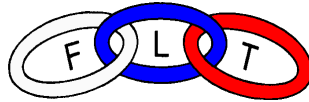
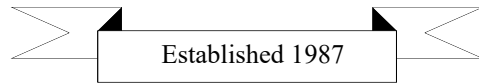


Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 6
Cupertino, CA 95015-0006
(408) 736-6563

The Triple Links Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

August 2024
Editors, **Don Lang**
& **Mason Wolf**
donlang@sbcglobal.net
mason@true52.org



Lorraine Rader #428 Saratoga	Natalie Usova #52 True Fellowship	Lynn Wilson #52 True Fellowship	Nicole Ennan #52 True Fellowship	Paul Colin #25 Volcano
------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------

Gilroy Lodge Reopens and Inspires Local Interest!

Gilroy Lodge#154 welcomed Grand Master **Dave Reed**, Deputy Grand Master **Rita Cooper**, and Past Grand Master **Michael Greenzeiger** to return and reinstate its charter and install new officers on the afternoon of July 12, 2024. After a bit of delay due to the problems of Friday traffic, the Lodge was reopened with **Joseph Ouellette Jr** as Noble Grand, **Jane Beckman** as Vice Grand, **Tanya Ouellette** as Secretary, **Dan Pardue** as Treasurer, and **Andrew Crockett** as Financial Secretary. Two representatives from the local city council were also in attendance for the ceremony to welcome the Odd Fellows back into their community. Several attendees met for dinner at a local restaurant afterward.

On the heels of their improbable return, Lodge #154 hosted a pizza feed prior to their first meeting and also welcomed four members of the local community, who came to find out more about Odd Fellowship and submitted membership applications before they left. At the meeting afterward, Gilroy Lodge was pleased to accept seven members as transfers, associates, and returning members of the Lodge, bringing its membership up to twelve—not bad for a first meeting after a lapse! Lodge #154 looks forward to many future interactions with the Gilroy community!

If you want to visit the new lodge for yourself, you can join their next meeting at 7459 Egleberry Rd in Gilroy, on Tuesday, August 20th. Dinner is at 6PM, followed by their meeting at 7.

District Initiation July 29

The district Initiation was held at Cupertino Odd Fellow Lodge #70 on Monday, July 29. The team was made up of district Odd Fellow members and some were also members from the new Degree Lodge. The candidates were 1 from Saratoga #428 **Lorraine Rader**, 3 from True Fellowship #52 of San Jose; **Natalie Usova**, **Lynn Wilson** and **Nicole Ennen**; and 1 from Volcano Lodge #25 **Paul Colin**.

By *Don Lang*

By *Jane Beckman*



We always have fun at Cupertino 70 Initiatories, July 29, 2024

Pictures By *Tom Blackburn*



A new old lodge is born! Gilroy #154 on July 12, 2024.

From Left to Right: PGM **Michael Greenzeiger**, **Jane Beckman**, GM **Dave Reed**, **Tanya Ouellette**, DGM **Rita Cooper**, **Joseph Ouellette Jr**, **Dan Pardue**, **Andrew Crockett**

Movie Night Fundraiser Success

On July 31st, the True Fellowship Lodge was transformed into a hub of entertainment and community spirit, hosting a special screening of the acclaimed film "Hundreds of Beavers." The event drew a diverse crowd, including members from the Odd Fellows Lodge and our associated communities, all eager to enjoy an evening of laughter and cinematic slapstick.

"Hundreds of Beavers," described as a 19th-century super-



natural winter epic, tells the story of a drunken applejack salesman. He must transform from a hapless figure into a skilled fur trapper by defeating hundreds of beavers. The film is set against a surreal winter landscape and follows our hero as he navigates a world filled with dangers and conniving creatures—all portrayed by actors in full-sized mascot costumes. With nothing but his dim wits and a desire to win the hand of a mischievous lover, our hero devises increasingly complex traps. He must outwit the beavers and other woodland animals and survive the harsh environment.

The Odd Fellows Lodge, with its spacious hall and warm ambiance, provided a fitting backdrop for this whimsical tale. The audience was treated to a delightful experience as the film's plot unfolded with slapstick humor, eliciting waves of laughter throughout the screening. The movie's blend of visual gags and physical comedy, reminiscent of classic silent film comedies, kept viewers thoroughly engaged. Certain scenes even evoked the suspense and ingenuity found in James Bond films, adding an unexpected twist to the humor.

Following the screening, attendees broke out into lively groups, sharing their favorite moments and reflections on the film's unique charm. The successful event underscored the Odd Fellows Lodge's commitment to fostering cultural enrichment and community engagement. As guests departed, there was a palpable sense of camaraderie, with many looking forward to future gatherings at this cherished venue.

By *John Jensen*

Jane Austen Dance on Saturday, August 10th at True Fellowship

Enjoy a community dance in the elegant and romantic spirit of Jane Austen at TF #52 on August 10. You've seen this kind of dance in movies like "Pride and Prejudice". This follows the splendid success of the ball we held in February, and as of 8/4 there are still a few tickets left.

Internationally-known dance leader **Alan Winston** is an Odd Fellow and invites all brothers and sisters to attend; he will lead the room through each dance pattern. No experience or partner necessary; it helps to know right from left, but if you can walk, you can dance. Teens are very welcome.

Please bring shoes with smooth, non-marking soles. Live music by the Divertimento Dance Orchestra. Dance 7:00-10:30; period (1790-1820) costume admired but not required; formal or festive wear appreciated. Co-sponsored with the Bay Area English Regency Society. Sign up in advance at true52.org/RegencyBall.

By *Alan Winston*

Second Degree at Saratoga 428

On Tuesday July 9th, after a late start, the Saratoga Odd Fellows conferred the degree of love on 10 candidates, and they did it with enthusiasm and flair. **Mason Wolf** and **Jane Beckman** once again performed the roles of Conductor and Warden, respectively. They were joined by **Honor Wolf** (RSNG), **Randee Chin**, and **Andrew Crockett** (Chaplain). The rest of the cast came from Saratoga 428, and included **Michael Bever** (NG), **Paul Milleson** (PG), **Stan Begosian**, **Bea Baker** (RSS), **Tammy Neff** (LSS), **Terry Neff** (VG), and **Brian Moran**.

And Saratoga more than lived up to their reputation as excellent hosts! There was plenty of food, and it was delicious. The pizza was a little late to arrive, and by the time it did, most of us were already full. I wasn't able to stay as long as some of the others, but I found out later that the party didn't end until close to midnight. The music and laughter flowed well into the night, and what more could you ask for from any degree night?

By *Mason Wolf*



New 2^os: Emily Holton (25), Jim Reynor (25), John Jensen (52), Claire Haunani (70), Estelle Ramolette (70), Bob Devlin (70), Amy Borgese (428), Tony Nora (428), Steven Eley (52), Clay Franklin (428)

Third Degree at True Fellowship

On July 24th, I had the distinct honor of receiving the Third Degree at True Fellowship Lodge in San Jose, joining three other candidates in this significant milestone. I must admit, I felt a bit apprehensive about the rumored costume changes involved in the ceremony. Despite my initial reservations, however, the entire experience turned out to be wonderfully memorable from beginning to end.

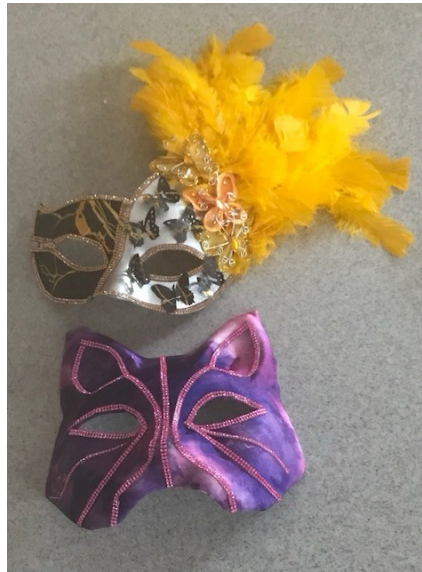
From the moment I arrived, everyone at True Fellowship Lodge extended a warm and heartfelt welcome. While waiting for the last candidate to arrive, two of the other candidates and I engaged in lighthearted conversation. Eventually, our third companion arrived, fashionably late but in good spirits, and we were all called to don our ceremonial garb and begin the proceedings.

Out of respect for future third-degree members, I will refrain from divulging too many specifics about the ceremony. However, I can confidently say that it was meticulously orchestrated and executed with great skill. The event made full use of the beautifully old and unique meeting room in the True Fellowship Lodge. The room's decoration and the symbolism embedded in the stunning painted-glass windows added a profound layer of meaning to the ceremony. (If you haven't had the chance to see them yet, I highly recommend attending one of their social events to catch a glimpse of the artistry!) The social gathering afterwards was equally enjoyable, providing a perfect opportunity to connect with fellow members.

A humorous highlight of the evening was learning about the differences in requirements between lodges. I discovered that my home lodge, Mountain View #244, has much stricter criteria for degree advancement compared to other lodges. It took me nearly two years to navigate the numerous levels and layers of events and participation required. This revelation came as quite a surprise, but it gave us all a good laugh!

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone at Mountain View Lodge who supported me throughout this journey, patiently guided me through my many mistakes over the years, and inspired me to remain actively involved with the Odd Fellows. I also extend my sincere thanks to the members of True Fellowship Lodge for being such gracious hosts. I'm looking forward to visiting them again in the near future.

By *Mark Flider*



Initiatory Dinner in Mountain View

Mountain View Lodge welcomed, **Jesse Cupp, Mattie Forte-Goldman, and Tatiana Kuvaldina** into our lodge with a five-course vegetarian dinner. The new members are a very welcome addition to our lodge and **Sibling Mattie** has already volunteered to host our next dinner on August 15!

The dinner initiation is a beautiful ritual our lodge used the ritual written by **Sister Linnea Bredenberg** and **Michael Greenzeiger**, our Lodge thanks them for all the love and creatively that they put into creating such a fine document. It was a very joyous, solemn and meaningful occasion as we all thought about what OddFellows means to us. We are a family. Our motto is Friendship, Love and Truth.

All members of the lodge wore masks made by our **Noble Grand Ria Toolis**. Unfortunately our lodge forgot to take official photos of the event! Please enjoy looking at some of the masks that were worn.

By *Ria Toolis*



Third degree cast and candidates (L-R): Top: **Andrew Crockett, Jeff Rively, Ron Myres, Jane Beckman, Ben Shuler**. Middle: **Honor Wolf, Debbie Wolf, Sara Bruce, Lisa Harrigan, Mason Wolf**. Bottom: **John Jensen (52), Bea Baker (428), Mark Flider (244), Clay Franklin (428)**



Life Line Screening

Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today? Did you know 80% of strokes are preventable according to the American Heart Association?

Life Line Screening will be here at Odd Fellows Cupertino Lodge 70 on Friday, September 6, 2024 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today. Please refer to the attached flyer to get more info about how you can sign up.

There is no time like the present to take action!

Three ways to register:

- **Call toll-free: 1-888-814-0466 promo code HSCA001**
- **Online: <https://www.ilsa.social/hsc>**
- **Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607**



Saratoga Retirement Home BBQ

The weather was perfect on July 27 when the Odd Fellows Homes of California held their annual barbecue at the Saratoga Odd Fellows Home. Morning clouds started to clear off by the event's 10 am start time. Many people took advantage of the tours to see what Saratoga has to offer, while the Napa Bocce Ball team played against the Saratoga Bocce Ball team. Home field advantage mattered, as Saratoga won this year after Napa won last year. The Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly officers served the hamburgers, barbecue chicken, ribs, macaroni and cheese, corn on the cob and roasted mixed vegetables which Saratoga Home dining staff served a variety of salads and hot dogs. Cookies and ice cream sandwiches were provided as dessert.

By Debra LaVergne, President of RA

Ed Brown has a Stroke

Ed Brown, Associate member of Cupertino Lodge 70, had a stroke about a month ago while at home. Luckily his son was home, but in a different section of the house, so he didn't know about it right away. Finally 911 was called and he was taken to the hospital. He was in the hospital for about a week and then in Rehab for another week before he came home. His left side was affected. He needs a walker to get around at the present, but he has 6 at home rehab scheduled appointments during the week besides **Jackie** making sure he does all the required exercises during the week. Jackie has taken Ed several times to Homestead Lanes, so he can check in with all his bowling friends. He assures us he will be back bowling with us shortly, since he is right handed and his stroke was on the left side. Let's all keep him in our prayers for a speedy recovery.

By *Don Lang*

Brother Bob Souza Passes

Brother **Robert "Bob" Anthony Souza**, a Navy veteran, animal lover, eternal optimist, and masterful ukulele player who captivated others with stories of his Huckleberry Finn-like childhood adventures of breaking all the rules and occasionally getting caught, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 25, 2024 at his home in San Jose. He is survived by his wife of 65 years **Shizue**, children **Linda** and **Robert Jr**, and grandchildren **Emerald**, **Cheyenne**, **Katalina**, and **Nyeli**.

Bob joined the Cupertino Odd Fellows lodge #70 in 2022 and was working on getting his 3rd degree before he passed. Even before joining both Bob and Shizue have been fixtures at lodge activities helping out with anything we needed. His motto "Help others when they need it, and if you see an abandoned baby bird, don't look away — do whatever you can to nurture and support all living things" embodied the Odd Fellow spirit.

On Friday, August 2, 2024 we celebrated Bob's life at the Cupertino lodge #70. The dining room was packed with all of Bob's friends and family. We had 4 separate musical groups who played, sang, and danced to Bob's favorite Hawaiian songs. The family extends their heartfelt thanks to the lodge for the use of the hall and all the support given by our members in helping bid farewell to Bob. He will be truly missed.

By *Randee Chin*



The District 107 Youth Pilgrimage Scholarship Program

The Odd Fellows Youth Pilgrimage, previously known as the UN Pilgrimage, is an annual rite that the Odd Fellows have sponsored since 1949. Since its inception, it has been an opportunity for young people to experience the excitement of traveling the East Coast with their peers, exploring ways to grow as citizens and in service to their world. Those who go are often profoundly impacted by the experience, and discover new ways of looking at the world that they might never have considered if not pushed outside of their usual habits and places.

In Odd Fellowship, we sometimes talk about our goal to "enlighten minds" and "encourage all the nations of the world to work together for the common good." And this is exactly what the Youth Pilgrimage was founded to do, by encouraging young people to think about themselves not only as individuals, but as a part of a vast and inter-connected world. While there, they are given the opportunity to reflect deeply about what their purpose is, and communicate that in an annual speech contest.

But sadly, this is an experience that few of our young people in California experience. This year, we had only one person from the entire state participate. In an effort to raise money and find candidates, I've asked lodges in district 107 to fundraise for a scholarship. The goal is to raise about \$3000 that can fund a delegate's registration expense as well as their travel cost. Once we have sufficient funds, we'll announce an essay contest for any school within close proximity of one of our district lodges. The winner of the essay contest will be sponsored by their neighboring lodge and have their expenses paid for with this scholarship fund.

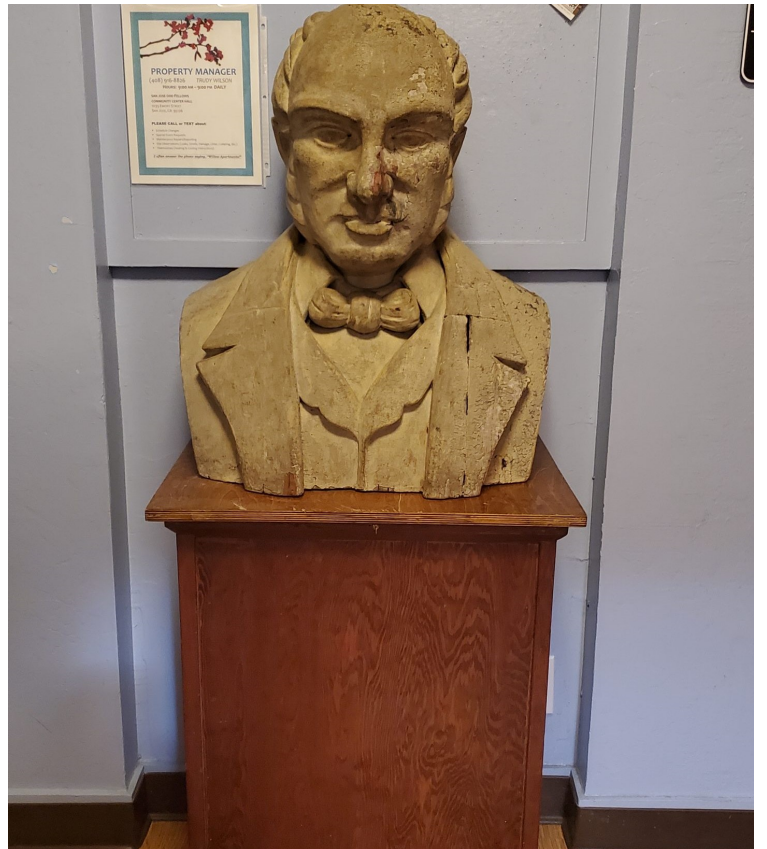
If the project is successful, I'm hopeful that we adopt it as a permanent annual project of District 107. Not only will it help raise awareness of our lodges and directly benefit the lives of the winners, but it will help ensure that the Youth Pilgrimage itself continues to exist and impact the lives of so many young people from throughout the United States and Canada.

In addition to raising funds, we will be seeking volunteers to serve on the committee that selects the essay contest winners. Please consider if that's something you might enjoy being part of. But fair warning, it won't be an easy job. It's going to be tough to determine a winner, because a lot of these kids are going to impress us!

By *Mason Wolf*



The August encampment pancake breakfast was intended to be a fundraiser for the scholarship program, but it was very lightly attended. However, the eggs, ham, and pancakes were delicious, especially with the berry compote, and the board meeting was presented live via zoom.



The 19th century wooden bust of Thomas Wildey now stands guard within the entryway of True Fellowship Lodge #52. The members would like to eventually get him restored.

Fundraiser Craft Sale

Hermeria Rebekah Lodge #49 Fundraiser Craft Sale takes place Friday September 9 through 18. Hours are Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays, 10am to 5pm. Monday through Thursday, 12:30 pm to 5pm. A full selection of beautiful items available. Location: 606 Castro Street, Mountain View, California. Need a gift? Come and Brouse.

By **Jackie Brown**



Rebekah Children's Services Fund Raiser: "The Squeeze" Food, Fun, Frolic, Friends!!

Around 200 people enjoyed the music of the Kirk Basquez band as they opened for the Cripple Creek band at the Squeeze Concert on Saturday, July 20. The concert took place at the beautiful Leal Vineyards in Hollister, Ca. Food and drinks were available for purchase and VIP tickets included a catered BBQ meal. Those brave enough rode the mechanical bull for a chance to win bragging rights for the longest ride.

Ms. Gayle Joslin was the Rockstar of the night as the Presenting Sponsor at \$15,000.00 and she was crowned with her own Custom Squeeze Cowgirl hat!! Our other sponsors included Heritage Bank, Acrisure, The Ford Store, Morgan Hill, Maria CID-Farmers Insurance, and Infinity Staffing.

All participants enjoyed the Concert and dancing all night. They also enjoyed the food and beverages. Some of our Rebekahs and Odd Fellows attending the concert were **Gayle Joslin, Paul and Joan Pike, Tony and Sherry Pruitt, Marilyn Nichols, Linda Holshire, and Donna Miller.**

By **Nayeli Ceha** and **Gayle Joslin**

Summer Concert Series starts Sun. 8/4 from 1-5!

The **Hayward Odd Fellows Summer Concert Series starts on Sunday!** Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of live music for all ages! On 8/4 we are featuring the **3 O'Clock Jump** big band, and **Carbon Complex** (rock). **Admission is free. Any donations raised will benefit the H.A.R.D. Foundation.**

Hayward Odd Fellows Sycamore Lodge #129 is partnering with H.A.R.D. and local non-profits for the 14th Annual Summer Concert Series on a series of Sundays from August to September at the Hayward Memorial Park. The concerts are held in the outdoor amphitheater behind the Hayward Plunge indoor swim center.

Enjoy a variety of music such as Rock, Pop, Blues, Big Band, Jazz, and Original "Feel Good Music"! Bring a blanket or lawn chairs, a picnic (no alcohol), and enjoy an afternoon in the park! Kids of all ages are welcome to come create chalk art! Refreshments may be available for purchase with a donation (all proceeds go to the non-profit of the day).



Donor Planks Installed at the Cave

While there was no dedication ceremony for the new Richard Brouse Degree Lodge, I did travel north to Yreka and install the plaques that recognize those who've given generously to the effort to restore the cave for future degree work. It was my first opportunity to see up close just how much work had been done, and I was impressed.

The lodges and individual members throughout California have contributed more than \$30,000, and I've seen up close the efforts of brothers **Mark Ellender**, **Joseph Ouellette Jr.**, and **Michael Steineke**. The workers have put in energy and effort in excess of the contract with the Grand Lodge, and remain dedicated to the project's success. Brother Mike actually plans to help clear out brush from the access road after the grading operation goes up in the upcoming week. It's beyond the scope of his contract, so he's volunteered and will be part of the official committee to maintain the cave going forward.

Although it was unseasonably warm in Yreka, with temperatures reaching over 110F in the valley, the cave itself was actually bearable in the hours when the sun wasn't shining inside. The cave is made up of sedimentary rock that remains cooler than the surrounding air, as it's shaded for all but a few hours of each day.

There was still some work left to do, so Mark Ellender and Mike Steineke met up with me in the days ahead of what had originally been planned as the dedication. Because of the heat, we started work each morning at dawn. Once the sun was up, it was a shock to move from the shady back of the cave into the direct sunlight near the front. In the back, I could comfortably work, while in the front, I couldn't even



Donor plaques seen at late afternoon at the cave, July 5, 2024

touch the metal railing without burning my hand. By 10am we'd stop, taking a break until late afternoon, when we could work again.

As I now understand first-hand, once the sun is on the other side of the cave, and especially after sunset, almost no matter how hot it is in Yreka, anyone inside the cave will be comfortable.

So although it will still be hot in Yreka in August (though at the moment it looks like it'll just be "regular" hot, not insane heatwave hot), we're doing the dedication just before sunset on Friday the 16th. We'll arrive as the honey-colored light from the setting sun imbues the entire valley with a warm glow, under the awe-inspiring peak of Mount Shasta looming like a proud sentinel in the distance.

If you can't join us in person, I can at least promise that there will be lots of pictures. And if you CAN join us in person, please register at oddfellowscavedegree.com/dedication.

By *Mason Wolf*

sponse Team, and other groups whose names I can't recall. Collaborations and outreach are sure to follow from the networking we did.

We also made a lot of friends amongst our neighboring festival booths by helping one another set-up and tear down. More hands make lighter work.

The one drawback was the weather; temperatures that day were pushing 100 degrees. Fortunately, our booth was on the southside of the festival street and was shaded by 3 oak trees. This also made it a popular place with the festival goers to get out of the sun.

We were well supplied with water and fresh fruit, which made the temperature more bearable.

As part of the festivities, there was also a parade, and a classic car show. Maybe next year we could round up more volunteers and take part in these activities as well.

I want to thank all the volunteers who came out, braved the heat, and provided True Fellowship 52 with a very successful showing at this important community event.

By *Scott Spence*

The Rose, White, and Blue Festival

On July 4th the members of True Fellowship 52 had a hot time (literally) at San Jose's annual Rose, White, and Blue Festival.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our neighbors in the greater Rose Garden and Shasta/Hanchett Park neighborhoods to get to know us, our lodge, and the wider community of Odd Fellowship.

Like at the other public events we attend, the button making station was very popular with the scores of children who stopped by our booth. This also gave us an opportunity to speak with the parents and let them know about our lodge, and about the wonderful opportunities and events available at True Fellowship 52.

Having two separate tables, one for button making, and one for our literature, worked very well. It opened space for conversation with the adults in our small 10 x 10 space. We also made connections with other organizations in the community such as the Shasta/Hanchett Neighborhood Association, San Jose's Neighborhood Community Emergency Re-