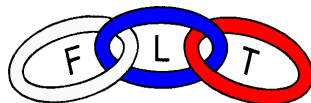


Established 1987



Second Degree in Saratoga

The first of 3 second degrees to be conferred in 2025 within our district was held at Saratoga 428 lodge on April 22. And it was quite something to behold.

The degree team included members of Bay View 109, Cupertino 70, True Fellowship 52, Saratoga 428, and Mountain View 244, for a true district-wide team. Despite multiple last-minute replacements, everyone on the degree team was off-script, which was a first for this degree, at least in recent memory.

Our team included **Mason Wolf**, **Debbie Wolf**, **Sara Bruce**, and **Scott Spence** of True Fellowship 52, **Michael Bever**, **Paul Milleson**, **Connie Hall**, and **Stan Bagosian** of Saratoga 428, **Jesse Donaldson** and **Debra LaVergne** of Mountain View 244, **Ron Myres** of Cupertino 70, **Gerald Williams** of Bay View 109, and **Jane Beckman** of Gilroy 154.

In addition to being off-script, the degree incorporated original multimedia elements that had never been tried be-



fore, while still maintaining the spirit and authenticity of the traditional production. Having been part of this degree so many times, I genuinely thought this was one of the best we'd ever done.

One reason why the degree went so well was because most of the members of the degree team have committed to traveling to Yreka in September to bring the degree to the cave. So they were willing to put in the work to really nail their roles, not just memorizing them,

but inhabiting them as fully-fleshed out portrayals conveying the lesson of the degree.

And yet, for all this, it suffered one significant flaw: We had only 2 candidates. That's not to say **Tina Liddie** and **Leslie Butler**, both of Saratoga 428, weren't wonderful or deserving, but there were 8 candidates within our district who had all been approved to receive it.

So here was the "other" lesson of the second degree. If you are a candidate, please put the date and location on your calendar. If you are a Noble Grand or Secretary, send reminders to your candidates and make sure they reply to them.

The second degree heads to Redwood City on June 24. This will be the last time the degree is performed within our district before we take it to the cave. If you want to see it here first, we'd be delighted to practice before an audience - especially since we'll have a much larger audience in September! And if you are planning to receive the degree? Please put it on your calendar.

-- By **Mason Wolf**



Excellent Hosts! **Saratoga 428** threw a lovely pizza party after the degree. April 22nd was technically their social night. Conferring a degree merely delayed (and enlarged) it.

The next degree in District 107 will be the First Degree on May 29th at Mountain View 244 at 8PM.

April 12th School of Instruction, Sycamore Lodge #129, Hayward

On April 12th, Sycamore Lodge #129 hosted brothers and sisters of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows from all over the greater SF Bay Area. The occasion was to hear former California Grand Master **Peter V. Sellars** give a presentation on the, history, traditions, and organizational structure of the IOOF.

Thank you to the members of Sycamore Lodge, who showed real hospitality to all the attendees, with a nice assortment of snacks before the event, and a delicious lunch with sandwiches from Togo's.

One of the best parts of the event for me, was meeting and sharing lunch tables with members of other Lodges. It was really inspiring to discover what the various groups were doing both to build their Lodges as places of fellowship, and to support the larger communities around them. From Bingo Games raising money for charity, Live Action Role Playing Games, Hawaiian Music groups, Classic Movie Nights, Toy Drives, Highway Clean-Ups, and Tabling at Farmers Markets, we are a busy bunch.

Many of us who attended are relatively new to Odd Fellowship and, in post meeting conversations, agreed that the information we received was very useful. Knowing the way in which decisions get made at the State level, and the way in which people rise through the

ranks to become part of that decision making process was illuminating.

The path of Warden-Vice Grand-Noble Grand-Past Grand and its significance, both historically and for maintaining a pool of leadership, inspired several attendees to consider that path in the future. Several new members told me that knowing that included in the path is a history and tradition of mentorship and mentoring takes away some hesitancy in stepping up to these roles.

Personally, having more detail and background about how our traditions and rituals came to be, and the history of the establishment of Lodges in California, brought me a deeper appreciation of this wonderful institution I have joined. The story of the lost Lodge#1 in San Francisco was fascinating.

My thanks to Peter for his informative talk.

The School of Instruction was worth a Saturday. Hopefully many others will have the chance to benefit from this experience in the future.

-- By *Scott Spence*



Hanging out over a meal between morning and afternoon sessions.

Grand Lodge Sessions: What it is, where it is, who it is, and why you should care!

Grand Lodge Sessions is a meeting for all of the representatives of the lodges of our jurisdiction to set the direction of Odd Fellowship, by selecting leaders, updating code, and considering resolutions for the coming year. This year, Grand Lodge Sessions is being held at the Peppermill Resort in Reno, NV. The meetings will be May 15th - 17th.

Prior to this are meetings of our ancillary grand bodies - i.e. the Encampment and Patriarch's Militant branches. Rebekah Assembly runs simultaneously with Grand Lodge, and it's not unusual for someone to be representative at both, though of course, they have to choose where to spend the balance of their time.

The representatives who can vote must be Past Grands of a California Odd Fellows Lodge or Past Noble Grands of a California Rebekah Lodge. Lodges are allocated a certain number of representatives based on their size, and can select which eligible members use those slots.

Third degree members of a California Odd Fellows Lodge are also welcome to attend, but need the endorsement of their lodge secretary to verify the status of their membership.

Some of the business that comes up at Sessions directly affects every Odd Fellow in California. There will be the usual work of budgets, hiring new board members and directors, updating code, presenting reports, and assigning representatives to Sovereign Grand Lodge (our international governing body).

This year there will also be discussions of raising member dues, use of endowment funds, income expectations for the Three Links Camp, and the physical location of the Grand Lodge offices. More specific information about all of this can be found at caioof.org (scroll to the bottom and click "Grand Lodge 2025 Advance Proceedings").

Some lodges have committees to share the work of reviewing the reports, bills, resolutions, and proposed budget. Even if you can't go, you can share your ideas with your representatives. Remember, Grand Lodge belongs to all of us!

-- By *Debbie Wolf*



Look at all these new best friends!

A Grand District Museum Gala and Dinner Party

On April 15, after months of planning, weeks of promoting, days of decorating, hours of rehearsing, and frantic minutes setting up final details before people walked in, a party hosted by the District 107 Odd Fellows, and celebrating 175 years of Odd Fellowship in California, brought delight to about 80 guests from around the district and beyond.

In addition to members of our district lodges, we had visitors from Davis lodge and Morse lodge (including the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, respectively), Ocean View 143, Gilroy 154, Mission Peak 114, and a few others. We also welcomed a handful of non-member guests who hopefully came away with a new appreciation for who we are.

The party provided people with an opportunity to see the Grand Lodge museum, which I personally think doesn't get the level of attention and visitation it really deserves. The collection was cataloged and put on display by former chair of the Grand Lodge Historic Committee, [Nancy Johnson](#). She sadly passed away in late 2024, but we honored and acknowledged her contribution to California Odd Fellows historic preservation during the event itself.

Despite being on a Tuesday evening, the event sold out nearly a week before the date of the party, which demonstrated the high level of interest. Since no event like this had ever been tried in our district, the organizers really weren't sure how many people would want to come. True Fellowship 52 hadn't hosted a formal event like this one in many years, and didn't even have all of the necessary equipment.

Jim Kabage and **Cupertino 70** were able to supply several chafing dishes to serve the food and keep it warm. **Paul Milleson** and **Saratoga 428** supplied several of the bottles of wine. A number of lodges covered the tickets for their members wanting to attend. And **Ria Toolis** of **Mountain View 244** deserves special recognition, as she was put in charge of decorations, as well as making sure everyone had a checklist to follow



As emcee, per party code, I was allowed to take one picture from the stage while asking everyone to look at me and smile. Here is the result. It was a good-looking congregation!

for setup, cleanup, and the actual party timeline.

Debbie Wolf made the desserts, which included decorating a beautiful chocolate cake to celebrate 175 years of FLT in California. And then, in a moment of true horror, at 4:30PM our caterer informed us that he wouldn't be able to deliver the meat as promised. Debbie was the one to get the last-minute replacement meals we served in their place.

Jane Beckman made the lasagna and vegetables. I made the salads. **Kneaded Culinary Academy** made and served the appetizers at Grand Lodge, which by the way, was probably the best part of the food that evening! (I hope



Gerald Williams, who officially became a 70-year veteran on April 9th, receives from GM **Dave Reed** a gavel once presented to PGM Charles Henderson, who was Grand Master of California in 1955, the year Gerald joined the Order.

some Odd Fellows attend [their annual fundraiser on May 9th](#)).

I narrated while **Andrew Crockett**, **Steve Koehler**, **Erik Woodbury**, **Reed Sutton**, and **Scott Spence** recreated the institution of Washington Lodge #1 in 1819, which would go on to become the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. And then **Andrew Crockett** (as Thomas Wildey) shared the story of how Odd Fellowship arrived in California.

But I need to step back and acknowledge just what a crazy thing this was to pull off, even aside from the catering snafu. The entire premise of starting the party at Grand Lodge, and then moving everyone to True Fellowship, meant that there was more work, and more logistical difficulty, than a normal event in the first place. And a formal dinner with entertainment is not a simple event to start with.

It was my idea, and the reason I did it was because I wanted more people to see the remarkable collection Grand Lodge has in its museum wing, and I felt like a party at Grand Lodge would be a bigger draw than just a party at True Fellowship. Plus, I wanted to end my term as DDGM with a celebration, and an acknowledgment of everyone who supported this district in the last year (including a few "outstanding Odd Fellows", and one very long-serving Noble Grand).

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Almost too beautiful to eat: Debbie poses with the chocolate cake she decorated before it's cut and served.



Final Prep: The final nights before the party were ones of last-minute shopping and food preparation for **Debbie Wolf** and **Mason Wolf**. It was hectic, but at least the desserts and salads were delicious. Mission accomplished!

But I did not realize how much effort it would take! And I could never have succeeded, except for the curious phenomenon that every time I talked about the party around Odd Fellows, more of them would volunteer to help make it happen. While I've given a partial list above, if I try to thank everyone who helped, I am in very real danger of forgetting someone, and in fact, I know that's likely to happen, because I *did* forget to include some of the volunteers on some of the emails I sent to the planning committee because it just became so difficult to keep track of who all had joined it.

So full disclosure, I was a *terrible* organizer! I failed to make sure everyone knew when they were needed and where to go because so many people were helping and I lost track. But I am so grateful for so many people helping, because the party actually went pretty well in spite of me!

I created a ton of work for a lot of people, did a poor job of letting them know where they needed to be, had some close calls when people weren't where they were needed because I had-

n't told them to be there (my opening line about "frantic minutes" was not an exaggeration), and despite that, it was SUCH a fun party!

The lesson I learned is this - if you have enough people who genuinely share a goal, you can make a lot of mistakes and still get a good result. I have never been more grateful for the can-do volunteer spirit of my brothers and sisters in the Order as I was on Tuesday, April 15th. But the other lesson I learned was to keep better track of volunteers and don't waste their time or take them for granted. If I ever find myself in charge of an event like this again, I promise to do a better job delegating and organizing tasks among people. Though if I've truly learned my lesson, I might never end up in charge of something like this again!

To everyone who helped pull off this adventure, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. And to everyone who attended, thank you for coming, and I hope you had a truly delightful experience.

-- By **Mason Wolf**



Our Outstanding Odd Fellows:

Several people were honored for their significant contributions to their lodges, based on my personal observations as DDGM as well as my conversations with the noble grands of their lodges. Here is a full list of the recipients of the "Outstanding Odd Fellows" award:
 Volcano 25: **Jim Reyner, Paul Colin, Erin Farrel, Karla Brown.**
 True Fellowship 52: **Lisa Harrigan** (pictured left), **Zandria Elbert, Scott**

Spence, Paul Klunder.

Cupertino 70: **Randee Chin, Marvin Carter, Todd White, Mark St. John.**

Bay View 109: **Hannah Koury, Steve Koehler, Reed Sutton, Izzy Mahon.**

Mountain View 244: **Katy Dickinson** (pictured center), **Sinead Toolis, Jesse Donaldson, Tatiana Kuvaldina.**

Saratoga 428: **Leslie Butler** (pictured right), **Connie Hall, Terry Neff, Tammy Neff Taylor.**

Cupertino 70 Annual Roll-Call Dinner

On Monday, April 21, 2025 the Cupertino Odd Fellows Lodge #70 celebrated the 126th anniversary with our annual Roll Call Dinner. About 50 members and their family/guests attended. **Jim Kabage**, our Noble Grand, welcomed everyone to our dinner. Next, our chaplain **Todd White** gave a blessing before dinner. Dinner consisted of thick juicy BBQ ribs, melt in your mouth Brisket, homemade Cream Corn, Ceasar salad, and sweet Hawaiian style dinner rolls. There were 4 types of BBQ sauces to choose to top the meat: Sweet, Mild Spicy, Spicy Mustard, and XXX Hot. Beverages included water and assorted beers.



A warm welcome to our 3 newest members, **Helen Bobias**, **Jordan DuVal** and **Pam Johnson** started off the evening program. Before calling the roll, a special tribute was given by Jim Kabage in remembrance of **Bob Souza** and **Don Lang**, the 2 members who passed away this past year. The roll was called and those in attendance were applauded as their names were spoken. Next up, I spoke about the "State of the Lodge" and outlined the major activities/events for 2024-2025.

We raised over \$7k from our 5 yearly fundraisers and donated over \$15k to 10 major charities and 5 Grand Lodge charities last year. To supplement our donations, we rely on the rental of our lodge. Improvements were made to the lodge to help increase rental income as well as provide a comfortable and safe place for members to meet. Several technical updates were made to our business processes to optimize how we do things and provide our members easier



access to Odd Fellows information via our members only web site.

Our goal is to thrive through increased membership, membership participation, and improved services, both to our members as well as our community.

The evening ended with dessert - Strawberry short cake. Memories of good food, and a relaxed evening with new and old friends went home with all who attended.

-- By **Randee Chin**



May Day Is Lei Day in Hawai'i

On May 3, 2025, Cupertino Odd Fellows Lodge #70 had its 2nd Annual "May Day is Lei Day" Fundraiser. All proceeds went to Kāko'o (support) Maui, an organization helping with the ongoing recovery from the Lāhaina fire on Maui. We are anticipating our total from donations and raffle tickets sales to reach \$1,000!

In typical Hawaiian style, everyone brought and shared 'ono (delicious) pot luck dishes and desserts. The Hui 'Ilima Dancers, led by member **Haunani Neil**, presented a Hawaiian program similar to May Day celebrations in Hawai'i, with Queen Barbara and King Rob Tover and hula dancers in colorful costumes. After the show, music continued with a kani ka pila (music jam) led by Leomele Hawaiian Band (members **Richard & Karen Sanico**). The audience was able to participate by playing 'ukuleles, singing & dancing the hula.

Mahalo ā nui (thanks very much) to all who lent their kōkua (help), especially members **Stephen Franke**, **Jim Kabage**, **Mark St. John**, **Estelle Ramolete**, **Haunani Neil**, **Marvin Carter**, **Helen Bobias**, & **Randee Chin**. It was a successful event to support the continued rebuilding of Lāhaina, a special place in Hawai'i.

-- By **Karen Sanico**

Rebekah Assembly President **Debra LaVergne** (MV 244) and Grand Patriarch **Debbie Shuler** (TF 52) were in Virginia on May 3, 2025 to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Cave Degree Advisory Committee Report

Because so many members of District 107 are involved with the cave degree in Yreka, CA, I was persuaded to publish my committee report in the Triple Links Newsletter. This report was not written in time to appear in the Advanced Proceedings, though it should appear in the final report for 2025 Grand Lodge Sessions.

-- **Mason Wolf**

I am pleased to report that during the latest term (2024-2025) the cave degree advisory committee completed the work for which it was established, both in terms of restoring the cave and operating a successful degree weekend. In fact, we held two of them.

To give credit where it is due, in 2024, by the time I was appointed chair, most of the actual reconstruction at the Pythian cave near Yreka was already completed under past chair **Rodney Metoyer**.

To provide a brief recap, in late 2023, Grand Lodge entered into a contract with Pacific Coast Construction, a contracting firm led by brother **Michael Steineke** of French Gulch Lodge #75. Fundraising began at the same time and as of today has pulled in \$28,300. This left a balance of \$20,000 to be covered by the Grand Lodge, which has now been paid.

The reconstruction was something of an act of faith. Work was started before the funds were in hand, under the belief that once progress was shown, more funds would be forthcoming.

Fundraising got a boost in July of 2023 with the passing of long-time supporter of the cave degree, **Richard Brouse** (my grandfather), whose family requested that donations in his memory fund the reconstruction effort. In November of 2023, the previous committee began a plank sponsorship program, whereby donors could have their names recorded on an individual plank, recognizing their contribution. For a larger donation, their names could appear on one of the stairs leading up to the cave.

Today, work is nearly complete. There is some welding work that needs to be completed on the fencing, and this will happen within a few weeks, at which point the contract will be fully satisfied. But enough was finished by last August that we were able to hold degree work at the cave. Not only that, but on August 16th 2024, on behalf of the committee, I announced to the Grand Master that our work was complete in a formal temple dedication ceremony.

Across the two cave degree weekends of 2024, we conferred 104 degrees on 35 candidates from 10 lodges in California and 1 in Oregon.



Dedication Altar - Built for our temple dedication ceremony held 8/16/2024



While the cave is now safe to use for degree work once more, there are still a lot of very old planks that show the wear of age, marking a keen distinction between the recent renovation and what came before. While none of these planks are in danger of giving way, they do present tripping hazards.

However, this is no longer the responsibility of the Grand Lodge directly, nor is the Grand Lodge responsible for organizing future degree weekends, and so I recommend that this committee be honorably retired. The entity now responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance is the new Richard Brouse Degree Lodge #190, a duly chartered degree lodge in the jurisdiction of California, and a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. They are also some of the finest members of our Order that I have ever had the very great pleasure of working alongside.

Brother Michael Steineke is prepared to continue his work renovating the cave, and the degree lodge is now fundraising to make this happen. So far, the degree lodge has raised just over \$10,000, and has a goal of raising \$32,000 over the next two years in order to finish restoration work on the cave, as well as set up a fund for maintenance costs for both the cave itself and the access road leading to it. If you would like to contribute to this fund and support future work of the cave degree, please visit oddfellowscavedegree.com/donate.

To register to attend an upcoming cave degree weekend, visit oddfellowscavedegree.com.

The next one will be held September 5-7, 2025.

In Friendship, Love, and Truth,

Mason Wolf

Chair, Grand Lodge cave degree advisory committee
Degree Master, Richard Brouse Degree Lodge #190

Open Mic Nights in June!

Mountain View Lodge #244 plans to host two Open Mic Nights during Pride Month on Friday, June 27, 2025 and Saturday, June 28, 2025 from 6-11pm.

Performances can be musical or spoken word, and ideally around 10 minutes in length. Performers must sign up to be placed on the schedule, either ahead of time (see the [QR code link](#) provided in the flyer to the right) or in person. We're looking for a mix of different types of performances and performers, with a preference for themes related to LGBT-QIA+ culture and experiences.

Our sound person will provide a small console, mics, speakers and a monitor; anything else, including amps, is up to you to bring. Our space is fairly small, so don't bring gear you couldn't comfortably plug into your living room! We will also be able to play digital files you provide as accompaniment through USB or Bluetooth.

Please email any inquiries to Sally at oddizens@gmail.com.

--By Sally Calpo



Open Mic @ Mountain View Odd Fellows

For creative performances - music, poetry, monologue!

When:
Friday, June 27 & Saturday, June 28
6-11pm

Where:
823 Villa St,
Mountain View, CA
94041

Do it for pride!
LGBTQ+ acts & content to the front!

SCAN ME

Sign up here to perform!

May 2025 Calendar in brief:

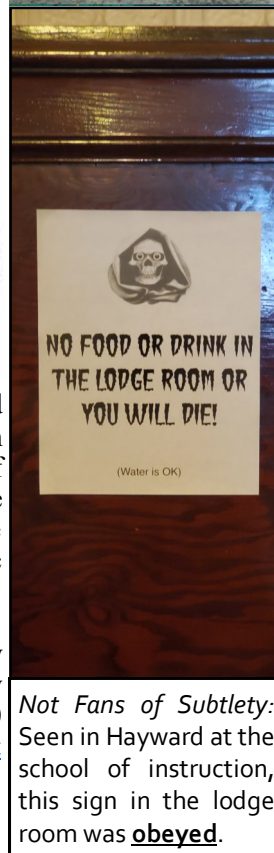
- 3: [May Day is Lei Day @C70](#)
 - 8: [Kneaded fundraiser](#)
 - 14-17: Grand Lodge Sessions, Reno, NV
 - 14: [potluck @TF52](#)
 - 16: games @MV244
 - 27: Social night @S428
 - 28: [kanikapila @C70](#)
 - 28: [burger fry @TF52](#)
 - 29: [1st deg @MV244](#)
 - 30: [game night @TF52](#)
 - 6/6: [game night @TF52](#)
 - 6/7: [Pancake Breakfast @TF52 \(Barnes 77\)](#)
- See the latest events at: siliconvalleyoddfellows.org/district-calendar

AMOS Degree is Coming to Grand Lodge Sessions

The Ancient Mystic Order of Samaritans, Xanadu Sanctorum #321, invites any male Odd Fellow of any degree to cross the burning sands and join them in their pursuit of frivolity and humility at Grand Lodge Sessions on Thursday, May 15th at the Peppermill in Reno. The degree of humility will be conferred at 7PM in the Grand Ballroom, as it's the only space large enough to hold the various exotic animals needed to confer it.

While there are surely many delightful distractions to be enjoyed in the city of Reno between sessions, this one is by some accounts the least expensive (\$100 initiation fee includes your fez!). [Contact Sheik Michael Greenzeiger](#) to learn more.

--By Mason Wolf




KUPAOA AND MARK YAMANAKA

FATHERS DAY CONCERT

JUNE 15, 2025 - 5PM SHOW

\$55 DINNER INCLUDED

ODD FELLOWS LODGE #70

20589 HOMESTEAD RD, CUPERTINO - TIX AT [EVENTBRITE.COM](https://eventbrite.com)

Sign up to attend Cupertino 70's upcoming Father's Day concert at: cupertinooddfellows.org/fathersday