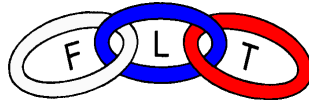


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The Triple Links Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

September 2022
Don Lang - Editor
donlang@sbcglobal.net

Established 1987



Initiation Held on Aug 29th

The Initiation degree was held at Cupertino Lodge #70 and was opened at 7:58 PM. Lodge #70 continued in an abridged regular session for roll call and communications. The Lodge then called a recess and then went on to confirm the initiatory degree for the ten candidates. Their names appear below with the picture. It went very well with all degree members doing an excellent job. However, the optimum number of candidates to receive the degree at the same time, is probably around five. This was the biggest number of candidates in a very long time, if not the biggest class that was ever held at Cupertino Lodge..

Many special officers were present and visitors from other lodges to support this initiatory degree. Just a few are mentioned here. Present were, two Past Grand Masters of California, **Don Lang** (2002-2003) and **Michael Greenzeiger** (2021-2022), Warden of Rebekah Assembly Debra LaVergne, plus, the **District #107 Deputy Grand Master, Annie Cronin** (2021-2022, 2022-2023) was present. Annie also was the directing Captain for this initiatory. Other key officers for the lodge were Presiding **Noble Grand: Ron Myres** and Presiding Vice Grand: Annie Cronin (protem). No Zoom or other electronic recordings took place.

The Lodge closed after the good of the order with announcements and accolades at 9:17 PM. Some stayed afterwards for Chocolate cake and drinks.

The candidates were 5 from Cupertino #70 (1899), 2 from True Fellowship #52 (1858), 1 from Mountain View #244 (1876) and 2 from San Pablo #43 (1855).

BY *Tom Blackburn & Don Lang*



Allen Fox Michael Greenzeiger, Ron Myres, Debra LaVergne De Tran
Hugh Kinniburgh Michael Leung Elizabeth Pidgeon Bruce Shem
Victoria Carmona Andrew Crockett Jane Beckman Robert Souza

Silicon Valley Odd Fellowship

Have Courage to Question a Motion (Things are Hanging in the Balance)



Some motions are simple and not long lasting. Others may commit your lodge to longer terms, and might usurp the goals of the lodge or give special privileges that are difficult to rescind.

Simple motions are fine. A simple motion would be to allow your lodge to be used for a one-

time event like a charitable fund-raiser, a food drive, a boy scout or a school event. These can be handled when they are brought up for the first time. Other motions that allow free, long-term, continuous use, should be thought about, and not voted on when they are first brought up. Over a period of time, we should think about these types of free long-term lodge uses. We should not be rushed. There could be unforeseen consequences. Taking time to think can allow better ethical decisions. One way to do this would be to follow how the Grand Lodge does business during its annual Session meeting. This might be preferred over the quick knee jerk approval of long-term lodge commitments, no matter how convincing the reasons may be.

Ahead of any vote, the Grand Lodge (GL) sends out proposed changes to its rules and major commitments of its resources. These GL long term proposals are sent out months in advance of the meeting. All voting members receive a copy of every proposal. Committees also study the proposals. Results of the committees are made available to the voting members. At the Grand Lodge Session, everyone who cares has heard all committee comments and the proposals. They can then bring up any questions they may have. And only after everyone has been heard, does the vote happen.

Before voting, I propose that any long-term free use motion be examined and the results shared with all members over at least two meetings or more. And, that every current, ongoing, free use agreement be examined each year to consider the cost of use and appropriate use of lodge resources. What do you think?

For free long-term lodge commitments, we could label those events a "lodge-rental-event", and not a lodge event. But it should be under a special rental contract. Calling it a "lodge-rental-event" could avoid insurance needs. But a special rental contract should still be in place. And, a "donation-for-use" is not the same as a rental contract. It's not binding.

Have courage. Control your long-term commitments by your lodge. Think things through. Review contracts every year. Democracies fail because people don't think things through when they vote. Don't let your lodge fail into a lopsided direction.

By **Tom Blackburn**

Cupertino Roll Call Dinner

The Cupertino Roll Call Dinner will once again be held after being long absent during the Pandemic. Normally it is held in April, which corresponds to the month that we were instituted, which is April 29, 1899. However, as the pandemic seems to wind down more, we elected to have it on Monday evening, September 19 and served at 6:00 PM.

We will again have it catered by John, from Golden Harvest Catering and it will be our favorite menu, which is Poached Salmon, Roast Chicken, Meat Loaf, Whipped Potatoes w/gravy, Green Beans, Fresh cut Corn, dinner rolls w/butter, Green Salad w/dressing.

We are hoping for a large response as it would be nice to get the membership back together. It is Free and open to all members and their immediate families, plus widows and their escort. We expect to have some entertainment and we will chronologically read the roll of all our members.

Please RSVP as soon as you know that you are coming or not, so we know how much to order. The deadline is Friday the 16th by noon. Please send an email to events@cupertinooddfellows.org and include your name and the total number in your party so we can confirm with our caterer.

By **Don Lang, editor**

August BBQ

Cupertino Lodge's August BBQ was a success, thanks to mainly **Simona Benjamin, vice grand** and **Ron Myres, noble grand**. They made hamburgers and hotdogs with potato salad, dessert and drinks. The 20 or so people who were there had a great time and were wondering why more members didn't show up.

Free Furniture Progress

The first one, the free furniture, which **Jim Kabage** is able to get for the foyer room for the Cupertino Lodge, still is at where it was last month. The problem is that lining up the volunteers to move the furniture with the availability of the lodge. The lodge has been rented out a lot, which is a good thing.

The second one, **Betty Fahy**, did move to Ohio, to live with her daughter and her husband, but they did not have anybody interested in taking any of her furniture. So she decided to give some to the Rebekah Children Service in Gilroy and the ones they didn't want they gave to Goodwill.

Betty's new address is: Betty Fahy, c/o Deborah Parker, 705 Glenwood St., S. W. North Canton, Ohio, 44720. **Deborah's** email for Betty is, kdparaker8910@sbcglobal.net. Deborah's phone is 1 330 280-4795.

Good Luck Betty, we will miss you here, however you are only an email away.

By **Don Lang, editor**

What Makes a Good Odd Fellow?

I very often get asked, "What makes a good Odd Fellow?" The answer is not that easy to give, because there are probably many different answers. I think one of the main things is to be an active member in lodge, as long as you don't have an excuse like you are sick or too old to come to lodge or that you live a long distance from the lodge. Why is this so important, well if you don't have enough members in the lodge who are active, your lodge will eventually fail. When we stop having different activities, members start to lose interest and drop out. First they stop helping out with the activities and then they stop coming to the events altogether.

I believe another very important thing is the pride the member has in being a member. I think some members, who don't have this quality, believe they pay their \$55 dues, so the lodge owes them something. Well let me tell you that the \$55 goes straight to Grand Lodge, and not one penny is kept to support the lodge. Now if you are walking in the building and you see a piece of paper or water bottle on the ground or floor wouldn't it be nice if you picked it up and threw it away. Isn't that what you would do if you were at your own home? Also, if your lodge is having a work day to take care of some projects at lodge, will you volunteer and agree to help, or will you find an excuse why you are not available that time and day?

Over the past years, many members in the lodge worked hard to get where we are today. We didn't have the money for gardeners or even janitors. Members pitched in where ever they were needed. Doing this makes you feel good..

We were lucky during the two years of Pandemic, when our renters all left us and our income to the lodge literally stopped. We were able to pay our bills and even did some building improvements, taking advantage of the empty building. Now that the danger of the Pandemic is mostly over, we need to step up to once again becoming a good Odd Fellow. We can start by coming back to regular Lodge meetings, and leave the zoom meeting for the ones who are sick or really unable to come to lodge. The meetings in zoom takes away from that friendly atmosphere of us all being together. We then tend to come early to lodge and stay late and even get back to having refreshments after the meeting.

So I look forward to that time again, where we all feel friendly and a part of the lodge. We look for ways how we can help out and not so much about what we can get out of the lodge for ourselves.

By *Don Lang, a trying to be a good Odd Fellow*

Rebekah Craft Sale

Mountain View's Hermania Rebekah Lodge #49 is having a craft sale at the Odd Fellows building in Mountain View at 600 Castro Street from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. September 9 through September 18. Notice that it will be held all week. Do your Christmas shopping early and visit our offerings. Profits benefit the Lodge and this year we are again supplying Castro/Mistrel School first graders with school supplies in addition to donations to the Rebekah Children's Services in Gilroy. Hope to see you there. Something for everyone. **Jackie's** phone is 650 208-2911

By *Jackie Brown*

New Paint at Mountain View Lodge

Thanks to Past Grand **Sinéad Toolis**, Noble Grand **Zoe Timmerman**, and excellent member **Sushu Xia**, and the folks with JLO Paint, the Mountain View Lodge #244 now has repainted doors and a repaired second story decoration, with organizing support from Vice Grand **Ria Toolis** and myself. We're proud of our lodge and of the community of dedicated volunteers who take time out of their busy weeks to keep it maintained and accessible to our community. Thank you to everyone involved!



Life Line Screening

There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions.

These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

We are pleased to host Life Line Screening, who will be on site at the Cupertino Odd Fellows Lodge on Friday, October 14, 2022 in Cupertino to conduct these valuable screenings.

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.

By Don Lang, editor

LABOR DAY

MADE IN THE

