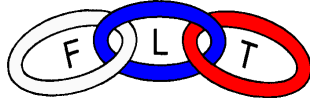


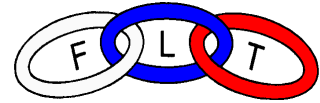
Mailing Address:
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The Triple Links Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

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



Established 1987



It All Started 125 Years Ago

April 15, 1899 is when it all started for Cupertino Odd Fellows Lodge 70. And celebratory times have stepped forward in 25-year increments. On April 21, 2024 we celebrated our 125th year, a quasiquintennial anniversary. Over 90 attendees came from as far as Iowa and across the Great State of California.

An excellent video by sister **Randee Chin** portrayed historical pictures along with present day events and community services in the reception room. Hors-d'oeuvres were provided by Emerald Bay Lodge #50 from South Lake Tahoe, over 4 hours away. They also provided a cornucopia of desserts after the program. Our very own band, Laule'a, provided music all around. While just about every capable member available contributed to the original four-person committee tasked with creating this year's event.

Past Sovereign Grand Master, sister Michelle Heckart joined us from Danville, IOWA. She represented the Sovereign Grand Lodge; North Carolina, with a proclamation that **Noble Grand Ron Myres** received for our lodge. Michelle spoke last with a very inspiring speech of fellowship and goodwill.

California Senator, Dave Cortese's representative, **Mr. Phuong Nguyen** presented the Senator's Resolution to our lodge. The senator had conflicting schedules and could not personally attend. California Assembly Member, **Evan Low** presented a Certificate of Recognition. Evan Low had another event and could not stay for the ceremony program. **United States Senator, Laphonza Buttler** apologized for not being available in our area on Sunday, as well as **Senator Alex Padilla**, Representative **Ro Khanna** and the present **Sovereign Grand Master John Cupp**.



Ron Myres receives certificate of recognition from the city of Cupertino, presented by mayor **Sheila Mohan**.

However, the almost full contingent of Cupertino's governing Councilmembers and mayoral division attended. **Mayor Sheila Mohan** presented Noble Grand Ron Myres with recognition certificates for our lodge's service to the community. **Cupertino Councilmembers Kitty Moore** and **Liang Chao** spoke on their happy discovery of what our lodge has done. While councilmember and **past mayor, Hong Wei**, had to leave for a funeral. Also, Los Altos City **Councilmember Lynette Lee Eng** was able to attend.

Michael Greenzeiger read a very entertaining first 100-year history, while **Mark St John** detailed the past 25 years of community good works and changes.

Meritorious jewels were presented by **Grand Master Fred Dolling** to **Tom Blackburn, Ron Myres** and **Jim Kabage** for service to our lodge and Odd Fellows in general.

Did I mention that brother **Dennis Carrey** from Santa Rosa sang and held the longest note ever heard for the Star-Spangled banner? Dennis also sang this song 25 years ago at our centennial celebration.

Only every 25 years will this magnitude of celebration be presented at Cupertino Lodge #70. This year we video recorded the celebration and took many pictures which will soon be available online, and through our website.

Thank you all from near and far for welcoming this parcel of history into our record books. The celebration will continue throughout 2024, so join us at our various events that will be posted on our website, CupertinoOddFellows.org.

by **Tom Blackburn**



Past Sovereign Grand Master, **Michelle Heckart** presented a heartfelt speech about Odd Fellowship at Cupertino.

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

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

Philotesian Rebekah Lodge
20589 Homestead Road
Cupertino CA 95014
Phone 408-252-3954 for reservations

There will be a talk on
IOOF Retirement Homes by **Debra LaVergne**

Day at the Races, 2024

This year's Day at the Races was the latest in a line of events stretching back over 28 years. 376 tickets were sold, and Odd Fellows from around the state (though mainly the San Francisco region) came together to eat, chat, and cheer for their favored thoroughbreds. The weather was a perfect sunny day, with a high of around 66 degrees. The light breeze carried the earthy scents of the track along with the slight salt of the bay. The crowds were small, with many empty seats in the stands, but the mood was still electric each time the horses leapt from their stalls onto the track.



There were 7 races in all, and the Odd Fellows had some of the best seats available, in the luxury boxes overlooking the finish line. The event helped raise money for Rebekah Children's Services and the Culinary Academy, which meant the attendees weren't just enjoying fine dining and exclusive access to the Turf Club at Golden Gate Fields - they were benefiting a good cause too!

Sadly, the largest Odd Fellows event in the state will not be around next year. The track at Golden Gate Fields is being torn down to make room for new condominiums. The sparse crowds were evidence that horse-track racing just isn't pulling in the profits and interest that this storied ground once enjoyed, but it certainly made many cherished memories.

by *Mason Wolf*

On Saturday, June 1st
Barnes Encampment #77 Presents:
Pancake Breakfast at True Fellowship



| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| LOCATION: | 1035 Emory St, San Jose |
| DATE: | JUNE 1, 2024 |
| TIME: | 8am - 11am |
| PRICE: | \$10 |

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.

Enjoy a delicious breakfast of pancakes, assorted toppings, and sides in the company of these encampment brothers and sisters.

To learn more, visit:
true52.org/pancakes




Joint Reception at Cupertino

For incoming Grand Master and Rebekah Assembly President

We will be gathering for a reception in honor of our upcoming **Grand Master Dave Reed** and **Rebekah Assembly President Debra LaVergne** on Sunday, June 2nd at the Cupertino Odd Fellows Hall. The event will start at 12:30 PM with lunch at 1:00 PM and the formal program beginning at 2:00 PM. Cost to attend will be \$25. Look out for the official flyer with RSVP information soon!

by *Michael Greenzeiger*

Recovering What We Lost

The Effort to Save Gilroy #154

The story of the Odd Fellows in California is older than California itself. In 1849, we established California Lodge #1 in San Francisco, one year before California would become the 31st state in a growing union. Likewise, in 1869, the Odd Fellows opened Gilroy Lodge #154, one year before the state legislature would approve Gilroy's admission as a city. We can't know for sure, but it's likely that the lodge was founded by men who knew John Gilroy, the city's namesake, both personally and professionally. 4 months after the lodge was chartered, John Gilroy would pass away. But the lodge named indirectly after him would persist another 154 years, until it was forced to close in April of 2023.

In that time, the lodge became well known for its contributions to the community. I.O.O.F. Avenue sits beside Rebekah Children's Services, one of our last orphanages, which today serves tens of thousands of children through critical counseling and therapy services, as well as providing job training through the acclaimed Culinary Institute operating there. The lodge itself would fall into decline, however, as dwindling membership would make it more difficult to do the sorts of things that once created such benefits to the city.

The lodge eventually got to the point where it couldn't make quorum. Too few people joined, and many of the ones who stayed were too infirm to attend meetings. It was a lodge in desperate need of assistance that, sadly, it didn't receive.

But that doesn't mean no attempt was made.

A brother from Morningstar Lodge #20 in Placerville, Joseph Ouellette Jr, was named special deputy to investigate the condition of the lodge. He found it dire, to be sure. But when he shared its story, he and several members from other lodges decided to either transfer their memberships to Gilroy or join as associates. He put the proposal to the Grand Lodge board, with all officer positions filled that would be necessary to once again function as a lodge while they undertook the next step of recruiting members from within the community of Gilroy itself.

There's some dispute today about whether that proposal was actually heard by the board or not. But what's documented is that just 2 days after appointing Brother Joseph as special deputy, the Grand Master at the time, Redgie Fleeman, revoked Gilroy #154's charter. Almost 154 years to the day of its founding, the lodge simply ceased to exist.

And yet, the story need not end there. A rarely-used provision in our code states that all funds belonging to a lodge that goes extinct are to be held in trust for 3 years, in case it should successfully petition to reform. Aware of this potential, when GM Redgie Fleeman wrote about revoking the charter in his annual report, he said that, "the closing of Lodge was the only decision to allow the possibility within three years to restore the good things we do in Gilroy."



Several Odd Fellows of other lodges (chiefly San Jose), including some members who already live in Gilroy, and crucially, some of the original members of Gilroy #154, have petitioned to take up Brother Redgie's call and restart that lodge. The former lodge building itself is still being rented out, drawing income - with additional renters already identified in the community. The community has responded, with the nonprofit Community Agency for Resources, Advocacy and Services (CARAS) eager to supply members and partner with the community center to supply support services and training to Gilroy neighbors facing difficult circumstances. In addition, a number of Gilroy city leaders have expressed a keen interest in joining the lodge themselves, once they were informed that this treasured third space was at risk of going away forever.

A clear-eyed look means admitting that there were serious problems with the way Gilroy #154 was functioning at the time it lost its charter, but that shouldn't mean we give up on Odd Fellowship itself in a city where it was once so vital.

Right now, it is the will of the Grand Lodge board to sell the former lodge building. If that building is sold, even if the funds from that sale eventually transfer to a newly-rechartered lodge, and even should they use those funds to purchase another building in which to meet, the property tax will be based on the current market rate, which will make it extremely difficult for that lodge to pull in sufficient income to sustain itself. For the lodge in Gilroy to have a real chance at becoming a successful and thriving part of that community once again, they will need to get their building back.

At Sessions this year, representatives will be asked to consider a resolution to prevent the Grand Lodge from selling our former lodge building in Gilroy for one year, while the former members and their new allies work to get a petition to restart it. Having seen the strength and depth of interest for ourselves, I strongly believe that petition will materialize soon.

The story of Gilroy #154 may continue in 2024, or it may be buried in the past forever. It likely depends on what happens this year at Sessions. For our part, we hope, and truly believe, that the other representatives still believe enough in Odd Fellowship to protect this one small piece of it for the future.

By Mason Wolf and Andrew Crockett

Odd Fellows Invade Steampunk!

If ever there was a great match-up, it's the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the mash-up of Victorian futurism, science fiction, and whimsy known as Steampunk. This community holds Clockwork Alchemy, an annual convention in California's Bay Area.

Clockwork Alchemy features authors who write books in the genre, lectures and workshops, creative costuming, and shows the work of members of the Maker community. It also provides various activities ranging from Big Band dancing to teapot dueling to martial arts to fighting with traditional Hawaiian weapons.

This year the Odd Fellows of True Fellowship #52 made their presence known! After all, Odd Fellowship was on the rise in the Victorian era, and the tropes of Steampunk are fascinated with secret societies and club



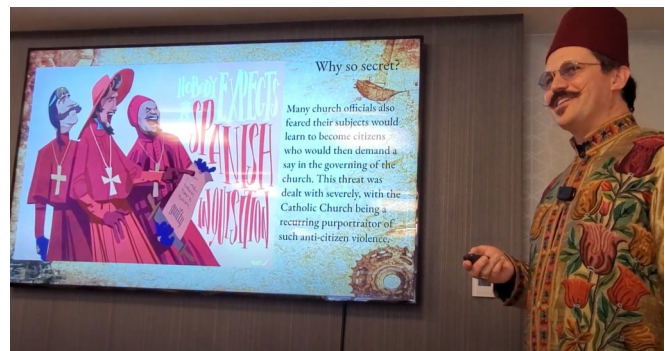
Mason Wolf, dressed in the finest past grand costume he could locate, welcomes people to look at IOOF

life of the era.

We set up a booth in the central concourse, right across from the Tea Parlor, where we displayed props and relics of the past, including a collection of memorabilia from the Odd Fellows participation in the San Francisco Pan Pacific Exposition of 1915, a Warden's ax, and various photos and old documents. Our own **Mason Wolf** dressed in the antique robe of a Past Grand, which fit right into the Convention's vibe. And of course we were equipped with fliers and applications to show we are still here! We joked that we were truly a secret society because many didn't realize we were still around.

Several people signed our contact sheet to find out more about the Order. Two people who talked to us at Clockwork Alchemy came to the Hamburger Fry at True Fellowship the following week. Many of the peo-

ple who stopped to talk to us thought highly of past work of the Order, and many also told of family members who had been Odd Fellows. Often, people were fascinated and delighted to find we still exist. Some visitors from out of state said they were going to find out if there were Odd Fellows in their own states. Many also expressed interest in the fact some of our Lodges have gone back to performing full rituals. One person even filled out an application on the spot!



Andrew Crockett gave a talk about secret societies.

Our members also gave lectures. **Andrew Crockett**, Vice Grand of True 52, gave a presentation on Secret Societies, Symbolism, and Steampunk, featuring the Odd Fellows as one of the representative organizations. One of the convention organizers said that his talk was the most popular and well attended lecture at the convention. The room was at capacity, with standing room only! It was also recorded for later viewing for those who could not attend. See Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IqAq7ZoKXqQ>

You can also search for "*Citizen Crockett's talk on secret societies.*" **Jane Beckman** gave a presentation on how to set up a Steampunk-style bar in your home, using primarily finds from thrift shops and estate sales.

Members who turned out to introduce the Steampunk community to Odd Fellowship included **Mason** and **Honor Wolf**, **Andrew Crockett**, **Adam Potolsky**, **Jane Beckman**, and **Sarah Bruce**.

One of the things our table at Clockwork Alchemy brought home is that Odd Fellowship is ripe for a revival. People like to connect, and sometimes what is old can be new again.

by *Jane Beckman*

Leadership Essay: Guiding with Friendship, Love, and Truth



Introduction

Leadership is often viewed through the lens of authority, power, and control. However, a transformative approach to leadership integrates elements that are deeply human and fundamentally nurturing: friendship, love, and truth. These values not only enhance the effectiveness of a leader but also foster a supportive and thriving environment. This essay explores how these three core values can redefine leadership and lead to sustainable success in any organization.

The Role of Friendship in Leadership

My best Managers were my friends first. Today we spend a lot of time at work and we are very protective of our time. These extraordinary managers learnt that being genuinely interested in my welfare and what I was dealing with helped foster a faster rate of growth and feeling secure at the workplace. It also built my confidence to take on challenges I would haven't taken on.

Friendship in leadership transcends traditional boundaries between the leader and the led. It involves cultivating a sense of camaraderie and trust, which is pivotal for teamwork and collaboration. A leader who is a friend first is approachable and relatable, making it easier for team members to share their thoughts, ideas, and concerns without fear of judgment. This open communication fosters an environment where creativity and innovation can flourish.

Integrating friendship into leadership also means showing genuine interest in the personal and professional growth of team members. Leaders who are friends first can effectively mentor and guide their teams, not merely directing them but growing with them. This shared journey not only boosts morale but also encourages loyalty and commitment to collective goals.

The Influence of Love in Leadership

These Managers I learnt from were always loving and kind and a door open for me to walk in, speak up and talk about what I was dealing with.

While love in a leadership context might seem out of place, it is about the compassionate drive to see others win. Leadership with love is characterized by

empathy, kindness, and a deep commitment to the welfare of others. It involves understanding the challenges faced by team members and providing support and encouragement to help them overcome these obstacles.

Leaders who embrace love as a core as an important value leads a more supportive and happier workplace culture that can tackle any challenges with resilience.

This also meant I was going to be the kind of employee that had them win and get them promoted.

The Necessity of Truth in Leadership

Truth is the foundation of integrity in leadership. It involves honesty in communication, transparency in decision-making, and consistency in actions. Leaders who prioritize truth cultivate trust, a critical component of effective leadership. When team members trust their leader, they are more likely to commit wholeheartedly to the vision and direction of the organization.

Truth in leadership also means being truthful about one's own limitations and mistakes. This vulnerability can strengthen relationships within the team, as it encourages others to own their errors and learn from them. Furthermore, a commitment to truth ensures that the organization adheres to ethical standards and maintains its reputation both internally and externally.

Since I knew these managers were going to be honest they would set me up to work my way through a conflict or disagreement with an honest and neutral perspective and this in turn trained me to do so to those I was training.

Conclusion

Leadership enriched with friendship, love, and truth is not only about achieving goals but about creating a legacy of positive impact and mutual respect. Leaders who embody these values foster an atmosphere where individuals feel valued, understood, and empowered. Such leadership creates a following; it cultivates new leaders, equipped with the emotional and ethical tools to continue a cycle of positive influence.

by *Ganga Tarwady*

If you'd like to discuss the topic of leadership further, there will be a leadership-focused mixer, led by Sister Ganga, at True Fellowship Lodge on May 8th. See the flyer on the next page!



Wednesday, May 8th

Join Us for an Evening of Connection & Community,
at True Fellowship #52's

LEADERSHIP MIXER

| | | | |
|-------------|--------|-----------|--|
| Potluck: | 6-7 PM | Location: | Odd Fellows Hall, |
| Event: | 7-8 PM | | 1035 Emory Street, San Jose |
| Networking: | 8-9 PM | RSVP: | true52.org/leadership |

Let's explore the heart of leadership together! Discover and share what drives you, and learn how to channel that passion into effective leadership.

Bring a dish, bring a friend, or just bring your enthusiasm! No worries if you're new; we've got fun icebreakers to get us all chatting.

Find out what's important to you,
and how you can achieve it!

true52.org/leadership

We look forward to vibrant conversations and new connections!

Brought to you by the Odd Fellows of San Jose, True Fellowship Lodge #52, I.O.O.F.

Cupertino 70 May Day Fundraiser

Saturday May 4th, from 4 PM to 8:30 PM

May Day is a big event in Hawaii and **Karen Sanico** will be bringing her version to Cupertino.

- 4:00-5:00 setup potluck, socialize, buy raffle tickets
- 5:00~6:00 potluck Dinner
- 6:00~7:00 May Day Program
- 7:00-8:30 Dessert & Kanikapila (music jam) and hula dancing

Mahalo & looking forward to a fun & successful event.

By *Karen Sanico*



| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Lisa Pulliam #52 | Kat Powell #52 | Clay Franklin #428 | Heather Millican #219 | Barbara Carlson #219 | Steve Koehler #109 |
| True Fellowship | True Fellowship | Saratoga | Livermore | Livermore | Bay View |

Initiation Held at Cupertino #70

The fifth Monday Initiation was held on 4/29 at Cupertino Lodge #70 for 6 candidates. There were supposed to be 8, but 2 couldn't come the last minute. However, two candidates came from all the way from Livermore Lodge #219, **Heather Millican** and **Barbare Carlson** and one from Bayview Lodge in Redwood City, **Steve Koehler**. **Lisa Pulliam** and **Kat Powell** from True Fellowship and **Clay Franklin** from Saratoga are the other three initiates. There were about 23 total Odd Fellows attended the degree. **Annie Cronin**, degree Captain, had everything under control and all parts were covered and everyone did a wonderful job as usual. **Tom Blackburn** took many pictures afterwards, which could be found on link <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zBXXDUWulPNtIUmUAGF3YRsnszIgN826o?usp=sharing>

By *Don Lang*



Deescalating the Polarization: The Braver Angels Depolarizing Within Event

In a world often marked by polarization and discord, the Braver Angels Depolarizing Within Event emerged as a beacon – not of hope – but of listening. On April 13th, a rainy Saturday morning, approximately 50 attendees gathered at the San Jose Odd Fellows lodge in the quiet College Park neighborhood. Braver Angel's mission? To foster listening and understanding across ideological lines.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of 10 individuals worked tirelessly to ensure the event's success. These unsung heroes—from event coordinators to volunteers—pulled together seamlessly. Their shared commitment set the stage for open dialogue that could transcend political affiliations, emphasizing the common ground that unites us all.

The San Jose Odd Fellows lodge provided an ideal setting with its rustic charm and high-vaulted ceilings. As attendees filed in, they were greeted by warm smiles and the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and snacks graciously provided by Braver Angels.

The Braver Angels organization, known for its commitment to depolarization, facilitated the event. Their skilled moderators, Mia Whitfield and Dave Beggs, guided the conversations, ensuring everyone had a voice. The attendees, representing diverse backgrounds and beliefs, engaged in respectful dialogue. Whether listening to examples of polarizing expressions about gun laws or immigration, they listened intently, seeking how to listen in a polarized conversation. While this event didn't focus on depolarizing from a conflicting stance, it did focus on being in a like-minded dialogue and hearing someone else speak in a polarizing manner. Many participants eagerly contributed to the dialogue.

What stood out most was the cooperative spirit that enveloped the room. Attendees leaned in, not to argue, but to understand. They shared personal anecdotes, revealing vulnerabilities and hopes. When disagreements arose, they sought bridges rather than walls. The lodge room echoed with laughter, nods of agreement, and the occasional "I never thought of it that way."

As the event concluded, participants exchanged contact information. They vowed to continue the conversation beyond the lodge's walls. The lodge, a gathering place for the San Jose Odd Fellows, is now expanding into a new kind of unity in the community—one that transcends labels and embraces our shared humanity.

In a world where division often dominates headlines, the Braver Angels Depolarizing Within Event reminded us that understanding begins with listening to the other side. Perhaps, just perhaps, we can build a more compassionate society—one dialogue at a time.

By *John Jensen*

Cupertino #70's Roll Call Dinner

If it wasn't enough to celebrate our 125 year Anniversary, we will also be celebrating our annual Anniversary with our Roll Call Dinner. It will be held at the lodge on



Monday, May 20th from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM.

The Roll Call Dinner is an annual event to allow us to acknowledge our members' years of service. The Dinner will be prepared by brother **Joseph Ouellette Jr.**, from Emerald Bay Lodge. Please RSVP by Thursday, May 16th. All Lodge #70 Members, members' immediate families, significant other, widows and Philotesian Rebekahs with a guest, are free. Additional Guests are welcome but there will be \$25 per person charge at the door. The main program will include the reading of the Lodge's Member Roster and highlighting our years of service.

By *Don Lang*

