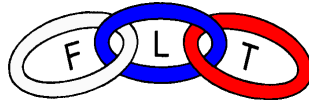


Established 1987



Viva Calle, San Jose

A couple of times each year, the city of San Jose will invite thousands of people to leave their cars behind for a while, and experience the streets in a new way, walking or biking along car-free corridors, with entertainers, vendors, and colorful characters all joining in to create a carnival-like atmosphere. The event is called "Viva Calle", which translates as "Living Streets", and it certainly feels like those streets come alive for the tens of thousands of people who get out and experience them!

But it takes a lot of work. On April 23rd of this year, the Odd Fellows of District 109 - specifically San Jose, Cupertino, and Mountain View - showed up to help run an intersection during Viva Calle. They made sure to clear the pedestrians and cyclists when cars were going through, and counted the roughly 10,000 people crossing it throughout the day's events.

I was there, along with about a dozen other Odd Fellows, taking shifts at both the intersection, and the booth we operated, where we introduced ourselves to folks, and passed out flyers that explained who we are and what we're up to in the community.

The weather was pleasant - not too hot or cold, and everyone appeared to be in a great mood. We even had live music, courtesy of **Ron Meyres, Jim Kabage** and **Randee Chin**. In addition to the flyers, we had buttons and stickers to pass out, and even had a button-making station where people could make their own custom buttons. This was especially popular with the kids, as were the small candies we passed out!

Personally, I loved finding a way to be helpful to the community while representing the Odd Fellows. And there are a lot of people who may not have known anything about us, who now know we're in their community and volunteering for something they enjoyed, that was of value to them. And for the people who came to our booth, I had some really great conversations explaining who we are, how long we've been around, and why I think our order is so special.

It took a lot of work to put together, and I'm grateful to each of our volunteers who made it a success. And I especially want to thank **Scott Spence**, the outreach coordinator for True Fellowship lodge, for organizing it. He did a great job!

The more visible we are in the community, the more people are going to want to join in all the fun we're having, and the more good we'll be capable of doing. I want to really encourage all of our members to look for ways to introduce your community to who we are. In the end, outreach is the difference between lodges that grow and lodges that vanish.

By *Mason Wolf*

Initiation May 29

The area Initiation degree will be held at the Cupertino Lodge, starting at 7:00 on Memorial Day, the fifth Monday of May, May 29. Cupertino will have two candidates and any other lodges that want to bring their candidates are welcomed. A couple of the lodges held their own degree since the last one, because they didn't want to wait for the May degree, which is fine. **Stephen Franke** and **Haunani, (Claire) Neil** are Cupertino's candidates. So let's see a nice showing of members, either to take part in the degree or to support our new members.

By *Don Lang, editor*



Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

Cupertino Roll Call Dinner

The Cupertino Roll Call Diner on Monday April 24th was a great success. We had 33 members and guests there. We did get several members who could not come because they either caught COVID or with people who came down with COVID. We again had **John** from Golden Harvest cook our meal. He said that he was coming here for 40 years now. I don't think it was that long, but who knows. We had meat loaf with delicious gravy, glazed salmon and roast chicken, and for the vegetarians, a vegetable lasagna. **Simona** picked up 3 delicious cakes, chocolate, white and cheese cake from her specialty catering store.

Noble Grand **Simona Benjamin** opened up the program by welcoming every one that came and said a few words followed by Past Grand **Ron Myres** saying grace. After we finished dinner our secretary Past Grand **Tom Blackburn** called the members roll. We all clapped if the member was there. Tom did a great job and usually said a few words about the member. Also others helped out filling in on something good about the person.



Buttons that were made for the Viva Calle on Sunday were given out to those that wanted them. These buttons were made up to advertise Odd Fellows and some have magnetic backs and can be attached to the refrigerator or the like.

Next year will be our 125th anniversary and we already formed a committee and have started to plan for a big special anniversary luncheon and program afterwards.

By **Don Lang**, editor

Report of Rental Committee

We need help. The Cupertino Lodge Rental Committee made up of **Don Lang** as Chairman, **Jim Kabage** and Noble Grand **Simona Benjamin**, would like to give a report on what has been going on with their committee. The good news is that rentals are back to where they were before the pandemic and we are hoping that it will go beyond that in the very near future. This brings in much needed money which allows our lodge to operate. Not only to pay all the bills, but gives us extra money so we are able to donate to different charities, both Order related and public charities. All our bills have raised substantially these last couple of years. For instance, our insurance has raised by 21% this past year and since 2020 it almost doubled. We are now paying over \$8,000 a year for insurance not including the Officers Insurance that is also needed. Our PG&E, South Bay Recology and Janitor Cleaning Services bills have also raised quite a bit.

It takes a lot of effort and team work to have just one rental of a lodge. There are several emails that go back and forth before the actual meeting at the lodge hall takes place. Some times they forget and don't show up and a second meeting needs to be set up. About 50% of the time, they need to go home and talk it over with their spouse or they need to look at another place before they are ready to sign. After all, this is a lot of money to spend for one evening when you think about how much food this will buy. When the contract is signed we collect a deposit and then on the evening before their event we collect the remaining money. They do leave a security/cleaning deposit just in case they take or break something or leave the place in a mess. We now have a key lock box where Simona gives us a code to use for that day and that is texted to them. Now usually a security guard is arranged for and also has to be paid. The lodge needs to be checked before and after their party and the lodge needs to be cleaned. Jim has been keeping our Janitor Services informed of when the lodge needs to be cleaned and

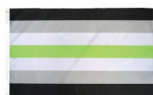
making sure that is up to our standards. He also has been worrying about the heating and cooling and making sure that our HVAC is set to the correct temperature that we don't waste money on energy. We are lucky that can be done from home, however we are still having trouble with how it HVAC works.

Now that assumes everything runs smooth. However what happens if the temperature is not satisfactory for the renter, or if a circuit breaker is blown, or if a toilet backups or stops working, or if doors are kept open on a hot summer day? It may need a person to go to the hall to correct the problem. Well it is a good thing that our committee has support from the building committee, chaired by brother **Ron Myres**. He is always willing to come and help.

So if you feel like you would like to be a part of this team that keeps the Lodge operating without having to dip into our savings each month please mention this to them. They would love you to join and help. You will not be given more than you can handle. Mainly they are looking for members to help and take some of this burden off their shoulders, or have someone to turn to if they are not available at the time.

By **Don Lang**, editor

Meanings of the Pride Flags



**Agender
Pride Flag**



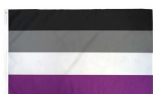
**Genderqueer
Pride Flag**



**Aromantic
Pride Flag**



**Lesbian
Pride Flag**



**Asexual
Pride Flag**



**Non-Binary
Pride Flag**



**Bisexual
Pride Flag**



**Pansexual
Pride Flag**



**Demisexual
Pride Flag**



**Pride Flag
(Philly Design)**



**Genderfluid
Pride Flag**



**Transgender
Pride Flag**

Each of these flags represents a member of the Mountain View Odd Fellows Lodge or a community group we host for free each week. Learn more, apply to use our space, and join us: mountainviewoddfellows.org/our-community.

We've been here since 1876 and we're still learning and growing. **All are welcome here.**



Community Garden Dedication and Pride Potluck

Every Saturday for nearly 4 years, a collection of Odd Fellows from across our district have gathered at a community garden in South San José. Many more have donated cardboard, plant pots, expertise, and support. In that time, our volunteers have planted hundreds of native trees and bushes, built more than a dozen raised beds, and engaged in regular, glorious, active fellowship. Many of the volunteers are queer and trans Odd Fellows, or beloved family members of queer and trans people. On June 11, 2023, after the 10am service at the community garden at St. Stephen's in-the-Field, we will be formally naming and dedicating that expanded community garden "The Rainbow Community Garden" at 11am. Immediately following the dedication, from 11:30 – 12:30, the church whose campus the garden is on is throwing first annual Pride Potluck. All Odd Fellows and families are invited!

If you can, please try to bring an item of food in the colors of one of the pride flags. Please label these dishes for common allergies (peanut butter, gluten, lactose, etc.) Note: while beloved by the long-standing communities they represent, most of these flags were designed since 2010, so if you don't recognize them it's fine! Here is a quick glossary for unfamiliar terms: <https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>

By *Jessica Dickinson Goodman*

Cupertino Lodge Social

The Cupertino Lodge social will be held this month, May 22, between 6 PM & 7:30 PM and it will be a Corned Beef dinner, with potato salad, carrots and dessert. Our normal meeting will follow at 8:00 PM. Make note, that it is not on the 3rd Monday, but it is on the 4th Monday. We hope to see more members present at our meeting that evening, instead of on Zoom

By *Don Lang, editor*

