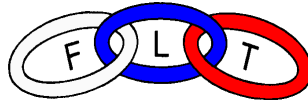


Established 1987



Backyard Vignettes

Hyacinths that have turned brown are sitting on the railing of the deck. I will prune away the flowers and leave the leaves until they turn yellow, too. That way, they feed the bulbs, and those will flower again next year. The tulips that ring the well will also be allowed to wilt.

The sky is a steely grey, this Sunday afternoon, a last serious bout of rain has been predicted. The soaker hoses lie curled up on the patio, waiting to be installed for summer. The nursery needs to be moved to a shadier corner of the yard, next to a fern that's slowly taken over the corner where the blackberry rootballs still sleep in the soil, cut down where the fence needed to be replaced.

The bank of the well has dips, like someone scooped up handfuls of mud. Every few minutes, bees come by to roll a small ball of mud that they fly back to their hive. After days of diligently rolling mud, they have left a visible dent. Freshly planted rushes have decided they like their new home well enough that their flowers arc over the bare spots, nodding sagely in the lightest breeze.

The mint runs riot, tunneling under and around tiles to grow fragrant shoots. Even just pinching the fresh tips for mint tea or minty lemonade gives me more than I can use. The lemon balm I planted with one sprig and two leaves is showing ambitions to become a waist-high shrub, even after being pruned back severely.

The well has become a bird swimming pool. A dark-eyed Junco likes to dive-bomb from the branch we stuck into the middle of the well with great splashes, leaving everything wet when it flies off. The scrub jay is a neat freak, taking a good fifteen minutes and a dozen thorough soakings before it is satisfied.

By Arike van de Water



A Word from soon to be Grand Master

As the sand silently works its way through the hourglass, it is clear to me that not much time is left before I am to assume the station of Grand Master. It's been a very long road to get to this point; I've done and experienced many things in our Order along the way. As I reflect back on my time as an Odd Fellow one thing which stands out to me is what a difference our district, District 107, has made for me.

I was first welcomed here into Cupertino Lodge #70 when I arrived about ten years ago as an Odd Fellow from Massachusetts. I soon joined Mountain View Lodge #244 as well and met many wonderful people in both lodges. My horizons grew further when I joined Barnes Encampment and Canton Santa Clara. I was privileged to serve first as District Deputy Grand Marshal and then later as District Deputy Grand Master. That was when I really got to know more people around the district, and see what a wonderful community we have.

Those who haven't traveled as extensively within the Order may not realize that what we have here doesn't exist in all districts. I love that our lodges support each other by attending each other's events and spending time together at state-wide events. It helps make Odd Fellowship feel less like one lodge in isolation and more like the ever-expanding network of friends it should be. I love that we have a shared newsletter, work together in putting on degrees, and band together to do good works in our communities.

I know the next year will be very busy for me so perhaps I won't be at as many lodge or district functions as I have in the past. As I travel our great jurisdiction spreading the message of Odd Fellowship and getting to know new lodges and new personalities, I will keep the old ones close to my heart. District 107 has been there for me and I will do my best to represent it honorably at Grand Lodge. At the end of my term of office, when I put the gavel down, this will be the place to which I shall return.

By Michael Greenzeiger, DGM

Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

Hawaiian lunch Social

On Saturday April 17th Cupertino Lodge #70 held an outdoor social distancing BBQ Social for it's members and Philotesian Rebekah Lodge #145 members and their families. The weather cooperated accordingly as planned; sunny in the low 70's with a slight breeze.

The day started off early morning with several members setting up canopies, tables, chairs, and the band stage. After the morning setup, there was a treat of Loco Moco for the crew provided by the Noble Grand and Vice Grand. Recruited for the day was Professional Chef **Phillip Wong** who started early morning preparing loco moco and prepping the afternoon lunch. The day started off with the Hawaiian Band Leomele and hula dancers performing from 11AM – 1PM followed by Laule'a Hawaiian Band and hula dancers from 1PM – 3PM. Special thanks to **Nicholas Lutz** who helped monitor the sound and video. The afternoon ended up with a great dessert of pineapple up-side down cake and Hawaiian shaved ice provided by **Simona Benjamin**.

Attending the third social were 17 members with a total count of 46 people. I'd would like to give a big thanks to all the volunteer's (Chef **Phillip Wong**, Leomele (**Rich and Karen Sanico**) and dancers, Laule'a and dancers, **Simona Benjamin**, **Ted Guerrero**, **Les Wong**, **Jim Kabage**, **Annie Cronin**, **Nicholas Lutz**, **Mal Hopkins**, and **Don Lang**. Without member volunteer's this social would not of been successful.

By **Ted Wong**

No May BBQ?

It doesn't look like that Cupertino Lodge #70 will be having a social this coming month, at least one was not planned at the time of the writing. So you will have to stay tuned in.



Simona's House Burns Down

Member **Simona Benjamin** just lost her house and everything else associated with it to a fire. She and her husband **Roy** and her 2 big dogs, just moved in there this past year. They will be staying at the Los Gatos Lodge until other arrangements can be made. We wish her well and if we can help, don't hesitate to call us.

Life Line Screening Comes to Cupertino Lodge #70

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, June 23, 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.

From the editor, Cupertino Lodge #70 is proud to support Life Line Screening in caring for the health of our community by bringing to our area easy tests that can help find killers that can be early detected and save lives. We even provide a discount in price.



Grand Lodge & Rebekah Assembly Sessions

This year Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly sessions are all mixed up, due to the pandemic. First Grand Lodge Board of Directors, voted to not have a live session and have a short version instead by having it by Zoom meetings. Plus they moved the date to a week before it was supposed to be scheduled, some say so that the Rebekahs could attend both sessions. They messed up my plans because we already bought our plane tickets to go to Austin, Texas to see our daughter and our son-in-law during that time. We had to cancel from visiting them last year, again due to the COVID 19, so as soon as we got our second COVID shot and they eased the restrictions. we booked our flight. So the day we are flying to Texas is when the Grand Lodge is going over all their legislation via a zoom meeting. The Rebekahs will be having their session in Modesto as planned, the following week.

Now these sessions are especially a big deal this year, because our own brother **Michael Greenzeiger** is going to be installed as Grand Master on May 16 as well as all of his officers. **Linnea Bredenberg**, Michael's wife, our member, will be installed as Grand Chaplain and **Annie Cronin** will be installed as our District #107's, District Deputy Grand Master. It will be Annie's responsibility to be Michael's eyes and ears for our district and to report any signs of problems to Michael and also tell him all the good things that is happening. Annie will be making several visits to all the lodges in the district as well as installing them all next January.

But if you think Annie will be busy, Michael will be much more so. For one thing, he will be traveling all over this big state, visiting lodges. He is required to visit at least 1/3 of assigned lodges, which comes to 37 lodges. He needs to make sure everything is running smoothly at the Grand Lodge level and what could become his worst headache is to resolve all the membership problems. Luckily there are a lot of good times and fun times mixed in with trying to fit in all these things into his work schedule.

I could go on, but let's just stop here and wish Michael a very successful and fun year.

By Don Lang, editor