

Established 1987



First Degree Conferred at Mountain View #244

A full team robed in red, purple, and white satin presented the mysteries of the 1st Degree to thirteen candidates on 27 March 2025 in Mountain View. Because a Rebekah degree event was also held that night, three energetic and enthusiastic Odd Fellows lodges joined in the 1st Degree team: Cupertino #70, True Fellowship #52, and the host Mountain View #244.

Thanks to the team: **Andrew Crockett** (serving as Noble Grand, and playing two roles), **A.M. "Aer" van de Water**, **Jane Beckman**, **Sara Bruce**, **Tom Blackburn** (photographer, and also playing a role), **Angela Commean**, and **Bex Clark**. I was honored to play a role as well as serving as Vice Grand.

We were ably supported by **Annie Cronin**, **Jesse Donaldson**, and **Tatiana Kuvaldina**. Andrew was nimble in shifting costume and voices and Annie graciously sat in as NG as needed. Jesse and Tatiana were creative in feeding and corralling the candidates (one of whom brought seven children!) downstairs while the team finished its dress rehearsal.

Many of the antique Mountain View props were put to good use. The candidates left both well instructed and entertained.

-- By **Katy Dickinson**



Initiation at Cupertino #70

On Monday, March 31st, 6 new brothers and sisters joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Cupertino #70. **Richard Norris** of True Fellowship #52, **Kersten Stanley-Jones** and **Victor Gonsalves** of Mountain View #244, **Jordan DuVal** and **Helen Bobias** of Cupertino #70, and **Joshua Barchant** of Bay View #109.

The candidates were conducted by given the full live degree, with music, costumes, props, and lots of enthusiasm. There may have been an interpretive dance in there at some point, but if so, our new members know to keep a secret.

Our degree team was mostly comprised of Cupertino #70 members. In fact, every member of the degree team

with a speaking line was a Cupertino #70 member except for the wonderful conductor, **Debbie Wolf** (and they have certainly offered her an associate membership if she's interested).

The rest of the team were: **Mark Saint-John**, **Tom Blackburn**, **Steve Franke**, **Pam Johnson**, **Randee Chin**, **Mason Wolf**, **Jim Kabage**, **Annie Cronin**, **Marvin Carter**, **Todd White**, **Steve Koehler**, **Scott Spence**, **Michael Greenzeiger**, **Debra LaVergne**, and **Ron Myres** (who must now answer to the adjective "venerable").

Since it was also a dinner, (because we do love to eat at Cupertino!) we also appreciate the folks who made and served the food. Marvin, Steve, and Randee served what were essentially build-your-own sausage, egg and cheese McMuffins for everyone present. YUM!

Finally, I want to acknowledge the Noble Grands of Mountain View 244 and Bay View 109 who came out in support of their candidates - **Sally Calpo** and **Gerald Williams**. It's always nice when a new member has someone they know who can reassure them that, while it might get a little weird, it definitely won't get *too* weird when you decide to become a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

--By **Mason Wolf**



Celebration of Life for Donald J. Lang

On March 29th, we all gathered at Cupertino Lodge #70 to share memories of one of the most influential, hard-working and caring members of Odd Fellows, **Don Lang**. Our meeting room was full, with some overflow in the dining room, plus viewers on Zoom.

Don's influence on all of us was great and positive. Among those speaking included Don's daughter Ann and her husband Mike, who shared personal memories plus Don's 40 year working history working at IBM. Many others spoke who were friends from Odd Fellows, Rebekahs and DeAnza Lions. Don was a Cupertino Odd Fellows member for close to 40 years and member of DeAnza Lions for close to 30 years.

The host for the day was Cupertino's Noble Grand **Jim Kabage**. The benediction was delivered by friend and Odd Fellows/Rebekah member, **Jackie Brown**. Color detail was presented by **Rodney Metoyer**, **Fred Dolling** and **Ernest Ablice**. The Odd Fellows funeral service was delivered by Grand Master **Dave Reed**, who also led us in song, and Grand Marshal **Annie Cronin**. The Rebekah's funeral service was led by the President of Rebekah Assembly, **Debra LaVergne**.

Following the meeting room celebration, refreshments were served in the dining room.

The food included Don's favorites including Pasta, Ravioli, Shrimp, Cherry Pie and of course... ice cream. In addition to the good food, there was live music performed by Cupertino Lodge #70's own *Laule'a* band performing a mixture of Hawaiian music and oldies. Band members include past grand **Ron Myres**, **Les Wong**, **Randee Chin** and **Jim Kabage**.

We were very much appreciative of all our Cupertino members – **Marvin Carter**, **Karen Sanico**, **Pam Johnson**, **Steve Franke**, **Randee Chin**, **Les Wong**, **Ron Myres**, **Victoria Carmona**, **Todd White** and **Mark St. John**, who all worked hard to run this day. We want to thank our neighbor lodges and members working alongside us including **Aer Vandewater** from Mountain View 244, **Lorraine Radar**, **Tina Liddy**, **Paul Milleson** from Saratoga.

-- By **Jim Kabage**



Odd Fellows deposited evergreen boughs in Don's memory, to indicate that his virtues will remain "ever green" in our recall.

A Grand District 107 Party: April 15th

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. On April 15, we'll have a chance to celebrate 175 years of Odd Fellowship in California.

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 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 provided by Kneaded Culinary Academy 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! [Purchase Your Tickets Here.](#)

--By **Mason Wolf**.



A bust of Thomas Wildey will greet partygoers at True Fellowship 52.

One Man Gone: Concerts at Bay View 109

On March 9th, 2025', the Bayview 109 Lodge in Redwood City, hosted the band "One Man Gone".

O.M.G. is a Grateful Dead tribute band, located on the SF Peninsula.

We had been eagerly wanting to have a concert at our lodge, on the heels of our successful singer-songwriter concert which we hosted in November.

We decided upon a G.D. tribute band for a number of reasons. One of which, is that in the Bay Area, GD cover bands are quite popular! Those bands almost always have their own loyal following, and therefore you are fairly certain to sell a goodly number of tickets automatically. Secondly, the GD cover band crowd tends to be over 45 years old, basically quite peaceful, fun loving, decidedly casual, and into dancing!

Additionally, One Man Gone had their own manager, and he was quite enthusiastic, easy to work with, and was very open to any ideas that would make the concert work. The band members were also very easy to work with, ran their own sound, and in general were very professional.

The band played 3 sets of music, they sounded great, the crowd loved them, and we received A LOT of very positive direct feedback from concert goers. We decided in advance, as something of a strategic move, to sell beer, wine, snacks & refreshments at a VERY reasonable price. We charged \$4 for beer and wine, and \$2 for snacks. We did this for the specific reason, that we wanted to make sure that the concert goers felt that they were getting a good deal, and that we definitely were not "sticking it to them". Many expressed that they appreciated that! Even still, we made a profit off of drinks and snacks. The tickets were \$20 in advance, and \$25 at the door. By Bay Area standards, this is a VERY affordable day out. We feel that providing a high quality, affordable event, really makes our Lodge look good, and makes

a very favorable impression upon the general public, who may want to also become members!!!

The concert ran from 3-6 pm. We had about 80 attendees, most of whom bought at least one drink, and even tipped generously.

Because we were serving alcohol, we hired two security professionals to monitor the event. In retrospect, we could have gotten by with one security person, which we will do in the future. But, better safe than sorry! We had 3 Oddfel-



lows members as volunteers, and two NON Oddfellows volunteers. We also had two vendors at the event, one selling tie-dye clothing, and the other one was selling jewelry. Having vendors there gave the event a festive feel.

We feel strongly, that if your lodge is contemplating hosting a musical event, that a Grateful Dead cover band is a good way to start! It's a ready made audience, it's an older, well behaved audience, and that type of audience knows what they are expecting and getting. In that respect, they're easy to please! Also, we feel that this type of audience is eclectic in their tastes, and will be open to other types of offerings from us in the future.

Going forward, we endeavor to have one event per month. We will for sure have other stylers of music, but we think that having GD cover bands will be a fundamental staple of what we do. Please feel free to contact Bayview Lodge 109 if you would like more specific info on how we created this event.

-- By **Reed Sutton and Steve Koehler**

Herman DeVille Pancake Breakfast

On March 8, Cupertino Lodge #70 held its 16 th Annual Herman Deville Pancake Breakfast. This event serves as a fundraiser to benefit City of Hope, whose mission is to make hope a reality for those who suffer from cancer or diabetes. This occasion was special since it was the first time members were gathering since the passing of our mentor and most senior member, Brother **Don Lang**.

Over the years, Don had championed the City of Hope's cause, both at Odd Fellows and at the Cupertino DeAnza Lions Club. It was therefore fitting that a contingent of 16 of his fellow Lions attended the breakfast.

A total of just under 60 attendees enjoyed a breakfast of pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs. Past Grand **Ron Myres** did a masterful job of preparing pancakes on our newly acquired Razor Grid-

dle, and everyone reveled in a morning a food, fellowship and fun. The fun was in the form of a 50/50 raffle where 50% of the proceeds were donated to City of Hope and the other 50% was distributed to the participants as prizes.

The Lion's Club generously donated \$500 to the Fundraiser in memory of Don Lang, and we collected an additional \$1,090 in admission fees and donations. The 50/50 raffle netted \$205 for a grand total of \$1,795. But, there was more good news. Since our Razor Grid-dle was acquired at a bargain price, the savings were used to boost the total donation given to City of Hope to \$2,000. The full amount was donated in honor of our beloved Brother Don.



--By **Mark Saint-John**

Castro Steet Window Display - March 2025

In March, the window theme for our Odd Fellows Lodge on Castro Street was Women's History Month and the fight of universal suffrage in the United States.

The Suffragettes

Today, women over the age of 18 take it for granted that they can vote. The right for Universal Suffrage was no walk in the park but was a long hard battle stretching over decades and generations. Starting in the mid 19th century, woman suffrage supporters lectured, wrote, marched, lobbied, and practiced civil disobedience to achieve what many Americans believed to be a radical change to the Constitution.

Finally in 1920, 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed allowing women to vote.

In our window, Eleanor, our suffragette, is wearing a Victorian era outfit with sash and roses in the adopted colors of the suffragettes.



Colors of the Suffragettes

The suffragettes adopted the colors of white, purple and yellow into their iconography. These colors appeared on banners, sashes, pamphlets, and all manner of tricolor badges.



1. **White** was chosen to represent liberty, purity, and feminine grace.

2. **Purple, or violet**, represented the vote as well as loyalty, constancy, and steadfastness.

3. **Yellow and gold** drew inspiration from the sunflower, the state flower of Kansas, where early suffrage campaigns took place. The sunflower was adopted as a symbol of the suffrage cause as was the yellow rose.

Those in favor of giving women the right to vote wore **yellow roses** or **gold** pins in their labels. Those not in favor of women's suffrage wore **red roses**.



Image credit: https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/flat-women-s-history-month-illustration_22605956.htm

Women's History Month is a month chosen to highlight the valuable contributions that women past and present have made in the world.

In 1987, **Congress** designated the month of **March** as **Women's History Month**.

Our window display shows quotes by various women who have made a difference in society.

Our window display for March has received the vote of approval from many passersby as well as many OddFellows.

-- By **Ria and Sinéad Toolis**, Mountain View 244

Information for this article was obtained from Wikipedia, and Oregon.gov/archives

*Note: Big thanks to **Jesse Donaldson** for providing the image of our window.*

We Tried a Hawaiian Burger Fry, And You'll Never Believe What Happened!

A dream come true often looks like an experiment, where we try something we have never done before in hopes that we get better results than what had been

happening before. In the case of Cupertino Lodge no. 70's Kanikapila and True Fellowship Lodge no.52's Burger Fry: four times this year we were scheduled to have our respective marquee events on the same night. And we knew exactly what had happened when this occurred before – both of our events would have lower turnout than usual, as Odd Fellows would have to choose which one to attend.

So, we tried something new this year: instead of having conflicting events, we would cooperate and hold both events together as a dual lodge celebration! The Kanikapila Hawai'i'an dance and music sing-along, with the Hamburger Fry supplying hamburgers (with optional pineapple) to all the attendees has created the new cooperative event: the Hawai'i'an Burger Fry!

With a turnout of about 50 people to this new, cooperative event we launched on March 26 th hosted at True Fellowship Lodge no.52 we feel that momentum will grow in coming months. Put the upcoming cooperative events on your calendars today so you don't miss out on this aloha spirit full of Friendship, Love, and Truth!

Mahalo!

- Wednesday, June 26th hosted at Cupertino Lodge no.70
- Wednesday, August 27th hosted at Cupertino Lodge no.70
- Wednesday, September 24th hosted at True Fellowship Lodge no.52

--By Andrew Crockett



Upcoming Degree:
Saratoga 428 will be hosting the Second Degree (aka the Degree of Brotherly Love) on April 22nd at 7PM.

14414A Oak St,
Saratoga

To enroll an eligible candidate, the secretary or noble grand should send an email to:
mason@true52.org



Cupertino Odd Fellows Lodge 70
20589 W. Homestead Road
Cupertino, CA 95014

You are invited to our 2nd Annual "May Day is Lei Day" Celebration Fundraiser for Kāko'o Maui

Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement

Sat., May 3, 2025 6:00-8:30 p.m.

\$10 donation & potluck dish to share

Kalua pork & cabbage and chicken katsu will be provided

Seating is limited. Make your reservation early at

www.CupertinoOddFellows.org/mayday

by Sunday, April 28

Donations also accepted

- Online at www.CupertinoOddFellows.org
- Checks to "Cupertino Odd Fellows Lodge 70"

Papa Kuhikuhi (Program)

5:30 Doors Open

6:00 Dinner

6:45 Raffle

7:00 "May Day Is Lei Day in Hawai'i"
Hula Show by the Hui 'Ilima Dancers

7:45 Kanikapila (music jam) led by Leomele
All are welcome to play an instrument, sing, dance hula,
or just enjoy!

8:30 Closing & Hawai'i Aloha



Golden Rule Degree at Barnes Encampment 77

On March 13th, 6 new members of Barnes 77 traded in their black collars and became the patriarchs to learn the sublime and enduring mysteries of the Golden Rule Degree. Using a modified script provided by Chief Patriarch **Debra LaVergne**, the Golden Rule Degree reminds us of the virtue of tolerance in our day to day lives, welcoming all who we encounter with the understanding that while peoples and cultures may differ from our own, we are and remain unified as one Universal family.

The regalia of the degree is a black collar trimmed with gold. Our six new encampment members entitled to wear it are: **Deborah Wolf, Carol Wahrer, Katrina Hazen, Jon Hart, MaryJane Shabalin, and Andrew Crockett.**

In addition to Chief Patriarch Debra, the degree was conferred by **Mason Wolf** as Senior Warden, **Annie Cronin** as Junior Warden, **Ron Myres** as High Priest, and **Ben Shuler, Debbie Shuler, and Rodney Metoyer** in various roles.

Barnes Encampment plans to offer the degree once more in June for one or two members who couldn't attend in April, followed by a live conferral up at Three Links Camp of the Royal Purple Degree. Having so many new Royal Purple members eligible to become officers, and potentially become members of the Patriarchs Militant, demonstrates how this important appendant body is being revitalized in District 107.

To understand why someone might become a member of an encampment, it's helpful to understand what the encampment actually is. This is an organization that exists to support men and women who want to cross-pollinate between lodges, and have conversations about Odd Fellowship that aren't limited or centered around the day-to-day running of a single lodge. Encampment members are typically leaders within their home lodges, and so taking these higher degrees is something that makes sense for them to do, and often precedes becoming active at the Grand Lodge level.

While still small, Barnes Encampment is now acting as a sort of district lodge. They serve as banker for District 107 funds, and can support individual lodges on an as-needed basis. The more members who join, the more useful a resource Barnes 77 will become, and the more rewarding membership in the encampment will be for everyone who takes part. As Barnes grows in both membership and purpose, it's my belief that Odd Fellowship in our entire area will benefit.

-- By **Mason Wolf**



Corned Beef and Cabbage Night at True Fellowship 52

On Wednesday March 12th, everyone, including Saint Patrick's ghost, left well fed from True Fellowship's annual observance of St. Patrick's Day. Whether it was the corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, onions or carrots that filled you up, or Sis. **Debbie Shuler's** amazing green whipped marshmallow dessert: it was a time for feasting and merrymaking for all com-

ers. And due to our intentional leafletting campaign of the neighborhood, our dining hall was not only packed with our regular members, we had well over a dozen neighbors who joined in our revelries. They also received an informative tour of our hall, enlightening these prospects about the nature of our friendly order, and how they too might join. With some Irish luck, we hope to see these neighbors again soon!

-- By **Andrew Crockett**



Delivered As Advertised - "True Fellowship 52: Good Food, Odd Company"





3rd Friday Board Game Nights at Mountain View

On Friday, March 21, 2025, Mountain View Lodge #244 had its first open board game night. Our group was small, but we had fun!

We played a couple rounds of Sequoia, a dice game in which players compete to build the tallest trees by rolling six-sided dice pairs. We learned a card game named Plums, which has players collecting beautifully drawn fruit cards to build the highest-scoring sets. We also enjoyed a home-made version of Can't Stop (cleverly named "Cat Stop"), which also involves rolling dice pairs to advance along a track, but you can lose your progress if you roll too many different pairs.

Generally, our game selection on any given night depends on what participants bring. However, we tend to bring games that are easy to pick up and not so complex that socializing during play is difficult at best. We also like to mix it up with a variety of themes and styles!

Our next board game night is on Friday, April 18, 2025, with doors opening at 7pm. This is a half-hour earlier than the previously announced start time. Parking in downtown Mountain View on a Friday night can be daunting, so we strongly suggest that you arrive early to have dinner before playing with us, or take Caltrain to the Mountain View Station at 600 W Evelyn Ave and walk the couple blocks to our lodge at 823 Villa St.

-- By *Sally Calpo*

Update From Volcano 25

Volcano #25 – We did it! We sent the Grand Lodge of CA (GL) our amended bylaws! We have heard that the GL review is underway, but that the review process will take time. Our Social Com-

mittee is busy – watch for events that will focus on SRC residents and also open SRC to visits from the other District 107 lodges.

-- By *Jim Reyner*



LARP at the Camp!

Live Action Role Playing Preliminary Deal Secured with Three Links Camp! For those who don't know, Live Action Role Playing (LARP) is a fun, immersive, real-world game where participants physically act out the roles of fantasy-adventure characters, often in costume, within a structured story or setting. This is a growing pastime in the United States, and True Fellowship Lodge has partnered with Refuge LARP, one of the most respected LARP groups in northern California, to bring this fun activity to Odd Fellowship at our Three Links Camp. And the exciting development is that, after about two months of negotiation, we have secured a preliminary deal to host the first LARP weekend at Three Links Camp! More information to come soon: though we know we will have a booth at the Odd Fellows Festival on the weekend of June 21st-22nd at Three Links Camp to let Odd Fellowship know of upcoming opportunities for fun!

--By *Andrew Crockett*

Open Mic Nights in June!

Mountain View Lodge #244 plans to host two Open Mic Nights during Pride Month on Friday, June 27, 2025 and Saturday, June 28, 2025 from 6-11pm.

Performances can be musical or spoken word, and ideally around 10 minutes in length. Performers must sign up to be placed on the schedule, either ahead of time (at a link to be provided in the near future) or in person. Until further notice, we can only accept performances of original works, with a preference for



themes related to LGBTQIA+ culture and experiences.

Our sound person will provide a small console, mics, speakers and a monitor; anything else, including amps, is up to you to bring. Our space is fairly small, so don't bring gear you couldn't comfortably plug into your living room! We will also be able to play digital files you provide as accompaniment through USB or Bluetooth.

More details to be announced! Please email any inquiries to Sally at oddizens@gmail.com.

--By *Sally Calpo*

AMOS Degree is Coming to Grand Lodge Sessions



The Ancient Mystic Order of Samaritans, Xanadu Sanctum #321, invites any male Odd Fellow of any degree to cross the burning sands and join them

in their pursuit of frivolity and humility at Grand Lodge Sessions on Thursday, May 15th at the Peppermill in Reno. The degree of humility will be conferred at 7PM in the Grand Ballroom, as it's the only space large enough to hold the various exotic animals needed to confer it.

While there are surely many delightful distractions to be enjoyed in the city of Reno between sessions, this one is by some accounts the least expensive (\$100 initiation fee includes your fez!). Contact Sheik Michael Greenzeiger to learn more.

--By *Mason Wolf*