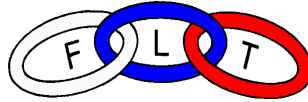


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The Triple Links Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

April 2024
Editors, Don Lang
& Mason Wolf
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Established 1987



Starting this issue, **Mason Wolf**, from True Fellowship lodge, has joined **Don**, and both will be editors of the Triple Links. **Mary Lou** will still do the calendar. Lets give Mason a big welcome.



Cast and candidates at degree night in Saratoga, March 12 2024 **Back Row:** Jane Beckman, Debra LaVergne, Terry Neff, Stan Bogosian, Mason Wolf, John Fitzpatrick, Gregory Gentile, Ron Myres, Mike Bever **Middle Row:** Charles Bartlett, Bea Baker, Lisa Harrigan, Rebecca "Bex" Clark, Todd White, Paul Milleson **Front Row:** Honor Wolf, Debbie Wolf, Rande Chin

Cupertino Odd Fellows Lodge 70 Pancake Breakfast

This year's Pancake Breakfast, held on March 9th, was a great success, both in the money that was collected for our charity fund raiser and also in the enjoyment of the breakfast itself. Everybody seemed to enjoy the pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage and especially the Country fried potatoes. There was a big bowl of fresh blueberries and a large glass container of orange juice that you could serve yourself. And of course coffee.

But probably the best of all there was friendly atmosphere of the Hawaiian ukulele player and singer Richard and Rose, and the hula dancers all dressed for the occasion. All of the people seemed to be enjoying themselves walking around and talking. The Cupertino De Anza Lions Club was there in force as well as the Kani Ka Pila Hawaii group.

Between the price of the breakfast, the extra money donated and the money raised on the 50/50 drawing, the Odd Fellows made at that time, close to \$900. The lodge pays for the food and the cost of the breakfast and will also add to the money donated to the charity to fight cancer. This year it will go to the City Of Hope.

The Odd Fellows thank all those who contributed and supported this worthy event.

By **Don Lang**



A "March" for Degrees!

March was a busy month for degrees in district 107. There were 3 degrees held in the space of 6 days beginning on March 12. On that day, Saratoga Lodge #428 hosted the second degree of Odd Fellowship for six candidates from four different lodges (True Fellowship #52, Saratoga #428, Cupertino #70, and Mission Peak #114). Then on March 14, Barnes Encampment #77 conferred the Golden Rule degree in San Jose for 2 of their patriarchs. And finally on March 18, Clara Rebekah #34 performed a Rebekah degree for 2 candidates, one from San Jose, and another from the Silver Star Rebekahs #336 in Fremont.

The lessons of our degrees are still best learned live, and we perform the degrees for ourselves as much as for our candidates. Coming together and being physically and mentally involved in rituals stretching back centuries connects us not only with each other and our candidates, but with the millions of Odd Fellows who came before us. And I really do believe that's a special privilege.

As a reminder, in April we look forward to welcoming brand new Odd Fellows at Cupertino's next initiatory on Monday the 29th. Please contact **Annie Cronin** if you'd like to be involved with it. And for those who look forward to the return of the cave degree in Yreka this summer, if you'd like to be part of the degree team, please contact **Mason Wolf**.

By **Mason Wolf**

How to Eat Like an Odd Fellow!

Irish cuisine was on the menu for March! Our tale begins on March 7th, when Mountain View #244 held an intimate dinner with an authentic Irish stew for all in attendance, ahead of their Thursday night meeting. The Irish-themed decorations were a delight to behold.

The following week, the Odd Fellows of San Jose, True Fellowship #52, kicked things off with a hugely successful corned beef and cabbage night on March 13th. Roughly 50 people were fed the incredible feast provided by **Ben and Debbie Shuler**, while enjoying the Irish-Hawaiian (mostly Hawaiian) musical fusion provided by Cupertino's band **Laule'a**.

On the big day itself, Sunday March 17th, Saratoga #428 provided a delight of a party with, again, lovingly-prepared corned beef and cabbage, plus a wide variety of appetizers, sides and salads, desserts and drinks all mixed with delightful people mingling and having fun. The green beads were a great touch!

On March 20th, True Fellowship made excellent use of their leftovers and cooked up a big batch of "colcannon", a traditional Irish-American dish which is mainly composed of corned beef and cabbage that's been left in a refrigerator for a few days. It was remarkably tasty.

Also on March 20th, Bay View Lodge #109 in Redwood City hosted a well-received Burgers and Game night with a handful of guests (and got at least one new application out of it).

The following night, wonderful friend of district 107, **Brother Joseph Ouellette** (Placerville/Emerald Bay), cooked up an amazing corned beef and cabbage feast for Mountain View #244, ahead of their second regular meeting of the month. It was tender and delicious, exactly the way it's supposed to be.

Finally, corned beef and cabbage made its way onto the menu again on Saturday, March 23rd at Mission Peak #114 in Fremont, where a friendly and appreciative crowd of Odd Fellows joined together at the lovingly-restored lodge hall.

One of the best things about Odd Fellowship in our area - there's almost always a party somewhere.

By Mason Wolf

Cupertino Odd Fellows Lodge 70
20589 W. Homestead Road

You are invited to our 1st Annual
"May Day is Lei Day" Celebration

Fundraiser for Kāko'o (support) Maui
Sat., May 4, 2024 4:00-9:00 p.m.
\$5 donation & potluck dish to share

RSVP at www.CupertinoOddFellows.org/MayDay
by Sunday, April 28

Donations also accepted

- Online at www.CupertinoOddFellows.org
- Checks to Cupertino Odd Fellows Lodge 70
P.O. BOX 6
Cupertino, CA 95015

Papa Kuhikuhi (Program)

4:00 Doors Open

5:00 Welcome, Flag salute & Hawai'i State Anthem "Hawai'i Pono'i" led by Uncle Kika DePonte
Pule (prayer) Blessing by Jane Alvarado
Potluck Dinner

6:00 "May Day Is Lei Day in Hawai'i" explained by Haunani Neil
Conch Shell by Aiden Tullio
Presentation of the Royal Family: King Keith, Queen Pomai, Princesses Iwalani & Kawena
Hula Show by the Hui 'Ilima Dancers

7:00 Kanikapila (music jam) led by Rich & Karen and Raffle!
All are welcome to play an instrument, sing, dance hula, or just enjoy!

8:30 Closing & Hawai'i Aloha



That Time the Mayor Came to Visit True Fellowship #52

Odd fellows made themselves present in the San Jose community again on March 27th at True Fellowship #52, for a full serving of friendship, love, and truth. We started the day with our brother **Ron Myres** bringing extra seats on loan from Cupertino #70, and a few hours later he came back to run the grill with a host of volunteers.

When our guests arrived, to a fully prepared kitchen and tables, we were in good company with many familiar brothers, sisters, and siblings from our district, as well as visiting from lodges around the state. While we don't know the complete list, we do know we had members from Evergreen #161 (in Sebastopol!), Livermore #219, Boulder Creek #152 (and in force!), Berkeley #270, Mission Peak #114, and Napa #18. Dessert was provided by sister **Simona Benjamin** of Cupertino via a Kona Ice Truck decorating our curb with welcoming colors, flashing lights, and scooped with smiles.

But the night didn't end there...

The evening unveiled our new projector and sound system in the fellowship hall, as we and our guests watched the film "[Join or Die](#)." It opens in Waxahachie #80 in Texas, with **Past Grand Tommy Wright** explaining some of the history and mystery of the Independent Order. The documentary embraces the community building power of Odd Fellows, and holds our fraternity up as one of the historic clubs that Americans literally built their towns around, once upon a time.

Special guests for the screening included San Jose's very own mayor **Matt Mahan**, giving us a speech and introduction, and then after the film, we were joined by **Rebecca Davis**, one of the two directors, for a Q&A session over zoom. We also welcomed **Olivia Navarro** and **Michael Mulcahy**, the two candidates for the San Jose District 6 city council seat, one of whom will be representing our lodge beginning in January.

Mayor Mahan thanked us for hosting the screening, and for including him and so many neighborhood leaders from across the city. He also praised the audience for showing up and being joiners and connectors, organizers and community builders.

In the mayor's words, "[*Join or Die*] is a documentary about Robert Putnam and his work on really measuring and understanding how social capital in our country has changed." Much of the movie explores the story of "Bowling Alone," a breakout book authored by **Dr. Robert Putnam** in 2000, as well as his decades of underlying research both before and since its publication. Mahan explained how Dr. Putnam traced bowling leagues and their decline, and used it as a metaphor for social capital, and the decline being a symptom that "correlates unfortunately, with a lot of not so good things." This decline leads to a host of negative outcomes on a society, from health, to



Mayor Matt Mahan (l) poses with Brother Andrew Crockett (r)



Kona Ice Truck courtesy of Sister Simona Benjamin of Cupertino #70



Full crowd at the March 27, 2024 Hamburger Fry at True Fellowship #52



Join or Die director Rebecca Davis participated in a Q&A session after the film.

crime, to a general disinterest in working on the problems we face.

But there's still hope, because there are groups working to reverse these trends. The movie highlights several of them (including the Odd Fellows), and discusses strategies for building these clubs back and restoring the social capital we've lost. We used to be a nation of joiners, and it allowed us to do amazing things. With hard work and grassroots leadership, we can be that again.

By the numbers, True Fellowship welcomed about 100 guests. 70 enjoyed our famous burgers and sides, 85 enjoyed our brand new cinema experience, and about 50 stayed for the discussion. 23 attempted to join our email list (and 20 had sufficiently neat handwriting to do so successfully). Many applications were passed out to those who expressed interest in joining, and while it remains to be seen how many return, one person turned theirs in that same night.

On the night of March 27th, the Odd Fellows were once again connecting people, bringing them just a little closer "to the highest levels of kinship designed by the Great Author of Being."

By Debbie Wolf, Noble Grand True Fellowship #52

AMOS Gets Taken For a Ride

On Saturday, February 24th, the brothers of AMOS Xanadu Sanctorem #321 and their guests traversed the streets of downtown San Jose in a most peculiar contraption – the “San Jose Brew Bike”. The date was significant, as it marked the 10th anniversary of the founding of the sanctorem.

For those not familiar with it, the Brew Bike is an extremely slow machine that mimics the sensation of sitting around a bar counter, but in the middle of the street, all while annoying drivers unfortunate enough to be caught behind it. If you want, you can pedal, but as the celebrants quickly realized, it’s optional. And while you ride, you can listen to your choice of music for the journey.

The two-hour excursion included stops for libations at The Old Wagon Saloon and The Guildhouse. Xanadu’s current Banker, **Henry Rosenthal**, thoughtfully provided inflatable scimitars for us all to defend ourselves with. Grand High Executioner **Tom Blackburn** cut a properly imposing figure as he held his out while directing the Brew Bike forward. We all enjoyed an impromptu group karaoke session for “California Dreamin’” when it blasted over the built-in sound system, and I think the people we passed on the sidewalk enjoyed it as well.

AMOS, which stands for the “Ancient Mystic Order of Samaritans,” is a men’s side order to the Odd Fellows, which seeks to preserve a little bit of silliness and fun in addition to its mission of supporting individuals with cognitive disabilities.

Michael Greenzeiger was a member while living in Massachusetts, and he was inspired to start a sanctorem after he moved to California. Prior to Xanadu #321, there hadn’t been a sanctorem on the West Coast since 2004, when Baghdad #22 in Fresno shut down.

There’s also a women’s side order which is similar to AMOS, called LOTO, which stands for “Ladies of the Orient.” Like AMOS, LOTO members are dedicated to having a bit of silly fun in addition to their charitable work. LOTO groups are organized into “Zuannas”. In our area, Inanna Zuanna #9 and Xanadu Sanctorem #321 frequently partner with one another, and several of the female guests at the 10th anniversary celebration were LOTO’s themselves.

AMOS meets every other month (in odd months, naturally), and Xanadu #321 plans to confer a degree on new members at a special event during this year’s Grand Lodge Sessions in May. Talk to **Michael Greenzeiger** if you’re interested in joining in on the goofy side of fraternalism. You might not regret it!

By **Mason Wolf**, Grand Counselor for Xanadu #321





RSVP if you are able by April 17. More importantly is that you come and help us celebrate. www.CupertinoOddFellows.org/125th join us at 20589 West Homestead Road, Cupertino, for our **125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!**

**Sunday, April 21, 2024
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

1:00 p.m. Reception ~~ Dining Hall ~~ Hors d'oeuvres and deserts by Emerald Bay Lodge 50; Entertainment by Lodge 70's Laule'a Hawaiian Band

2:00 p.m. Program ~~ Meeting Room ~~ Highlights

We will Welcome...

Past Sovereign Grand Master Michelle Heckart (Iowa)
Grand Master of California, Fred Dolling
Rebekah Assembly President, Sue Michener
City of Cupertino Mayor, Sheila Mohan
Cupertino Councilperson Hong Wei (past mayor)
Senator Dave Cortese's representative,
Phuong Nguyen

We will Celebrate Our 125 Year History...

We will have Presentations and Remarks,
And Service Recognition for Long Time
Members.

And have Greetings from the IOOF by...

Mary Lou Lang (NG Rebekah No.145),
Sue Michener (President Rebekah
Assembly),
Fred Dolling (Grand Master, California),
Michelle Heckart (Past Sovereign Grand
Master)

3:00 p.m. Refreshments ~~ Dining Hall ~~ Entertainment, and Socializing with a cornucopia of delectable deserts.

Leadership in the Odd Fellows: Empowering Our Community

By *Ganga Tarwady*, Chair of the Leadership Committee of True Fellowship #52



The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) has a rich history of promoting personal growth, community support, and the values of friendship, love, and truth. As we look to the future, it is crucial to recognize the importance of effective leadership in expanding our membership, driving our organization forward, and maximizing our positive impact on the world.

The Leadership Committee of True Fellowship Lodge 52 plays a vital role in this mission by identifying, developing, and empowering leaders within our ranks. Our vision is to cultivate a community of Odd Fellows who embody the principles of empathy, resilience, integrity, and collaboration—qualities that are essential for effective leadership.

By investing in the leadership potential of our members, we strengthen our ability to support one another, engage in meaningful philanthropic efforts, and create lasting change in our communities. Strong leaders within the Odd Fellows will not only inspire and guide their fellow members but also serve as ambassadors for our values and mission in the wider world.

The Leadership Committee is committed to providing resources, training, and mentorship opportunities to help our members grow as leaders. This includes workshops on emotional intelligence, communication skills, and strategic thinking, as well as opportunities to lead projects and initiatives within the organization.

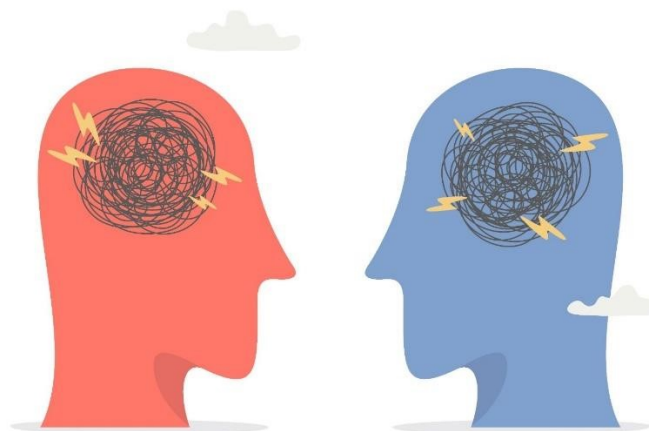
As we empower our members to become effective leaders, we also strengthen the bonds of friendship and trust that are at the heart of the Odd Fellows. By working together to develop our leadership capabilities, we create a more resilient, adaptable, and impactful organization—one that is well-equipped to face the challenges and opportunities of the future.

In the words of John Quincy Adams, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader." By nurturing leadership within the Odd Fellows, we inspire one another to reach new heights and make a lasting difference in the world.

Together, let us embrace the power of leadership to drive the Odd Fellows forward and create a brighter future for ourselves and the communities we serve.

What is leadership to you?

To engage in this dialogue, please come to our first potluck for the leadership committee at the True Fellowship Lodge #52 on May 8 at 6pm, where we will delve into these and other fascinating questions about practicing leadership.



Free In-Person Workshop -- Depolarizing Within

Saturday, April 13, 9:00 AM - Noon PST
Location: True Fellowship 52 in San Jose
Presented by the Braver Angels of Silicon Valley

Much of today's political polarization is driven by how we talk with like-minded people about those on the "other side". Too often, we stereotype or dismiss our fellow citizens who do not support our political viewpoints. In many instances, people on the other side have become not just strangers but enemies. Why is that? How we talk among ourselves about "the other side" can further polarize us and leave us feeling bewildered by their opinions.

The Depolarizing Within workshop is designed to demonstrate and practice skills to help you reduce polarization in any of your political conversations. By "polarization," we don't mean healthy disagreements over issues. We mean how we regard and talk about ordinary people on the other side of the political divide. In this workshop you will learn:

- How to recognize your inner polarizer and affirm the humanity of the other side, even when you disagree with them.
- How to clearly express your own thoughts and views without using polarizing language.
- How to constructively intervene in polarizing social conversations with like-minded people.

Please join us for this FREE workshop to learn and practice some improved communication skills. Questions? Contact Mia Whitfield at: mwhitfield@braverangels.org.

To register or get further information, scan this QR code or use <https://braverangels.org/event/depolarizing-within-in-person-53/>



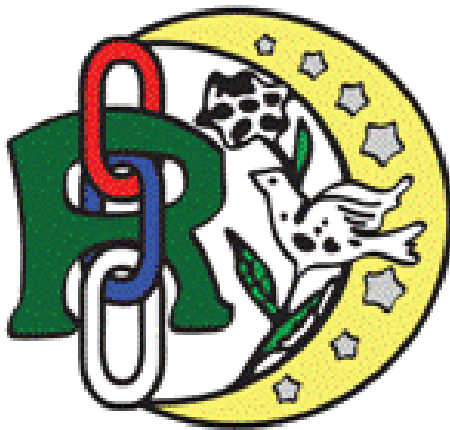
Philotesian Tea Party

Please join us to celebrate Mother's Day at a Tea Party.

Date: Sunday, May 12, 2023
Time: 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Price: \$10.00 donation
Menu: Sandwiches, Fruit, Home made scones & Lemon Curd

Location: Philotesian Rebekah Lodge
20589 Homestead Road
Cupertino CA 95014

Phone 408-252-3954 for reservations



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