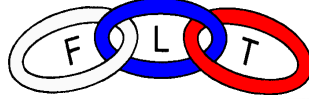


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# The Triple Links Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

July 2024  
Editors, Don Lang  
& Mason Wolf  
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Established 1987



## An Update on the Cave Degree

The July 7th planned cave dedication has, sadly, been canceled due to the expected heat wave affecting most of the state. As of July 2, when this was written, the forecast high for Yreka was 108F, making it untenable to hold any events outdoors during the day. The dedication was to take place at 3PM, and even allowing for the possibility of moving it indoors to Yreka 19, the heat was potentially dangerous.

It's disappointing, of course, and not at all what we had hoped for. We will still dedicate the cave, but it is now scheduled to coincide with the August degree weekend. The dedication is planned for Friday August 16th, after sunset, a little after 8PM. By that time, we expect to enjoy a nearly full moon and cool breezes.

In other news, the lodge being formed to take over the degree work will be an actual degree lodge! **Richard Brouse Degree Lodge #190** will be chartered thanks to a ruling of the Grand Master that, while the Sovereign code no longer includes degree lodges, it does not forbid them either. The ritual still includes the form for opening a degree lodge, which the new lodge will use, and on that basis, as well as the fact that the California code includes detailed regulations for a degree lodge, which the new lodge will follow, the Grand Lodge of California can, and shall, issue the requested charter.

Personally, I'm excited that we're about to open the first degree lodge in California in many years (maybe ever?). Yreka #19 did a wonderful job of guarding and preserving this tradition, and I believe and hope that Richard Brouse #190 is going to be equal to the task of continuing it.

By *Mason Wolf*

## Initiation on July 29th

Cupertino Lodge 70, with the help of the district, will again hold the degree of Initiation on the 5th Monday of the month, July 29. The time will be at 7:00 PM. This will be the full formal degree with all the bells and wisals. At this time we are not sure how many new members will be initiated. All Odd Fellows are invited to attend and even help out with the degree.

By *Don Lang*



*To all to whom these presents may come: Greeting.*

*Know ye, that the Right Worthy Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the State of California, reposing especial trust and confidence in the following named Brothers and Sisters of the Order:*

*Brother Andrew Crockett, PG Bonnie Manzon Sellars, PG M Duce Reed,  
Sister Deborah Wolf, PG Debra LaVergne, PG Jack Crispin Cain,  
Sister Jane Beckman, Brother Jay Thomason, PG Larry Guenther,  
PG Maria Murchison Hall, PG Mason Wolf, Brother Mike Hall,  
PG M Peter Sellars, PG M Rodney Meyer, PG Stacy Thomason,  
PG Tom Blackburn*

*Doth hereby grant this Charter to said Members and their successors to establish a Degree Lodge at the Pythian Cave and Yreka Odd Fellows Hall, to be hailed by the title of*

*Richard Brouse Degree Lodge No. 190.*

*Said Lodge No. 190, being duly formed and constituted, is hereby authorized and empowered to confer the several Degrees according to the Constitution and Laws as established by this Grand Lodge on candidates duly proposed and lawfully qualified to receive the same, and is hereby authorized to enact Bylaws for its own government, the said bylaws*

Partial view of the charter for Richard Brouse Degree Lodge #190



**LIVE MUSIC • DANCING • BEER • WINE • FOOD**

Get ready for an unforgettable night of music! Tickets for The Squeeze Concert are now on sale. Secure your spot at the beautiful Leal Vineyards & Winery for an evening of great tunes under the stars. Don't miss out—grab your tickets today!




**SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2024**  
**6:00 PM - 10:00 PM**  
 300 Maranatha Dr, Hollister, CA 95023

Tickets available at: [thesqueezeconcert.com/buy-tickets](https://thesqueezeconcert.com/buy-tickets)

## Gilroy Odd Fellows Ride Again!

The Gilroy Lodge has risen again! Thanks to a band of crusaders who were determined to make sure it didn't fade into the sunset, Gilroy Lodge#154 and its building are back for the transaction of lawful business and the diffusion of the principles of benevolence and charity!

In accordance with this mission, the reinstatement ceremony will take place at 3PM on July 12 at the Lodge Building at 7459 Egleberry, Gilroy, CA 95021. The reinstatement ceremony take place in the Lodge room with **Grand Master David Reed** presiding. **Joseph Oulette** will be Noble Grand for the balance of 2024, **Jane Beckman** as Vice Grand, **Paula Pardue** as Secretary, **Andrew Crockett** as Financial Secretary, and **Dan Pardue** as Treasurer.

Upcoming meetings will be on Tuesday evenings, with details to follow after the reinstatement is official.

We look forward to welcoming members and visitors to future meetings and events!

By *Jane Beckman*

## 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.

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](https://true52.org/RegencyBall).

By **Alan Winston**

**Come Dance With Us!**  
*The Jane Austen Dance*

**Date:** Saturday, Aug 10  
**Time:** 6:30PM-10:30PM  
**Place:** 1035 Emory St, San Jose, CA  
**Price:** \$25 in advance  
 \$30 at the door\*  
\*subject to availability




- ◆ Live Orchestra
- ◆ Refreshments Provided
- ◆ No Experience or Partner Necessary
- ◆ Expert Instruction For All Skill Levels
- ◆ Dress in Your Favorite Period or Formal Attire
- ◆ Tickets sold at: [true52.org/RegencyBall](https://true52.org/RegencyBall)



[true52.org/RegencyBall](https://true52.org/RegencyBall)

## Mountain View Odd Fellows Lodge Window Displays

The Mountain View Odd Fellows Lodge has the opportunity to communicate with the public through displays at the corner of Villa and Castro, one of the best restaurant and shopping streets in the Silicon Valley. I joined the Windows Committee shortly after I joined Odd Fellows, and the first window I helped to put up was to commemorate Earth Day (April 2024). This was followed by flags celebrating Pride Month (June), and the Independence Day celebration (July).

Thanks to the dozen members of the Mountain View lodge who have joined in discussing and putting up window displays, notably **Jessica Dickinson Goodman**, **Sinead Toolis**, and **Aer van de Water**, whose annual Pride flag display have inspired so many.

In early June, **Noble Grand Ria Toolis** asked us to consider how we could use the street windows to make our Mountain View Lodge more visible and exciting. She proposed that the smaller window on Castro Street be dedicated to Odd Fellows and Rebekahs as a permanent display to support membership development, with the larger Castro Street window featuring a changing display. We are even considering professional signage and lights.

In late June, **Noble Grand Ria Toolis** and I participated in a Storefront Window Display Workshop offered by the City of Mountain View to learn more about how we can best take advantage of the resource represented by our large and prominent lodge windows. We are discussing presenting a monthly display based on the nearest major holiday or community celebration or season. The display would generally stay up for a whole month. If we are thoughtful in our selection of larger display items, we have the option to re-use them annually to reduce costs and effort.

In June, I submitted a two-page written proposal to the lodge which suggests that themes for the big window displays should be diverse and inclusive to encourage a wide range of community interest and potential new members. Some of the themes to consider celebrating in our windows will be easy to pick, but others will require regular discussion by the Window Display Committee. We are discussing a budget and ongoing governance now.

We hope to make our Mountain View lodge windows interesting, inclusive, energizing, and welcoming. Be sure to catch our upcoming displays!

By **Katy Dickinson**



View from outside with the July Fourth display and pride flags



Pride Month window display for June at Mountain View #244



**Regina Van Brunt**, Executive Director of Redwood City Downtown Business Group (Left) Bay View Lodge Member **Carol**



IOOF Bay View Lodge Silver Sponsor

## Bay View Supports the Redwood City Car Show

Representing the IOOF **Bay View Lodge 109**, member **Carol Fung** volunteered at the annual Redwood City Car Show in Redwood City's Courthouse Square on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Bay View Lodge 109 has been a long-time supporter of community events like this, and this year was a Silver Sponsor of the annual Car Show. Fung volunteered at the Beer and Wine booth, connected with the community and had a great time repping Odd Fellows!

By **Hannah Khoury**

## Artists Mountain View Art Show

The Mountain View Odd Fellows Lodge played host to a pop-up art show this past weekend. The event was curated by Artists Mountain View, a group of talented local artists. Attendees left inspired, and with a sense of community pride.

Eleven artists displayed their work. From comics to paintings, enamel pins to handcrafted clothing, the exhibit showcased the diversity of Mountain View's local talent.

The public's response was heartwarming. The turnout was even better than anticipated! And thanks to generous donations and art sales, artists' proceeds topped nearly \$2000. A significant portion of these funds—several hundred dollars—will be dedicated to a mural project that will one day grace the side of our beloved lodge.

Thanks to everyone who helped out, it was a rousing success! We're looking forward to doing this again, every few months.

By *Mark Flider*



## Cupertino Lodge early 4th of July Social

On June 24th, the Cupertino Lodge 70 members joined to celebrate our nation's birthday and learn more about how we can build a bridge between those who live in our community and Rebekah Children's Services.

**Gayle Joslin**, director of RCS, gave a nice presentation on RCS services and some of the newer programs, such as the new Hollister location.

The Cupertino members, including **Ron Myres, Randee Chin, Les Wong, Marvin Carter, Steven Franke** and **Jim Kabage** prepared a BBQ dinner including hamburgers, hot dogs, chili, potato and green salads, followed up by raspberry plus entertain us with music.

In all, there were 22 at the event, mostly Cupertino members with a few lodge friends. \$380 was raised at the door,

**On Saturday, August 3rd**  
**Barnes Encampment #77 Presents:**  
**Pancake Breakfast**  
**at True Fellowship**

<b>LOCATION:</b>	1035 Emory St, San Jose
<b>DATE:</b>	AUGUST 3, 2024
<b>TIME:</b>	8am - 11am
<b>PRICE:</b>	\$10

To learn more, visit:  
[true52.org/pancakes](https://true52.org/pancakes)

## Encampment Pancake Breakfast August 3

Get to know your local encampment! **Barnes Encampment #77** includes respected elders of Odd Fellowship from 5 different lodges in our area. Their combined experience as leaders within our order makes them a valuable and cherished resource for understanding what it takes to make a lodge function well.

Following the success of the June event, pancakes are back on the menu in August. Enjoy a delicious breakfast of pancakes, assorted toppings, and sides in the company of these encampment brothers and sisters. Pick up your food and go, or stay with us and enjoy it together. While we eat, the Grand Lodge Board of Directors meeting will be displayed on our large-screen TV.

To learn more or purchase your ticket in advance, go to [true52.org/pancakes](https://true52.org/pancakes) !

By *Mason Wolf*

with a \$20 donation from a member who could not attend in person. In addition, two individuals contributed an extra \$100 each, which brought the grand total for the evening to \$580 for RCS.

Cupertino Lodge 70 is truly grateful to its members and friends for coming together for such a worthy cause. I'm sure as we grow our lodge around contributing to our community; we will be able to make more of a difference for those in need.

By *Jim Kabage*

## Guest Speaker at Saratoga Lodge 428

On June 11, 2024 Saratoga Lodge 428 had a guest speaker right after its normal business meeting. The guest was a friend of our member couple the Eitzen's named: **Koenraad Meier**, and he was from an Odd Fellows Lodge in the Netherlands. [www.oddfellows.nl](http://www.oddfellows.nl)

Koenraad Meier spoke about how the Odd Fellows were a spin-off from the Guilds that existed mainly from the Middle Ages until the Industrial Revolution (12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century). The Guilds were the predecessor to labor unions, and each Guild had a specialty such as working with Silver.

Guilds often influenced local politics and legislation by acting collectively to protect and advance their interests. In general, guilds were tightly organized and had significant influence on the economic, social and political life of the medieval cities in which they operated.

Guilds also functioned as social network for their members. They provided support to the sick, widows and orphans of deceased members and often organized social events and festivities.

The flaw in the Guild System was that only registered citizens in a town could become an apprentice, then journeyman, and then master of his trade. But what about the craftsmen who traveled around?

There was a class of skilled men who needed to travel in order to sell their goods and services and because of this constant travel, could not get involved with the Guild System. But they still needed to network and fellowship with other skilled workers and so they established meeting places at local inns and taverns, on various days of the week, such as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

They began to require membership dues because of the social services that they provided to their members. They had the same compassion for the sick, the widows, and the orphans as their Guild counterparts. But they began to be called Odd Fellows because they weren't part of a Guild but still had much to offer a city and it's citizens.

They developed a system of degrees to track a person's seniority within a group and they began to call these groups – lodges. Since there were no official ID's at the time, so they began to use signs, symbols and passwords to identify one another, especially when they traveled.

There is evidence of a lodge in 1736 and another in 1748, labeled as Lodge #9. Around the year 1800, several members migrated to North America and wanted to keep their lodges going. They asked the Grand Lodge of England if they could do so, and they were told **No**.

So, on April 26, 1819 at the Seven Star Inn - in Baltimore, Maryland - blacksmith Thomas Wildey founded Washington Lodge #1 with a few of his fellow members. After placing an ad in a local newspaper, the membership grew. After a few meetings, it was decided that Thomas Wildey be named the Grand Master of this lodge, and the name: Independent Order of Odd Fellows was established.

Ironically, by 1870, with all the travel back and forth to Europe by Germans and Scandinavians, IOOF lodges began forming in Germany, Scandinavia and Switzerland.

It was very nice getting to know Koenraad Meier and his wife and hearing about Odd Fellowship in the Netherlands. They too have similar problems getting younger people to join at Koenraad Meier's lodge and one technique they use for outreach is to have a non-member - guest speaker each month, and they invite everyone in the community.

We plan to have more guest speakers in the future. Previously, we have had various non-members come and talk about the books that they have written (and they get to sell them) and we've had a professional comedian come and perform for us, during a fancy dinner. Another way that a lodge can find people who are willing to join, is to find out what high schools the current members went to and make sure to invite their high school friends to social events.

By *Paul Milleson*



Odd Fellows Lodge Building in Amsterdam (central building in view)



Koenraad Meier and his wife surrounded by the members of Saratoga 428

## Event Announcement: Burgers & Beavers Together at Last!

Join Us for the July Dinner and a Movie Bash!

**Date:** July 31, 2024

**Time:** 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

**Donation:** \$30, plus \$5 to charity of your choice

Remember silent comedies that moved, touched and inspired us as kids? No? That's okay too!

### True Fellowship 52 Presents:

"Hundreds of Beavers" Screening: Settle in for a hilarious film about one man's wild adventure battling the elements, critters, and perhaps even love – beavers included, dialog not so much! This non-stop comic masterpiece has been hailed as pure slapstick genius. It scores a certified fresh on Rotten Tomatoes and has taken numerous independent film awards.

#### 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM:

- **Legendary Burger Fry:** Enjoy our famous burgers!
- **Secret Milkshake:** Indulge in a surprise flavor. (Non-Dairy Options available)
- **Collectible Cup:** Take home a unique souvenir.

#### 7:30 PM - 9:20 PM:

*Hundreds of Beavers!*

Get your tickets now and make Wednesday, July 31 a Night You'll Remember!

#### Tickets and More Info:

Visit [true52.org/movie-night](http://true52.org/movie-night) for tickets and event details.

Come join us! – it'll be a whale of a time!

By *Zandria Elbert & Ganga Tarwady*

## Initiatory Dinner at True Fellowship

On Wednesday June 12, True Fellowship #52 welcomed three new members by initiation with a dinner degree ceremony.

Directly following our social potluck, we opened a special lodge meeting with five delicious dessert courses. Although as Noble Grand, my part in the ceremony is mostly passive until the very end, I observed the incredible thought-provoking depth of the ritual, and the beauty of deep discourse that seems to fill in the gaps with the dinner-style degree. If you've never experienced it, I recommend trying to participate in one at least once.

**Jim Tay, Sylvia Abboud, and Ross Oliver** are now members of our lodge, and we are excited to have them. We are blessed to have family who continue to welcome new family with open arms and deep hearts.

By *Debbie Wolf*



## Live Degrees in July

We've got a triple dose of live degrees coming our way this month! We kick off with a second degree conferral on Tuesday, July 9th at Love-ly **Saratoga Lodge #428**. The degree will be conferred at 7PM after their regular meeting.

On Wednesday, July 24th, **True Fellowship #52** once again confers the Third Degree on those who can handle the Truth! The degree begins at 7PM.

Finally, we take things back to the beginning with an initiatory degree at **Cupertino #70**. For those ready to begin their journey in our Order, the Purity of our message will be shared on Monday, July 29th, at 7PM.

For those in need of the first degree, our Friends at **Mountain View #244** will be sharing it on the fifth Thursday in August.

By *Mason Wolf*

## Beyond Authority: Exploring the True Meaning of Leadership

“Men exist for the sake of one another. Teach them then or bear with them.” – Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*

These words from Marcus Aurelius set the tone for an unusual gathering at San Jose's Odd Fellows Hall on a balmy Wednesday evening in May. The 'Leadership Mixer' sought to explore this very idea: how leadership extends beyond authority to encompass mutual support, education, and patience.

The event was led by a diverse group of experienced leaders and coaches. **Mason Wolf** and **Andrew Crockett**, key figures in the Odd Fellows organization, provided the community context that made the event possible. **Ganga Tarwady**, a NeuroLinguistic programming coach known for transforming deep-seated patterns, brought her expertise in personal growth. **Kayvan Sylvan**, a long-time practitioner and leader in personal and professional development organizations, offered insights from decades of empowering others. This blend of perspectives, from personal development to community building, set the stage for a rich and multifaceted discussion on leadership.

As more and more people entered the room, the air was humming with happy noises and conversation.

People from many walks of life interacted around platters of potluck dishes, including experienced executives, curious students, and community organizers, as well as political officeholders and aspiring politicians seeking office.

As we started, the crowd organized around tables to form seminar-style discussion groups. The room was full and the upbeat anticipatory energy was palpable. There was an immediate sense of kinship and community. What brings such a diverse group together?

The answer, it turns out, is deceptively simple: a shared curiosity about leadership.

Embodying “leadership,” in the sense of being someone who makes a difference, doesn’t have to look like being the “lead” person. Being in the supporting role in partnership with others is a valuable expression of leadership.

One individual discussed the importance of showing up for your team, even in areas outside of your expertise. "When you donate your time to whatever they are interested in, when you show up and help make that successful. That's what matters," added the gentleman.

As the evening progressed, I found myself pondering other universal questions:

1. What exactly is leadership if it is more than just being in charge?
2. How do we develop the kind of leadership that lifts entire communities?

Perhaps the most profound insight came from an unexpected source: a debate about American society. “We don't



Ganga Tarwady leads a discussion on leadership

tend to say we are stuck in the traditions that got us to where we are,” one participant noted. “It is okay to change. We don't have to blindly follow in the footsteps of others.”

Isn't great leadership defined by a readiness to question, adapt,

and establish new paths?

The questions we explored don't have easy answers. Perhaps that's the point. True leadership, it seems, isn't about having all the answers. It's about having the courage to keep asking the questions.

Some questions to ponder yourself, or in brainstorming discussions with others:

- What is leadership?
- What do you think about leadership?
- What are the qualities of a leader?
- Should a leader be interested or interesting?
- What's one thing about American culture that you love?
- What is the most valuable leadership lesson you've learned?
- What new skills will leaders need in the future?
- What is something that you did not expect to happen in leadership but it did?
- What do you think are the qualities of a leader coming from values?

The Leadership Mixer may have ended, but it was only the beginning of a larger journey—the continual practice of implementing leadership concepts in our daily lives. Having engaged in these questions with the group, I was left with a new perspective on the topic of leadership.

Real leadership goes beyond the workplace and politics. It's not so much about your job or title as it is about how your acts affect people in real life. As an Odd Fellow, you can express your leadership by being involved in your community, volunteering for events and good causes, and follow the timeless ideals of Friendship, Love, and Truth.

The San Jose Odd Fellows' leadership committee aims to train and develop community leaders. We facilitate engaging and fun conversations, like those at the Leadership Mixer. Stay tuned for upcoming Leadership Committee events!

The next Leadership Committee event is a fundraiser burger fry and movie night, happening on July 31<sup>st</sup>. You are invited to join us! Come meet us and play with us as we continue to create fun events for the membership that are also impactful and benefit you and your community.

By *Kayvan Sylvan*