

# *Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly*

## *To Be Held May 12 - 15, 2004*

### *“Let’s Do More In 2004”*

**MODESTO** – This year marks the 152<sup>nd</sup> Grand Lodge and 114<sup>th</sup> Rebekah Assembly session which will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> in Modesto. The Convention Committee has been hard at work all year ensuring that this year’s Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly will be the best yet!

Grand Lodge & Rebekah Assembly will be held at the same location as last year. Modesto Convention Center, adjacent to the Double Tree Hotel. The Opening Night Dinner will be held on Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup>. Sessions will start on Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Registration will be \$30 if received by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Late registration fee will be \$35.00. Remember that the Opening Night Dinner is included in the price of your registration. Information and full details regarding registration and housing was mailed to you this past February. Please make copies of the registration forms for your attendees.

The Double Tree Hotel will again be the convention headquarters. Room rates are \$84.00 plus taxes per room, up to 4 persons per room. Reservations can be made ahead by calling the hotel directly at (209)526-6000. Remember to ask for the special rate. Tours are being planed for your enjoyment on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Good Fellowship/Youth Night will be on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Closing and Installations of the 2004-2005 Officers will be held on Saturday night, May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Convention Committee is looking forward to seeing you all there!

## *\$4,500 Raised At Benefit For Troy Bahten!*

**SONORA** – In the spirit of true fellowship, Sonora Odd Fellows Lodge #10 and Sierra Rebekah Lodge #245 hosted a benefit spaghetti dinner to help raise money for one of their members, Troy Bahten. Over 185 people attended the benefit. Troy and his family were overcome with the support and generosity received by all.

Facing his 29<sup>th</sup> surgery in the last 15 years, Troy recently underwent brain and facial surgery for a rare condition called neurofibrotosis. He spent 14 days at the University of California San Francisco Hospital and is now home recovering. The money raised by the benefit will help to cover Troy’s special needs.

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repeated. No Grand Master has the quick fix answer, all we can do is try to instill in each member the need to introduce Odd Fellowship to each and every person we meet. You don’t have to ask them to join right away, but let them know what we believe in. Remember only we can build up our order and only we can allow it to die. We have to keep alive what our forefathers left to us and we must pass it on to others.

I want to thank all the people that have helped me these past twelve months. To all the committee members, thank you for taking the jobs I asked you to. To the Grand Lodge Board of Directors, thank you for allowing me into your life and allowing me to express myself to each of you. I know I could not have made each and everyone happy. I had to do things this past year that I didn’t like, but again, what is good for the order comes into play. I want to thank my Lodges, Whittier Lodge No. 315, Arbutus Rebekah Lodge No. 204, and America Lodge No. 385 for their support and always believing that there is hope for us. I want to thank each wife of my Grand Lodge Appointed officers for allowing me to take a lot of their husband’s time away from them, and your support at each event this past year. You are the greatest! To my Officers each in your own way did your very best, I thank each of you for your support.

I could go on and on thanking people, but the people I have to thank the most are God and my family for putting up with me, traveling away from home and sitting in front of my computer typing half the night away when I was home. Being Grand Master is not an easy job and I wouldn’t wish it on anyone, but it is also the best job in the world if you believe in what you are doing, and believe it will help in any small way to keep our Order together.

To Nathaniel Hoagland and Lorraine North, I wish you all good things for your year as Grand Master and Rebekah Assembly President. May the good Lord look down upon you and help you keep our Order alive and thriving.

*Theodore G. Parker Sr. Grand Master*