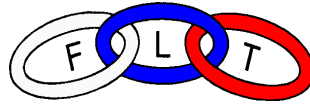


Established 1987



Second Degree at Saratoga 428

On December 9th, Saratoga 428 hosted the Degree of Brotherly Love for three candidates: **Alberto Garcia** of Mission Peak 114, **Joey Bennet** of Livermore 219, and **Victor Gonsalves** from Mountain View 244.

The degree team consisted of Odd Fellows who've performed it a number of times throughout the last year, including **Michael Bever** as Noble Grand, **Mason Wolf** as Conductor, **Jane Beckman** as Warden, **Scott Spence** as Chaplain, and **Debra LaVergne** as Past Grand. Other members included **Annie Cronin**, **Gerald Williams**, **Paul Milleson**, **Katy Dickinson**, **Randee Chin**, **Hannah Koury**, **Steve Koehler**, **Sara Bruce**, **Kat Powell**, and **Terry Neff**.

Jane Beckman had to work through the degree on an injured foot, but still did a wonderful job. In addition to being part of the degree team, Jane was also involved with the team putting on Dickens Fair, so she'd been VERY busy already.

Saratoga 428 were very supportive hosts, treating the candidates and team to pizza and drinks.

The degree team put on a good conferral, complete with a full cast (mostly off-book), full props and costumes, as well as audio and visual effects. We hope the candidates continue in their journey through Odd Fellowship, and that they enjoyed the degree experience they received.

-- by **Mason Wolf**

Upcoming Live Degrees:

1/28: Third Degree - True Fellowship 52
1/29: First Degree - Mountain View 244



Initiatory at Cupertino 70

Monday, December 15, 2025 Cupertino hosted the Initiatory Degree for five members from two outside-of-district lodges; San Pablo #43 and Livermore #219.

Our new brothers and sisters are **Annie Giannini** from Livermore and from San Pablo lodge in Vallejo, they

are **Sarah Cain**, **Jennifer Sidle**, **Steve Sidle** and **Rich Souza**. Welcome to our newest members here in Northern California. Once again Cupertino was helped to host this fabulously important degree by those attending from many other lodges. Thank you very much.

-- by **Tom Blackburn**



New Year's Eve Kani-kapila

On a cold and rainy December 31, 2026 all the lights in the Cupertino Odd Fellows Lodge #70 were brightly lite. Two 8 foot tables of delicious food were set for our annual New Year's Eve Kani Ka Pila feast and sing a long. Our past Noble Grand **Ron Myres** lead a prayer of thanks giving for all the blessings, fellowship, and joyous times of the past year before we got to dig into the many varied dishes that everyone brought to share. The lodge provided spiral ham and meat and vegetarian lasagnas to boot. The dessert table was loaded with tons of goodies to give anyone a real sugar high. As soon as dinner was over we all settled into singing, dancing and playing Hawaiian songs as well as a few New Year's Eve songs until 8:45PM. It has been our tradition to ring in the New Year when the giant crystal ball drops in New York's Time Square. At exactly 9:00PM (Cupertino) / Midnight (New York) we all watched the ball drop on our big screen and cheered, toasted, etc, along with the people in New York's Time Square. After all was said and done some folks headed home, but some folks moved on to their after parties to continue celebrating the New Year. Wishing Everyone a Happy New Year !!!

-- by **Randee Chin**

New Year's Eve Party at Saratoga Lodge 428

A lot of prep went into our New Year's Eve party this year, but we were able to keep the costs low by getting all of our table supplies and decoration from the Dollar Tree and Walgreens (who have pre-filled helium balloons for New Years, and small boxes of party favors which include: horns, tiara's and wearable garlands for up to 10 people).

Saratoga Meat & Fish (our member **Tony's** biz) helped us out with Shrimp, Crab and raw Oysters, and other members brought salads, cheese platters, discounted Christmas candy, cakes, lemon bars, cookies, pies, and brownies. Costco was used

for:



In our Entertainment Room, we had the big TV on showing what was going on in New York, but we kept the sound off and had 70's Road-Trip music playing overhead at a low volume.

In our big room, we had Karaoke provided by a well-known Bay-Area karaoke DJ named Robbie. This was really enjoyable for many of us, because the lodge invited everyone we knew that liked singing and harmonizing karaoke. There were 8 wireless mics and every singer got the support of having all the original background vocals sung behind them, and if they wanted, they got matching harmonies enhancing their lead vocals. The singing went on merrily way past 2am.

-- by **Paul Milleson**





Mountain View 244's December Window Display

Mountain View Lodge #244 is very fortunate to be located on Castro Street in downtown Mountain View. Sitting on the corner between Castro Street and Villa Street we can put on interesting window displays facing the busy Castro Street pedestrian-only section.

Our smaller window is dedicated to Odd Fellows and Rebekahs.

Our larger window has a changing monthly display. Displays are designed to be attractive, informative, entertaining, non-sectarian, multicultural and hopefully make passing foot traffic stop and pay attention. Judging by the small fingerprints on the window, we believe our displays are a success, even for younger audiences!

The theme for December was **Happy Holidays; However You Celebrate**.

In the month of December, we have Saint Lucia Day, Las Posadas, Winter Solstice, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and New Year's Eve. Our window display included all these important cultural events and was lit up with a bright snow family which drew passersby to the windows.

This year our window display included a Crèche, Kirsten - an American

Doll dressed in her Saint Lucia outfit, a Menorah, a Kwanzaa Candle holder and candles, plus small posters for each celebration.

As usual, I am very grateful to Lawrence Byrd with his help with setup and a special thanks to **Sinéad Toolis** for the loan of her Kirsten Doll. Wishing you all good health, happiness, purpose and joy in 2026.

In F, L and T. Ria Toolis. 244.

For more information on the December Celebrations please check out:

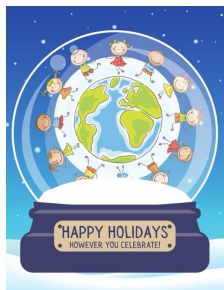
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Lucia%27s_Day

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanukkah>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nativity_of_Jesus

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kwanzaa>

-- by **Ria Toolis**



Grand Lodge Bagel Breakfast (and cookie sale)

At their November meeting, Barnes Encampment #77 faced the daunting challenge of a broken oven/stove and divided volunteers. The stove might be fixed in time for the December 6th Pancake breakfast, usually scheduled to take place in the hour before the Grand Lodge board meeting but later that evening, True Fellowship Odd Fellows Lodge would need all the volunteers it could get to throw a birthday (150!) party / Roll Call dinner.

Since I prefer mornings to evenings and bagels to any other food, I took a chance on offering to invite ourselves over to Grand Lodge offices and volunteering to show up with a bagel breakfast spread. Many thanks to the Laskitoff sisters who ran with the idea and provided the smoked salmon and organized a cookie bake sale.

Our Patriarchs were delighted to see so many Rebekahs sisters join us the morning of. Going forward, the cookie sales will continue and primarily be sponsored by local Rebekahs, fundraising for their fraternities and special projects.

-- by **Debbie Wolf**



Upcoming Featured Events:

- Jan 15 Luncheon Installation Stella 22 @11:30^{AM} @SRC
- Jan 16 Game Night 7:00^{PM} @Bay View #109
- Jan 18 Xanadu #321 Installation @Mountain View #244
- Jan 19 7^{PM} Dinner Installation @Cupertino #70 (w/ Clara #34, True Fellowship #52, Cupertino #70, Philotesian #145, Saratoga #428)
- Jan 26 Hermenia #49 Installation @Mountain View #244
- Jan 28 Kanikapila Music Jam @Cupertino #70
- Jan 28 Third Degree @True Fellowship #52
- Jan 29 First Degree @Mountain View #244
- Jan 31 Gilroy 154, Mound 166 Joint Installation @Mound #166
- Feb. 4 - Installation 7:00^{PM} @Bay View #109
- Feb 5 - Installation 7:00^{PM} @Mountain View #244
- Feb 6 - Game Night 6:00^{PM} @True Fellowship #52
- Feb 7 - (SAT) Barnes 77 Pancake Breakfast 8-10^{AM} @True Fellowship #52

For the latest events info, visit:

Siliconvalleyoddfellows.org

**Odd Fellows Have a Ball**

Nine local Odd Fellows attended the Gaskells Ball at the gorgeous Oakland Scottish Rite Temple on Saturday, December 27th 2025. Two members of True Fellowship Lodge no. 52, **Sis. Ammy & Bro. Erik Woodbury**, are key coordinators for the 500-person event - and their Lodge supported them by designating this as an official outing for the Lodge.

True Fellowship Lodge no. 52 has become quite the gathering space for the dance community, and will be hosting on Saturday, February 21st the Jane Austen Dance at the True Fellowship Lodge Hall in coordination with the Bay Area English Regency Dance Society (tickets available now on

True52.org). Then in March the lodge will host an Irish Céilí dance on Saint Patrick's Day, with Sis. Ammy & Bro. Erik Woodbury coordinating - details to be made available soon.

-- by *Andrew Crockett*

Clara is Sending Love: One Gram at a Time

On Saturday, February 14th, Clara Rebekah Lodge #34 will have chocolate covered strawberries, marshmallows, and candied apples available for delivery (\$15) or pickup (\$10) for your Valentine.

Each order comes in a pack of three with a handwritten note from the lodge members, so you know they're made with love!

Place your orders no later than Thursday, February 12th by contacting:

Jeanette Wright

Call/Text: (503) 480-6488

jeanettewright91@gmail.com



January Picture of the Month - Saratoga 428 keeps on rocking LATE for New Year's Eve! This picture might have been taken in 2025 or 2026, and it's unlikely that any of the people in it would be able to say which.