." Like the merchant guilds, the craft guilds cared for the spiritual and temporal interests of their members by providing old age and sick pensions, pensions for widows, and burial funds.

Some writings on the history of the Masonic fraternal order cite a probable role for the "builders guild" in its origin. It is logical to think that guilds of common laborers (the workers at "odd jobs") could have called themselves the "Odd Fellows" to distinguish themselves from the more homogeneous guilds of bakers, brewers, goldsmiths, tailors, weavers and other craft workers, but we have no historical evidence that this was the case. It is known, however, that Journeymen of the Middle Ages in England were called "Fellows." Thus "Odd Fellows" in that era literally meant "miscellaneous journeymen."

It is certain that the Orders of the Odd Fellows started no later than the 18th century. The earliest printed reference is of an Odd Fellows lodge meeting in 1748. The number of that lodge was "9," suggesting that a broader organization of Odd Fellow lodges existed for some time before that. Also, reprints of "*The Ancient Ritual of the Order of Patriotic Odd Fellows*" that was "Revised and agreed to in the Grand Lodge held in London, England, March 12, 1797," which also suggests a mature organizational structure.

Information printed in the 1919 edition of the *Encyclopedia Americana* suggests that a number of separate Odd Fellow lodges existed in England during the 18th century. Some of these apparently combined into an "Improved Order of Odd Fellows," which was succeeded by the "Patriotic" Order and then by the "Union" or "United Orders" and "Loyal" Order. In 1813 various lodges of the Union met and organized the "Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows," which is the primary arm of Odd Fellowship in England today.

On April 26, 1819 the Order was established in the United States in Baltimore, Maryland, under the leadership of Thomas Wildey, who is recognized as the founder of American Odd Fellowship. Wildey became an Odd Fellow in England in 1804 before coming to America in 1818. The Order in Baltimore secured a charter from a lodge in Preston, England, and on February 1, 1820, it created the "Grand Lodge of Maryland and of the United States of America of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows."

In the same time frame, Odd Fellow lodges were being formed in New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. On 15 January 1825 these all finally

agreed to form the "Grand Lodge of the United States," which was chartered by the Manchester Unity on 15 May 1826. In 1879 the name of the central body was changed from the Grand Lodge of the United States to its present name, the "Sovereign Grand Lodge."

Reporting to it today are Grand Lodges and other Grand Bodies in most of the states of the United States and provinces of Canada, as well as in many other countries. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, as the name implies, is no longer directly connected with the Manchester Unity, although arrangements exist for members of both to visit each other's lodges, worldwide.

The ritualistic lessons or "Degrees" of Odd Fellowship evolved rapidly in the United States from their foundations in the Manchester Unity rituals. In 1841, some of the degrees were moved into a separate "Encampment" branch, governed by Grand Encampments. On September 20, 1851, the Rebekah Degree (for both men and women) was adopted, authored by Schuyler Colfax, who later (in 1886) became Vice President of the United States. In 1885 the Patriarchs Militant was organized as a uniformed "display" branch of the Order. In the early 1900s the Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant was formed, followed by a Ladies Encampment Auxiliary. (At first, the auxiliaries were limited to the wives and other family members of Patriarchs Militant and Encampment members, but today they are open to all members of Rebekah lodges.) Junior Odd Fellow Lodges, for boys 8 to 21 years of age, and Theta Rho Girls' Clubs complete the family of American Odd Fellowship today.

Throughout most of their history, Odd Fellow lodges have served as mutual benefit societies for their members, as centers of social activities for their communities, and as focal points for benevolent activities, as well as promulgating the teachings about the brotherhood of man and sisterhood of women. Many lodges operated cemeteries, not just for their own members, but to provide "decent sepulcher" for others as well.

Odd Fellow lodges were common in the gold country of California during the Gold Rush. Many gold miners had been coal miners in Wales before coming to the United States, and they brought their Odd Fellowship with them. Most of these lodges have disappeared, but their Odd Fellow cemeteries remain.

As society has evolved, many of the direct benefits of membership in a lodge have been replaced by government functions and insurance programs, and community social activities have become less important to a population that draws their entertainment from television or Internet. The benevolent programs are still strong and important, and the teachings (mostly drawn from the Bible) are as important today as ever. **Friendship, Love, and Truth**, the great Motto of Odd Fellowship, is something our society will always need.

Compiled by **Richard A. Brouse**, August 25, 2009



Philotesian's Tea Party

We had about 30 members and guests attend Our Tea on the 13th of August. **Gayle Joslin**, director of the RCS, gave an overview of Rebekah Children's Service, which was very informative.

The Tea served three types of Home made scones; Plain, Cinnamon & Poppy seed, Lemon Curd, Almond/Jelly on Raisin Bread, Pimento/Cheese Sandwiches, Jams & Jelly, Toast points & egg salad, strawberries, grapes and frozen strawberries covered in pink chocolate and of course Tea.

After three donations of \$100 each we collected \$545.00 for RCS. Thank You all for attending Our Informational membership tea.

By *Mary Lou Lang*

Presenting: District No. 3 Meeting Wednesday, September 6th at 7:30 PM

Once a year, the President of Rebekah Assembly visits each Rebekah District. This year Philotesian is honored to Host our

Rebekah Assembly President Sue Michener.



This is a great honor as we have 4 Rebekah Lodges in District No.3. Every Rebekah is invited to come and meet Sister Sue. The dress is formal attire. The Theme is "Back to School".

There will be a potluck, as required by our District No. 3 Bylaws, at 6:30 PM and the meeting will follow. Light dessert will be served

after the meeting. Please come and visit with Sister Sue.

We are so proud to be hostess. The Potluck's main dishes will be Salmon and also Chicken over a bed of "Rice-a-Roni" so any side dishes are acceptable.

By *Noble Grand, Mary Lou Lang*



**MEETING
NOTICE!**



Philotesian's # 145 Meetings will change as of October still at 7:30 PM at Cupertino Lodge

Philotesian Rebekah Lodge No. 145 will now be meeting on the second Wednesday of each Month as of October 2023. We have changed our Bylaws to this fact. Hope to see everyone at our new time.

By *Mary Lou Lang, Noble Grand*

Hermenia Rebekah Lodge Craft Sale

Hermenia Rebekah Lodge #49 Mountain View is having a craft sale at the Odd Fellows Hall on the corner of Villa and Castro Streets in downtown Mountain View September 8 through September 17 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Please be sure to visit and obtain your lovely Christmas Presents early this year. We have a full variety of items including Baby Blankets, Bibs, hats and booties; an assortment of sizes of afghans and throws; adult hats and scarves, pot holders bibs for adults, aprons, and lots of hanging towels. Come in and browse or just to visit. We also have pot holders, coasters, and wine bottle bags. Hope to see you there.

By *Jackie Brown, Secretary*

2nd Degree was Postponed

The degree will now be on Tuesday, September 12 at 7pm at the Saratoga Lodge. The degree team will feature members of Saratoga, True Fellowship, and Cupertino. The candidates (so far) are from those lodges plus Mountain View. **Jane Beckman** and **Mason Wolf** are playing Warden and Conductor, respectively, and have both committed to doing it from memory, to give the best performance that they can.

For members who can't attend in person, there will be a zoom option as well. Any candidate with a letter from their lodge may participate (provided they have already received the first degree), and any odd fellow who already has the second degree may spectate, either in person or over zoom. Letters of eligibility should be carried with the candidate in person, and preferably also mailed ahead of time to the secretary of Saratoga lodge, **Connie Bloch** (connie_bloch@yahoo.com). They should contact Mason Wolf (mason@true52.org), if they'd like the zoom link.

By *Mason Wolf, Noble Grand*

JIN SHIN JYUTSU® 5-day Class Hosted at Cupertino Lodge 70 **October 29th - November 2nd**

The gentle and subtle art of Jin Shin Jyutsu® is an ancient Japanese way of harmonizing and optimizing the body's life energy – not to be confused with a martial art as some may think when they hear or read the word Jyutsu which is normally spelled Jitsu. Said to predate Buddha and Moses, it was rediscovered in the early 1900's by **Master Juro Murai** of Japan (1886 -1960) who, after recovering from a "terminal" illness at the age of 26, devoted himself to its revival for future generations. Master Murai trained and worked with a Japanese American - **Mary Burmeister (Ino)** (1918-2008) to introduce the Art to the United States and the World. He believed that the capacity to use this Art is born in everyone and that is reinforced by a Worldwide following of some 19,000 trained practitioners.

Here at the Cupertino Lodge 70 are two trained practitioners, **Lily Liversidge** and **Steven Grundy**. Steven has organized a 5-day hands on training class from a renowned instructor from New York – **Jed Schwartz** who has been an instructor for almost 30 years and maintains a fulltime **Jin Shin Jyutsu** practice in New York.

LITERALLY TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE, JIN SHIN JYUTSU IS THE “ART OF THE CREATOR EXPRESSED THROUGH KNOWING AND COMPASSIONATE PERSON.”

Jin Shin Jyutsu is a practice that helps to harmonize and balance the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of human beings. This practice involves sequences of light touch with fingers on specific concentrated energy areas of the body (Safety Energy Locks) to restore the harmonious flow of life energy.

There are several important distinctions between Jin Shin Jyutsu and many other healing modalities to which it is sometimes compared. A practitioner of Jin Shin Jyutsu is not the "do-er", s/he simply assists in the flow of an infinite supply of universal energy. This process does not affect the practitioner's personal supply of energy. Approximately 70% of the work one can do for oneself – known as self-help but there are times when working with a qualified and skilled practitioner will be the best route.

In a typical hands-on session, which lasts about one hour, the receiver remains fully clothed and lies face-up on a cushioned surface. After "listening" to the energy pulses in the wrists, a practitioner employs a harmonizing sequence, or "flow," appropriate for unblocking particular pathways and restoring the body's energy to harmony. A "flow" is a series of hand placement combinations (using the "safety energy locks") that stimulates circulation of energy along a given pathway. There are many such pathways in the body, each with a distinct function or essence.

TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, THE EXPERIENCE OF JIN SHIN JYUTSU IS UNIQUE TO EACH PERSON FOR EACH SESSION.

The most common effects heard from session recipients are those of deep relaxation, stress reduction and pain relief, all of which aid in returning the body to optimum health.

In the 1960's upon returning from Japan **Mary Burmeister**, began presenting workshops and seeing clients in her office initially in Southern California and later in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Jin Shin Jyutsu classes and workshops are held throughout the US, as well as Canada and the rest of the world. Jin Shin Jyutsu is ideal for those who seek additional support for medical conditions or for those who may have adverse reactions to medications or those seeking a more holistic approach.

One of the major class benefits for participants are the daily hands on sessions, guided by the instructor and performed by a practitioner.

If you've read this far and wondering what can this do for you apart from deep relaxation it can address a myriad of medical conditions from A -Z and is in use at several Integrative Medicine sites at major hospitals in the US (Morristown New Jersey, Marin General to name only two) and others elsewhere. Several centers employ JSJ as it is sometimes known in their cancer treatment centers.

AN ADDED BONUS - OFFERING TWO SPONSORED PLACES

As part of the introductory program of Jin Shin Jyutsu here, the Cupertino Lodge is offering two sponsored places for Lodge Members or their immediate family members. Registration is also available for others who might like to join the class. Continuing Education Units (CEU's) are also available for Acupuncturists, Massage Therapists and Nurses.

For additional information Contact: Steven at 408 420 9925 steven.grundy@gmail.com Organizer

<https://jinshinjyutsuspiritmindbody.com/basic-seminar-jin-shin-jyutsu>

By **Steve Grundy**

Reenactress Fundraiser and Birthday Party at True Fellowship Lodge

On August 12, True Fellowship played host to a birthday party for **Andrew Crockett**, which doubled as a fundraiser for the film “Reenactress.” This film has been in production for over 10 years, and needs a last bit of help to bring it to audiences.

Director J.R. Hardman shared several clips that may or may not make the final cut of her film, and the attendees learned quite a lot about the stories of female Civil War soldiers and the women who portray them. This fascinating, and largely unknown, chapter of American history is one that has lessons for us today.

Women don’t always fit into neat little boxes anymore than men do. The same motivations that would convince a man to take up arms and head to war could convince a woman. They fought for their homes and beliefs, and yet they had to do it in secret. Neither side wanted women in its ranks.

In the end, the fundraiser pulled in roughly \$5500, pulling the campaign over halfway to its goal. The attendees enjoyed pizza and cake (it was a birthday party, after all!) and then retired to the fellowship hall for the remainder of the evening for fun and enthusiastic contra dancing with professional caller **Allan Winston**.

Thank you to all who joined us, and if you ever get the opportunity, dancing at True Fellowship #52 is an absolute delight! Here’s hoping that before too long, we’ll be able to do an official screening of “Reenactress” at our lodge.

By *Mason Wolf, Noble Grand*

