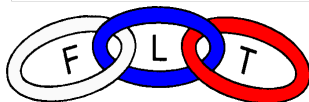


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The Triple Links Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

November 2024
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Established 1987



Lisa Harrigan, Tom Blackburn, Sara Bruce, Bob Devlin, Lou Chiarramonte, Paul Klunder, Debbie Wolf, Mason Wolf, Estelle Ramolete, Haunani Neil, Ben Shuler, Jeff Rively, Ron Myres, Katrina Hazen, Alison Holeman 10/23/24

The Rich and Enduring Legacy of the Third Degree

The culmination of every ritual is brought together in the 3rd degree in Odd Fellowship. And it may take time to season in a member's spirit.

Recently, the San Jose lodge, True Fellowship number 52, performed the 3rd degree for three Cupertino 70 candidates. I was privileged to participate as the Right Supporter of the Noble Grand, and in that capacity, I read the script about TRUTH emblems.

In addition, many others read or recited from memory their various and numerous scripts. Each actor in this ritual, and each script, is essential to the depth that the 3rd degree expresses.

But for my opinion, the Past Grands script is my favorite. And **Debbie Shuler** gave a heart-warming presentation.

The candidates from Cupertino were, Robert (**Bob**) Devlin, Estelle Ramolete, and Claire (**Haunani**) Neil. I believe they garnered a wealth of detail that will now season and mellow into understanding Odd Fellowship better. But it usually takes time for the richness of the 3rd degree to settle into a person's spirit. Let's wait and watch at that wonder.

Meanwhile, please congratulate Bob, Haunani and Estelle. They now are eligible to have the great learning experience that can come when they become Vice Grands and Noble Grands in the future. But not right now. Give them time to see the great works of Odd Fellowship first.

By **Tom Blackburn**

Veterans Day Parade

We are trying to get Odd Fellows and Rebekahs in all branches of the Order, to march in this year's San Jose's Veterans Day Parade. So, if you could please pass this message on to other members of your lodge that we can get the word out. The Parade is held on Veterans Day, Monday, Nov 11. The march is only 1 mile long, it goes down Santa Clara St and turns onto Market St. We gather at True Fellowship Lodge and car pool to the spot where we start in the parade. We will leave about 10:30 AM, from True Fellowship Lodge. The parade starts at 12:00 but our section may only start at say 1:00. We never know until we get our paper work around the 1st week of November. I hope we can get enough Odd Fellows and Rebekahs that we will look respectable marching in the parade. If you are a member of the Cantons, wear your Military uniform, if you belong to the Encampment or AMOS, wear your Fess, if you are a Veteran, wear your uniform if it still fits, or just your hat, if you are an only an Odd Fellow or Rebekah wear your lodge shirt, but come and be part of the group. We will decorate my Odyssey Honda Van, which will follow in the back of the marchers, and will carry anyone who has trouble marching that distance.

Send me an e-mail and let me know you plan on coming and I will send you the latest information and answer any questions you have: donlang@sbcglobal.net

If I only could accurately describe the feeling I have when I am marching that day, I think we would have to turn away our members from joining in the parade. We are honoring all our veterans who fought in our past wars and who gave up a good portion of their life for being in the service, so we all can live our life in freedom. But it is not only that but also to show how proud we feel to be an Odd Fellow or Rebekah and to see the crowd of people lined on both sides of the street, yelling and clapping as we and our flags go by. The city makes a short announcement on what and who the Odd Fellows are and what we do. Please join us on November 11.

By **Don Lang, Editor**

Next Degree Day: November 14 at Mountain View 244 @8pm

Candidates should arrive by 7:30, and will need a letter or email from their home lodge in order to receive the degree. Send qualification emails to oddizens@gmail.com. To participate on the degree team, contact **Mason Wolf**: mason@true52.org

District 107 Youth Pilgrimage Scholarship: Let the Contest Begin!

After the generous contributions of several lodges in the district, the scholarship fund is up to \$2160 as of this writing. The fee to send a delegate is \$2100, and the approximate airfare from the Bay Area to Philadelphia, round trip, is typically around \$600 for one passenger. We're close enough that I've prepared the webpage, which you can find at siliconvalleyoddfellows.org/youth-pilgrimage, but we could still use help with funding. The plan right now is to begin advertising the essay contest with schools later this month, and evaluate the essays after Christmas.

If you're willing to help put us over the top, donations can be sent to:

Barnes Encampment #77
1035 Emory St,
San Jose, CA 95126

Make checks out to Barnes Encampment 77, with "Youth Pilgrimage Scholarship" in the memo line.

And if you're willing to serve on the District 107 committee that will read all of the essays and determine a winner, we're still looking for more people. Please reach out to mason@true52.org so that I can appoint you.

By Mason Wolf



Oktoberfest Halloween at Lodge 70

Cupertino Lodge 70 held a combination Oktoberfest Halloween Fundraiser Social on October 26. Members & guests dined on a German-themed menu of bratwurst, rolls, potato salad, red cabbage, pretzels, pumpkin pie, cake, and an apple tart made by grill-master **Noble Grand Ron Myres** using apples from a tree at True Fellowship Lodge. The Costume Contest entrants paraded to Halloween music. All were "spooktacular" in garb ranging from **CA Grand Marshall Annie Cronin** as Dark Lady to **Don Lang's** lederhosen to Contest Winner **Mark St. John** as Huey Newton! Member **Estelle Ramolette** was the lucky 1st Prize Winner in the raffle cash drawing. Thanks to MC **Richard Sanico** for livening up the program and **Mason & Debbie Wolf** who donated a huge carved pumpkin to the raffle. We appreciate everyone who contributed to our fundraiser for the West Valley Community Services Food Bank and look forward to next year's event! \$720 was donated to West Valley Community Services from the event. We thank all who took part and contributed.

By Karen Sanico





21st Annual Festival of Trees

The Rebekah Children Services in Gilroy, is having their yearly big fundraiser, the Festival of Trees, on Saturday, November 23. RCS is one of the Order charities that our local Lodges support.

This is a very fancy event, where most men wear tuxedos and the women wear their finest gowns and their best jewelry. The tickets are \$150 a person, which really only covers all the food, wine and Champaign you get while there. The attendees are expected to spend money while there in the auction of the Christmas trees, which go for around \$3000 (because of the gifts under the tree), and the raffle gift baskets and the raise the paddle donations which go directly to the Children's Home.. Of course the dinner itself is excellent and you are served lots of Champaign and fine wines.

It will be held at the Cinnabar Hills golf Club, 23600 McKean Rd, San Jose CA. From 6 PM until 10 PM.

The Rebekah Children Services serves more than 14,000 children and families each year offering family-centered mental services, education, and training that promotes the healing, healthy development, and future success of those they serve. Their services include Foster Care & Adoption, an Outpatient Mental Health Center, Wraparound Services. A Culinary Academy, Prevention & Education Services, Therapeutic Behavioral Services, and a Family Resource Center.

By *Don Lang, editor*

Odd Fellows are Going to The Fair!

On Saturday, November 30, Odd Fellows from around the San Francisco Bay Area are heading to the one and only Great Dickens Christmas Fair! There, the San Francisco Cow Palace will become transformed, taking revelers back to the streets of Charles Dickens's London at Christmas eve (except warmer, and with more literary-inspired entertainment).

This joyous festival is an annual tradition that the Odd Fellows are delighted to join in with once again. You may see Scrooge being led about by a Christmas Spirit, or find Oliver Twist darting about. The various shops are full of interesting trinkets and more interesting people. There are several pubs and ale houses, multiple stages throughout, and a warm welcome to be had everywhere. You might even stumble across a mystery to be solved!

If you'd like to join in the fun, we're putting together an email list. While all of the Odd Fellows are free to explore the streets of London on their own, there will be a few opportunities throughout the day to come together for food and fellowship, which we'll arrange ahead of time over email. To participate, purchase your tickets at dickensfair.com, then send email to Mason, mason@true52.org. You'll be added to the list and told what times and locations we plan to gather. The event is open to everyone, whether Odd or Not!

By *Mason Wolf*



Have you voted yet?

Well there is still time if you have not voted. But time is running out. Please make sure you do vote. Polls close on Tuesday, November 5 at 8:00 PM.

By *Don Lang, Editor*

The State of District 107

As District Deputy, I've had the pleasure of visiting almost every lodge in the district at least once (I would still like to visit **Volcano 25**, but our schedules haven't aligned). I want to share some of my observations.

First, I'm happy to report that I enjoyed meeting so many of my District 107 brothers and sisters over dinners. The tradition of food before a meeting is one that's helped make meetings easier for some folks to attend, since they don't need to go home for dinner first, then head to their lodge meetings. And beyond this, these meals give our members the chance to sit and chat with one another outside the meeting itself. While simply spending time together is never a guaranteed way to make friends, it's the only way to give those friendships a chance of forming (and more often than not, they do). And this might seem obvious, but it bears mentioning anyway - no one wants to sit through a meeting when they're hungry.

Providing these meals takes commitment and sacrifice on the part of at least one or two members, but the value they bring to lodge life can't be overstated. So I want to give a special shout-out to those people who have been responsible for providing the food, and encourage members who maybe haven't participated in that way yet to give it a shot. The more people taking turns doing the work, the less likely any one person is to become burnt out while doing it.

I'm also pleased to report that each of the lodges are following the ritual (or at least they did during my official visit). While following the ritual is part of our code, it's of course possible to conduct business in a less formal manner. The value in following the ritual, to me, is in how it connects us to the wider world of Odd Fellowship. It helps keep us on track, and makes it easy for someone from any other lodge to follow what's going on, while leaving enough room for lodges to still have their own personality. It's also a reminder that we're part of something bigger than the group of us who came out on a weeknight to talk about the handful of bills that need to be paid.

Our district is also one that is growing. I was pleased to present honor roll certificates to **True Fellowship 52**, **Mountain View 244**, **Cupertino 70**, and **Bay View 109** for the growth they experienced in 2023. And having met sev-

eral of the new members at both **Saratoga 428** and **Volcano 25** this year at initiations, I fully expect both of those lodges to receive honor roll awards next year.

In addition to welcoming new members, our district has

an excellent tradition of advancing our members using live degree work. Any member who wants to take the degrees live and is ready to receive them, can usually get their next degree live within no more than 3 months. I know some lodges still rely on the DVD's sometimes, and I understand they can be a useful tool, but for those who want the full fraternal experience, with all the pageantry and mystery our founders left to us, **Cupertino** does live initiations, **Mountain View** does live first degrees, **Saratoga** does live second degrees, and **True Fellowship** does live third degrees. And I'm very excited to announce that on December 11, **Bay View** is getting in on the fun with a live second degree of their own!

What few concerns I would have about our district would center around the fact that most of the members don't always know what's happening outside their lodges. While being part of a lodge should be a wonderful experience, being part of an Order is even better. In our district, we have several resources to get involved at a level beyond the local lodge. These are:

- The Triple Links Newsletter (you're reading it!)
- The online district calendar siliconvalleyoddfellows.org
- The district degree team
- **Barnes Encampment 77** (open to all 3rd degree members)
- **Santa Clara Canton 6** (open to all royal purple members of the encampment)
- The state Grand Lodge offices: 122 Race St, San Jose
- **AMOS Xanadu Sanctorum 321** - the fun side order for Odd Fellow men
- **LOTO Inanna Zuanna 9** - the fun side order for Odd Fellow ladies

To all the lodges I've visited, thank you for opening your doors to me, and I want to give a special thanks to my marshal, Brother **Ron Myres**, who's been a wonderful companion wherever we've gone together.

By Mason Wolf, DDGM



Portraits of Three New Members at Mountain View 244: Katy, Tatianna, and Jesse

Tatiana Kuvaldina was born and raised in a small town deep within Russia's forests. Drawn to art from an early age, she attended art school. Later, she moved to Germany for a Master's degree in Media & Design, where she continued to live and work after graduation. A decade later, Tatiana moved to the U.S. with her husband, finally embracing her passion for art full-time. As an artist, she creates vibrant, sometimes fantastical landscapes with oil pastels.



Community has always been important to Tatiana. Art school was her second home for nearly nine years, but after graduation, she lost that close-knit environment. Though she spent ten years in Germany, she felt disconnected from local culture despite learning customs and traditions. Determined to change this experience in the U.S., Tatiana sought out a community in her new home.

Tatiana joined Artists Mountain View, where she organizes and participates in exhibitions. This involvement led her to the Odd Fellows, as the Lodge 244 in Mountain View graciously hosted one of the group's exhibitions. Inspired, Tatiana joined the Odd Fellows in summer 2024 and looks forward to becoming more involved in the Mountain View community through Lodge 244. Her first community event with the ODD Fellows was handing out candy to kids on Halloween.

Jesse Donaldson grew up in Maine, and moved to California after college. When folks ask about him, he usually says that he has a lot of hobbies. While he



has spent his career in the tech industry as a software engineer and manager, he also studied art. He enjoys making things from wood, metal, leather, electronics, and... well, most things. It's not uncommon for him to drop an old hobby like bonsai trees or cutting gemstones in order to make room for a new one like

Katy Dickinson is the Founder of Mentoring Standard and an award-winning Process Architect. Starting in 2001, she was the Process Architect and manager of successful mentoring programs in the Americas, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia – while holding a variety of senior executive roles in the Silicon Valley. Since 2015, Katy has been a jail chaplain for the Correctional Institutions Chaplaincy (CIC) in Santa Clara County while continuing graduate studies. She anticipates finishing her Doctor of Ministry degree at the Berkeley School of Theology (Graduate Theological Union) in late 2024 for a 2025 graduation date. Katy was the Process Architect for the first class of the U.S. State Department's TechWomen mentoring program, and continues as a TechWomen mentor, as well as serving in over a dozen delegations to the Middle East, Africa, and Central Asia since 2011.



Katy applied to join the Mountain View Odd Fellows lodge on 25 December 2023 because she was deeply impressed with the lodge's generosity toward her TechWomen team. She was one of the mentors for the 2023 Team Aspiration from Palestine. The team of five senior technical women was offered funding by an angel investor when they were in the US with the State Department mentoring program. However, because of the war, the Palestinian STEM leaders and teachers needed a US-based organization to hold the seed funds until they could further develop their primary school science and math program. Katy continues to meet with Team Aspiration and report to the Mountain View lodge on their project development. Katy's daughter and son are also members of the Mountain View lodge. She has enjoyed the social, community, and arts events and has already completed her 3rd degree.

flameworking glass.

Jesse has been walking past the Mountain View Lodge for over a decade, slowly growing increasingly curious. The stars finally aligned when his wife bumped into **Mason Wolf** at Clockwork Alchemy and introduced them. Jesse was initially impressed with how the lodge supports local artists and does not charge community groups for use of their space. Then he was delighted with the variety of interesting people in the lodge, and how they were happy to welcome a stranger and comfortable enough to be themselves. He looks forward to getting to know his new siblings better, and collaborating to make the world a better place.

Debbie Shuler Honored For a Life of Service

At this year's Grand Encampment and Department Council meetings in Visalia, special tribute was paid to Sister **Debbie Shuler**, California's first female Grand Patriarch. Debbie was a marine before she was an Odd Fellow, and has exemplified the ideals of service and sacrifice throughout her life. She's devoted many years to the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, faithfully carrying out her orders at every level, and that devotion hasn't gone unnoticed.

Last year, her home lodge, True Fellowship 52, presented her with a merit jewel, in appreciation for her tireless work as treasurer or secretary or Noble Grand, depending on which role her brothers and sisters asked her to take in any given year.

This year, she was recognized by the patriarchs and matriarchs of the Grand Encampment, who voted to award her the meritorious service jewel. Additionally, at the department council meeting, she was honored with a Special Recognition Award from the GMC. She was one of four people recognized as being the "glue that holds California Odd Fellowship together."

In her time in the Order, she has served as both elective and appointed officer roles within all 4 branches. In addition to her current role as Grand Patriarch of the Encampment, she is also a Past President of the Rebekah Assembly and a Past Grand Matriarch of the Ladies Encampment Auxiliary and is a General in the Patriarchs Militant.

On behalf of District 107, thank you for your service, Sister Debbie!

By Mason Wolf

Days at Historic Volcano #25

We have changed our meeting times from 7 pm to 2:30 pm on first Tuesdays of the month. It caused an uptick in attendance - all but three of the brothers attended October 1! Other news: The community was entertained on Sunday, November 3 by Laule'a Hawaiian Band & Hula Dancers - The original band was formed in 2015 with three members. The present band are all Odd Fellows members, who play mainly Hawaiian songs for fun at a variety of venues - "We play for fun and to spread a little Aloha".

By Jim Reyner

Pumpkin Sculpting at True Fellowship

On October 9th, directly following True Fellowship's potluck social (held the second Wednesday of each month), Noble Grand Debbie Wolf hosted a hands on pumpkin sculpting activity. Debbie learned from YouTube videos and many hours of scraping at pumpkins.

When sculpting the pumpkins, it is not recommended to scoop seeds first and hollow out the pumpkin. Every pumpkin offers a different starting canvas to work with and a sculpture is limited by the depth of the pumpkin flesh so it's important to be a little flexible when you have a specific design in mind. Six members joined in: **Bex Clark, Jane Beckman, Sara Bruce, Mason Wolf and Andrew Crockett** with several more Brothers and Sisters extending their evenings to visit and encourage the sculptors. Each member's creation was unique but three of them were inspired by cats!

By Debbie Wolf



Lt General Marion Owens of the GMC presents Debbie Shuler with a Special Recognition Award



November 2: Laule'a plays for the enjoyment of the Saratoga Retirement Community, home to Volcano #25, plus Freja Rebekah #284, and Stella Rebekah #22.

Benefit Concert at Bay View 109

Looking for a night of exceptional, entertaining music in the Bay Area?! Our very own **Bay View Lodge 109** is thrilled to present the ['Meeting of Acoustic Women' Benefit Concert](#) on Saturday, November 9th starting at 7pm!

Three fantastic Northern California female musicians, Emily Zisman (singer songwriter), "KatGrüvs" (instrumental guitar) and Karen Soo Hoo (singer songwriter) will perform individually genres of folk, rock, jazz, acoustic and more to cultivate into a night to remember! All net proceeds of the evening will go towards the Aragon High School Music Department, a local San Mateo County high school with a thriving music program that fosters a strong appreciation for the arts.

This concert marks the second show at the Bay View Lodge 109 within the "Meeting of Acoustic Minds" series and is sure to be a fantastic night of entertainment and socializing. Doors open at 6:00pm and the concert will begin at 7pm. Food and Drinks will be available for purchase. Plentiful parking in the surrounding area. Invite family, friends and everyone in between for a relaxing night of beautiful music and community. We look forward to seeing you there!

By **Hannah Koury**

Grand Warden Visit to Bay View 109

Grand Warden **Carlos Juarez** will be making a visit to District 107 when he visits Bay View 109 on Wednesday, December 4th.

The Brothers and Sisters of Bay View 109 have extended an invitation to any members of the district who would like to attend. They'll be having a meal before the visit at 6PM, with a meeting to follow at 6:30. No RSVP is required if only coming for the meeting, but if you wish to join for the meal, please let them know by emailing secretary@bayviewlodge109.org.

As DDGM, I will be on hand to introduce Brother Carlos. I hope to see you there!

By **Mason Wolf**

Cupertino 70 By-Laws Review

On October 28, 2024, Cupertino Lodge #70 voted to update its By-Laws. Our existing By-Laws were adopted towards the end of the year 2018. Odd Fellows requires By-Laws to be reviewed every five years.

The primary changes that have been submitted to the Grand Lodge By-Laws Review Committee for approval are:

- Addition of specific requirements that members wishing to advance to first, second or third degree must satisfy.
- Enunciation of the benefits that are available to members of our Lodge.
- Clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the Trustees and various standing committees.
- An updated procedure for addressing the situation where a member's dues are a year or more in arrears.

The By-Laws Committee, comprising **Randee Chin, Michael Greenzeiger, Jim Kabage, Don Lang** and **Mark St John**, began meeting regularly in May 2024 and presented the proposed changes to the Lodge in September. Overall, the Committee sought to ensure that the Lodge's business would be conducted as effectively and transparently as possible, and that members are clear on the roles and responsibilities of the standing committees. We expect that the newly defined prerequisites for taking the degrees will allow members to develop a better understanding of Odd Fellows as they progress and will enhance their commitment to the Lodge's work and programs.

The logistics of the approval process were somewhat challenging and have been addressed in the proposed By-Laws. Paper copies of the By-Laws had to be mailed to all members of our Lodge via US mail. The proposed By-Laws allow for distribution by email rather than by physical mail in future. We also referenced standing rules in the By-Laws so that items such as stipends or the contents of members' welcome packages can be approved by the Lodge without the burden of having to ratify new By-Laws.

Overall, the Committee found the process of reviewing the By-Laws to be useful and thought provoking. It enabled us to be more mindful and aware of our current practices. We believe that Cupertino Lodge #70 will operate even more effectively and efficiently after the adoption of the new By-Laws.

By **Mark St John**

