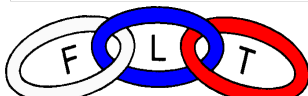


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The Triple Links Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

February 2025
Editors, Don Lang
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Established 1987



Can You Keep a Secret?

On January 20th at Cupertino 70, they swooped in from Mission Peak 114, True Fellowship 52 and Cupertino 70 to be initiated. Our first initiation for 2025. We now have eleven new members across these south bay lodges.

Outside conductor **Mark St John**, Cupertino's Treasurer, enjoyed eleven interviews as he filled in our booklet of candidates. Fortunately, we had 14+ goggles, enough for everyone. Inside Guardian **Stephen Franke** notified the Vice Grand, **Andrew Crockett**, that there were "strangers outside". Then things cascaded as they should.

Ron Myres splendidly performed dual roles as Noble Grand for the lodge and the initiatory. Conductor **Debbie Wolf** went for a long walk as she ushered "The-Eleven" clockwise to every nook and cranny in the meeting room. Chaplain **Todd White** swung the incense burner as he worked the scene. Allergies and smoke prevent us from igniting incense these days. Our warden was really sister **Annie Cronin** in disguise underneath all that wig and beard. And I hid as Past Grand behind my garb.

Many more members and visitors assisted at all the stations thanks to great organization from **Randee Chin**, **Annie Cronin**, **Jim Kabage's** good workup of material on the website, and many-many others. Sorry to miss mentioning everyone, but you know who you are and how grateful the candidates are to have such a large gathering. Look for yourselves in the pictures.

Congratulations to all new members; from True Fellowship 52 (**Megan Coen**, **David Cook**, **Megan O'Neil**, **Terrance Seddon**, **Alison Smaalders** (yes "aa"), **Charlie Sweeny**, **David Tingey**, **Ammy** (yes-spelled with "mm") **Woodbury** and **Erik Woodbury**); from Mission Peak 114 (**Amanda Bartlett**); and from Cupertino 70 (**Pam Johnson**).

- By Tom Blackburn

Third Degree in San Jose

On January 22nd, 6 new candidates, representing 5 different lodges, received their third degree at True Fellowship Lodge #52. The final lesson in Odd Fellowship, pointing to the universal ideal of Truth, sometimes called "the imperial virtue", was conveyed with the help of a full degree team, including **Andrew Crockett** and **Debbie Wolf**, acting as Noble Grand and Past Grand, respectively, each for the first time (having been installed into those stations only 3 days earlier).

The rest of the team consisted of **Scott Spence** as Warden, **Jane Beckman** as Conductor, **Lisa Harrigan** as the Chaplain, **Mason Wolf** as Vice Grand, and supporters **Jeff Rively**, **Randee Chin**, **John Jensen**, and **Sara Bruce** (who also doubled as Inside Guardian).

Our candidates were **Jim Reyner** and **Emily Holton** of Volcano Lodge #25, **Kat Powell** of True Fellowship Lodge #52, **Stephen Franke** of Cupertino Lodge #70, **Steven Koehler** of Bay View Lodge #109, and **Jesse Donaldson** of Mountain View Lodge #244.

Without revealing anything I shouldn't, the degree of Truth is a fitting finale to an Odd Fellow's journey through the 4 basic degrees of a Lodge, not because it reveals answers, but because it points to how and why we continue searching for meaning as we go forward. Beyond the degree of Truth, an invitation is extended to seek the degrees of the encampment, Rebekahs, and the Patriarchs Militant. And as the newly-minted third degree members are now eligible to become officers in their lodges, some may eventually work their way into Grand Lodge, and attain that degree as well. For this reason, the third

degree provides not only lessons, but tools, enabling those who receive it to continue their journey of Odd Fellowship, and I sincerely hope that Jim, Emily, Kat, Steven F, Steven K, and Jesse pursue that further knowledge.

- By Mason Wolf



Meeting of the Rebekah Assembly District 3

Our District meeting this year was an Official Visit from the Warden of the Rebekah Assembly, **Linda Hoelscher** to Clara Rebekah Lodge on January 20. As President of the Assembly, Sister **Debra LaVergne** assigned two lodge visits to Vice President **Marcy Harper** and two to the Warden. Because our District has 4 lodges, we get two visits from Rebekah Assembly every year. Sister Debra kept the visit to Freja for herself and set it on May 5 as Homecoming, and assigned the District Meeting to the Warden, who selected the date.

After a potluck dinner featuring salmon and roasted chicken, we headed into the lodge room for the meeting. 25 people attended, representing all 4 lodges in the District. I believe that after roll call of officers and introductions of visitors and dignitaries, the only person in the room who had not been introduced was Sister **Carol Kaderabek** from Stella Rebekah Lodge #22. The newly-installed Secretary of Clara #34, **Elizabeth Satterfield**, is probably the youngest elected officer in a Rebekah Lodge in California. She will turn 18 next month.

DDP **Michael Greenzeiger** used jokes from a forthcoming book of Odd Fellow and Rebekah jokes and riddles for the District presentation. One example was "What is a Rebekah's favorite hairstyle?" The answer is "Beehive". Brother Michael will need to let us know when the book becomes available, because several people want to get it. The examples he used were funny and fresh.

Everyone enjoyed the evening of friendship and merriment from the jokes!

- By **Debra LaVergne**



The Snowmen stuck around in the Mountain View 244 Display in January, and were joined by a litany of inspiring quotes from Dr Martin Luther King Jr, in honor of MLK Day.



Some Rebekahs share jokes during Good of the Order - 1/20/24

Life Line Screening

Have You Taken Control of Your Health?

Did you know 80% of strokes are preventable according to the American Heart Association?

Life Line Screening will be here again at Cupertino Odd Fellows Lodge 70 at 20589 W. Homestead Road, Cupertino. This will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physicals. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today.

- * Carotid Artery Disease
- * Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)
- * Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)
- * Atrial Fibrillation (AFib)

There is no time like the present to take action!

To register:

- Call toll-free: 1-833-539-0231
promo code LIGN001



Scenes from an installation party aftermath - 1/19/2024

Q: Why did the NG wear a tuxedo while asking the DDGM to help move a dumpster behind his lodge?

A: It was a formal request for assistance.

Pancakes and Business

On February 1st, Barnes Encampment #77 hosted a pancake breakfast at True Fellowship Lodge #52. We welcomed board members for our Grand Lodge as well as local Odd Fellows.

Serving breakfast in shifts was a delight with my fellow Barnes members. **Ben and Debbie Shuler** handled some exceptionally cost-efficient groceries and prepared some homemade berry compote topping. **Mason** and I joined them for first shift in the morning with food prep. Ben manned the griddle, providing the fluffiest pancakes and heating sides of ham. Debbie Shuler took payments. I cooked eggs to order.

By 8am, we were joined by **Debra LaVergne, Alison Holeman, Mary Jane Shabalin, Katrina Hazen, and Carole Wahrer**. Just before 9, Board members **Dave Reed, Fred Dolling, Carlos Juarez, and Suzaane Walligore**, headed out to start their session a mile away at the Grand Lodge office off Race Str.

Thank you to everyone who showed up, ate with us, and hung out through the board meeting (or some portion of it).

After expenses, Barnes raised close to \$200 for their efforts, and we all got to spend time cooking and eating with friends. We look forward to hosting another pancake breakfast in two months, on April 5th from 8 - 10:30am.

- By **Debbie Wolf**



Growing the Encampment

Barnes Encampment is growing. In September of last year, they added 6 new members (the first time doing the encampment degree at the cave - but probably not the last!), and on January 9th, they added two more. One was **Jon Hart**, the current DDGM of District 36. And as he is also a professional gravedigger with considerable experience with the Odd Fellows cemetery in his area, we could not imagine a more perfect resume for a new member in the encampment. The other new member was True Fellowship's own Past Grand (technically still Noble Grand at the time), **Debbie Wolf**.

The two new members had quite different experiences however. While Jon was unable to be present, and remains technically uninitiated for now, Debbie Wolf was waiting in the hallway while the ballot was taken, and received her good news in person. Chief Patriarch **Rodney Metoyer** and the rest of the encampment welcomed her personally, and then we proceeded to give her the Patriarchal degree, using video taken from that wonderful day in September when the other 6 new members joined. The patriarchs of Barnes considered reproducing the live degree again here in San Jose, but ultimately decided that re-watching the video with our newest member would be easier, sure, but also a lot of fun, especially since not all of their members made it to the cave and wanted to see it for themselves.

But this means we have 1 more member to initiate, and 7 members who need their next degree. And so, Barnes Encampment 77 will confer the Golden Rule degree at their meeting on February 13th. And for anyone else interested in becoming part of the encampment, the requirement is simply that you already have your four basic Odd Fellows degrees and want to advance further in the leadership of our Order.

-By **Mason Wolf**



Installation in San Jose

Practicing my Noble Grand inauguration speech, I kept choking up on one phrase: that Odd Fellowship provides a vehicle "to cherish each other, while we have the chance."

Delivering my speech at the front of the hall, facing more than 70 gathered members, friends and neighbors, my voice still cracked under the sentimental weight of the line.

This 170th annual installation for True Fellowship Lodge no.52, IOOF - as well as installation for Clara Rebekah no.34, Barnes Encampment no.77, and Santa Clara Canton no.6 - comes at a

continuing moment of uncertainty about the future of this second oldest fraternity in America. Yet, the discussions at the feast before the ceremonies rang strong and exuberant for the future we continue to craft, as if the pabulum-talk of resignation and retreat were rightfully barred from admission to our festivities.

The event felt as both a moment of respite as much as celebration. And now with our full complement of elected and appointed officers installed, we are on the march continuing True Fellowship's dynamic growth, engaging our members, and seeking to have this success spill over to lodges across the region and state, which is symbolically, the globe.

To achieve this prosperity, our Odd Fellows community center



has focused on simply honoring the watch words of our order:

- We promote Friendship through hosting games nights, potlucks, parties, burger fries, field trips, and dances.

- We promote Love through workshops, including ones hosted by BraverAngels and Landmark, to empower people in cultivating loveingkindness in our lives.

- We promote Truth through the performance of our full theatrical degrees: welcoming new members into the order and introducing them to symbolic Truth and its power through pageantry.

Simply put, for Odd Fellows to prosper: the more we live our creed, the more people will join us as active members who desire to live our creed as well. Doing so will give us the opportunity to cherish each other, while we have the chance.

- By Andrew Crockett



Installation in Cupertino

On January 27, 2025, Cupertino Lodge #70 hosting the installation of Saratoga Lodge #428, Philotesian Rebekah Lodge #145 and Cupertino Lodge #70. We would like to thank District Deputy Grand Master **Mason Wolf** and District Deputy President **Michael Greenzeiger** and their installation team, in bringing on the 2025 officers. This year's team included District Deputy Grand Marshal **Ron Myres**, Grand Marshal **Annie Cronin**, Installing Cupertino Past Grand **Simona Benjamin**, District Deputy Grand Warden **Izzy Mahon**, District Deputy Grand Secretary **Ben Shuler**, District Deputy Grand Treasurer/Musician **Paul Milleson**, and District Deputy Grand Chaplain **Debra LaVergne**.

On behalf of the Saratoga and Philotesian noble grands, I would like to thank all of our members who have stepped forward, some on multiple occasions, to become elected or appointed officers. Its the leadership you provide that helps form our lodges and guide us into the future. Not to be outshined by the officers, but all of our members who spend time serving on committees, are the backbone of our lodges and do the real work. Without you, its difficult to operate the daily business, produce successful charitable events and keep moving forward to create sustainable lodges to empower our members for generations.

Congratulations to all the 2025 officers near and far!

- By Jim Kabage



The Year Ahead: Mountain View 244 and NG Sally Calpo

Greetings, District #107! My name is **Sally Calpo** and I'm the incoming Noble Grand for Mountain View #244. While I cannot rightfully enforce the practice, I would greatly appreciate it if you learn to call me Sibling (instead of Sister) and use they and them pronouns (instead of she and her) to refer to me.

I have three primary goals for the 2025 term.

1) Create more opportunities for Mountain View Lodge members to socialize with one another, with other lodges in the district, and with prospective members in our area. Building stronger social connections internally strengthens our fellowship with each other and with our neighboring lodges. The more we get to know each other outside regular meetings, the more comfortably we will rely on one another for support. That in turn enhances our ability to take on greater challenges together, such as Mountain View Lodge's upcoming 150th anniversary celebration in 2026.

2) Bring in more active membership to my lodge. For this, I will lean heavily on the work of our incoming Outreach Committee, which is primarily responsible for contacting individuals, communities, and organizations who may benefit from our space. I was originally recruited through Outreach in the same way, so I can vouch for the effectiveness of the practice. I also added some public facing events to the district calendar that I will personally put the time in to organize and host at our lodge. When we open our doors to the public, whether it's for an art show, a game night, an open mic, or a Halloween Haunted House, we draw visitors in to learn more about who we are and what we do. It also gives us more activities of interest to report on in Triple Links, on our website, in social media, and in press publications.

3) Continue the efforts of my predecessors to ensure that Mountain View Lodge is a welcoming place for all. By opening our doors to those who are different from us, giving them space to be who they are without judgment, and learning to sympathize with the chal-



lenges they face, we broaden our understanding of the human condition and open our hearts to those whose perspectives we may otherwise have disregarded. I have been an Odd Fellow for five years now. I am also brown: the child of Filipino immigrants. I am queer: a person of nonbinary gender. I am neurodivergent: I have ADHD, social anxiety, and sensory processing issues. I think that I've contributed positively to my lodge so far, and I hope to continue doing so for many years to come, but I would not be here at all if Mountain View Lodge did not offer use of its space to Oddizens, my queer and neurodiverse social and gaming group. When we deliberately show support for the marginalized populations among us, whether by donating to causes that affect them, adopting practices that signal our acceptance of them, or reaching out to their community leaders to start a dialogue, we lay the groundwork from which we can build a better world for everyone.

This is my first (and possibly only) year as Noble Grand, as I hope to return to the Secretary's desk upon the end of my term, but in the meantime I hope to visit the other lodges in our district as time allows. I also invite you to visit Mountain View Lodge in turn during our meetings on 1st & 3rd Thursdays (6:30pm dinner, 8pm meeting), or at any of our events listed in the District #107 Calendar: siliconvalleyoddfellows.org

- By Sally Calpo

Plumbgeddon - The Soggy Saga

If you've ever flushed a toilet only to slowly watch in horror as the water rises up towards the rim, you'll know the feelings of helplessness, desperation, and disgust that only a terrible plumbing problem can cause.

At the Mountain View Odd Fellows lodge, we experienced that in spades during the winter of 2024. Welcome to Plumbgeddon 2024.

What began as a single toilet backing up spiraled into a catastrophic event fueled by a labyrinth of archaic pipes that routed the roof's storm drains directly into the blocked sewer lines, backing up gallons of water onto the floor and creating a frantic sense of urgency as the ever looming threat of rainy weather continued to deluge the lodge and its floors in buckets of water. While the initial backup occurred on December 8th, it was snaked and considered cleared on the 9th. We all assumed that was the end of it until I arrived in the lodge on December 14th to find the floors of the bathroom covered in silt and absolutely soaked with water pooling and spreading halfway down our back hallway - a good 15 feet from the downstairs toilet, our fairly new laminate floors - severely damaged and squelching with water.

Due to the emergency we called Roto-Rooter, who sent out a plumber to try to find the problem with their cameras. Only, his camera couldn't find the blockage. Or the main line. The camera instead found the place where the storm drain from the roof connected into our sewer lines at what I will be referring to as the "Access Point" from here on out. He opened this up in order to check and to run the cameras back from the Access point in hopes of finding out where our pipes connected to the main lines, unfortunately this search was fruitless and it would be a full week before we found out where that connection was and consequently, where the catastrophic blockage was hiding.

Something I recommend all lodges do, should they end up needing a plumber, is to follow along as they work. Not for any oversight purposes, but to understand what is happening and to keep notes on the findings and progress. Had I not done this throughout the process, our eventual un-

Continued on next page

“Plumbgeddon”, Continued From Page 6

derstanding would have been much worse and our eventual plumbing company would have had to repeat many of the same procedures as the first one.

The most useful thing from this first foray into the labyrinth of our pipes was discovering the connection of the storm drains. Apparently in the 1920s or thereabouts, it was common in some parts of the Bay Area for buildings to be plumbed in this fashion, connecting a building's storm drains into their sewer line to keep water off the sidewalks. If your lodge building is particularly old, it may be well worth checking if your storm drains are connected in order to avoid future damage.

It is also worth checking your roof

However, all of that came later. What happened at this moment in time, when we'd only just discovered the bizarre labyrinth was a terrible realization; We were trapped in a closed system with nowhere for the water to go but inside the building and the threat of ever increasing damage with each and every drop of rain that fell.

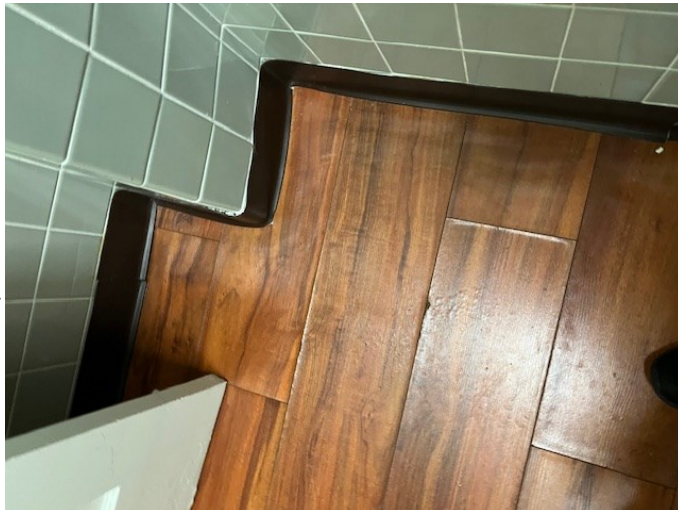
The feeling of dread was immense, there aren't enough rags in the world to soak up the entirety of the

skies after all, and with how taciturn our rains can be in California - barely there for one season to torrential feet of rain the next, I was terrified of the weather.

Before the first plumber left I stopped him outside the side of the building next to the now open Access Point. He had just knelt down to close it back up and I stopped him to ask if he could, perhaps, not close it?

The Access Point was lower than the downstairs toilet, if we were going to have overflow - and we were going to have overflow, the weather was predicting coming storms - it would be better to have it overflow to the street and not our floors. I remember the look he gave me as 'complicated,' and he waffled on it for a few moments.

For those unaware, it is blatantly unlawful for a person or business to dump or discharge raw sewage into the street and this line was directly connected to our toilets. While there was no actual sewage in the line anymore, any that had been there had already been flushed back up into our building with the previous rain, we were in danger if anyone actually used the indoor plumbing, as we would be pumping that directly onto the sidewalk. Perhaps he saw my desperation, perhaps he just wanted to get home, but he finally agreed after giving me a firm warning about city laws and that this was strictly off the books.



Serious water damage in the bathroom (thankfully insured)

In order to protect the lodge from violating the law we closed for all future activities and locked the building down to guarantee that the plumbing would/could not be used and that only rain water would overflow the system.

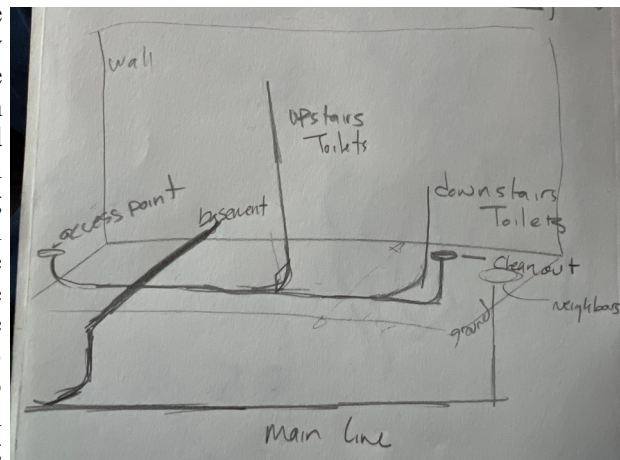
RotoRooter sent more people the next day to try and find the problem and even after power washing the silt from the roof out of the pipes they could access, they were stumped. Their suggestion was for me to immediately sign a contract to the tune of \$28,574.59 in order to tear up the back alley behind the lodge and lay completely new pipes.

With the catastrophic nature of the blockage, our complete ignorance of where the problem actually was, and with storms predicted - I was feeling the pressure. Thankfully something that expensive needs to be run by the lodge first so I told



A view of the silt on the Mountain View 244 roof

gutters for silt and debris as I found our roof had at least 100 pounds of silt sitting in the gutters waiting for a strong rain to whisk it down into the pipes. I spent several afternoons on the roof bagging up the silt and creating chickenwire coverings for the drain heads in order to avoid further debris and I must take a moment to thank Brother **Jesse Donaldson** of my lodge for helping me lower the bags of silt off the roof as the first time I attempted it myself I met with rather Explosive results.



Sketch drawing to demonstrate how the system flows.

Concluded on next page...

“Plumbgeddon”, Continued From Page 7

them to send me the documents and I would discuss it with the lodge. Leaving the Access Point open turned out to be the golden decision in the long run, since it gave us the breathing room to not immediately sign those documents. Even with the rain coming down, the inside of the building was safe and we were given the time to formulate a plan, get some guidance from members of the order, and finally find and work with a different plumbing company.

My advice to any lodge experiencing something similar is this - if you can afford to wait for a day to get another opinion, Wait. Also give Brother **Ron Myres** a call.

Brother Ron is a diamond in the crown of Odd Fellowship and if you are not acquainted with him I urge you to introduce yourself. Throughout that week he was in and out of the lodge with snakes and cameras, finding cleanouts RotoRooter had missed, and even though we couldn't fix the problem on our own, his guidance and steadying hand was integral to our journey towards the actual solution. It was on his recommendation that we booked an appointment with our eventual plumbing company, Counsil Plumbing.

Mike was the lead from Counsil Plumbing (not to be confused with the separate company “Mike Counsil Plumbing” which operates in the same area and who I called by accident when I had a question about our billing) and he came out on the 20th to have a look. From the get-go Mike was knowledgeable, confident, and great to work with. With his help we narrowed down a problematic area and decided to do an exploratory dig, set to start the next day with an initial estimate of around \$2500ish. His estimate for having to completely relay all of the pipes was \$13,000-17,000 and in the end the work - new pipes laid underground, a new cleanout added in the alley, a complete disconnection of the storm drains from our sewer line rerouting into new pipes

laid down the side of the building to drain onto the sidewalk, with brand new concrete laid down, not to mention the actual discovery of the blockage and the connection to the main line and a new toilet (a Toto Drake) installed at cost - ended up costing us \$11,340, a far cry from the \$30K we voted to put aside for the project.

His team found our connection to the main line (and thereby discovering the hidden blockage which ended up being wads and wads of toilet paper and not in fact the silt from the roof) in a perpendicular line coming into our basement, something I would also recommend lodges with old buildings look for if they are having trouble discovering where their lodge connects to the city lines - if you have a strange old pipe sticking out into the middle of nowhere, maybe that's where the plumbing used to be and might be where the connections were originally made. If you have to open that pipe I will give you Mike's recommendation “Be sure to have a large bucket,...maybe several” just in case. Since all of our other plumbing was perpendicular to this line, it's no wonder our cameras kept coming up the storm drains in a strange loop back and forth. Cameras can't see in murky water and unlike the movies cannot turn or raise themselves out of the water in order to get a better look.

In the end we finished laying the concrete on December 26th, just in time to

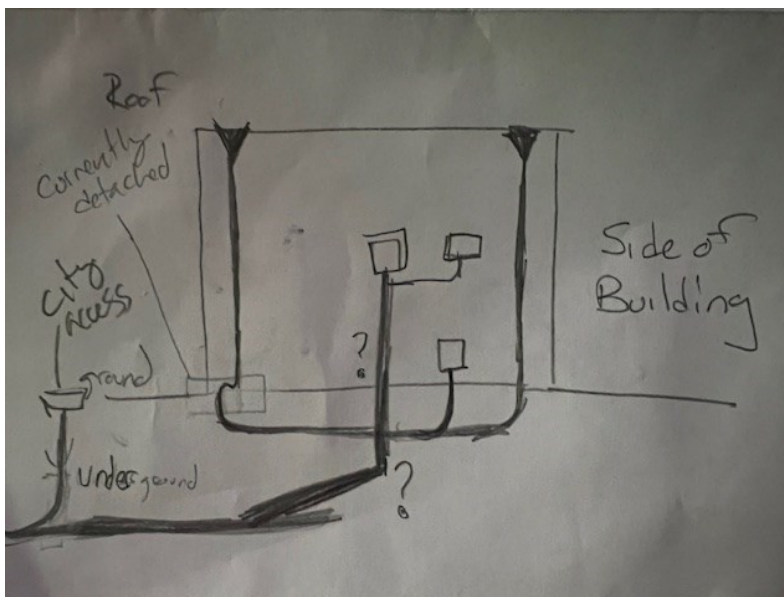
open the lodge to host Sister **Jessica Dickinson Goodman**'s birthday party (which I was quite glad for since I wanted to have the new plumbing tested against a large party as soon as possible). My final act on the saga was taking a moment to draw a small triple links symbol into the newly laid concrete as it dried, much to the amusement of Mike and his team.

I would like to take a moment to thank some members of the lodge who were very helpful during this adventure and who have yet to be mentioned in this article - Noble Grand **Ria Toolis** was a source of strength throughout the process, her decisive actions helped keep the lodge safe and the building secure, and Sibling **Zoe Timmerman** has taken the lead on all of the insurance issues, something they are still handling as we move past Plumgeddon2024 and work to get the water damage dealt with and the interior of the lodge fixed back to its former state.

When I reflect on this event I find myself trying to consider it from an objective perspective. Throughout the two week saga I got many emails from fellow lodge members thanking me for “taking point” and “taking care” of the problem. My actions were such that my lodge felt fit to award me the Merit Award this year. But at the time all I was thinking was that the work desperately needed to be done, and I was there, so I had to be the one to do it. This is how I've always been, I'm a person who is more reliable in crisis than in

peace; a person who sees crisis and says ‘okay what do we do now’. It has been many years since I've been in a situation that needed so much from me; my time, my energy, my problem solving skills and my negotiation and discernment. I know a lot of members talk about how being in the lodge has helped their public speaking skills, and I feel like this event has really helped me grow as a person, in confidence and in experience. Thank you for relying on me during Plumgeddon2024, I'm so glad I was able to serve the lodge to the best of my ability.

- By **Sinead Toolis**



Another sketch of the system, created after further investigation.

The Difference Between "The Power To" and "Power Over" in Odd Fellows Lodge Dynamics

The Odd Fellows fraternity, with its values of friendship, love, and truth, operates on principles that balance individual agency and collective harmony. Within this framework, the dynamics of "power to" and "power over" play a crucial role in shaping relationships, decision-making, and the overall health of the lodge. While these concepts provide valuable insights, they are not without limitations and criticisms.

The "Power to " in Lodge Operations

"The power to" in an Odd Fellows lodge refers to the ability to foster collaboration, initiate positive change, and empower members to contribute meaningfully. This approach aligns closely with the fraternity's emphasis on mutual aid and communal responsibility. For example, "the power to mentor" enables experienced members to guide new initiates, helping them grow within the lodge while maintaining its traditions.

Leaders who embody "power to" focus on enabling others rather than controlling outcomes. A Noble Grand, for instance, might inspire members to take initiative on community projects, ensuring that everyone feels included and valued. This philosophy enhances participation and strengthens bonds, encouraging members to share responsibility for the lodge's success.

The "Power Over " in Lodge Dynamics

Conversely, "power over" represents authority exerted to maintain rules, order, or ensure consistency. In the structured hierarchy of an Odd Fellows lodge, this dynamic is sometimes necessary. For instance, the Noble Grand might exercise "power over procedures" to uphold rituals and ensure adherence to bylaws. Or the Noble Grand's authority helps create a structured environment where new members can learn and respect the traditions of the lodge.

Contrasting Viewpoints

Although both "power to" and



"power over" are integral to lodge dynamics, neither approach is without flaws. Critics of "power to" argue that its emphasis on collaboration can sometimes lead to inefficiency or indecision. In a lodge context, overly democratic processes might slow down urgent decisions or dilute the authority necessary for cohesive action.

On the other hand, "power over" is often criticized for its potential to breed conflict and suppress individual contributions. While structure is vital for maintaining tradition, an overreliance on hierarchical control can stifle the spirit of equality that Odd Fellows seek to uphold. While this form of power can prevent chaos and safeguard the integrity of the lodge, it risks alienating members if applied excessively or unfairly. A heavy-handed approach might suppress creativity, discourage participation, and foster resentment, undermining the fraternity's foundational values.

A Balanced Perspective

The Odd Fellows philosophy offers an alternative: "shared stewardship." This concept emphasizes a balance where leaders and members co-create solutions, blending the best aspects of both paradigms. Leaders guide with authority when necessary but remain focused on empowering others to

uphold the lodge's mission.

Why It Matters

Understanding the distinctions and limitations of "power to" and "power over" within an Odd Fellows lodge is essential for fostering harmony and ensuring longevity. By blending these dynamics through shared stewardship, lodges can honor their traditions while adapting to modern challenges. Embracing this balanced approach ensures that all members feel valued, engaged, and united in their shared commitment to friendship, love, and truth.

Such a philosophy not only strengthens the lodge but also reflects the Odd Fellows' broader aim of promoting universal harmony and justice.

- By John Jensen



What Would Thomas Wildey Do?

Upcoming Events:

February 5: - Installation at Bay View 109

Where: Bay View 109 (839 Main St, Redwood City)

When: 6:30PM—8:30PM

February 6: - Installation at Mountain View 244

Where: Mountain View 244 (823 Villa St, Mtn View)

When: 6:30PM—9:00PM

February 7: - First Friday Game Night

Where: True Fellowship 52 (1035 Emory St, San Jose)

When: 6PM—10PM

Signup: <https://true52.org/game-night>

February 12: - True Fellowship Monthly Potluck

Where: True Fellowship 52 (1035 Emory St, San Jose)

When: 6PM—8PM

Price: Free, but Please Bring a Dish to Share

Signup: <https://true52.org/potluck>

February 7-14: - Sinead Toolis Art Show

Where: Mountain View 244 (823 Villa St, Mtn View)

When: All Day

February 19: - Nā Pua Nani Hula Class

Where: Cupertino 70 (20589 Homestead Rd, Cupertino)

When: 5:30PM—7PM

Price: \$5 (free for Cupertino 70 members)

Signup: cupertinooddfellows.org/calendar/

February 19: - 'Ukulele Strums & Songs

Where: Cupertino 70 (20589 Homestead Rd, Cupertino)

When: 7:15PM—8:30PM

Price: \$10 (free for Cupertino 70 members)

Signup: cupertinooddfellows.org/calendar/

February 26: - Kani Ka Pila Hawaiian Music Jam

Where: Cupertino 70 (20589 Homestead Rd, Cupertino)

When: 6PM—9PM

Price: FREE, but donations appreciated

Signup: cupertinooddfellows.org/calendar/

February 28: - Last Friday Game Night

Where: True Fellowship 52 (1035 Emory St, San Jose)

When: 6PM—10PM

Signup: <https://true52.org/game-night2>

For the latest updates, visit our District Calendar online:

<https://siliconvalleyoddfellows.org/district-calendar>

A Grand District 107 Party: April 15

As Odd Fellows, we're heirs to a rich tradition of crafters and artists creating beautiful custom pieces for their lodges, as well as a number of lovely yet mass-produced items that lodges could acquire from the established fraternal supply houses of their time.

As California Odd Fellows, our forebears in the Order saw roughly 700 lodges that were chartered, operated for a period of time, and then consolidated or disbanded as those lodges, for whatever reason, ceased to be independently viable. And while that's a somewhat sobering thought, it means that over those decades, quite a few rare and beautiful items have been too precious to simply discard once their owners have lost their charters, and instead made their way to the Grand Lodge's care. During the renovation of the Race Street Odd Fellows building to turn it into the new Grand Lodge office, they created a wing devoted to displaying some of these treasures.

As District Deputy Grand Master for 107, which happens to be the district where the Grand Lodge office is located, I've had a few opportunities to browse the museum wing established at these offices, and I think more Odd Fellows should have a chance to see it. It's our heritage, and as April is the month we recollect the founding of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, I think we should celebrate it!

On Tuesday, April 15th, you are invited to join us at a "Grand District Party". It will begin at 6PM at the Grand Lodge building at 122 Race St, where we'll enjoy some light appetizers while we browse the museum collection. At 7:30, the party will transfer to True Fellowship Lodge #52, which is just 1 mile away (and an easy walk if you want to build up your appetite), where we'll serve a hearty meal and present a short reenactment of the founding of the first IOOF lodge in North America, Washington Lodge #1 in Baltimore, back in April of 1819.

And this isn't only an invitation to members. If you have friends curious about what Odd Fellows is, they're very welcome to come as well! Tickets will go on sale soon. To be the first to find out when they do, you can register with your email address at: true52.org/districtParty

- By *Mason Wolf*



One of the items displayed in the Odd Fellows museum at Grand Lodge