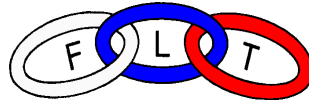


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The Triple Links Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

February 2024
Don Lang - Editor
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Established 1987



Initiation Held on Monday 1/29

Odd Fellows from around the district, were busy at the Cupertino Lodge on Monday, January, 29th 2024, which was the 5th Monday of the month. This is when the Initiatory Degree is conferred at Cupertino lodge #70. As usual, there was a nice crowd. Both of candidates and members supporting and Initiating them. There was about 30 members in all with 9 of them being new candidates. You can see their smiling faces below. From Volcano Historical Lodge #25 there was **Gayle Johnson** and **Karla Brown**, from True Fellowship #52 there was **Kayvan Sylan**, **Lynda Nguyen**, **Steve Eley** and **Nicole Saunders**, from Cupertino #70 **Bob Devlin**, and from Mountain View #244 **Katy Dickinson**.

By *Don Lang, Editor*



Lodge of Instruction

Are you a new member or recently installed officer? Do you have questions about how meetings are supposed to run? Are you looking for tips on how to be a desk officer?

Sunday, February 18th at 1 pm at Cupertino Lodge District 107 will be hosting its own Lodge of Instruction for officers and members. Long-time members will present talks and answer questions about the order and how to run a lodge. Email ddgm.dist.107@gmail.com to RSVP or with any questions you may have about the event.

By *Zoe Timmerman, DDGM*



Date: Friday, January 5th
Time: 6PM-10PM
Place: 1035 Emory Street, San Jose
Price: **FREE!**

Play games, do puzzles, eat snacks, and make friends!
We're here the first Friday of each month in 2024.

Brought to you by the Odd Fellows of San Jose,
True Fellowship Lodge Number 52, I.O.O.F.
"Friends you can count on," since 1856.

true52.org

Pancake Breakfast March 9, 2024

Cupertino Lodge #70 will be holding their annual Pancake Breakfast to raise funds to fight Cancer. This year it will be held on the second Saturday in March, the 9th. Plans are to open at 8:00 and close at 11:00. Please try to attend. More information will be included in next month's calendar. So stay tuned.

By *Don Lang, Editor*



Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening again will be at the Cupertino Lodge on Tuesday, February 13, to test you for 4 different conditions. You need to call them to schedule a time for your appointment.

Carotid Artery Disease: an ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries

Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD): an Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA): an ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement

Atrial Fibrillation (AFib): an electrocardiogram (ECG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for irregular heartbeat.

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://lisa.social/Hc>

By *Don Lang, Editor*

Philotesian Rebekah Lodge #145

The Philotesian Rebekah Lodge dues are now due for the year 2024. They are the same as they have been, \$65. That really only pays for what the Rebekah Assembly charges the lodge and does not cover things like the Triple Links mailings, or any charity donations the lodge makes or any miscellaneous expenses. Please mail them to the Financial Secretary, **Don Lang**, 11220 Monterey Ct, Cupertino, CA 95014.

By *Don Lang, Financial Secretary*

Cupertino/Philotesian Joint Installation

The joint installation of Cupertino Odd Fellow's Lodge #70 and Philotesian Rebekah Lodge #145 went off smoothly on Monday, January 15, 2024. The Odd Fellows were installed by **District Deputy Grand Master Zoe Timmerman** and her Marshall was **Michael Greenzeiger** and the Rebekah's were installed by **District Deputy President Debra LaVergne** and her Marshall was **Pat Aanenson**. During the Good of the Order, Michael Greenzeiger pinned on the Past Grand jewel onto the out going **Noble Grand Simona Benjamin**. She worked especially hard this past year and did a great job, not only at our meetings, but all the special socials she had. **Ron Myres** will go back and be Noble Grand again for Cupertino Lodge.

After the Installation we all retired into the Dining room where we socialized and enjoyed refreshments, which included an assortment of cakes and pies. This of course was enjoyed by all.

By *Don Lang, Editor*



Silicon Valley Odd Fellows & Rebekahs

"Join or Die" at the Hamburger Fry

Mark your calendars! On March 27th, the True Fellowship 52 hamburger fry returns from its winter hibernation. Enjoy your favorite burgers and delicious sides from 6-7PM. \$10 gets a full meal, including burger, side, drink, dessert, and we even throw in a bag of chips. In addition, we'll be hosting a free Kona Ice truck to satisfy your sweet tooth.

After dinner, we'll be featuring the new documentary, "Join or Die", with a special introduction by San Jose mayor Matt Mahan. Following the movie, we'll have a Q&A for those who want to discuss the film and ask questions of the filmmakers, who will be joining us via zoom. This will be a great event to invite your friends and lodge mates! Join or Die is a 99-minute love letter to the organizations like ours that once helped make this country the most prosperous and democratic in the world, and it even opens and closes in an Odd Fellows lodge.

And if you **ONLY** want to watch the movie, we're making it available free of charge. Just eat at home and show up around 7. We'll be happy to have you! Learn more about the event, and this amazing film, at true52.org/join-or-die

By *Mason Wolf*

Civics Committee Success at True Fellowship #52!

Recently, an interesting question was answered in the San Jose Odd Fellows Lodge. "Can an Odd Fellows lodge host a political forum, while avoiding political, sectarian, or other improper debate?" The answer was a resounding yes!

On January 24th, the candidates for the San José District 6 open seat race to replace outgoing council member **Dev Davis** met together at True Fellowship 52, along with several dozen uncommitted voters, to discuss their policy ideas and qualifications addressing the most pressing issues for district and city residents. The evening began with light refreshments and animated conversation in the dining room, where candidates and voters engaged one another face-to-face at what was the wonkiest party most people could imagine.

At 7PM the Pledge of Allegiance ushered in the action in the main hall, where Dev Davis herself proceeded to introduce each of the candidates and explained the purpose of the evening's Civic Forum. From there our Brother, Chair of the Lodge Civics Committee **Andrew Crockett** took the reins as moderator, and laid down the rules - each candidate would give an opening statement, then answer a series of questions touching on the concerns of ordinary voters we had gathered through our website, and wrap up with a closing statement. There was to be no attacking the other candidates, and no uttering falsehoods. To maintain this order, at a nearby table there was a timekeeper (Brother **Mason Wolf**), a fact checker (Brother **Scott Spence**), and a friendliness checker (Brother **John Jensen**). While no one would be interrupted during their speech, the two checkers would take notes to prepare a report to be released at a later date, shared online and with any attendees or members of the media who wished to read it.

The result of this format was the friendliest candidate forum you could ask for, and every voter we spoke with left with excitement for whichever candidate they may have chosen to support, rather than the distaste and resignation to support the least odious one which we are all too familiar with.

The questions themselves touched on affordable housing, public safety, budgets, small businesses, what to do about Google, building sustainably, housing the unhoused, and (very dear to our hearts) how to support non-profit community centers. The candidates were so good at staying within their time limits that they even reached a bonus question - how should we celebrate America's and San José's upcoming 250th anniversaries? I highly recommend watching their answer, as incredibly, none of them seemed to have prepared for that question before!

The opening and closing statements, along with all but one of the questions, are available to watch on our lodge website - true52.org/d6-forum. Unfortunately, there was a network outage during the public safety question and the zoom recording was interrupted.

Personally, I think this was an event that deserves to be replicated at other lodges. While I know there is an understandable fear about getting involved in partisan politics in any way the way things are these days. Though it may help to remember that our lodges were once tightly intertwined with the local civic fabric of their communities, and it benefited the community as well as the lodge. If anything, it reveals just how important it is to stick to sensible rules that ensure that Friendship, Love, and Truth maintain their mild dominion over everything we do.

By *Mason Wolf*, Edited by *Andrew Crockett*

English Regency Ball at True Fellowship

Enjoy a community dance in the elegant and romantic spirit of Jane Austen at TF #52 on February 10. You've likely seen this kind of dance in movies like "Pride and Prejudice".

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! Please bring shoes with smooth, non-marking soles.

Live music provided by the Divertimento Dance Orchestra. Period (1790-1820) costume admired but not required; formal or festive wear appreciated. Co-sponsored with the **Bay Area English Regency Society**.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, February 10

Time: Doors open at 7:30, Dancing begins at 8

Location: 1035 Emory Street, San Jose

Price: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

Order your tickets online at <https://true52.org/RegencyBall>.

By *Alan Winston*



Mardi Gras Party at True Fellowship 52

Unlock the Magic of Mardi Gras: Revel in Colors, Rhythms, and Mystique! □

Join us at True Fellowship 52 for a night of enchantment and celebration at our Mardi Gras extravaganza on February 13, 2024! Immerse yourself in the carnival spirit with tantalizing appetizers and sweets, beats by a live DJ, an electrifying dance contest, and an array of mystical experiences, including mocktails and tarot card readings—all set in the mesmerizing colors of purple, green, and gold.

Event Details:

Date: February 13, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: 1035 Emory Street, San Jose, CA 95126

Dress to impress in the festive colors of Mardi Gras, and get ready for an evening of joy, laughter, and unforgettable memories. This is your invitation to an extraordinary celebration — where mystique meets revelry!

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Order online at true52.org/MardiGras2024

By *Zandria Elbert*

