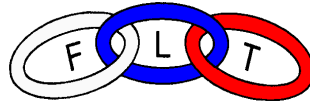


Established 1987



Activity in Cupertino 70

August 11th was a memorable day at **Cupertino 70**. First, it was the official visit from District Deputy Grand Master **Ron Myres**. He was joined by **Izzy Mahon**, District Deputy Grand Marshal. The lodge welcomed them fondly. In their honor, there was a small reception after the meeting.



In addition to the DDGM's official visit, we had an unofficial visit from Deputy Grand Master, **Carlos Juarez**. The DGM made a request of the lodge to support his selection of member **Tom Blackburn** to serve in an appointed position in preparation for his future duty as Grand Master. Tom Blackburn has been a supportive member of Cupertino Odd Fellows for quite some time. He has served in many positions, including Past Grand and more recently, holding the lodge together in the last few years as secretary. The lodge was happy to support both Tom and Carlos and voted to support Carlos' request in giving Tom the appointed position.

Lastly, and most importantly, our lodge was able to honor a man who has not only been selfless in our lodge, but for other surrounding lodges and for many members going



through tough times. Brother Ron Myers was honored with the Meritorious Award Jewel for his continued service and compassion for this lodge, other local lodges and fellow members. Cupertino is proud and fortunate that he is part of our lodge and our friend. They don't come in better form.

— *by Jim Kabage, Noble Grand, Cupertino 70*

A New Season of Fellowship: Introducing True Fellowship 52's Noble Grand

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters of the District.

It is with a deep sense of honor and excitement that I introduce myself to you as the new Noble Grand of True Fellowship 52 Lodge. My name is **Zandria Elbért**, and I step into this role following the departure of our beloved brother, **Andrew Crockett**, who has gracefully transitioned out to focus on his campaign projects—an endeavor we wholeheartedly support and celebrate.

Andrew's leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our lodge have left a legacy of unity and purpose that will continue to guide us.

We extend our sincere gratitude for his service and wish him every success in his new chapter.

To our extended family across the district lodges—I am thrilled to connect with you and strengthen the bonds that make our fraternal community so special. True Fellowship 52 has always been a place where tradition meets compassion, and where service extends beyond our walls into the wider community. It is this spirit of generosity and kinship that I hope to uphold and amplify during my term.

My vision is simple yet heartfelt:

- To foster deeper connections not only within our lodge, but throughout the entire district.
- To encourage collaborative events and community service projects that reflect our shared values.
- To ensure that every member, across every lodge, feels seen, heard, and valued.

I believe that by supporting one another and sharing our unique strengths, we can achieve remarkable things together. Whether through charity initiatives, social gatherings, or simply lending a helping hand, let's continue to be a light in our communities.

I invite each of you to reach out, share ideas, and join us in this journey. Together, we can honor our rich traditions while embracing new opportunities to grow and serve.

Here's to friendship, fellowship, and the bright future ahead.

— *by Zandria Elbért, Noble Grand, True Fellowship 52*



Upcoming Degrees:

Cupertino 70, Initiatory Degree, 9/29

Sovereign Grand Lodge Sessions

This year I once again had the honor and privilege of representing California at the Sovereign Grand Lodge (SGL) Sessions held in Charleston, WV. Like usual there was much work to be done, but also great opportunities for seeing old friends and making new ones from all around North America and beyond. This convention had some great new features including a local lodge tour, historical lecture, mem-



bership roundtable, and two unofficial side degrees, the Muscovites and the Mariners. Three California members took the new Mariners Degree (see <http://themariners.us>) and are now looking into establishing a "Ship" here in the Bay Area.

California was represented in SGL this year by **Peter Sellars** and **Mel Astrahan** in addition to myself. We also had several members participate in the General Military Council (GMC), the highest body for the Patriarchs Militant. Our member **Rod Metoyer** was installed as Sovereign Grand Chaplain for our new Sovereign Grand Master **Tom Calabrese** and **Diana Schmiegel** was installed as Marshal for International Association



of Rebekah Assemblies (IARA) President **Pam Isenhower**. California members **Fred Dolling**, **Tony Pruitt**, **Ernie Albice**, **Tom Kopping**, and Grand Master **Rita Cooper** received General-level positions in the GMC.

— by *Michael Greenzeiger*

August Jane Austen Ball at True Fellowship 52

On August 9, the lodge was filled with color and motion for the Jane Austen dance, co-produced by True Fellowship #52 and the Bay Area English Regency Society (BAERS).

I, **Alan Winston**, am a Lodge member and a founder of BAERS, so am the crossover point for the two organizations. BAERS handled the band, caller (me) and program; True Fellowship managed the logistics,



including providing the beautiful hall, selling advance tickets, providing and organizing very substantial refreshments. One of the previous balls brought the lodge some new members from among the attendees, who may be able to put together some other dance events there, helping the hall to ring, as it should, with music and happy laughter. This time we had a group of nine Scottish dancers who had not attended before, so we had some elegant coatee and kilt outfits. I'm a former Scottish dancer (retired due to injury) and was able to translate some of my prompts into things they were already familiar with. The Scots brought a new level of liveliness and precision in executing the dances, and they intend to return for future balls.

We capped sales at 70 tickets, sold them all (as we did at the two previous balls), and had only a couple of no shows, which left the room comfortably full. Three-quarters of the room had done this kind of thing before and any brand new dancers were swept up by the others. No lesson was required; I briefly taught each choreography as we came to it. I called without gender reference and made clear that anyone could dance with anyone else, and this meant that no-one had to sit out because of gender imbalance and let us make all comers welcome. Costumes were admired but not required, and people were welcome even in street clothes. Quite a lot of fun was had. The bustle of conversation in the dining hall during the two breaks made it clear that we were promoting conviviality and fellowship, and we made money for both the Odd Fellows and BAERS. The collaboration was again a splendid success, and we hope to repeat it twice next year, in February and again in August, and you'll be very welcome to try it out!

-- *Alan Winston, True Fellowship 52*

Grand Master Official Visit to True Fellowship

Grand Master Rita Cooper is making an official visit to True Fellowship 52, and the whole district is invited! On September 17th, the San José Odd Fellows are holding a dinner for Sister Rita, followed by their regular meeting. They'd love to show off what makes district 107 such a great place by welcoming the members of our sister lodges. The meal is free to attend, but we do need to know how many people are coming. Please RSVP at true52.org/official-visit.

This is a members-only event.

Report of GMC Week at SGL

On Friday, August 15th **Debra LaVergne** and myself (**Debbie Shuler**) departed from San Francisco Airport to Chicago O'Hare Airport where we met up with fellow traveler **Mel Astrahan**. We all then proceeded to the Airport of Charleston West Virginia after a 5 hour layover. Luckily Debra and I had United Club passes available.

Upon arriving in Charleston on Saturday, we picked up both rental car and baggage and proceeded to the headquarters of the SGL which was held in the Embassy Suites Hotel this year. We registered for sessions with no problems and spent some time greeting and meeting friends (old and new). We proceeded to go grocery shopping and then took Mel to his hotel and dropped him off and proceeded to our hotel for the week, The Hampton Inn.

We had time to unpack, get a little comfortable and then proceed to the

welcome banquet where we had an enjoyable meal.

The next morning (Sunday) after a good breakfast which included Blueberry Waffles, we headed out for a 10:00 orientation meeting. This was held for the benefit of the representatives, which I was not, but Debra and I attended anyway. We were lucky to find out about the elevator issues, showing a need to get to the Odd Fellows Lodge early (This is where the GMC met). After this we did some retail shopping therapy.

That evening we went to the Formal Opening Ceremonies, which was preceded by a trip to the Outback Restaurant.

Monday morning breakfast included S'more flavored waffles and Oatmeal. The breakfast of champions. Sessions started at 8:00. There was not a lot of legislation this year. My job as Aide De Camp had me collecting monies for commissions and cords along with one of the other aides.

Monday night was the Officer's banquet. This is when the Ladies in Red (Debra and I) made our first formal appearance.

Tuesday sessions were mild again. I escorted General Laswell over to visit the other sessions along with collecting funds. Debra and I also shuttled others back and forth from the Lodge the hotel due to the high temp and humidity. That afternoon, Debra and I attended the United Past Grand Matriarchs meeting. That night we went to the Change of Command Ceremony where an encore performance was requested of the Lady in Red to be the Outgoing General's escort for the evening.

Wednesday started with Breakfast of Lemon flavored waffles (always with Oatmeal). We then went to the lodge hall for our sessions. While I watched sword drills, Debra did shuttling of guests back and forth.

Two pieces of legislation were discussed:

1. Use of berets – failed
2. Use of garrison caps – passed.

I and two others received the Commanding General's Award. Only 3 of these are issued each year. That night was the SGL and IARA Installation. The ladies in Red made their final appearance that night.

Thursday started with French Toast and eggs. But as we were forming the honor guard for the outgoing General, I was offered a sword to use. I will be practicing this year for next year. As we got ready to close, the color bearers retired to march in and retire the flags. In the process of entering, Tony Pruitt took a fall and the last of the closing was forgotten.

Tony was taken to the hospital where it was determined that he had broken his neck and at least 4 facial bones. Debra and I assisted Sherry in transporting her and their luggage to Morgan Town, and then after settling Sherry at the hospital proceeded to drive their rental car to Columbus, Ohio to return their car as Enterprise was going to charge \$5,000.00 dollars to return it in another state other than Ohio. Not knowing how long Tony will be in the hospital and Sherry's inability to return it later, Debra and I decided to return it for her. After dropping the car we then drove back to Charleston, Debra and I both did 6 hours of driving that afternoon.

Tony has since had surgery on his neck and facial surgery on Thursday. We all need to keep them in our prayers.

I contact them on a daily basis and report back to others.

Friday, Debra and I returned home with *no issues*.

— by *Debbie Schuler*

Mountain View National Honey Bee Day

Mountain View Lodge #244 is very fortunate to be located on the main street of downtown Mountain



Before we started doing window displays

View, Castro Street, where we put together different window displays each month. Our August display honors the National Honey Bee Day which occurs on the third weekend in August. This display is a nod to our siblings, the Rebekkahs, as the beehive is one of their symbols.



This Month's Bee Display

When creating this month's display, I was struck by the recent letter from our Grand Master that mentioned making our Lodges more attractive. We hope to use our window displays to encourage people to stop and look at and hopefully think about our organization.

Eleanor and Franklin, our resident mannequins have dressed as beekeepers and in front of them are various facts about bees – their benefits, their lifecycle, the difference between bees and similar creatures, lots of fun facts about bees and other useful information. The Bee display has gained a lot of traction. We saw passersby looking and sharing the bee facts with their friends. Many small handprints can be seen in the window!

Fun Facts

- ⇒ A honeybee has to travel over 55,000 miles and visits approximately 2 million flowers to make 1 pound of honey.
- ⇒ Honeybees are the only insect that produce food for humans.
- ⇒ Honey is the ONLY food that includes all the substances necessary to sustain life, including water.
- ⇒ Honey is the only form of sugar that does not need to be refined.
- ⇒ Honeybees are a great scientific mystery because they have remained unchanged for 20 million years.
- ⇒ A single honeybee will only produce approximately 1/12 teaspoon of honey in her lifetime.
- ⇒ A worker bee visits between 50-100 flowers on each trip.
- ⇒ Honeybees are the only bees that die after they sting.
- ⇒ Honey is a natural antibiotic; it speeds the healing process and combats infections.
- ⇒ Honey never spoils

by Sinéad and Ria Toolis



If you want to learn more about bees contact www.beeguild.org

Bee Display Photo Courtesy of Mason Wolf

The Supreme AMOS Sanctorium in San Antonio Texas

(August 7-10, 2025)

Much of what goes on in AMOS meetings is light hearted, and often downright silly. However, some seriousness arises as the few reports, nominations, and voting just happen to occur.



The Supreme Sanctorium of the Ancient Mystic Order of Samaritans took place at the historic Menger Hotel (haunted) which is surrounded by the Alamo ruins



and museum grounds with the fabled San Antonio Texas River-Walk and its myriads of fun places to shop, eat and cruise

the waters.

Forty Samaritans and Sheiks arrived from as far away as the Bahamas and as close as Austin Texas for this 100th anniversary of AMOS. Many took the degree of Perfection, and everyone took the lost, ancient Aztec-themed degree of (Fraternity) that John Woolsey (TX) resurrected the scripts for.

The Supreme Sanctorem's, Supreme Monarchos, Charlie Stephenson (TX) relinquished his mantle to Brett Hurliman



(OR) from Oregon where next year's Supreme Sanctorem will take place. And we all just kept throwing coins at the spittoon at the feet of the Supreme Ali Baba. The Ali Baba often had to duck, and often cursed, as coins were curled his way.

The antics of Thursday through Saturday culminated in everyone cleaning up nicely into suits and tails for the dinner installation on Saturday night.

Some wives attended and enjoyed the



socializing after the short number of hours that that the sanctorem convened. Afternoons were often open for "anything". We also learned about the fascinating lives of us members. Some had ranches where they built race cars. Another was the master mechanic who ran a university machine shop for researchers. And many more shared about their skills and crafts that makes America the awesome diverse place that it is.

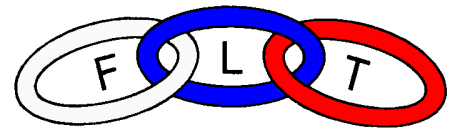
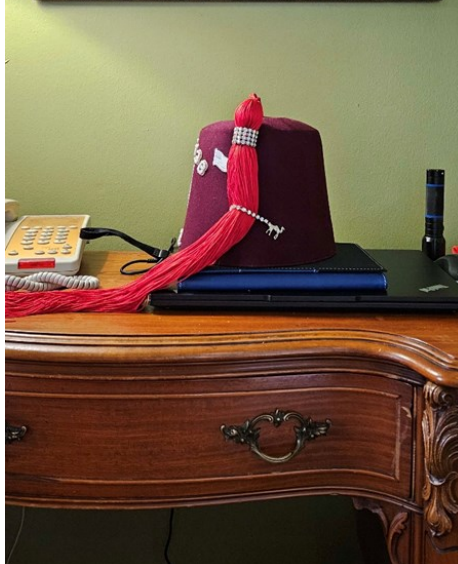
Missing were members from Canada, although we sang the Canadian national anthem anyway. We heard about the very large AMOS contingents in the Philippines. The good of the order resounded with jokes, puns and many fun short stories es-

pecially from the Baja Mar Sanctorem of the Bahamas. The Bahamian contingent also shared their Bahamian anthem-song.

For this sanctorem we even named our Owl mascot. His public name is Rex. His sanctorem name is the reverse of the Xerxes Sanctorem. We even resolved to change the voting-word "yes" to this name when we wanted to pass a motion.

Then we left. Went home. And said good bye to the 100+ heat. It felt good to cool down.

— by Tom Blackburn, Xerxes 321,
Cupertino 70



September District Events

Find all District Events at <https://www.siliconvalleyoddfellows.org/district-calendar/>

Cupertino 70

Tuesdays Aikido Classes

9/3 Na Pua Nani Hula Class

9/24 Hawaiian Potluck and Music

9/29 Initiatory Degree

Mountain View 244

9/1 Mountain View Artists Show

9/3-9/15 Hermania Rebekahs Arts & Crafts Fair

9/12 Friday Board Game Night

Saratoga 428

9/23 Saratoga Social

Bay View 109

9/19 Board Game Night

True Fellowship 52

9/10 Potluck

9/17 Grand Master Official Visit

9/24 Hamburger Fry

9/26 Game Night

