

When We Lose Our Way

This is simple to remedy. Find your mission. As Odd Fellows we can find any number of missions posted on each lodge's website. It's like a pick and choose event when you go looking. However, I still hope to find unity someplace by looking deeper.

Now I love the system we have that allows everyone's voice be heard. And it's a noble job for the Noble Grand to make sure that happens in a kind and equitable way without bias. And I love the democracy method we use that potentially disenfranchises up to 49% of us members. That's what democracy is. But all other forms of governance seem so much worse. I am happy to be an Odd Fellow with all of you.

In the name, Odd Fellows, we are saying that we are all different right at the beginning. And by saying that, we commit to diversity as a strength. I learned the strength we have among members when I was speaking about everyone having a "pole" they stood around, and that we must respect each other's pole and not make it political. By pole I meant beliefs. One of our members reminded everyone that my simile of "politics" to "pole" was actually from the Greek work for city, "polis" and not about "poles". That's what I mean. We have such diverse experiences and knowledge. And that helps us all be better and clearer.

We will be sure to disagree about stuff. Sometimes that takes a form of not so nice comments, or even blatant harmful angry words. Retaliation usually means someone is deeply hurt. That is just how things happen sometimes. A brother or sister who reacts that strongly is still a brother and sister. My thoughts are to listen and again learn from the attack. Not to take it personally. Not to sanction them from the lodge because they were inappropriate. But to help them through their hurt or blunder. First by listening and hearing their story.

Abuse has many forms. Racial, sexual, bullying, neglect, terrorizing, etc. It happens to children, elderly and even friends and family. We all have the obligation to first stop it, then take action to prevent it in the future. Here is one way to help prevent something after you stopped the action. And possibly find a better path forward than sanctioning or shaming someone in our fellowship.

Stand beside the one or the group. Look in the same direction and observe what they see. Ask them to help you see their reasoning, or their hurt. If you can do this, then you have a chance to help them see a slight different way to reason or to heal. And step by step allow them to repair a wound or action. Or, maybe you repair your wounds and actions. This seems to be a more humane, ethical and moral way to help us unite as brothers and sisters. By not making someone wrong and someone right. Remember? Potentially 49% of us could be

Continued on next column

disenfranchised through our wonderful democratic lodge system.

You may not like what you see when you stand beside someone with whom you don't agree with. It might be really ugly. Or too painful to even think that another person is that way. At some point you need to protect yourself. None of us is perfectly strong enough to see the most revolting parts of another, and remain centered. So, only go as far as you are able. But try to make an effort to understand an Odd Fellow sister and brother. And perhaps unite more cordially. Then maybe a mission statement will become clearer if only for yourself.

Isaac Newton was very religious. And he thought oddly. He thought the most sincere form of prayer was observation. So when he observed the apple falling from the tree and that maybe the moon also was falling, he then formulated gravity. This must have been a most spiritual event for him. Be Odd.

by **Tom Blackburn**

Help Wanted - Second Harvest

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley is issuing an urgent call for volunteers to help distribute food to the half million people now receiving food assistance from the nonprofit every month.

The number served by second Harvest has almost doubled during the pandemic, this includes many who never received food assistance before. Individuals and groups can volunteer to hand out food at distribution sites located throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties or sort and box food at Second Harvest Cypress warehouse

Second Harvest Cypress warehouse
4001 N First St
San Jose, CA

To sign up for shifts go to:

<https://www.shfb.org/give-help/volunteer>

Have you voted yet?

Well there is still time if you have not voted. But time is running out. Please make sure you do vote

Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

Cupertino Lodge #70 Update

On Saturday October 24, 2020, lodge members performed a pruning day. I wish it was a eating prunes day, but it was 3 hours of pruning the lodge's perimeter trees and shrubs. I'm not sure when the lodge's exterior maintenance was last performed, but during this pandemic is a great time to start. A big shout out to the following volunteers; **Ron, Marvin, Richard S, Simona and her husband (Roy), Jim, Annie,** and Supervisor **Mal**. At lease 8 yards of green clippings was clipped.

By **Ted Wong**



This is the East side of the Cupertino Lodge just in case you don't recognize it. Usually it is totally filled with oleander flowers which are in bloom most of the time. Now it will take them a few months to grow back.



This is only part of the cuttings, we have 4 times as much that still needs to be picked up.

Your Dues are Past Due

Brothers and Sisters, there over 15 of you who haven't paid your dues yet. This means that at our next meeting, when we vote for our new Officers, you will not be able to vote. So please send in your dues, it will also save your poor Financial Officer, **Les**, from worry about you and giving him more work trying to get you to pay your dues. Thank you.

Life Line Screening a Success

On October 20th, Life Line screening finally rented our Lodge, and it went off smoothly. But it sure took a lot more preparation, worrying and work to pull this off, due to the Pandemic. First the rooms had to be cleaned and all the Covid 19 paper work had to be displayed and taken care of. Luckily the Lodge had 4 easels. We especially want to thank **Simona Benjamin** for cleaning the restrooms and **Ted Wong** for all the Covid 19 work and displays.

We also want to thank the Renting Committee of **Ted Wong, Annie Cronin, Simona Benjamin** and **Don Lang** with the Website Software programming help from **Jim Kabage** and Comcast help from **Bill Boiko**, all that is required to rent our building is now just about ready.

By **Don Lang**

Cupertino Lodge Blood & Food Drive

In November the Lodge will hold several Food Drives and Fund donations for the West Valley Community Services. We will also be sponsoring one Blood donation with Vitalant. Vitalant is also advertising for us, asking their clients to bring food and donations when they come in to donate blood.

On Nov, 18 Wednesday, the Blood Drive will be held at the lodge from 11 to 7PM. We will be collecting food and fund donations at the front door for West Valley Community Services on a drive through plan.

On Sat, Nov 21 we will hold another Food and Funds drop off at the lodge parking lot from 11-5 PM. This will be a large event possibly working with the local Cupertino DeAnza Lions, they are helping us to collect food and funds with their members. Cars will just drive through. Items will be collected with minimal contact. All COVID safety procedures in place such as masks, gloves, goggles, sanitizers, and minimal exiting of food donators from vehicles.

Please consider helping with this important event, we need volunteers on Sat, 11/21.

Our goals are to create connections with the local communities and businesses, Promoting good will from an Odd Fellows Lodge. Reuniting our members for working together on projects that serve others. We want to support West Valley Communities Services helping the local families that are in needs during the challenging times. Who knows, if it is successful we may continue doing the Food Drive on Saturdays though Christmas.

Make Blood Drive appointments at

<https://tinyurl.com/oddfellowsblooddrive>

Please see our Food Flyer on the next page.

By **Annie Cronin**



Cupertino Odd Fellows Lodge #70

20589 Homestead Rd

Cupertino CA 95014

www.cupertinooddfellows.org

LET'S HELP OUR COMMUNITY!

BLOOD DRIVE and FOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, November 18 1-6 p.m.



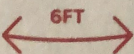
Make appointments at
<https://tinyurl.com/oddfellowsblooddrive>

**Keeping Staff and Donors Safe
by following CDC guidelines.**

Temperature below 99.5 F



Social Distance, 6 ft plus



Sanitation Continuous



Mask Required, Everyone



Supporting the West Valley Community Services

Food Bank

We appreciate canned and boxed goods

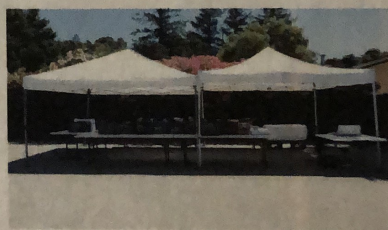
No glass containers &

please check expiration dates



***Drive-through,
contactless drop-off!***

**Cash or check donations
accepted**



Established in 1899, Cupertino IOOF #70 gathers donations for charitable programs through public, year-round fundraising events.
Powered by purpose and passion!

Garden Variety First Degree (10/29/20)

Over the past several months, Mountain View Lodge Members **Arike van de Water, Debra LaVergne, Zoe Timmerman, Vanessa O'Connor, Linnea Vandenberg, and Jessica Dickinson Goodman** have been working to create a special and safe First Degree experience for the four members of their lodge who qualified for it (**Jun Alcid, Sushu Xia, Paul D. Goodman, and Bev Manzano**). It will be conducted on October 29, 2020. Socially distanced, lushly costumed, and carefully organized, this will be a test of how we can continue to allow new members to move through the degrees during a pandemic. While several members of the First Degree team was disappointed in the decision of the Grand Lodge to ban truly safe, online degrees, this will be our best attempt to follow their guidelines while still caring for our members. As the pandemic continues, some members are hoping the Grand Lodge will allow the creative, online, radio-play style version of the First Degree this team fully developed before being shut down. While Grand Lodge and Sovereign Grand Lodge decides on that issue, this team of non-binary members and women are going to keep trying to include new members in the traditions of the lodge, in spite of both institutional and pandemic push-back. And have fun doing it.

By Jessica Dickinson Goodman

Mountain View Lodge Donates to Combat COVID-19 in the Navajo Nation

On the recommendation of Vice Grand **Sinéad Toolis** and with the full support of the membership on June 5th, 2020, the Mountain View Odd Fellows donated \$2000 to Partners in Health, to support their work fighting COVID-19 in the Navajo Nation (Dinéétah). Partners in Health supports the long-standing Community Health Representatives Program, which trains people to **visit the sick and relieve the distressed** in their communities. The program serves approximately 210,000 Navajo individuals both on and around Navajo Nation; the Navajo Nation has been brutally impacted by COVID-19, with their per capita death toll higher than any state's. Your lodge can learn more about supporting their Department of Health here. With numbers of COVID-19 cases now increasing in the Navajo Nation as well as throughout much of the US, it is more important than ever that we continue to find ways to help and support each other, as many other lodges have been doing.

By Jessica Dickinson Goodman

Connecting for Our Community During COVID-19

Mountain View Warden **Vanessa O'Connor** saw a posting on Next Door: a neighbor was getting rid of some wooden poles from a former coyote fence. She knew the community garden where her lodge members volunteer could use them, so she coordinated a pick-up of the materials on Sunday, splitting the load between her Prius and Past Grand **Jessica Dickinson Goodman's** Honda Fit. The two women spent half an hour loading 45 eight foot poles, 5 ten foot poles, and around 50 three foot poles into their compact cars, all while carefully masked and socially distanced. The next day, Jessica drove her poles down to the community garden and used them to build a Gettysburg fence around the border of the garden with help from Mountain View Conductor **Arike van de Water**. It was good, hard, shared work by members of our lodge to improve a small piece of our community.

By Jessica Dickinson Goodman

Lodge Members Leading Voter Education: A reminder to vote by 11/3!

Mountain View Lodge Members **Bev Mazano, Vanessa O'Connor, Jessica Dickinson Goodman, and Sinéad Toolis** have been working to help voters vote safely during the pandemic. Sinéad has been doing tech support, helping elder volunteers navigate phone banking during COVID-19, while Jessica made (and met!) a personal goal of calling 1001 voters and helping them navigate mail-in ballots, early-voting rules, and complex (and changing!) election rules. They are looking forward to continuing to support their communities through and past the November 3rd election.

By Jessica Dickinson Goodman

Zoom Meetings

Mountain View Lodge #244 is currently having their meetings on Zoom. The challenging part now is but not wanting to continue with the same officers as last year, and there being two nominees for two different offices, is decided how to run the ballot by Zoom.

For the good times, I would like to report that **Ed and I** and our son had a delightful car trip, where everyone we saw and met with wore masks and stayed their distance. We were able to travel to The Grand Canyon (West, South and North Rims), Meteor Crater, Petrified Forest, Painted Desert, Monument Valley, Window Rock (on an Indian Reservation), Vermillion Cliffs, Bryce Canyon, Cedar Breese Canyon and Zion National Park all within 8 days. We had a wonderful time and the sights were magnificent.

By Noble Grand Jackie Brown