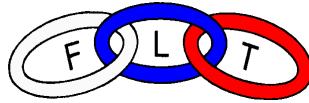


Established 1987



District Planning Meeting

This year's District planning meeting will be held on Sunday, December 17 at 1:00 PM at the Cupertino Lodge. The two main purposes of the meeting are to choose the dates of when the different lodges will hold their different socials and to make sure that there are no Grand Lodge or Rebekah Assembly events that are scheduled at the same time in our area. The other reason is to get the information from all the lodges in our District so that all the correct information can be published in this year's District Directory. Anyone is invited, but we hope that the incoming Noble Grand and the secretary would come to the meeting.

By *Don Lang, editor*



The Third Degree Conferred at True Fellowship

For District 107, 2023 was the year of the return of live degrees. We initiated candidates in January, February, and May. Several of them received their first degree from Mountain View in March, June, and August. A huge class of candidates from throughout the district received their second degree at Saratoga in September, and finally, 11 candidates received their third degree at True Fellowship on November 29th.

We've been calling it the "degree train".

To set the scene, at the end of 2022, we had only 6 active members at True Fellowship. It had looked, for a painful moment, like our lodge would be forced to close. But by December, we had 12 applicants ready and eager to join. Suddenly the future of our lodge was looking hopeful again. With 12 applicants to look forward to, I was the first to wonder whether, within the next 12 months, we could have 12 new third degree members.

It turned out that we could.

But credit where it is due! We could not have done it on our own. The plan only came together thanks to the enthusiastic support we received from the Cupertino, Mountain View, and Saratoga lodges.

In addition to the live degrees offered in our district, back in June, four of our members – Jane **Beckman**, **Andrew Crockett**, **Helmuth Litfin**, and **Evonne Litfin** – undertook an all-degree day in Santa Rosa in order to reach third degree right away. Several other members continued attending the live degree days, and along the way, some members of Cupertino and Redwood City joined them. In the end, in addition to the four members who attended the degree day, **Scott Spence**, **Sara Bruce**, **Jeff Rively**, **Paul Klunder**, **Honor Wolf**, **Zandria Elbert**, **Alex Gentile**, and **Greg Gentile** all joined the degree of truth as well. And it's worth noting that three of them - Andrew Crockett, Paul Klunder, and Scott Spence - will be installed as officers this coming January.

In addition, **May Serrano**, **Randee Chin**, and **Victoria Carmona**, all of Cupertino 70, also completed the degree train and received their third degrees.

As Noble Grand presiding over a degree lodge with 11 members of the degree team, and 11 candidates for the degree, I was moved almost to tears. True Fellowship is back, and my heart is filled with gratitude to the people who came together to make that happen.

Thank you, all of you who either received or conferred a degree in 2023. I genuinely believe that the shared experience of the degrees, along with the teachings they present, make us better Odd Fellows, and help our beloved Order to flourish.

And a little post-script – the very next day, on November 30th, five more members, including three from True Fellowship, received their first degree at Mountain View. The journey of live degrees continues uninterrupted, and that makes me very happy.

By **Mason Wolf**, NG of True Fellowship

Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

Cupertino Holiday Dance

On Sunday, December 3rd at 5pm, Cupertino Odd Fellows will hold a Holiday Dance that will benefit Toys for Tots.

There will be three classes taught by dance instructor **Samy Makar**. He will teach Waltz, Salsa and East Coast Swing. Each class will be 30 minutes long. After the dance classes, there will be a couple of surprise dance exhibitions followed by open dancing. There will also be line dancing. Refreshments will be served. \$10 (or more) donation, will be appreciated. Proceeds will be forwarded to San Jose Toys for Tots.

Accepted Donations (new and unwrapped):

- Books
- Board Games
- Balls (Soccer Balls, Footballs, Basketballs etc.)

*We discourage the donation of video games or other devices that need a secondary console to be used.

For more information and RSVP, please go to www.cupertinooddfellows.org. Dance-ins are welcome!

About the Instructor:

Samy Makar has been ballroom dancing since 1990 and began teaching salsa rueda in 2006. He took over teaching all ballroom dances and DJing at Cubberley Pavilion in 2013. During the pandemic, he started Zoomberly (Cubberley Online). He is available to teach and DJ by request at any private party.

By **May Serrano**



Sal and Jerry from Coulterville Lodge#104



Holiday Dance

Dec 3 from 5 to 10 pm

Waltz - Swing - Salsa

30 min classes

\$10 Per Person

Donations Supporting



See www.CupertinoOddFellows.org for Details

Cupertino Lodge new & old Dining Room Chairs

Some of our Cupertino Lodge members felt it was time to get new more comfortable chairs and better looking so it would be easier to rent our dining room for a reasonable date rent. So the search was on. The lodge decided on the Costco brand black rugged plastic chairs for around \$25 a chair. So our Noble Grand **Simona Benjamin**, offered use her trailer and went to Costco, having to make 3 trips to get all 214 chairs back to the lodge where a team of members were there to help unload the chairs. This saved about \$1,500 for shipping. Now, what to do with all the old chairs?

We got rid of a lot of the 244 chairs with our members and their friends, but we still had 155 of them left. I received a phone call from Coulterville IOOF Lodge #104 who was interested in them.

Mark and **I** met with **Jerry Lyman** and **Sal** from Coulterville IOOF Lodge #104. Their lodge is about 40 miles east of Modesto in the Sierra foothills. They are a small lodge with about 7 active members, in a very small town not much bigger than the lodge. The community all work together trying to survive. Larry works with his church to distribute food to many of the very poor people in their community. He had to borrow gas money from his mother to drive down to Cupertino with his truck and attached trailer. Our lodge also donated to them \$150 towards their gas and travel since their lodge was too poor to reimburse him. We helped load 148 of our old chairs plus the one long chairs carrier, into their trailer. Their lodge room is a little smaller than our dining room, which they are looking to rent out very similar to us. This is to make enough money for the lodge, so they could pay for all the increased expenses of the lodge. For instance, their lodge insurance costs have tripled in the last few years, if the insurance company didn't move out of California, because of all the California forest fires.

So we can be satisfied that we found a good home for our old chairs. And this can be our lodge's Christmas story.

By **Don Lang**, editor

Another Great Pop-Up at the MV Lodge!

The South Bay Comickers held another successful pop-up art show over the weekend in early November. Group members and fellow artist friends exhibited their wares for the community to enjoy (and purchase!).

We displayed a variety of items, ranging from stickers and coasters, to full comic books, to paintings, drawings, photography, and even decks of cards. The prices ranged from \$1 all the way to hundreds of dollars for the larger wall-hung items.

Hundreds of people stopped by and perused. Since the Mountain View lodge has such a great location, it drew in plenty of curious walkers-by on their way to coffee, drinks, or food. Many people had questions about the lodge itself, which **Sushu** and **I** were happy to answer. One or two people were even interested in joining or hosting their own events in the lodge! A lot of people didn't know these events happened, even though they've been coming to Castro Street for years. I'm taking that as an action item for myself, to perhaps post monthly signage of upcoming events, or even just provide a QR code to the Silicon Valley Oddfellows public calendar.

As usual, pulling off such an art show was a team effort. The two Odd Fellows members of the group, Sushu and me, opened and closed the lodge, and watched over the space throughout the day. Others also helped arrange furniture, put out signs, set up their individual spaces, and—of course—clean up afterwards.

Sales were better than expected, and as a result, we were able to donate over \$500 to the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund! (Woohoo!)

Thank you to the MV Odd Fellows for allowing use of the lodge. We can't wait to host another event soon!

By **Mark Flider**

True Fellowship Holiday Party

The True Fellowship Holiday Party will be held on Wednesday, December 13th from 6:01 to 9:01pm. All are welcome to attend. There's no cost, but it is a potluck, so plan to bring something to share. You can RSVP at true52.org/holidayparty.

By **Mason Wolf, Noble Grand**

Activities of Mountain View Lodge

There will be Pop up art Gallery from Fri 15 Dec - through Sunday 17 in December. **Sinéad Toolis**, visual artist and **Paul D Goodman**, woodworker

There will be our holiday party on Thursday, December 21 at 6.00pm at the Odd Fellows Lodge Mountain View. All members are invited.

Thank you, Happy Thanksgiving everyone.

By **Ria Toolis, NG of Mountain View Lodge**



From the Triple Links Staff
&
all the Volunteer Contributors





The Odd Fellows at the Dickens Fair

On Sunday, November 19th, at the Cow Palace Arena in San Francisco, members of True Fellowship, Mountain View, Cupertino, and Saratoga lodges, together with their friends, entered the enchanting world of Charles Dickens's London, not as it was, but as it ought to have been.

The day's entertainment included reenactors for both historic personas and fictional characters (largely drawn from the works of Dickens himself, naturally). Pay close attention and you might see old Scrooge walking about with a Christmas spirit. There was a festive air at old Fezziwig's manor, a mystery to be solved at 221B Baker Street, boisterous singing at West Paddy's and Mad Sal's dockside establishments, and delicious meat pies to be scarfed down along the way to whatever other charming diversion one was planning to see next.

From famous authors reciting their beloved works, to thrilling performers risking life and sanity for the amusement of their audiences, the Dickens Fair managed to provide non-stop delight and wonder for the Odd Fellows and their guests. Truly, this reporter would love to say more, but really, one simply had to be there. For those who were, you already know, and for those who were not, well, the Fair continues through December 17th, and I could hardly be more enthusiastic in my recommendation to go and experience it for yourself. Tickets can be purchased online at dickensfair.com.

Sometimes, being an Odd Fellow means getting out and doing odd, delightful things, with your Odd brothers and sisters. Hopefully we'll have enough people to get a group together next year too.

By *Mason Wolf*

Cupertino Christmas Dinner

Cupertino #70's Christmas Dinner will be held on Monday, December 18th 2023. Doors open at 5:30pm with Dinner being serviced from 6 to 7pm. Dinner will again be catered by Golden Harvest. The menu will be like the Roll Call Dinner held in April, which is meat loaf with delicious gravy, glazed salmon and roast chicken and for the vegetarians, a vegetable lasagna. **Simona** will pick up delicious cakes, (chocolate, white and cheese cake?) from her specialty catering store

All Members, members' immediate families, significant other, widows and Philotesian Rebekahs with a guest, are free.

Additional Guests will be \$20 per person at the door.

Please watch for email invite to RSVP for the headcount and please make sure you RSVP early that we know how much food to order.

By *Simona Benjamin, NG of Cupertino*

Gingerbread House/Cookie Exchange

The annual Gingerbread House Decorating and Holiday Cookie Exchange will be held at True Fellowship Lodge on Saturday, December 23rd from 11am to 2pm. Gingerbread house kits are available to all who RSVP. We'll have decorating candies on hand, but participants are welcome to bring some of their own as well. To participate in the cookie exchange, bring a batch of cookies to share, and a container to take home the cookies of other participants. You can RSVP at true52.org/gingerbread.

By *Mason Wolf, NG of True Fellowship*