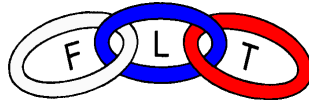


Established 1987



## 50 Years of Brotherhood

True Fellowship #52 had the rare honor of celebrating a 50-year membership in August. Brother **Louis Chiaramonte** was initiated into Odd Fellows on August 21, 1974. On September 4, 2024, we awarded him with his long-awaited 50-year veteran jewel.

Marking 50 years in the order is a highly anticipated moment. As we learn in initiatory, Odd Fellows look beyond our years on this earth and begin building our legacies with purposeful Friendship, Love, and Truth. Brother Lou has been doing this for 50 years!

Brother Lou recently attended the Yreka Cave Degrees in September and shared that this fulfilled a promise to his cousin, someone who joined Odd Fellows at the same time he did. The Cave degrees were important to his cousin and he enjoyed them many times. Sadly this Brother is no longer with us and we are reminded that every year is precious.

50 years as an Odd Fellow is such a monument of pride to both members and their Lodges, that Odd Fellows have crafted various styles of pins through the ages as a way to acknowledge this gift. As Noble Grand, it was my privilege to pin such a decoration on one of Lou's ever-colorful Hawaiian print shirts.

Fifty years of Odd Fellowship will look as different, as unique, as every Odd Fellow. Thank you, Lou, for your years of commitment, years of leadership, the years of advice, the years of mutual support, and since I've met you, for showing up again and again this year with 50 years of stories, ideas, and friendships to share.

By *Debbie Wolf*



## Cupertino #70 Confers Initiatory

Initiation was conferred at Cupertino Odd Fellow Lodge #70 on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> on 3 candidates. They were **Jesse Donaldson** from Mountain View Lodge #244, **Matthew Quevedo** from True Fellowship Lodge #52 and **Tom Thurman** all the way from Livermore Lodge #219. The only thing was that Tom already received his degree and was actually a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree brother, but when he took the Initiatory degree the first time it was by viewing the video. I believe it was during Covid and we had to watch big gatherings. After the degree, I asked Tom if it was worth coming all the way down and bringing a large number of his lodge members and he yes, it most certainly was.

As you can see by pictures taken by **Tom Blackburn**, they enjoyed themselves. Refreshments were served by Cupertino both before and after the degree



**Tom Thurman** from Livermore, **Matthew Quevedo** from TF & **Jesse Donaldson** from MV

## Upcoming Degree Dates

- On October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7PM, the Third Degree will be conferred at True Fellowship #52
  - On November 14<sup>th</sup> at 8PM, the First Degree will be conferred at Mountain View #244
- Contact **Mason Wolf** (408) 209-5159 (text preferred, if possible) if you want to learn more. Candidates from other lodges must have a letter from their home lodge in order to receive a degree.

By *Mason Wolf*

## Free Pumpkin-Sculpting Lesson at True Fellowship 52

On Wednesday, **October 9th**, unleash your creativity on a pumpkin this year. Enjoy a short lesson with **Debbie Wolf** and plenty of hands-on time sculpting pumpkins with clay sculpture tools.

**Bring your own pumpkin**, drinks, food and friends because this event is hosted concurrently with True Fellowship's social potluck. The doors open at 6. Meal begins at 6:30, and the pumpkin sculpting lesson begins at 7:30.



By *Debbie Wolf*



## Hermenia #49 Craft Show

Hermenia #49 would like to thank the Triple Links News for their advertisement of our Craft Fundraiser. We had over 600 adults (of which only 3 were Odd Fellows), 95 children, and 2 dogs. We profited over \$900 and have already donated \$500 back to our projects.

By *Jackie Brown*



## Magic: the Gathering at True Fellowship 52

On Friday, **October 4th**, from 6-10pm, the monthly game night at True Fellowship will be augmented with a touch of "magic". We'll be playing and teaching Magic: the Gathering, the popular trading card game. If you just want to learn the game, there will be starter decks for new players, and people available to teach the game's mechanics. For more experienced players, bring your favorite decks and try them out against new opponents.

Hope to see you there!

By *Mason Wolf*



## Oktoberfest/Halloween Fundraiser Social at Lodge 70

Everyone is welcome to our fun Fall event on Saturday, **October 26** from 5-9pm.

Wear your Halloween costume for the costume contest, enjoy dinner by Brother **Joseph Ouellette**, and dance to music of the holidays while contributing to our Fundraiser for West Valley Community Services Food Bank. We'll have a raffle and prizes! Bring your family and friends!

Tickets and online donations will be available from Oct. 7 at [www.cupertinooddfellows.org](http://www.cupertinooddfellows.org) RSVP by Tues., Oct. 22.

By *Karen Sanico*

## Dinner With the Fellows

Noble Grand **Ria Toolis** started the good tradition of gathering the Odd Fellows of Mountain View lodge for a companionable dinner ahead of our business meeting on 1st and 3rd Thursdays. Members take turns cooking. In September, I cooked a hearty Dutch meal for the lodge and caught up with the newer members I had not yet been able to meet. It was an enjoyable way to return to the lodge after a busy summer.

- The meal: **Hete Bliksem/Hutspot** hybrid (12 people)
- 2 kilogram of potatoes cubed and cooked, including skin, then mashed with a cup of milk.
  - 2 kilogram of carrots sliced and cooked.
  - 2 kilogram of apples cubed and heated for 10 minutes on top of the carrots, then mashed together, adding ginger, cinnamon and nutmeg to taste.
  - 1 kilogram of onions sliced and fruited with (glutenfree) soy sauce.
  - Mix all the above together in their serving or storage containers.
  - 1 kilogram of lean beef mincemeat, stir-fried with coconut oil, soy sauce and barbecue sauce. Serve on the side to allow for vegetarians.

By *Aer van de Water*



Pictured clockwise from bottom left: Siblings **Aer, Katy, Michael, Ria, Jesse C, Mason, Sally, Zoe**, and new friend **Jesse Donaldson**

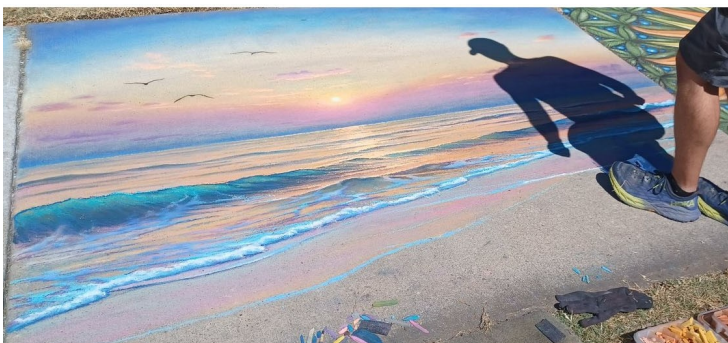
## Odd Fellows at Chalk Art Festival

True Fellowship 52 participated in the 17th annual Luna Park Chalk Art Festival held in Backesto Park in San Jose.

Sisters **Debbie Wolf** and **Sara Bruce** created the art on an 8'x8' sidewalk square, introducing attendees to some of the Odd Fellows symbols and traditions. Debbie demonstrated her artistic skills creating the all-seeing eye and other images.

**Mason Wolf, Jeff Rively** and **Honor Wolf** also participated, tending the booth and telling attendees about Odd Fellows and upcoming Lodge events. **Louis Chiramonte** was able to attend briefly. It was a pleasant, sunny day with a lot of beautiful chalk art to enjoy and local musicians playing from the nearby stage.

By *Sara Bruce*



Not done by Odd Fellows: These were some of the beautiful pictures created by talented chalk art festival artists, featured in the VIP area

## California Odd Fellows History Tour

The main things in California state history taught in elementary school are the Spanish missions and the Gold Rush. There is no connection between Odd Fellowship and the missions, but Odd Fellowship is strongly tied to the Gold Rush.

Odd Fellows chartered **California #1** in 1849 in San Francisco. Odd Fellows Lodges sprang up in most settlements in the gold country. Larger towns formed both an Odd Fellows lodge and a Masonic lodge. Miners tended to join the Odd Fellows while the professional people in town, such as doctors, lawyers and shopkeepers joined the Masons. Some of the lodge halls still exist. Others were rebuilt a time or two after fire destroyed the original wooden building.

Our tour started on Thursday evening at **Progressive Lodge #134** in Lockeford (lodge hall #1 of the tour), with a dinner featuring sausages from Lockeford Sausage, the tenant downstairs. After dinner, we viewed records in the lodge room and heard about the history of the building. It had been a hotel when Progressive acquired it. Before that, it had been a livery stable and wagon shop, with a hoist and big doors to lift wagons to the upper level for repair.

Friday morning, we headed from our home base in Jackson to the Marshall Gold Discovery Museum north of Placerville. The museum occupies almost all of what was the town of Coloma. We went on a guided tour that showed how the native tribes lived, a bunkhouse like Sutter's workers occupied, a couple surviving buildings from Chinatown (one set up as a store, and the other as a little museum of mining technology), a reconstruction of the sawmill, and a couple stamp mills that would have crushed ore. It would have been easy to spend the rest of the day there, but we headed to the Gearworks Alehouse in Placerville for lunch, and then on to the Gold Bug Mine and Park. The Gold Bug is a mine shaft into the side of the hill, with a self-guided tour. The rest of the park displays the stamp mill and a blacksmith shop with a live demonstration. I claimed the nail he made in the demo.

Friday dinner was chicken and waffles cooked by **Emerald Bay #50** and served in **Morning Star #20's** lodge hall in Placerville (lodge hall #2 of the tour). After dinner, we had square dance lessons.

Saturday we headed east to the annual pilgrimage to the **Volcano Lodge Hall** (lodge hall #3 of the tour). It is now owned solely by the Masonic Lodge, which is still active, but the Odd Fellows are allowed to have this one special meeting every year. The lodge room is lit by kerosene lamps because it does not have electricity (although the rest of the upstairs does).

Lunch in Volcano was at the Sizemore County store down the street, where we filled up the back dining room.

After lunch, we continued east to Kit Carson Pass and the Odd Fellows monument there. Once we were on the



correct road off the highway, we saw the plaque to the "Unknown Pioneer", then went uphill to another plaque and marks on rocks that a party including Odd Fellows had left in 1849. The parks service does keep the marks refreshed with white paint.

Dinner Saturday evening was at **Diamond Springs #9**, which is the oldest lodge building in California that has been continuously occupied (lodge hall #4 of the tour). My great-grandfather was initiated into membership there on January 1, 1898. Six years later he married, and my great-grandmother joined **Chrysolite Rebekah Lodge**. I have her PNG jewel. It is interesting that the built-in desks for the Secretary and Treasurer face in, toward the Noble Grand's station.

Sunday, we headed south, to the Sonora IOOF cemetery, for a tour led members of **Sonora #10**.

After lunch in Sonora, we went to **Lafayette #65** in La Grange (lodge hall #5 of the tour). They have a rare set of officer chairs that came around the horn. Most of the stations are marked with metal emblems. The chairs might have been intended for a San Francisco lodge, but they were deposited at the dock in Stockton and delivered to La Grange. That stop concluded a three-day tour that barely touched the history of Odd Fellows in the California Gold Rush. There is so much more to explore and discover!

By *Debra LaVergne*



## The District 107 Youth Pilgrimage Scholarship

The IOOF Youth Pilgrimage has been bringing young people from around North America on some of the most consequential journeys of their lives since its founding in 1949. Participants (called delegates) travel to cities in the Eastern US, including New York City, Boston, Niagara Falls, Gettysburg, and Washington DC, for incredible experiences like seeing a Broadway play, visiting historic landmarks, and facing off with their peers in a speech contest. Delegates who experience the trip come away with powerful memories and new connections with friends from across the US and Canada.



However, in the most recent trip this past July, there were no delegates from our district, and only one from the entire state of California. We know that there are remarkable young people here in our area, and want to encourage more of them to participate in this potentially life-changing experience. But there are two significant barriers to this - cost and awareness.

The District 107 Youth Pilgrimage scholarship contest aims to address both of these barriers. For the student whose essay on the meaning and importance of being a good citizen is chosen by our panel of judges, our scholarship will fund their application fee and round-trip airfare costs to participate in the program. In addition, at each school where we advertise the contest, eligible students, along with their parents and teachers, will learn that the opportunity exists. Even those who don't win our scholarship may still be inclined to pay the costs themselves in order to experience the pilgrimage.

The goal is to raise about \$3000 for the scholarship this

year, and so far, we're over halfway, thanks to the generous donations from Mountain View 244, Cupertino 70, Clara Rebekahs 34, True Fellowship 52, and Barnes Encampment 77. If the remaining amount can be raised before the end of November, we'll be providing information about the contest to each school district which includes a district 107 lodge, and begin accepting essays between December 1 and January 1. A winner will be announced on Monday, January 6, and we'll work to assist them in booking their travel and completing their application forms.

If the amount is not able to be raised by the end of November, the money will be held with Barnes Encampment a little longer, with the hope of holding the contest for the 2026 pilgrimage.

As this is the first time we're attempting to do this district program, we don't yet know whether it will become an annual event. Personally, I hope it does, as it meets the twin aims of building our district's reputation in our community, and elevating the character of humanity, by encouraging young people to think deeply about what it means to be a good citizen. And if it breathes new vigor into this incredible program of the Order, then that's a fantastic outcome as well.

You or your lodge may donate to this scholarship fund by sending a check made out to Barnes Encampment 77. Write "youth pilgrimage scholarship" in the memo field. You can mail it to:

Barnes Encampment 77  
c/o Don Lang  
11220 Monterey Ct,  
Cupertino, CA 95014

You can learn more about the program itself at:  
[ioofpilgrimageforyouth.com](http://ioofpilgrimageforyouth.com).

By *Mason Wolf*

