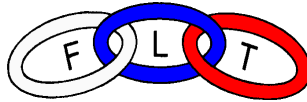


Established 1987



Hoist the Colors

For the first time ever, the Mountain View lodge is flying a cornucopia of pride flags in order to show support to its queer members and the wider community in the month of June, at the initiative of **Junior Past Grand Jessica Dickinson Goodman**. Normally, the 50th anniversary of Pride would have been celebrated widely, but of course most events are cancelled, so we are happy to give a small cheer in a way that keeps us safe and healthy.

Many of you may be familiar with the rainbow flag. We hoisted a variation, the Philadelphia pride flag, which has additional black and brown bands, to emphasize we wish to support Americans – and other persons – of all races. The rest of the pride flags are distinct to specific sexual and romantic orientations, as well as gender identities, listed on our lodge facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OddfellowsMountainView>



By *Arike van de Water*

There is again no Calendar this month, do to the Coronavirus, all the lodges have been closed down. We have been attempting to hold our meetings using Zoom with some success. However, we do miss the personal contact. This is the time when committees become so important, it is the only way the lodge can exist during this time. Progress must continue, we can't allow the lodge to shut down, the work of Odd Fellowship to stop. So relook at what committee you are on and ask yourself, have I been doing everything I can to keep Odd Fellowship alive? If you answer is No, then get busy and help out your lodge, your community, yourself and lets beat this Corona-virus. If you are not on a committee, get on one and do your part.

Don



Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

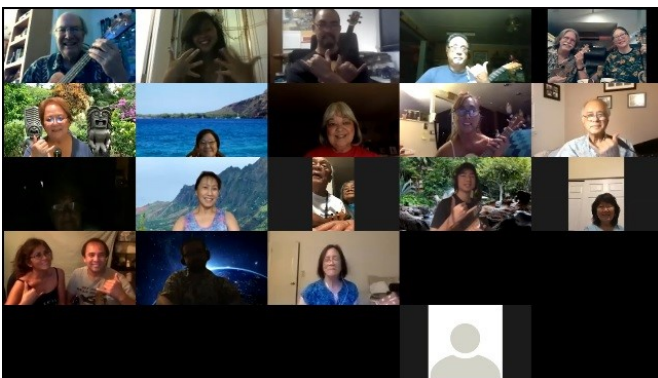
Hawaiian kanikapila

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

Usually we hold a monthly Hawaiian kanikapila (sing-a-long) at our Cupertino Lodge #70. With this Corona-Virus Shelter in Place restriction we are unable to get together. Our attendance has ranged from 50 to 70 people, depending on time of year.



A group of us members have been evaluating and testing different hardware and software which will allow us to resume these get togethers online. We had many small group tests, and had our first large group session this week with about 50 attendees. This is still a work in progress, and each time seeing improvements.



Aloha, By **Les Wong**

Lodge #70 Building and Cleaning catch-up

For the past 9 weeks since Covid-19 shelter in place order was initiated we thought it meant a vacation. For the first one and a half months to realize it was just a theory. month and a half we took advantage of that theory. Reality kicked in and restless nights thinking about the lodge and what can be accomplished during this downtime:

1. The lodge condition,
2. Repairs neglected
3. Consolidation of storage areas
4. Scheduled maintenance neglected
5. Upgrades and remodeling
6. Missing maintenance supplies
7. Supplies required to comply with Santa Clara's County Health Department

After the dining room floor was resurfaced last month:

- The bottom half of the dining room walls were painted with a brown tone latex paint (color cardboard).
- Baseboards ordered and ready for pick up. (scheduling pickup and installation date)
- Refrigerator room and kitchen door needs replacing (waiting on voting/approval to move forward)
- Kitchen and dining room exit door need repainting (waiting on voting/approval to move forward)
- Outside irrigation required attention on broken and missing parts (parts on hand "waiting for available date/time)
- Evaluated and purchased replacement janitorial supplies
- Planning restrooms relay-out/upgrades for voting/approval
- Revising the rental agreement and including an application agreement form (waiting on voting/approval to move forward)

Coronavirus Status:

Now concentrating on the world wide pandemic. Without knowing Santa Clara County's requirements for opening up is like shooting craps. You never know what they are going to release for opening up business again. So in researching different county's web sites I've been working on creating the following documents and list:

Cleaning and disinfecting protocols
Cleaning procedure
Event procedure
Social distancing signs
Disinfectant supply list

By **Ted Wong**

*Thank you **Ted** and your Building Committee for all the great work you have been doing. **Don***

Mountain View Lodge 244 Shows it's Colors

A special thank you to the entire lodge for voting with an overwhelming majority two weeks ago to hang Pride Flags on the lodge hall (pictures attached) for June Pride Month. All of our local Pride Parades in Silicon Valley have been wisely canceled to protect our community from COVID-19, but that won't stop us from showing our members and the entire Mountain View community that we are proud of our LGBTQIA+ members and family. Not everyone knows the history or symbolism of the different flags that different members of the LGBTQIA+ community uses. Here are what each of the flags on our building are, in order:

Asexual Pride Flag

Rainbow Philly Pride Flag (Note: this flag Includes all queer people and centers the experiences of queer people of color)

Nonbinary Pride Flag

Trans Pride Flag

Demisexual Pride Flag

Bisexual Pride Flag

Asexual Pride Flag (again! It's really hard putting a bunch of flags up 20' in the air on a hot day while wearing a pandemic mask, so your dear correspondent got a little confused)

Pansexual Pride Flag

In the window is the Aromantic Pride Flag (we don't have any Aro members of our lodge, but we wanted to make sure that community was included as well)

Currently missing: the Lesbian Pride Flag, which got stuck in the mail. Our Past Grand will put it up once it arrives.

In addition to the Pride Flags, we put a display in our window in the heart of Silicon Valley, highlighting the strength and diversity of the community we serve. Members of our lodge and our the broader community who finds sanctuary and support in our lodge speak over a dozen languages. Over the past few months, we have worked together to translate a simple phrase into 14 of them: **Everyone is Welcome Here**

- o English: All are welcome here
- o Spanish: Todos son bienvenidos aquí
- o Tagalog: Kayong lahat ay malugod naming tinatanggap dito
- o Mandarin: 这里欢迎所有人
- o Japanese: ここは、全て大歓迎です。
- o Vietnamese: Hoan nghênh mọi người cùng tới
- o Hindi: यहाँ हर इंसान का स्वागत है ।
- o Hebrew: כולם מוזמנים כאן
- o Arabic: نحن نرحب بجميع الناس هنا
- o Nederlands: Iedereen is welkom hier
- o German: Jeder ist hier willkommen
- o Bangla: এখানে সর্ব মানুষ আমন্ত্রণ ।
- o Korean: 모두는 환영합니다.
- Yoruba: E Kabo

I thought the readership might appreciate seeing all of the languages we speak in our lodge or that are spoken by people who use our space for community meetings.

In FL&T,

By **Jessica Dickinson Goodman**



A few comments from the community:

1. A young person of about 11 was biking by as Matthew and I raised the bi-pride flag. They yelled: "Is that the bi pride flag?", I yelled: "Yes!", they pumped their fist and yelled back: "I'm bisexual!", I replied: "Me too! Yay!"
2. From a teacher I went to high school with, who a trans, non-binary, and a parent: "It is so powerful seeing those flags in such a prominent public space. Thank you for advocating for that and literally doing that work. This nonbinary bean thanks ya!"

From a Mountain View City Councilmember on Sunday night: "Appreciate you sharing some positive news during this hard time. Tomorrow, City Council will raise the Pride Flag at City Hall." So far, a good response from the community.

Best, **Jessica**

King's Speech

Memorial Day here is at the end of May. In Holland, it falls on 4 May, on the eve of my country's liberation in World War II at the hand of the allies. Those included British, French, Canadian and American soldiers, who were honoured along the many civilians who died at the hands of the occupiers. Since the usual procession of people laying flowers was impossible, king Willem-Alexander took it upon himself to give a historic speech.

The parallels he drew between then and now moved me. Here follows the translation:

"It feels strange, an almost empty Dam, but I know that you are here for this National Memorial Day in spirit, that we stand here together. In these exceptional months we have all had to give up part of our freedom. Our country has not seen anything like this since the war.

"Now, we chose it, ourselves, in the interest of our lives and health. Then, the choice was made for us, by a dictator with an ideology that sentenced millions of people to death without mercy. How must that complete lack of freedom have felt?O

"One witness account I will never forget. It was given here, in the Westerkerk, almost six years ago. A small man - with clear eyes and a regal bearing for his 93 years - told us the story of his journey to Sobibor in June 1943. His name was Jules Schelvis.

"He stood there, brittle but unbroken, in a full, dead-silent church.

"He spoke of being transported with 62 people in a single railway carriage for cattle. The barrel on the bare floor. The rain that fell through the cracks. The hunger. The exhaustion. The dirt. 'You started to look like a vagrant,' one could hear the horror in his voice.

"He spoke of soldiers ripping the watches from wrists on arrival. How he lost his wife Rachel in the chaos. He never saw her again. 'What normal person could conceive of this? How can the world allow that we, righteous citizens of this country, could be treated like filth?' His question hung between the church pillars.

"I had no answer. I still don't.

"What I also remember was his report of what preceded the journey. After a razzia, he and his wife, with hundreds of others, were transported to Muiderpoort Station. I still hear his words. 'Hundreds of people stood by without any sign of protest, watching the overloaded trams, strictly guarded, roll by.' Across this city. Across this country. Before the eyes of their countrymen.

"It happened so gradually. One little step at the time. Be forbidden from going to the pool. Not allowed to play in an orchestra. Banned from riding a bicycle. Barred from college. Cast into the street. Arrested and deported. Sobibor started around the corner, in the Vondelpark, with a little sign, 'no Jews allowed.'

"Of course, many people resisted. Men and women rebelled, showed civic courage in going against the current, risking their own safety for that of others.

"I think of all the civilians and military personnel who fought for our freedom. The young soldiers who died on those May days on the front, the Grebbelinie. Those who served our kingdom in Nederlands-Indie and payed with their lives. The resistance fighters who died by firing squad on the Waaldorpsevlakte. Those treated inhumanely in detention- and concentrationcamps. The soldiers since that never came home from peace missions, or returned badly injured. Real heroes prepared to die for our freedoms and values.

"On the flip side, fellow human beings, fellow citizens in distress, feeling abandoned, unheard, lacking even the support of a kind word from London, where my great-grandmother stood firm and fierce in her rebellion.

"It won't let me go.

"War stays with us for generations. Now, 75 years after our liberation, war is still with us.

"The least we can do is this: don't look away. Don't rationalize. Don't erase. Don't segregate. Don't normalize what is abnormal.

"And... cherish our free, democratic nation state and defend it. Only it protects us from the whims and madness of this time. Jules Schelvis endured hell and yet built up a life as a free human being. More than that, 'I kept my faith in humanity,' he said.

"If he can, so can we. We can and shall do it together. In freedom."

By **Arike van de Water**

First Degree Team

First Degree Team of Mountain View Lodge (#244) has continued to meet online to practice and is thinking about creative ways to hold the ritual online in case meetings in person will remain difficult. Anyone who is interested in helping, is welcome, please contact **Arike van de Water** (arikeh2o@gmail.com).

By **Arike van de Water**