

Established 1987

Spooky, Scary Odd Fellows

Brightly colored cloths hung between pillar and wall, making a circus tent out of the hall. Mellow English country music filled around the room. The smell of apple cider greeted the costumed visitors who stepped into the gloom. Curtains hid modern window coverings. Yellow, red and blue swirled in African patterns over the sideboards, scattered with lamps and books, skulls and rats.

Visitors would stop inside the entrance to pay their dues and receive their treats. The mistress of the house asked if they wished to visit the upstairs of the unsettling manor. Many said yes and came into the parlour to wait – perhaps glancing at the portraits of the master and mistress hanging behind her on their way.

Some sat down around a card table to have their palm read or get a message from beyond via the Ouija board. Others lined up to the right to have their fortunes told with tarot card. This was the tableau in the window sill that had drawn many a curious passer-by inside.

A circle of chairs in the back of the room was the stage for a variety of parlor games. Other visitors browsed the cobwebbed bookcase, the gravestones, the lectern and their own phones, posing among all the Victorian décor.

When their wait was rewarded and they were let through a door, traversing a dark hallway with a lantern, up a staircase, brushing aside hanging cloth and shrieking now and then in fright. They had been prepared to meet their mysterious host upstairs. Little did they know that was where they would receive their biggest fright yet and then have to travel all the way down in a slow, creaky elevator.

The Halloween Committee had transformed the Mountain View Lodge into a haunted house. A dozen volunteers worked from six until midnight on October 31st and raised close to \$500 dollars for the Community Service Agency in Mountain View. We thank everyone who helped make it possible, with special thanks to Vanessa O'Connor who stepped in to lead the endeavor. By Arike van de Water

Initiation was held on December 2nd

On Monday December 2nd, we initiated **Paul, Sushu, Mia, Steven, Jun** and **Ashley** from the Cupertino (#70), Mountain View (#244) and Saratoga (#428). Cupertino Lodge graciously opened its doors at 7:30 to host the ceremony before the year was out, so folks didn't have to wait until the new year to become members in the initiatory degree. With a good group of volunteers from all lodges involved, we could fill all parts in the ceremony. Afterwards, we feasted on delicious chicken, which **Ted Wong** made and chatted. We wanted to thank **Adrian**, Cupertino Lodge members and the degree team for organizing the initiation ceremony. We welcome the new members to the Odd Fellows and their various Lodges.

If you are interested in helping out with the degree team next year, starting with a rehearsal in January, please email Adrian: adrian@wingedfeet.email By *Arike van de Water*



Caption: Paul D. Goodman (Mountain View #244), Sushu Xia (Mountain View #244), Mia Lee (Cupertino #70), Steven Bleeg (Saratoga #428), Jun-Mayer Alcidi (Mountain View #244), Ashley Searby (Mountain View #244)

District Meeting

We will hold a District Meeting on Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 PM at the Cupertino Lodge to go over the different calendar events that the lodges in the district will schedule for this coming year. It is expected that all incoming Noble Grands or their representative, will show up to present their lodge's information. It is important that only one lodge in the district have an activity during a particular date, especially if it is a Fund Raiser event. Also by code, they can not occur if there is a Grand Lodge event within 50 miles. This information will also be used to be printed in **Mary Lou's District Program Year Book**, where all the new lodge officers names and phone numbers will be listed. Every active Odd Fellow and Rebekah should have one of these Directory Books. They come in very handy when you want to know a person's name, phone number or address in some cases and the location of the different Lodges in our District. It also has other Odd Fellow and Rebekah information in it. They can be purchased in January by contacting **Don** or **Mary Lou** for only \$2. If you would like a large number of books, please place your order to them early so they print enough books. Usually only 5 books per lodge are printed.

Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

Veteran/s Day Parade

Celebrating this year's 101st Anniversary of Armistice Day, by being part of the San Jose Veteran's Day Parade, was a great success. My first goal was to have our biggest turn out, marching in the parade, which we accomplished, with 23 members. However, my second goal did not come true, but it was so close. It was to have **Gerald Poarch** lead our section in the parade, with his little Red Fire Engine. Gerald drove up here from Costa Mesa, from southern California, like planned the day before. But after waiting about 2 hours for the parade to start, when the time came to move his fire engine from the trailer, the battery was dead. What happened was that the battery charger didn't work and the battery was as dead as a door nail. So at least he got to head home early in plenty of time for his next morning flight at 9:00 AM to Hawaii. But we all were so disappointed

The parade started at 12 noon, but by the time our section started down Santa Clara street, #67 out of 95, it was around 1:30. Leading our section of the parade was Sigma Tau girls, **Honor Wolf, Serenity Wolf, Logar Wolf and Elizabeth Satterfield** carrying the Odd Fellow & Rebekah Banner. Following them were **Brg. Gen. Rod Metoyer** carrying the American Flag, **Col. Don Lang** carrying the California flag, and their escorts **Maj. Gen. Will Schuyler and Ruth Schuyler**. Then came **Lady Debra LaVergne Past President of IALAPM**, carrying the Rebekah flag and **Ron Myres** carrying the Odd Fellow flag. All were in their Patriarch Militant uniforms. Following them, in 2 columns, not necessary in this order were, **Bonnie Sellars and Andrew, Connie Bloch and Paul Millison, Ted Wong, Ivan Fawley, David O'Connor, Tina Phanivong and Steven Koury**. Following in Don's Honda Odyssey Van, was **Ben Shuler** driving the **Grand Master Jamie Jepsen** in the passengers seat and other passengers **Betty Fahy and Nancy Wong**.

The Grand Master of California magnetic signs were attached to both sides of Don's van. The van was patriotically decorated with all kinds of flags and flag decorations. As we turned on to Market Street from Santa Clara, they made a nice announcement about Odd Fellows and Rebekahs and then again when we passed the Grand Stand on Market Street. The weather was great and you couldn't ask for any better. Everyone felt really proud about participating and we look forward to next year when we hope to even have more members take part.

By **Don Lang**



Cupertino's New Officers

Cupertino Lodge's new slat of officers are all ready to go. The new elected officers are **Adrian Otero** as Noble Grand, **Ron Myres** as Vice Grand. **Linda Roy** as Secretary, **Les Wong** as Financial Secretary and **Don Lang** as Treasurer. Also **Jim Kabage** taking over for **Mal Hopkins** as the new Trustee. We wish all the new officers well and we thank last years officers for their service, especially **Annie Cronin**, last years Noble Grand, who did an excellent job moving our lodge forward with all the new members and their different views. It was an exciting year with many enjoyable events with many improvements made throughout the lodge.

Cicero's

Thirteen members and friends joined us at Cicero's for Pizza and fun. Each of us purchased our favorite type pizza and then we shared it with one another. So we got to taste different kinds of pizza which we may have never had before. Several pitches of beer we bought and quickly disappeared. Everybody that came enjoyed the evening.

Cupertino's Christmas Dinner

Cupertino Lodge will be celebrating Christmas this year with our annual Christmas Dinner at the lodge. It will be held on Monday, December 16th at 6:00 PM. **Golden Harvest**, will again be our caterer. The menu will be poach salmon in a nice sauce, meat loaf and Teriyaki baked chicken, plus all the usual side dishes. There will be dessert and of course all types of drinks including beer and wine. This year again, all the Cupertino Lodge members, their spouse or significant other, the lodge widows and their guests will be free and all other guest are invited, but there will be a \$10 fee for them.

We will have the honor of having **Les Wong's** Laulia Hawaiian Band, play some Christmas and Hawaiian music. Please call **Don Lang 408 252-3954** for reservations as soon as you know you are coming. Waiting a couple days before the event doesn't help anything, since we need to confirm the count one week in advance. Don would appreciate you calling him, rather than him having to call you. If you responded to Eventbrite you are all set.

Ben & Adam's Reception Dec 8

Ben Shuler, Grand Conductor and **Adam Potolsky**, Grand Instructor will be honored on December 8th, at True Fellowship Lodge at 1035 Emery St, SJ. Buffet Line at 11:00. Program at 12:00. RSVP to **Debbie 408 316-5477** by 12/3/19. Cost is \$10. Dress code is Christmas Casual. Hope to see you there.

Mountain View Holiday Party

Mountain View Lodge's Holiday Party will be held on Thursday, December 19 at 6:00 PM. 6 to 7 Appetizers and Social Hour. 7:00 PM Dinner. Please bring an appetizer or dessert. Please e-mail **Ria** at riatoolis@gmail.com if you plan to attend, how many people and what you are bringing. Come and join your Odd Fellow Family for an evening of great company, good food and entertainment as we celebrate the Holiday Season.

Philotesian Roll Call Dinner

Philotesian Rebekah Lodge will hold their annual Roll Call Dinner on Wednesday, December 18 at their scheduled meeting time and place, at 6:30 PM. It will be a pot luck dinner with a Turkey being the main dish. **Mary Lou Lang** will do the honors of making her famous Turkey and Gravy. All their members and their guests are invited and should contact Mary Lou to let her know they will be coming.

The Roll Call Dinner is the anniversary date of the Institution of the lodge, which was December 21, 1899. Yes, 120 years ago, they do have something to celebrate.



Passing of Jane Reed

Jane Reed, a member of Philotesian Rebekah Lodge 145, since November 17, 1993 passed away on November 27th, 2019. She was a Past Noble Grand and a very active member of the Philotesian Lodge until several years ago when she was restricted to a wheel chair after having an operation on her knee. Jane was our Secretary for most of her membership as Jane had a phenomenal memory. Later on she developed Alzheimer's and eventually moved into a skilled nursing facility and then a care home, but for many years, her husband, **Bill** accompanied her to all of her different women's club meetings, dinners and events. Jane will be sorely missed by her friends. Her memorial service will be held sometime in the spring.

Festival Of Trees

The Rebekah Children's Services held their annual big fund raiser, the Festival of Trees, on November 16 at the Granada Theatre, in Morgan Hill. It was a holiday masquerade gala with tickets costing \$125 a piece. Cupertino Lodge not only purchased a table, but also donated \$1,000. Twelve of their members were there and many of their members also donated from \$100 to \$1,000 to the Children's Home.

