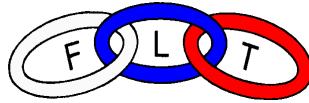


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# The Triple Links Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

January 2024  
Don Lang - Editor  
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Established 1987



## District Installation Schedule

The Installation schedule for the lodges in the District are as follows

### Odd Fellows District 107

|                          |      |         |
|--------------------------|------|---------|
| Volcano OF Lodge #25     |      |         |
| True Fellowship #52      | 1/28 | 3:00 PM |
| Cupertino OF Lodge #70   | 1/15 | 7:00 PM |
| Bay View OF Lodge #109   |      |         |
| Mountain View Lodge #244 | 2/1  | 7:30 PM |
| Saratoga OF Lodge #428   | 1/9  | 7:00 PM |

### Rebekahs District 3

|                        |       |         |
|------------------------|-------|---------|
| Stella Reb Lodge #22   | 1/18? |         |
| Clara Reb Lodge #34    | 1/28  | 3:00 PM |
| Hermenia Lodge #49     |       |         |
| Philotesian Lodge #145 | 1/15  | 7:00 PM |
| Freja Reb Lodge #284   | 1/15  |         |

The District Deputy Grand Master is **Zoe Timmerman** and District Deputy President is **Pat Aanenson**

By **Don Lang, editor**

## Clara's Soup and Salad

Clara Rebekah Lodge will hold a Soup and Salad Luncheon on Sunday, January 28, right before the Joint Installation of Clara Rebekah and True Fellowship lodges are installed at 3:00 PM. Don't miss it, because it should be good.

By **Don Lang, editor**

## Board Games

Friday, January 5th  
6:00 PM to 10:00 PM  
True Fellowship Lodge #52  
1035 Emery St, SJ

Free

## First Degree Conferred

First Degree a success; next First Degree February 29th.

Thank you to one and all who attended last night's First Degree at Mountain View Lodge #244. We can't wait to do it again next year!

By **Jessica Dickinson Goodman**

## Degrees Coming Up

I will attempt to announce the different Odd Fellow Degrees that will be conferred by the different lodges in the next several months. Many of our local lodges are sponsoring the degrees with some help from the other lodges in the district. Cupertino #70 will start off by holding the Initiatory Degree on the 5th Monday of January, 1/29 at 7:00 PM. Mountain View lodge is holding the 1st degree on Thursday, February 29. On Tuesday March 12 @ 7:00 Saratoga will hold 2nd Degree and then on Wednesday May 22 True Fellowship will hold 3rd degree. So lets try and get all our members to receive these degrees if they are ready and waiting for them..

By **Don Lang, editor**

## Mountain View 244 Holiday Celebration

The Mountain View Odd Fellows Lodge 244 celebrated the Holiday season by inviting their Odd Fellow Family, Friends and Reindeer to their Pot Luck Holiday Dinner Party on Thursday, December 21. There was singing, playing of games, taking pictures, eating and being merry. Fun was had by the 17 or so people who attended.

By **Ria Toolis**







## Cupertino Christmas Party

Cupertino Lodge's Christmas Party was a great success with 60 members and guest attending. Golden Harvest provided a very delicious catered dinner and **Simona** supplying the delicious dessert of chocolate and cheese cake with some ice cream pops. The Kani Ka Pila Hawaiian Group entertainment with live Ukulele music and signing by **Jim, Ron, Les, Randee & John** and special hula dancers by about seven Hawaiian ladies. Fun was had by all.

*By Don Lang, Editor*

## Fellowship at the Rose Parade

There are several people perched precariously on scaffolding, carefully daubing glue and attaching petals, leaves, fuzzy grasses and other plant material to this ridiculous, goofy float that the Odd Fellows are so proudly preparing for the Rose Parade in Pasadena, California. Down on the ground, teams of workers cut tiny flowers, or attach peas, rice and beans, to signs and decorations that will be attached to the float later. The scent of clear, oasis glue blankets everything, while around us, teams of workers do the same on dozens of other bizarre creations.

The work is tedious, to be sure, but it's also incredibly impressive. If you've ever seen the Rose Parade, you've surely wondered at the process to get so many flowers so precisely attached to the elaborate floats. It is all done by hand, often literally a single grain or petal at a time.

I spent the first two days lying on my back, gluing coffee grounds to the bottom skirt of the float, in order to create an artistic shading effect, offsetting a layer of crushed walnut shells adjacent to it. By the end of the first day, my hands were caked in a dirty brown mess, and I carried the potent aroma of Folgers wherever I went. But that was fine. All that mattered was that the effect looked pretty cool.

And that's the thrill every one of these workers is chasing - take these materials, and through long, painstaking effort, create something that looks incredible.

I don't know if we'll win any awards this year. I hope so, obviously. But the value is how much of our time and energy (and ruined clothing) these dozens of people, mostly volunteers, are willing to give to it. Even something a little silly, like statues of unicorns prancing through a garden, can become valuable if people are willing to give a portion of their lives to create it.

To me, that sums up so much of Odd Fellowship. A lot of what we do is silly. Why do we care about "squaring our corners"? Why do we go around taking up passwords? We could get the same business accomplished without the ritual, we all know this. But when we put in the work, when we prove that we care enough to do it right, we infuse value into it.

We have a finite amount of time and energy in our lives. I didn't have to use mine helping to build a rose float, but I'm proud to have had the opportunity, because those of us who did came together and created both art and memories, that we will value for the rest of our lives.

In a couple of days, millions of people around the world are going to see what we built, and when they do, I hope they say to themselves, "that was cool!"

*By Mason Wolf*





## True Fellowship's Newest Badge of Merit Recipients

This year, the True Fellowship Lodge was pleased to award the Badge of Merit, one of the highest decorations a lodge can bestow, to three members whose service has been truly above and beyond the duties of Odd Fellows in service to their lodge and their community.

On November 1st, at our regular meeting, **Ben Shuler** was given his award during the Good of the Order portion of our meeting. Along with the award, [he was given a letter](#) signed by the Noble Grand and Vice Grand. His many years of faithful and dedicated service have ensured the continuation of the lodge and made it a beloved treasure within our community. In particular, he has been our chef for most of our food-related events, and his extensive knowledge of construction and repair work has kept the lodge building in good order, ensuring our most important asset continues to serve our members.

On November 4th, **Debbie Shuler**, now also the Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment of California, was presented with her award at her own Grand Patriarch reception during the Welcome presented by True Fellowship. She too [received a letter](#) signed by the Noble Grand and the Vice Grand. She has variously served in nearly every position within the lodge, but chiefly as its treasurer. She's guided us through years of tax filings and financial reports, and guarded the lodge against losses, maintaining a well-organized and extensive collection of records that ensures that at any time, the financial condition of the lodge can be accurately reported. But beyond that, she has served at nearly every function, hosted nearly every event, and been present for nearly every meeting, providing wise counsel to ensure the lodge remains in good order.

On November 15th, **Andrew Crockett**, our Warden and soon to be installed Vice Grand, was presented with his award during the Good of the Order portion of our meeting. As well as the award, [he was presented with his own letter](#), signed by the Noble Grand and Vice Grand, explaining how his service has benefited the lodge. In short, he got people interested in us again. He took us from a lodge barely able to make quorum, into one that's added 2 dozen people within a year, and which has more waiting to join at the next scheduled initiation. He didn't do it alone of course, but as leader of the outreach committee, he was the chief architect of a renewal which had seemed nearly impossible prior to his joining. While the badge of merit is ordinarily conferred on a member in recognition of many years of service and dedication, it was decided by the lodge that, new though he was, his actions were so beyond the duty of Odd Fellowship, and so great a service, that he had already earned it.

There are three essential components, without which, our lodge would cease to function - the building itself, its finances, and the people who meet within it. Ben, Debbie, and Andrew have preserved all three of these at True Fellowship #52. The city of San Jose used to have many Odd Fellows lodges, but today we have only one. Yet, thanks to their combined efforts, it is a strong one.

These three badges of merit honor immense dedication to our lodge's continued function and service to our community and present an example that will be hard to follow, but inspiring for any who would try.

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

## True Fellowship Lodge is having a birthday!

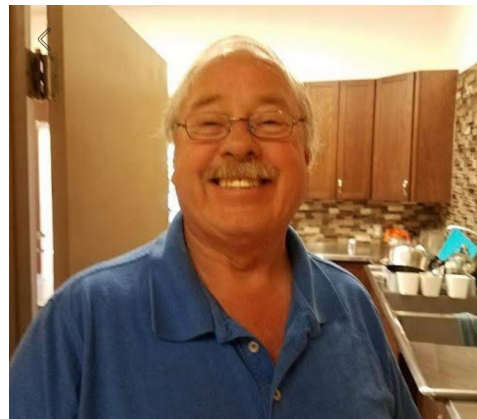
True Fellowship Lodge is having a birthday!

This January 10th marks 168 years since the lodge was originally chartered. Come and join us as we mark the occasion with a potluck party! We'd love to see Odd Fellows from all around the district help us celebrate.

Doors open at 6PM.

RSVP at: <https://true52.org/mc-events/monthly-potluck-dinner/>

By **Mason Wolf**



## English Regency Ball at True Fellowship

Enjoy a community dance in the elegant and romantic spirit of Jane Austen at TF #52 on February 10. You've likely seen this kind of dance in movies like "Pride and Prejudice".

Internationally-known dance leader **Alan Winston** is an Odd Fellow, and invites all brothers and sisters to attend. He will lead the room through each dance pattern.

No experience or partner necessary. It helps to know right from left, but if you can walk, you can dance! Please bring shoes with smooth, non-marking soles.

Live music provided by the Divertimento Dance Orchestra. Period (1790-1820) costume admired but not required; formal or festive wear appreciated. Co-sponsored with the **Bay Area English Regency Society**.

### Event Details:

**Date:** Saturday, February 10

**Time:** Doors open at 7:30, Dancing begins at 8

**Location:** 1035 Emory Street, San Jose

**Price:** \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

Order your tickets online at <https://true52.org/RegencyBall>.

By *Alan Winston*



## Mardi Gras Party at True Fellowship 52

Unlock the Magic of Mardi Gras: Revel in Colors, Rhythms, and Mystique! □

Join us at True Fellowship 52 for a night of enchantment and celebration at our Mardi Gras extravaganza on February 13, 2024! Immerse yourself in the carnival spirit with tantalizing appetizers and sweets, beats by a live DJ, an electrifying dance contest, and an array of mystical experiences, including mocktails and tarot card readings—all set in the mesmerizing colors of purple, green, and gold.

### Event Details:

**Date:** February 13, 2024

**Time:** 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**Location:** 1035 Emory Street, San Jose, CA 95126

Dress to impress in the festive colors of Mardi Gras, and get ready for an evening of joy, laughter, and unforgettable memories. This is your invitation to an extraordinary celebration — where mystique meets revelry!

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Order online at [true52.org/MardiGras2024](https://true52.org/MardiGras2024)

By *Zandria Elbert*



## Kani Ka Pila New Years Eve Party

The annual Kani Ka Pila New Years Eve party was again enjoyed by about 75 attendees of club members as well as Cupertino Odd Fellow members. Ukulele players in the audience, joined the Ukulele players leading the music and songs, with the help from the Hawaiian Hula dances. This all took place after a very large and taste Pot Luck dinner was consumed.

By **Don Lang, editor**

