
Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

Always an Odd Fellow

When someone walks through those lodge doors and becomes a member, I believe they are a member for life. It is similar to the idea that once you are born, you grow to become a member of the human collective, and that can't be undone. This concept could be tricky to speak about since you may not want a vindictive person around you, your family or friends. And yet, if something bad like that does happen, the bad situation will exist. You may not be able to run from it. You probably will need to address it somehow. So why not make that first attempt to address the situation through the tenets we purport to hold dear, Friendship, Love and Truth.

People hurt other people. It's sad, but it's also true. People leave our fellowship because of such experienced attacks. I teach Aikido which is a way to deal with attacks. But it's not like other martial arts where you only defend yourself. It is unusual because Aikido also teaches about protecting the attacker if at all possible. I suppose that is why some police liked to train in Aikido in the early days before the shoot first practices popped up. But to do this takes courage. It is not without risks. One big risk when you think to protect your attacker is that your ego could be bruised. This is where courage is called upon.

Rather than give a lecture on how to do this. I ask that you start thinking early before any attack happens. Think about what Friendship, Love and Truth could mean to you personally. Talk to your inner self. Try to see how a fear of being hurt by an attack freezes your spirit and locks your ego into a protective mode that can drive you away from Friendship, Love and Truth.

Revenge and attacking-back may seem natural because you've not yet trained in a different way to deal with attacks. And yet there is a time you must attack back. If you can't avoid it, then you must attack to defend yourself or family. However, along with attacking back comes the making of an enemy. And now that you've created an enemy, you may have them against you for the rest of your life. Welcome to War 101.

Life deals you a hand from a deck of cards. Time, location, ethnicity are the cards we all are dealt. How you play your hand is always your choice. But you can't un-deal your hand. Even discarding something can't erase the fact that you got the cards in the first place. A new or old member is like a card you are dealt. Try to make the most of it. That's why I tend not to give up on others. And I meditate on how Friendship, Love and Truth can help me do my best work, with modest pride, earnest faith, and deepest loyalty to be fraternal to my fellow man.

So, even if you have a problem with a Fellow Odd person. Be Odd and care anyway. We've all been lucky enough to come through those doors of membership and be greeted into a fellowship. Be also grateful.

By Tom Blackburn

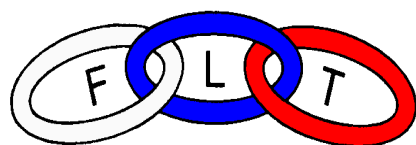


August BBQ

Our Cupertino Lodge Summer BBQ's are back and the August social with be moved back to be held on Monday, August 16. **Sister Simona Benjamin**, our new Vice Grand, will be the main Chef and committee chairperson. Dinner service will start at 6:00 PM. Members and their families are invited, an email with details and RSVP info will be sent out to all members.

The Menu will be Baked Salmon, (there will also be a second choice besides the salmon for the people that do not like or want salmon, which will be a white fish tilapia or cod, depending on what is available). Also there will be mashed potatoes, green salad with a desert and drinks. Hope to see you all there. Oh, it will be free.

By Simona Benjamin, Vice Grand



2nd Degree, July 26

I just realized that I did not write anything on our First Degree which we conferred on March 29th at the Cupertino Lodge. We did not have a big team as we usual do, we showed the degree CD and than went back into the meeting room to finish conferring the degree. **Mark St John, Marvin Carter** and **Richard Bartholomew**, all from Cupertino Lodge 70, did very well and finally received their degree since the Pandemic started. Now I also realized that I did not take a picture of the proud members who received the degree. Shame on me.

On July 26, the Cupertino Lodge conferred the second degree on the same three members during our regular meeting and again I forgot to take pictures of them for the Triple Links. It seems to be hard getting back on our regular routine, but I must say, I think we are finally back. During this meeting, we also had a zoom meeting, but the zoom part had to be stopped during the degree and other parts when we were doing the ritualistic parts of the meeting. Now the zoom is only supposed to be for the members who have a problem with coming to lodge during the Pandemic or who are sick or who can not come to the meeting in person.

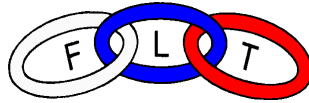
By Don Lang, editor

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The Triple Links Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

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Established 1987



Initiation set for Aug 30th

Yes, we hoped to be back to normal by the 5th Monday of August. Since Cupertino has 4 candidates in waiting, **Avner Braverman, Allen Fox, De Tan** and **Bruce Shem**, we are planning to have our normal district wide Initiation at the Cupertino Lodge on August 30th. We hope our regular Initiation team will be there plus other interested Odd Fellows. You still have just barely enough time to get your candidates by then if you do not have any candidates yet. Not many lodges initiated any members since the pandemic started last year and a half, so we all can use some new members. All Lodges are invited. The degree will start at 8:00 PM, but the candidates should be there by 7:30 PM. Here are the pictures of Cupertino Lodge candidates. You can see they are all Aikido members too.

By *Don Lang, editor*



Avner Braverman



Allen Fox



De Tan

Bruce Shem

Wayne Aanenson Under went Triple By Pass

Cupertino Lodge Brother **Wayne Aanenson** under went a Triple By Pass on Saturday, July 31, in Davenport Florida. Everything went fine and he is recovering nicely. We all wish him well, with a speedy recovery.

By *Don Lang, editor*

Monthly Hamburger Fry is Back

Sigma Tau Theta Rho girls (and members of a new Junior Lodge) are looking forward to serving you at the Santa Clara Odd Fellows Temple, 1035 Emory St, San Jose.

Dates for the year 2021 are

Wednesday, August 25

Wednesday, September 29

Wednesday, October 27

Doors open at 5:45 pm. Serving is from 6:00pm - 7:00pm.

\$3.75 - Hamburger with all the trimmings

\$4.00 - Cheeseburger with all the trimmings

Chips, Coffee, Soda, and Dessert Available

Hamburger Fries are sponsored by True Fellowship Odd Fellows #52 and benefit Sigma Tau Theta Rho Girls Club #92 and Kingsmen Junior Odd Fellows Lodge.

August Hamburger Fry is Special

Wednesday, August 25 will be Ben and Debbie Shuler's 30th wedding anniversary. They are spending that evening at the Hamburger Fry, so please come to help them celebrate!

Debra LaVergne

Cupertino's BBQ Social in July

Last month. Cupertino's social Tri Tip BBQ was a great success with 42 happy people who attended. **Ron Myres**, also Noble Grand and his team, did a great job, in all areas, set up, cooking, serving and clean up. It seemed like we all liked the fact we were able to socialize and see one another in person. We were also entertained with brother **Les Wong** and brother **Jim Kabage**, plus 2 other members of his band. We will be eagerly looking forward to the August Social.

By *Don Lang, editor*

Community Garden: still growing

At the community garden, we bid farewell to one of our family of volunteers. They are moving to New Jersey as a member of the family is in the Army and his posting shifted. We are sorry to see them leave, but grateful for their hard work.

In July, Odd Fellows from two different lodges helped to build a hugelkultur, continue sheet mulching (aka lasagna mulching) the front bank, harvesting sunflowers and corn, preparing for a new stumpery, and enjoying each other's company. We're still collecting cardboard and will be looking for people who'd like fresh corn, so please hit us up! We have space for a number of new volunteers for our weekly Saturday morning work parties and open beds in the community garden, so please email jessica.dickinson.goodman@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved.

By *Jessica Dickinson Goodman*

