

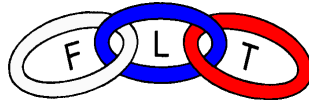
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The Triple Links

Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

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Established 1987



Helping Indians get the Internet

I've been serving on the Internet Society: San Francisco Bay Area Chapter board as the Project Chair since January 2020 and my big project was writing a grant for \$30,000 from the Internet Society Foundation to provide better internet for 9,000+ Native American people in Eastern San Diego County. Recently, my project was covered by Gizmodo, Indian Country Today, and Kumeyaay News. Within the next 6 months, 2,200 tribal homes housing 1,500+ students will have better internet. She recently presented at an international forum with technology leaders from a dozen countries attending.

By *Jessica Dickinson Goodman*



MV Lodge Garden Update

And a quick update on the garden (photos attached):
On Halloween, Mountain View Lodge #244 members **Sisters Vanessa O'Conner, Brother David O'Conner, Sibling Arike van de Water** and **Sister Jessica Dickinson Goodman** joined with other volunteers to work in a South San José community garden, building fences, moving mulch, and expanding the growing space for the community.

By *Jessica Dickinson Goodman*



Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

Garden Variety First Degree

I had the privilege of performing the long-form first degree ceremony with a wonderful team from Mountain View Lodge (#244). Since I cannot do it justice without spoiling the experience, any article on it must needs be vague and somewhat lacking in detail. We spent several months figuring out in what form we could perform it, with lodges closed, online ritual forbidden and strict health and safety guidelines. Sometimes, we didn't know if we'd be able to gather. The team persevered in practicing with a pandemic roaming the land, a horrible forest fire season and the cold creeping in as Hallowe'en approached.

After we hashed out the form in April, and the details in June, and several months' more practice, we were set to welcome the candidates for first degree to an al-fresco performance in the garden of the **Bredenberg-Greenzeiger** household on October 29th.

A table stood in the driveway to function as anteroom, where **Debra Lavergne**, the wool-dyed veteran of the team, made ready to receive **Paul D. Goodman**, **Beverly Manzano** and **Sushu Xia**. While **Jun-Mayer Alcid** and **Ashley Searby** had planned to come, they unfortunately had to turn their car around when family turned out to need testing for COVID.

Meanwhile, with the help of several on the team we held a short meeting to test and vote on candidates, which was logistically complicated and part of the night I wanted very much to do ahead of time in future editions. **Vanessa O'Connor**, and, remotely **David O' Connor** and **Sally Calpo** proved invaluable for this phase.

Afterwards, the candidates entered a torch-lit garden, chairs lining one side of the area where the ritual would be set at 6' intervals. Candlelight lit the entire scene. The experience in theatre from **Zoe Timmerman**, **Linnea Bredenberg** and **Jessica Dickinson Goodman** proved invaluable. The former two have brought out many materials to set the mood and the stage. The latter has made sure several of us are dressed for the occasion.

All set, the team retreats to get into their roles for the ceremony. I take my place off to the side, appreciating the luxury of being able to focus on coordinating. The three candidates and **Michael Greenzeiger** look on as it unfolds, grand gestures and firm voices meant to ensure its clarity.

During a short intermission, a few sneak off to partake of the drinks and snacks on the side table. I regret, deeply, not being able to record the experience in any way. I squee at my team about how well it is going, especially for our first time.

After the end, our small audience applauds and seems appreciative. We send them home with a small thanks and set about breaking down the stage. It has grown cold and we quickly go on home. It's been an intense night, but a good one.

We decide to take a winter break, due to several holidays falling on the Thursdays we're meant to gather and plan to resume in the new year.

By **Arike van de Water**

Brother Gordon Mason Dies

We just received the sad news that Cupertino Lodge brother **Gordon Mason** passed away on 10/30/20. He has been on Hospice for almost 3 months now. His health has been going down hill this past year. He has been in and out of the hospital several times, one of the reason was his heart. **Sheila**, his wife, has taken good care of him and he also had lots of support from others in his family who were able to visit him. He was 93 years old and a member of Cupertino Lodge for 24 years. During his active years in the lodge he held many different offices including Noble Grand and Trustee plus he used his construction skills, especially his electrician skills by spending days on end, working on different projects at the lodge. Many of the times by himself. We will miss him as a friend and as a brother and an Odd Fellow. Rest in peace.

Lodge Elects New Officers

All our Lodges should have held their elections by now, if they were going to change any of the officers for next year. I know both Cupertino and Mountain View Lodges did. They both had multiple members running for Vice Grand, and both would be first time Noble Grands, which shows that they really want to become Noble Grand and are not just taking the job because there is no one else that would want it. This is a very good sign for these lodges. The new Officers will be:

Cupertino Lodge #70

Noble Grand - **Ron Myers**
Vice Grand - **Ted Wong**
Secretary - **Tom Blackburn**
Financial Secretary - **Les Wong**
Treasurer - **Don Lang**

Mountain View Lodge #244

Noble Grand - **Sinead Toolis**
Vice Grand - **Zoe Timmerman**
Secretary - **Sally Calpo**
Financial Secretary - **Dave O'Conner**
Treasurer - **Mary Lou Lang**

We congratulate and wish all the new elected Officers and their Appointed Officers the best of health and luck during the next year.





Cupertino Lodge Food and Blood Drive

On Nov, 18 Wednesday, a Blood Drive was held at the lodge from 11 to 7PM. We also collected food and money donations at the back door for West Valley Community Services on a drive through, drop off. Then again on Sat, Nov 21, we held another Food Drive and Money drop off at the lodge back parking lot from 11-5 PM. With the Pandemic playing havoc with our country, we are really in need for blood and our people are willing to wait for hours on long food lines to be given food for their next meals.

The lodge really came together to make this happen. We had to form different committees to make it be more successful, not only the event committee to make the plans and get the help needed, but we needed a marketing committee to get other people besides our lodge to donate more food and money. It was very successful, but of course we always could have received more food and more donations.

We would like to thank everyone who helped and contributed to the Food Drive, especially it's chairmen, **Annie Cronin** and **Tom Blackburn** for taking all the pictures seen here on this page.



Irish Bread

Finding Joy in Small Things and the Love of Soda Bread.

We will look back on 2020 as Our Year of Wonders as in wondering what is coming next...corona virus... forest fires.... orange skies ... protests. In this year I am trying to find the joy in small things such as finding a garden flower in a plant I thought had died, breathing in the smell of coffee when I open a new bag of beans and baking Soda Bread.

My family come from an island on the coast of Ireland where we returned in summer for our holidays, I have fond memories of my granny mixing the ingredients and the cooking the bread in a Dutch oven. The turf fire would be blazing, my granny would remove hot sods of turf and place them under the Dutch oven, hot turf was also put on the lid of the oven. I would wait in anticipation of the cooked bread!



Three Legged Dutch Oven for Baking Bread.



Over the years my recipe for soda bread has gone under much fine-tuning. Adding more fiber, experimenting with different flours etc. It is comforting food in these challenging times.

Irish Soda Bread

This recipe makes two loaves

5 cups of brown flour	6 tablespoons of oat bran
2 cups of oatmeal	2 beaten eggs
2 tablespoons of wheatgerm	1 teaspoon of salt
2 teaspoons of bread soda	2 teaspoons of sweetener
2 tablespoons of vegetable oil	4 cups of buttermilk

Mix all dry ingredients together then add beaten egg, milk and oil. Oil and flour two one pound loaf tins. Put peaked aluminum foil over loaves while cooking. Bake for one hour in a preheated at 400 degrees. After removing from oven wrap in a damp cloth to keep soft.

Note – I sometimes add flaxseed meal and wheat bran. You can try mixing in some quinoa flour as a variation.

My family highly recommends trying it toasted with butter and jam. So from my oven to yours, in Friendship, Love, and Truth, I hope you find joy in the small things this year.