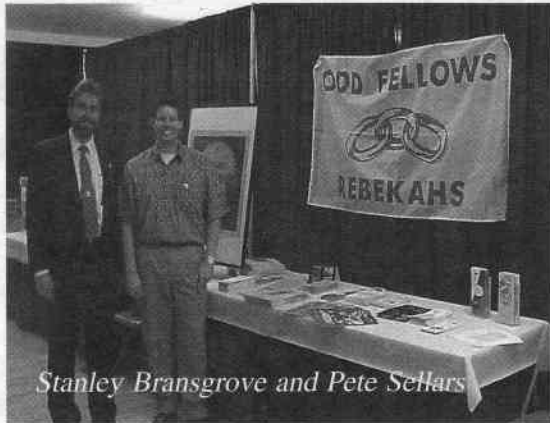


# FRATERNAL EXPO

## A SUCCESS!

By: Pete Sellars

Recently, I had the pleasure of speaking at the Fraternal Exposition, held in Mill Valley, which showcased many fraternal organizations, including the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. This event stood out as one of the more effective promotional events, leaving its participants enthused beyond expectations.



Stanley Bransgrove and Pete Sellars

In fact, our own Brother, Stanley Bransgrove of Marin Lodge No. 200, who is also an active member of the Mill Valley Masonic Lodge No. 356, inspired and headed this special event held September 13, 2003. He was the impetus behind coordinating this entire event together from start to finish. Brother Stanley actually began working on the project over two years ago!

Many fraternal groups participated: Masons, Odd Fellows (#200), Red Men, Knights of Pythias, Druids, Loyal Orange Institution, Native Sons of the Golden West, Acacia Fraternity, and others. Symposium speakers included, Kirk MacNulty ; Pete Sellars (a CA GL Director) Odd Fellows, William Armstrong (National President of the Improved Order of Red Men), and Tony Fels (Assoc. Prof. of History, University of San Francisco). Others representing the Knights of Pythias spoke as well. Each speaker shared philosophical ideals, brought different flavors, and presented many methods to growing and becoming more of a presence in each respective community.



Photo: Donald Lang (PGM), Pete Sellars (GLBD), Lola Gianelli (NG #213), Mary Lou Lang, and other members of Rebekahs and Odd Fellows from Marin Lodge No. 200.

The Grand Secretary Gerald Poarch, and Past Grand Master Donald Lang with his wife Mary Lou, were notable figureheads from the Odd Fellows present at the event. Brother Stan, thank you for a job well done!

## For the Children!

YUBA CITY - Minnehaha Rebekah Lodge #133 of Yuba City helped the children staying at Casa de Esperanza. The children and their mothers are at the home to escape abusive situations. The home helps these women with counseling and helps them to start a new life.

The Rebekahs try to help the organization with gifts at least two times per year. This past year, they brought gifts for the children for their Mothers at Mother's Day and brought gifts again at Christmas.

## Seeing Things Clearly



CHOWCHILLA - The Chowchilla library was thrilled to receive a gift of one vision impaired magnifying sight lamp from Chowchilla Rebekah Lodge #327. "These lamps make such a difference in the lives of a vision impaired person" stated the Chowchilla Librarian who received the gift. Pictured above are Bob Acree, NG and Mary Prince PG who were there for the gift presentation.

## Renee Recker Honored



RAMONA - Twenty-three guests enjoyed the barbecue appreciation party honoring Renee Recker, DDP #86 and Ramona Rebekah Lodge #156. Agnes Scottie Reed, DDM #86 presented Renee to the guests. Cuba Pilant, PRAM, PDDP #86 pinned her own PDDP Jewel on Renee. It was a

wonderful afternoon, and at the end, Renee took a few moments to thank everyone for all of their wonderful support this past year!