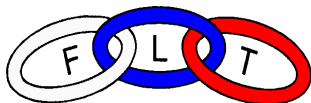


Established 1987



First Degree at Mountain View 244

On Thursday, October 30th, Mountain View 244 held a first degree ceremony for three candidates. We are proud to announce that **Joey Bennett** and **Sheryl Stanger** of Livermore 219, and **Alberto Garcia** of Mission Peak 114, have received their first degree. Interestingly enough, this time none of the candidates were from district 107, but Mountain View 244 was delighted to host them nevertheless. The first degree team was organized and led by **Debbie Wolf**.

Since this was the night preceding Halloween, costumes and props were chosen with a Halloween theme in mind. For example, many of the cast incorporated witch's attire, and a bucket of candy was used to represent spoils and stones. Beyond the basic stage setting, **Mason Wolf** utilized the projector to display various spooky settings throughout the performance. For me, this was my first first degree enactment. I could see that others who were experienced playing their roles had a mystery of their part and were able to act them out skillfully. I was very impressed with the effort that the cast put into the performance. Overall the night went smoothly, and I hope to partake in many more first degrees.

-- by *Victor Gonsalves*

Upcoming Live Degrees:

12/9: Second Degree - Saratoga 428
12/15: Initiatory - Cupertino 70

Upcoming Official Visits:

11/13: GP Wendell Watson to Barnes 77
11/18: GM Rita Cooper to Gilroy 154



Cast, crew, and candidates pictured are (top, left to right) **Lisa Harrigan, Debra LaVergne, Victor Gonsalves, Joey Bennett, Jane Beckman, Alberto Garcia, Sheryl Stanger, Mason Wolf**; (bottom) **Carol Wahrer, Aerika "Aer" van Der Water, Scott Spence, Debbie Wolf**.

Welcoming Wendell Watson

On Monday, October 27, Golden Gate Encampment #1 met for the purpose of receiving Grand Patriarch **Wendell Watson** on his official visit. PGM and PGP **Peter Sellars** prepared a pasta and chicken dinner to enjoy before the meeting in the beautiful Berkeley Odd Fellows Hall. Four members of Barnes Encampment #77 (**Katrina Hazen, Jon Hart, Bex Clark and Carol Wahrer**) joined 11 members of Golden Gate Encampment (**Bonnie Sellars, Peter Sellars, Rita Cooper, Pat Walker, Stark Degesse, Hugh McGuire, Rick Boyles, Tom Silva, Luckey Perry, Tom McDonald and Debra LaVergne**) to welcome Grand Patriarch Wendell



and Grand Marshal **Shirley Watson**. Chief Patriarch **Patricia Walker** conducted the meeting. As **Debra LaVergne** is a member of both Barnes and Golden Gate Encampments, Barnes also could have technically made quorum!

Barnes will get its own official visit on November 13th.

-- by *Debra LaVergne*

Haunted House in Mountain View

When the idea of a haunted house first came up, I was genuinely intrigued. I'd never been to one before and was curious to see what it would be like — little did I know I'd end up organizing the whole event!

The Halloween Committee soon faced a few challenges. A broken elevator made the upstairs area unusable, the downstairs space was quite small, and ongoing construction added to the difficulties. Still, we decided to move forward. If we couldn't have a Haunted House, we'd create a Haunted Tunnel instead.

On the day of the event, a few volunteers couldn't make it due to illness, which left us with a smaller team. But those of us who had been involved from the start were ready to adapt. Our goal was simple: share some Halloween spirit, offer a few fun scares and laughs, and hand out plenty of candy.

In the end, it all came together. The event was smaller than we initially envisioned, but guests enjoyed it — especially the kids, some of whom went through the tunnel multiple times.

Many thanks to Victor Gonsalves and Mason Wolf for their help at every stage, and a special thanks to John Fitzpatrick, who truly brought the event to life as the roaring monster that left a strong impression on our young visitors (some decided not to finish the tunnel — even for extra candy!)

-- By **Tatiana Kuvaldina**



Halloween Fundraiser at Cupertino 70

Long ago, the Cupertino Lodge merged with another lodge. Prior to that they celebrated October Fest and Halloween separately. Since the merger, Cupertino has celebrated a combined OctoberFest/Halloween as a members-only event.

It was decided that we should set upon a new path, holding a Halloween event as a public fundraiser for a non-profit organization. **Jordan Duval, Pam Johnson & Annie Cronin** organized the event. With valued help from the rest of the lodge members, together they transformed the lodge into a fantastic spooky, yet kid friendly, Halloween space.

This year the fundraiser is for the non-profit organization Parent Helping Parents (www.php.com); a program that strengthens families raising loved ones with disabilities through education, support, and advocacy.

Food, drinks, and a variety of treats were served to all, attracting about 90 attendees, with approximately 60 of those being young ones ranging from 2 to 16 years old. There were a variety of costumes: superheroes, fairytale beings, characters, dinosaurs and more. Crafts and games kept folks busy, with a costume contest wrapping up

the evening.

Winner: Dr. Seuss's Cat in the Hat with Cat with Thing One through Thing Six!

Many parents thanked us with much appreciation for having such fun event for their families.

We donated \$500 to PHP and overall everyone had a great time. We are hoping the tradition of the Halloween Party will be one of our annual fund raising events for organizations in need.

It is a very interesting time that all of us are experiencing. We are proud to be Odd Fellows and looking forward to connect with our local communities by doing more hands on work serving their needs.

-- by **Annie Cronin**

Editor's note - [the album from this party is incredible](#). Credit **Jordan DuVal** for the great photos!





AMOS & LOTO Moon Feast: “Duo Capita Meliora Quan Unum Sunt!”

Two heads are better than one. Or, two IOOF groups can have even more fun than one alone. Innana Zuanna #9 (LOTO) and Xanadu Sanctorum #321 (AMOS) met at **Henry Rosenthal's** unique abode to tickle his two headed calves and savor a Moon-Feast between the Lady's Of The Oracle and the Ancient Mystic Order of Samaritans.

Three days before the full moon, on November 2nd Sunday, a special Moon-Feast was held at Henry's San Francisco abode where he lives with a two headed calf museum, a full audio and video production studio, and many many artifacts both ancient and mystical. His 6-story building resonates with an atmosphere of 1,000s of pennants, (not-sports and not-school), over 20 guitars, drum sets, microphones, and everything you want for a professional recording.

While Henry lives on the upper floors, his lower two floors are dedicated to literally Everything Else!

After presents were given to the Great Ashayhi (LOTO) and the Grand Monarch (AMOS) with much pomp and some ceremony, we all convivial-ed as we should, and then left Henry with his ghosts in pursuit.

This might be the start of more “duo capita” meet-ups in the future.

-- by **Tom Blackburn**



Bay View Lodge 109 Big Band Concert

On November 1st, Bayview 109 in Redwood City hosted the Las Pulgas Big Band. The Las Pulgas Band is an 18 piece big band led by Claire Curry. Las Pulgas sounded FANTASTIC! They are a truly professional outfit. They feature two different singers. Their repertoire was very eclectic, featuring jazz and standards from the 1940's, as well as some more contemporary tunes, and even old fashioned "Charleston" style tunes. We sold nearly 100 tickets, which is a record for our lodge.

We also sold beer, wine and soda for a very reasonable price. The overwhelming response from the attendees was VERY positive, and MANY people asked me to have this band back. Before

the concert started, there was a free half hour swing dance lesson. (We thought that this was a great idea, and really encouraged some who might otherwise have been too shy to dance, to get up and cut a proverbial rug!). The great sounds of the band, the dancing, and the generally super fun atmosphere made for a very enjoyable evening. Many thanks to the Bayview members and volunteers who all contributed their efforts to make the event flow perfectly--- everything went off without a hitch.

We will for sure have the Las Pulgas band back at our lodge in 26', and we cannot recommend them highly enough as a band that sounds great, are very professional, and very easy to work with.

-- By **Steve Koehler**



Scenes from a Moon Feast, November 2nd, 2025 - pictures and arrangement by **Tom Blackburn**

Saratoga #428 Halloween Party: A Ghoulish Night to Remember

On Halloween, Saratoga Lodge 428 had a fun costume party with members and friends.

We bathed our entrance stairway in eerie red lighting and had green and orange string lights along the wall.



When you arrived at the top of the stairs you suddenly saw bats flying along the walls and ceiling of this dimly lit room.

Farther on you emerge into our party room where music was playing and people were laughing and talking amidst all manner of spooky decorations and a flashing strobe light.

We went on to BBQ burgers and hotdogs to go with all the potluck side dish items.

A good time was had by all and everyone survived all the bat bites.

-- by **Paul Milleson**

Odd Fellows To Tour Dickens' London (and there's still time to join!)

Come to Victorian London! The Great Dickens Christmas Fair awaits the Odd Fellows! Solve a case with Sherlock Holmes! Watch acts at the Music Hall, sing along with sea shanties, or take in the scandalous Can-Can dance, or perhaps take your own turn on the dance floor! Perhaps you'll meet Scrooge, or some Christmas ghosts, or even Dickens himself! It's all waiting for us as we re-play our popular successful tour of London and the world of Charles Dickens. We invite interested Odd Fellows to join us on **November 23** for a return visit, when our time machine will leave 2025 and return to the 19th century!

Do your Christmas shopping! Have some food and beverages! Enjoy the company of fellow Odd Fellows!

Sound like fun? Come join our expedition to the Great Dickens Christmas Fair, hosted at the Cow Palace in South San Francisco. Wear your Odd Fellows collar for that appropriate 19th century touch. Period garb admired but not required!

Tickets are available for \$45 at the Fair web site: dickensfair.com. Last year's outing was enjoyed by all, and we were welcomed with a special ceremony at the Athenaeum Club. Who knows what awaits us this year?

More details are available at the official Dickens Fair site:



In 2024, over 40 Odd Fellows from around the Bay Area participated in our annual outing.

<https://dickensfair.com>

Tickets **MUST** be purchased online in advance. No tickets will be sold on-site this year! Children under 5: FREE

-- by **Jane Beckman, TF52**

If you plan to attend, send an email to mason@true52.org so we can add you to the mailing list and give you information about when and where we'll be meeting up!



Another place to find Odd Fellows this month - the Festival of Trees!

The annual RCS fundraiser is a night to dress fancy and give generously. Several lodges are helping members get tickets, so you may want to check with your secretary if you're not sure whether yours is or not. Tickets can be purchased at:

givebutter.com/c/22ndfestivaloftrees





A Day in the Life: A San José Merchant in 1856

Context

1856 was a year of civic formation in the Santa Clara Valley. The Odd Fellows charter that became today's True Fellowship Lodge No. 52 dates to January 1856. Telegraph wires had already linked San José to San Francisco, and steamboats connected the city to the Bay through the port at Alviso. Nearby, the New Almaden quicksilver mines anchored local employment and regional trade.

Morning

A shopkeeper near the central plaza opens shutters onto unpaved streets. Adobe-era buildings sit beside newer wood-frame storefronts. Farmers arrive with wheat, hides, and produce. Teamsters mention consignments routed through Alviso for same-day or next-day steamers to San Francisco.

Midday

A clerk heads to the telegraph office. By 1856, messages carry market prices and shipping notices from San Francisco to San José the same day. The merchant updates a ledger, sets prices, and posts a notice for customers who read local papers while they wait.

Business ties

Orders to suppliers ride the next steamer. A runner takes a note toward New Almaden,

where mercury production feeds gold and silver operations across the West. In January 1856, the federal land commission confirmed the long-contested Castillero claim to the mine, a decision every trader follows because it affects wages, freight, and supply.

Late afternoon

Crates arrive from Alviso. Goods are tallied and shelved. Customers talk national politics from the 1856 election and violence in Kansas Territory. The tragic 1853 Jenny Lind steamboat explosion is still in local memory, a reminder of how closely San José's commerce and community are tied to the Bay.

Evening

Accounts are settled in coin or drafts on San Francisco houses. The shop is barred for the night. Neighbors discuss San Francisco's Vigilance Committee turmoil and a February 1856 Peninsula earthquake that many felt in town. The merchant walks home past the plaza.

Why this matters to Odd Fellows

Lodge No. 52's origin year places members directly inside this environment of practical mutual aid. Telegraph lines, stage routes, and Alviso steamers formed a network of help and information. Fellowship meant knowing where families worked, how shipments moved, and who needed support when



the mines slowed, a steamer failed to arrive, or prices turned.

-- by John Jensen



Upcoming Featured Events:

- November 13 - Grand Patriarch Wendell Watson visits Barnes 77 in San Jose. Potluck dinner at 6pm followed by meeting. Meeting will be open to non-members (except for the ceremonial opening)
- November 14 - 7-10pm Board game night at Mountain View 244
- November 16, 1-3pm - Philotesian Rebekah Tea Party at Cupertino 70 (cost \$10)
- November 18 - GM Rita Cooper visits Gilroy 154. Dinner at 6, meeting at 7.
- November 21-23 - Rebekah's Craft Fair and Comic Books Sale at Mountain View 244
- November 21, 6-9pm - Board game night at Bay View 109
- November 22 - [Festival of Trees](#) at Cinnabar Hills Golf Course in Morgan Hill (RCS fundraiser)
- November 23 - The Odd Fellows go to the [Dickens Fair](#)
- November 28-30 - Artists Mountain View at Mountain View 244



Some passersby check out the art show at Mountain View on October 12th



Annie Cronin and her skeleton friends at the Halloween party in Cupertino, October 25th



View from the Comickers art sale at Mountain View on October 25th



For most of the month, the Mountain View window had a Halloween theme

For the latest events info, visit:

Siliconvalleyoddfellows.org



October Picture of the Month - the scene outside as trick-or-treaters walked and danced around downtown Mountain View within view of lodge 244 on Halloween.



A tense moment during the first degree is heightened by the inclusion of a projected background. Mountain View Lodge, October 30th