



The editor suggested that the Noble Grands write a message to their Lodge. Here is one Noble Grand that did. She is of course a first time Noble Grand and is very dedicated, young and enthusiastic and is from Mountain View lodge #244.

NG Address for the New Year

I am what time, circumstance, history, have made of me, certainly, but I am also, much more than that. So are we all.

James Baldwin

It is difficult to put into words all that I want to say to you, my Odd Fellows family, at the dawn of the new year and the beginning of my time as your Noble Grand. This past year has been one of struggle, of pushing our flexibility and ingenuity, rewiring how we perform our traditions in order to survive this brave new world. It has also been a year of growth, as our members have grown and expanded the avenues and opportunities through which we perform our duty to serve our community. You all inspire me greatly and I am humbled to be elected as your Noble Grand for the coming year.

This coming year is not going to be easy, there are still many uncertainties; the day when we can reopen our doors is still far away and our neighbors and community are still suffering. Our duty to them, to our Order, and to ourselves is ever present and evolving to match the times. However, I believe in the resiliency of our Order.

I believe in Friendship, Love, and Truth as basic guides to the ultimate destiny of all humankind. I believe in you all, my Odd Fellow family; we will brave this storm, we will continue our good works, and we will maintain as ever, the beacon of light and hope that inspires us to be the best we can be. We are Odd Fellows.

Fare forward, you who think that you are voyaging;
You are not those who saw the harbour
Receding, or those who will disembark.
Here between the hither and the farther shore
While time is withdrawn, consider the future
And the past with an equal mind.
At the moment which is not of action or inaction
You can receive this: "on whatever sphere of being
The mind of a man may be intent
At the time of death"—that is the one action
(And the time of death is every moment)
Which shall fructify in the lives of others:
And do not think of the fruit of action.
Fare forward.

T.S. Eliot

By *Sinéad Toolis NG*, Mountain View

Irish Soda Bread Article

I must apologize for the article I had in the December issue of the Triple Links, I did not have the name of the person who wrote it. It was **Ria Toolis**. I hope some of you tried it and enjoyed it.

While I am apologizing, I would also apologize for spelling **David O'Connor's** name wrong. I spelled his last name with an e and it is spelled with an o.

By *Don Lang*, editor

Sick With Concern For the Sick

Overcome with helpless anger at a mismanaged, never-ending pandemic, I sent a rather pointed email to the lodge at the start of December, urging them to also sign up as disaster service worker volunteer to help with the current pandemic if they were as sick with concern as I was. Luckily, I had a friend who rather dryly reminded me many Odd Fellows already spent their time helping people in various capacities, so I could at least send an apologetic postscript.

The first moral of my story: don't impulsively write others in anger, even if the anger is at an unjust world.

Signing up was a revelation. The string of smile-and-help temp jobs from my early twenties proved useful now. My first day as volunteer at the Mountain View pop-up Covid testing site, I learned we backed up the nurses who administered the tests. Some of us welcomed and directed people, some of us pulled up their appointments. I can do this, I thought, smiling at the next silhouette from behind my fogged-over glasses and face shield.

The second moral of my story: there's more power, and need, than we think possible, if we seek it out.

On the second day, I met Debra LaVergne as fellow volunteer in Palo Alto. Her imperturbable pragmatism lends itself well to helping on these days. After a day's wishing people with freshly swabbed noses happy holidays, I went home in better spirits. Mentally I was already calculating which days to keep clear in the new year to return.

The third moral of my story: in helping others, we often help ourselves in a way we didn't know we needed.

If you'd like to sign up as well:
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/i-can-help.aspx>

By *Arike van de Water*

Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Odd Fellows Cupertino Lodge 70 on Wednesday, February 3, 2021.

A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

- Carotid artery ultrasound to identify plaque buildup in the carotid arteries, a major risk factor for stroke
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm ultrasound to identify presence of an enlargement in the largest blood vessel in the body
- An EKG to identify the presence of atrial fibrillation, which increases the risk for stroke
- Ultrasound of the lower legs to look for plaque buildup known as peripheral artery disease

Ultrasound of the shin bone to identify risk for osteoporosis

These 5 vital screenings are offered for only \$149 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. If you register today, you will receive a \$10 discount.

Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441 or text the word "circle" to 797979.

Protecting our communities

The community garden many of the members of Mountain View Lodge #244 volunteer at stopped holding work parties [until Santa Clara County is no longer in the purple tier](#). In the meantime, **Jessica Dickinson Goodman** has 5 folding tables worth of seedlings for the garden growing on her back patio, thanks to **Vanessa O'Conner's** good, hard work finding folding tables for free in her community. All the gardeners look forward to returning when community transmission and ICU beds are in safer places in our county.

By *Jessica Dickinson Goodman*



Member's Dues

This is a reminder that your Odd Fellows and Rebekahs dues may be due. Many lodges, have their dues set to the first of the year. The Philotesian Rebekah lodge does and so does the Encampment, Canton and Amos lodges and their counter female partners. Many of the lodges are struggling this year with the pandemic, since they have not been meeting in person, so they could not hold their coin drills like normal. Many of these lodge counts on the coin drills, which by the way are not really coins, to get their extra money to pay for all the other things that take place in the lodge. They try to keep the dues as low as possible. So check your dues card and see if you are paid up and if not send a check to your Financial Secretary or Treasurer today, and save him or her the trouble from having to keep on bugging you.

Thank you.

