

Established 1987

Rebekah Children's Services Fund Development Report - November-December 2020 -

We cannot thank the IOOF and Rebekah Lodges for their generous monetary donations benefitting our 2020 Toy Drive. Because of their support we were able to provide over 5,000 toys to children and families in dire need this year.

We partnered with Harley House of Thunder, Edward Boss Prado, Christopher Ranch and over 50 local businesses to collect thousands of toys for children and their families this holiday season.

We raised over \$16,395 in monetary donations benefitting our 2020 Toy Drive.

RCS received a \$20,000 grant from Gilroy Nissan benefitting the Culinary Academy.

We continue to partner with Second Harvest of Silicon Valley to distribute food to 200 families in our community. We had no food remaining in our December distribution.

We partnered with Santa Clara Family Health Plan and Anthem Blue Cross to host a FREE drive-thru clinic for flu shots at Rebekah Children's Services on November 20th.

FD is currently working with Kneaded to re-vamp their website as well as their new Holiday marketing material.

FD conducted campaigns for Giving Tuesday as well as an end-of-the year campaign to encourage and solicit donations.

Upcoming Events:

2021 Pop-A-Cork: Planning has commenced and are looking into fun and innovative ways to execute a virtual event if needed. Date is TBD.

Contributed by *Mary Lou Lang, RA Treasurer*

Rethinking the Odd Fellow Valediction

I am not a man. I am an Odd Fellow. After 4 years of Latin, I know I cannot be fraternal. I can be sororal, I can be familial. I am not a man. I am an Odd Fellow. I am not included in the word 'mankind.' I am a small part of humankind. I do not believe in the Fatherhood of God, and neither does my church, where I serve as Junior Warden on the vestry. In my tradition, God is a mother, a parent, a father, a son, a daughter, and a holy spirit -- and in many traditions, those words cannot encompass God but instead lessen God. I cannot engage in Brotherhood. I can be part of a Family. I do not wish to only be connected to men, I wish to be connected to everyone: women, non-binary people, and men. I am an Odd Fellow. While I am lucky enough to have my faith community included in the two houses of worship we mention in our meetings, several of my lodge members are excluded. I want to do better, to be better -- and I think that's at the core of being an Odd Fellow.

Because of all of this, about a year ago, some members of our lodge sat down to write an alternative valediction, that ensured we were showing love to all of our members, telling the truth about who we are as a lodge, and showing what our friendship truly looks like to the world.

Here is a draft of what we came up with:

I am an Odd Fellow.

I believe in something good, wise, and far-seeing that vastly exceeds my human experience. I believe my life is bound inextricably with the lives of others.

I believe that my faith, my community, and my lodge deserve my best work, my modest pride, and my deepest loyalty. I pledge to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, and educate all those hungry for knowledge as part of my life's work. I pledge to protect and support all those whom society has abandoned. I will work with others to build a better world, because, in spirit and in truth, I am and must always be, grateful to my maker, faithful to my country, and connected by unbreakable links to all humanity.

I am an Odd Fellow.

Food for thought: What do you think? Is it uncomfortable to see words that don't match your experience? Is it strange to see words which are different from the ones you've spoken for decades? Did you immediately start thinking of barriers to stop people from using this new language, using tools like tradition, rules, budgets, shaming, or public anger? Is it a relief to think about no longer saying words you don't mean? Does the new language make you curious about who we could be helping, who could be growing our lodges, what change we could be making if only our words matched our reality?

I am sure there's some deeply byzantine, painful, exhausting process to get the red book changed. That's not what this article is about. This article is about: who are we speaking for and speaking to in our valediction? How could we be more friendly, more loving, and more truthful in our ritual and speech and lodges?

Best,

By *Jessica Dickinson Goodman*



Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

Life Line Screening

Have you ever thought about the following?

- I want to see my grandchildren grow up.
- I want to continue living independently.
- I don't want to be a burden on my family.

Preventive screenings can help and we have partnered with Life Line Screening to provide these valuable screenings.

The mission of Life Line Screening is to provide advance, yet affordable and convenient health screenings that supplement your traditional healthcare.

They can help make you aware of a previously silent, unrecognized problem that can now get treated at an early stage, or confirm that you are on the right path and should continue your healthy habits.

Don't let heart disease and stroke get in your way of the life you love. Call toll free 1-888-653-6441, or text the word, "circle" to 797979 to schedule your health screening.

A package of 5 vital screenings is offered for only \$149. If you call today to register, you will receive a \$10 discount!

This has been Cupertino Lodge's only paying renter since the Pandemic hit us, last March, We are grateful to them and we can't wait to get back to normal again.

By *Don Lang, the editor*

Noble Grand Installation Speech

District Deputy Grand Master, District Deputy Grand Marshall, Past Grand, fellow brothers and sisters and distinguished guests. I am very happy and humbled to acknowledge your selection of me for your next reigning noble grand. In this year of pandemic COVID virus, I hope to expand on our members to help facilitate a more productive year and expose our members to more committee participation and brotherly communications. This past year has been a testament to the hard work ahead of us as our communities need and want our help. Following all guidelines and staying healthy, we can pursue activities that afford us a little fun and possible fund raising monies.

We are all mindful of our spoken oath to help our brothers and so I promise to uphold these virtues as best I can. Any and all input is welcome at this time. We all have a say and I propose we all voice that rite. We have survived a trying year and with our newly elected president we cheer on a year of hope. Our strongest bond is in the first caring for our family members and their needs. We cannot exhaust all our efforts on just maintaining the lodge but also in perpetuating its growth. Membership will be a real hardship at this time, but don't give up.

Let's stay focused and strive to better our lodge at this time. We can and will make a difference if we all pitch in, I am often moved at the signage on the plaque outside Boystown in Nebraska where FR. Flanagan erected the famous statue of a young boy carrying another on his shoulders. It reads: He ain't heavy, Father, He's my brother!

Let's carry on our tradition and make this a memorable year. Thank you!

By **Ron Myres, Noble Grand Cupertino Lodge**

Cupertino Lodge Temporary Adjustments

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Since the beginning of 2020 the Coronavirus pandemic has affected our normal way of socializing, in 2021, a few temporary adjustments will be implemented to perform a somewhat gathering.

Remote Zoom Meetings:

- March – October
- One regular meeting as normal
- One short condensed meeting
- Followed by an open quorum session

- February, November and December
- Two regular meetings as normal

Remote once a month Social will be held on a Saturday (February – June)

Each social there will be a menu to be selected from, for members and family only.

Pre-order, so appropriate supplies can be purchased

Food will be a drive through picked up at the lodge's back parking lot

NOTE: Outside seating could be available if the county blueprint allows

Our first social will be celebrating Chinese New Year 2021 – Year of the OX, on Saturday February the 13th. The following will be the selection available and must be made on or before the 10th. The event is scheduled from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM



Vegetable Chow Mein



Vegetable Fried rice



Broccoli Beef



Sweet and Sour Pork



Chicken green beans



Mixed Vegetables

Starches
Starches
Entrees
Entrees
Entrees
Vegetable
You get to pick 1 starch dish, 2 entrée dishes.

Vegetable Fried rice
Vegetable Chow Mein
Broccoli Beef
Sweet and Sour Pork,
Chicken green beans
Mixed vegetables ,

Please email your selection and quantity to: events@cupertinooddfellows.org

By **Ted Wong, Vice Grand, Cupertino Lodge**

Honoring the Past Through Story

The Mountain View Historical Association (MVHA) asked me to write an article for their newsletter, the *Mountain Review*. Some of the MVHA board members are family friends working on including previously under-represented minorities in their archives. I was pleased and honored to contribute my story about my late parents' business for the Winter newsletter in January, 2021.

Our family business was the first Filipino-Asian grocery store of its kind in this area. It was located down the street from the Mountain View Odd Fellows Lodge on the other side of the railroad tracks (next to the site of the legendary St. James Infirmary bar and grill of bygone days). Our store provided Asian immigrants who filled the ranks of Silicon Valley's growing tech industry a touchstone to their homelands through the flavors they were accustomed to.

I am not a writer by training, but a graphic designer by trade. I decided to join the Odd Writers League I found through the Meetups app to help with my aspiration to write memoir. That is how I learned of the Odd Fellows. One of the reasons I decided to join this fraternal order was because of the friendships and trust I developed with members of the writing group who are also Odd Fellows members, namely **Sinead Toolis**, **Jessica Dickinson Goodman**, **Vanessa O'Connor**, and **Arike van de Water**. The Odd Writers League has been very supportive over the last few years and instrumental in my growth as a writer.

This is the first time my writing has been published, so this is very exciting for me even though it's a short piece. I hope you enjoy reading about my family's history, along with a little bit of Mountain View's history. *By Bev Manzano*

Mountain View Memories

Catli's Oriental Market

Multicultural Flavor Purveyors in Silicon Valley, 1970–1981

By **Bev Catli Manzano** *Special Guest Contributor*

My parents, **Steve** and **Lily Catli**, started our family business, Catli's Oriental Market, in 1970 when I was eight years old. It was in the new strip mall halfway between downtown Mountain View and the Moffett Field Naval Station on Moffett Boulevard. The market was the first of its kind in our area.

Our store stood out from other Asian markets in the vicinity because we sold specialty items used in Southeast- and South-Asian cuisine, including the fresh vegetables, fruits, and fish you wouldn't usually find under one roof (except perhaps in San Francisco). We carried everything from mangos, shrimp chips, rice noodles, sweet rice cakes, bok choy, lemongrass, cassava root, and grass jelly, to milkfish. Some of these items may not sound that unusual today, but in the early '70s, they were not on the radar for most Americans. Especially coveted by our customers were the unique seasonings that provided their regional flavor profiles such as *bagoong*, *sambal oelek*, *nuoc mam*, and cardamom, to name a few.

In those years, the demographics were quickly shifting in America. The US Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965 increased quotas, putting an end to earlier restrictions. The aim of the new law was to reunite immigrant families and attract more skilled labor into the country. That legislation—combined with the meteoric growth of the high-tech industry in Silicon Valley—amassed a multicultural melting pot in the Bay Area. Many people immigrated who filled the ranks of tech companies, especially on the semiconductor assembly lines.

My parents are from the Philippines, which was a US territory in the first half of the 20th century. English is one of the two official languages in the Philippines, and is taught in school. Because of the close tie between the two countries, Filipinos had an advantage in becoming citizens even prior to 1965.

My dad worked in the pineapple and sugarcane plantations in Hawaii from 1946 to 1953 since there were very few job opportunities in the Philippines after World War II. He then joined the US Army, where he earned his path to citizenship. My mom traveled all the way from the Philippines to study at Columbia University, New York, on a scholarship. On her way back home after obtaining her master's degree, she met my dad in 1955 in San Francisco, and they married after a brief courtship.

Our family eventually settled into a new home in Mountain View in 1965. My parents saw the need for a grocery store where Filipinos like themselves could buy the foods that connected them to their tropical native lands. After opening their doors, the word spread, and soon we had customers from many other countries including Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, and India.

Catli's Market became a bustling hub of the community that my mom also served with her real estate, insurance, and travel agencies, and notary public services. I worked in the store, along with my sisters Perla and Mely, and my brother Chris. The experience helped instill our sense of diligence and responsibility from an early age. Owning the store was my parents' American dream, to be self-employed, and to provide a taste of home and comfort to others who also came to this country from far away. Our store created more exposure for Southeast- and South-Asian flavors, which eventually became more widely accepted and even sought after by the general public. Before 1970, the restaurants around town were primarily American, Italian, Chinese, and Mexican. Diversity in local dining options began to increase when Mekong Restaurant, the first Vietnamese eatery in the South Bay, opened in 1971. We supplied ingredients for the popular and elegant Vietnamese-French fusion establishment that used to be on Castro Street.

One day, a Naval officer from Moffett Field came into our store asking if we could make *lumpia*, the Filipino style of eggroll, for their upcoming officers' club meeting.

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The author, **Bev Manzano** (center), with her sisters **Mely** and **Perla** behind the checkout counter at Catli's Oriental Market.

Catli's Oriental Market, Continued from page 3

He and many of his fellow officers had developed a taste for the savory appetizer when they were stationed in the Philippines. My mom catered her delicious *lumpia* for their events from then on. My sisters and I used to help roll hundreds of *lumpia* at a time. Because the wrappers were paper-thin, it was a task that required a lot of experience and patience.

After 10 years as successful entrepreneurs, my parents sold the business in 1981 when they moved to Arizona. Another family took over Catli's Market, which they operated under a different name for several years after. I stayed in the Bay Area to attend college, and my siblings who were already settled remained as well. Our mom sold real estate in the Phoenix area, which was supposed to become the next Silicon Valley, although that didn't happen as predicted for a variety of reasons. Our parents operated another Asian grocery there on a smaller scale in a merchant marketplace, then relocated to Oregon before returning back to Mountain View in their later years.

Catli's Oriental Market is long gone (like the use of the outdated term "Oriental"). In its place is now a beauty salon where I visited after all these years. I noted the walls were the colors of the fruit we once sold: mango and papaya. I went in for a pedicure and reclined in the mechanical massage chair, reminiscing about toiling in that very space.

My parents are gone as well. But they left a lasting legacy. Working in our store gave me and my siblings character and a lifetime of stories. The Filipino-American community they helped to foster is strong and engaged in broader society, while looking back to its roots. On a larger scale, I believe my parents were forerunners of the much-celebrated multicultural food scene that has become synonymous with the San Francisco Bay Area. They knew that good food brings everyone together, and that holds true to this day.



The exterior of Catli's Oriental Market on Moffett Boulevard with the author's sisters Perla and Mely and her cousins Albert, Lorna, and Tricia Catli.

Mountain View Lodge Installation

Brothers, Sisters & Siblings,

It is my great pleasure to inform the lodge that, on January 21, 2021 at 8pm, we installed our officers for the 2021 term.

The ceremony went smoothly over Zoom with the hard work of **District Deputy Grand Master Debra LaVergne**, **DDG Marshal Annie Cronin**, **DDG Chaplain Mary Lou Lang**, and newly installed **Noble Grands Sinead Toolis Byrd #244** and **Jon Stuart #428**. In one of her first acts as Noble Grand, Sinead gave a confident and rousing speech that reminded us that we are stronger together, and we will triumph over the darkness and disunion of these trying times.

We also had the privilege of hosting Saratoga Lodge #428, who installed their 2021 officers along with ours. It was good to see some faces we have not seen in some time, and to showcase our lodge's aspirations, hospitality, and style.

Toward the end of the ceremony, **DGM Michael Greenzeiger** presented **Past Grand Instructor Adam Potolsky** his jewel commemorating his completed term as Grand Instructor.

Please give your most heartfelt congratulations to our newly installed officers!

Elected officers:

Noble Grand **Sinead Toolis**

Vice Grand **Zoe Timmerman**

Secretary **Sally Calpo**

Financial Secretary **David O'Connor**

Treasurer **Mary Lou Lang**

Appointed officers:

Warden **Ria Toolis**

Conductor **Vanessa O'Connor**

R.S.N.G. **Debra LaVergne**

L.S.N.G. **Jessica Dickinson Goodman**

Chaplain **Arike van de Water**

Inside Guardian **Beverly Manzano**

Outside Guardian **Paul Dickinson Goodman**

R.S.S. **Sushu Xia**

L.S.S. **Kaitlyn Osman**

R.S.V.G. **Michael Greenzeiger**

L.S.V.G. **Jackie Brown**

Many thanks to Past Grand Jackie Brown and all the officers of our previous term for steering our proverbial ship through a challenging year. It was my first year as an officer, and I learned so very much. I look forward to serving you all in a similar capacity this year.

See you at our next meeting on Thursday, February 4, 2020 at 8pm!

By **Sally Calpo**, Secretary, Mountain View Lodge

Mountain View First Degree postponed

Due to a projected harsh home stretch to the end of this pandemic, and an inability to perform ritual online, the meetings of the first degree team have been postponed until it is safe and comfortable to meet again.

By *Arike van de Water*

Bower of Hope and Faith

I am well into my second winter as volunteer in the community garden on the grounds of St Stephen-in-the-Fields. Since we try to keep the elders who grow some much-needed fresh vegetables here safe, us young 'uns make solo trips here, since the county upgraded to the purple tier in December. Now, at the end of January, I've been coming here alone longer than at any time since the start of the pandemic. The moody weather with its blue clouds and chilly rain sure seems to suit my mood.

As an indulgence for an otherwise-quiet birthday, I have splurged on a batch of ceanothus and yarrow I find at Lowe's, each half-gallon pot three bucks. I've been trying to grow natives for a year, for the little sitting corner I've adopted in addition to my garden plot. I drive the yarrow and ceanothus over and space them out along the border where they will live.

I call it the bower, the corner for introverts that every garden needs. A coast live oak named Hope has generous branches that hang almost to the ground. Next to it stands a 6' tall coast live oak scrub, called Faith. It may be a tree one day. For now, the not-so-healthy stone pine Nathaniel looms over it.

Beneath Hope's dripline runs the border, alternating agapenthus and yarrow. Ceanothus punctuate it at either end and in the middle. Seeds that have not come up sleep against the fence that turns a corner behind Faith's back.

Since **Jessica** pulled up the weedcloth, I was able to level the mulch in the bower one final time, and lay out the riverstones that define the lines of the dripline border. The two boxes of smaller riverstones I picked up via next door were poured into what will – hopefully – be a place to meditate. We will see.

Many things have come and gone in the community garden. The plants giveth, and the ground squirrels taketh them away.

By *Arike van de Water, member of Mtn View*

Pop Up Galleries

My name is Paul D. Goodman, I am an Odd Fellow of Mountain View Lodge #244. One of my first experiences as an Odd Fellows member was helping run and staff one of our charity pop up galleries. It is an important part of our community's growth and something I greatly enjoy doing within the space. The events helped me personally get to know more of the Odd Fellows community as they stopped by for the event. This was only one aspect... it was also the fact that by opening the space to the public we were able to bring the Mountain View community into our space and share some of our own community with them. When it is safe to do so again I would very much like to host more of the events and bring more of the creativity that I believe was nurtured there back into our space.

Hope to see you at our Lodge at one of these pop up galleries in the near future.

By *Paul D. Goodman, member of Mtn View*



Burying the Dead

As Odd Fellows, we are supposed to “bury the dead,” but what exactly does this mean in today’s post-COVID world? Originally, I interpreted “burying the dead” as helping those in mourning, both spiritually and financially, but it really means so much more than this. Odd Fellows have long been in the cemetery business, literally burying the dead. This job has many requirements behind the scenes, as interment of human bodies cannot be done just anywhere. Lots of work goes into “platting” the land and keeping records, as well as establishing a trust to keep the cemetery functioning in perpetuity. This, however, is the old way of running a cemetery.

In today’s modern world, we have a whole new option to explore in the form of eco-friendly “green” cemeteries which will never fill up and also help keep the earth free of the toxins which come from burying embalmed bodies loaded full of chemicals. I suggest we, as Odd Fellows, take another look at new approaches as we continue burying the dead into the future. If you are interested in learning more about this and working with me to see if it would be possible in our area, please contact me at kait.osman@gmail.com

by *Kait Osman, member of Mountain View Lodge*

San Francisco Columbarium, San Francisco

San Francisco's unique [Columbarium](#) (a repository for human ashes) was part of the Odd Fellows cemetery, the graves from which were moved to Colma. The ashes of [Harvey Milk](#), California's first openly gay elected official, and music promoter and ["Summer of Love"](#) guru Chet Helms (a [Haight-Ashbury](#) local) are interred here, along with SF's iconic "twin" sisters, Marian and Vivian Brown. It's an unusual space that's well-worth a visit.

By *Mary Lou Lang*

