

The California

Odd Fellow and Rebekah Publication

Volume 66, #2
April, May, June 2016



Taking Reno By Storm!

RENO - This year's Annual Membership Education Seminar took place in Reno, Nevada. Over one hundred and fifty members from the jurisdiction of California and Nevada came to the seminar to enjoy a weekend of lectures and social gathering.

Most of the attendees came over the Donner Pass, braving the winter weather to get to the location of the seminar, the wonderful El Dorado Hotel and Casino. Parking was easy and free and the rooms were booked and ready as each arrived. After checking in, each was given name tags, identifying them as Odd Fellows.

Two groups arrived by bus. This simplified matters for the organizers. The January 15, 16, & 17, 2016, dates proved to be in the dead of a real winter, unlike the dry winters of the past few years.

This year's lessons were presented by a host of guest speakers. Grand Master, Dave Rosenberg gave a superb lecture on parliamentary procedures. Sister Rita Cooper, a director at Grand Lodge spoke on leadership. Jr. Past Grand Master, Rick Boyles educated the audience on organizational charts, while longtime instructor, Ronald Carrey taught the Books of Authority. Sister Nancy Johnson spoke on history. The Grand Secretary, Ray Link and Grand Treasurer, Jay Johnson discussed the requirements for maintaining and submitting paperwork to Grand Lodge. John Morgan, Chairman of the Grand Lodge Board, informed the members of trustee and director responsibilities. The U.N Chairman, Glenn Lindsey and Rebekah Children's Services Board member Phyliss Fullmer were given a few minutes each to speak on their projects.

In addition to the above speakers, Deputy Grand Master, Peter Sellars responded to written questions throughout the seminar and spoke about membership, and was joined by the Grand Warden, Dave Reed on subjects of lodge appearance, leases, legislation, the process of proposing change, and the importance of attending the Grand Lodge session in May. The Grand Master also spoke on some of these matters.

As is a tradition at the annual seminar, brother and Past Grand Soloist, Dennis Carrey was the singer for the event. He was spectacular and appreciated by the membership. Grand Instructor, Neil Allen and the Department of Patriarch's Militant, Quartermaster, Bonnie Sellars set up the meeting space the day prior to the seminar.

Continued on page 15

Food Abounds



CUPERTINO - Cupertino #70 presented the West Valley Community Services with a \$500 donation and about 5 boxes of canned and boxed food products which were collected from monthly meetings and events.

Wally Patapoff, NG and Don Lang made the presentation to the West Valley administrator who told them that during their lifetimes, both her father and grandfather were members of True Fellowship Lodge. This is a long standing project for Cupertino Lodge and how nice that those circles of help continue to ripple through the community, one organization helping the other!

ect for Cupertino Lodge and how nice that those circles of help continue to ripple through the community, one organization helping the other!

Chocolate Gifts!

OROVILLE - Orange Grove Rebekah Lodge #84 got together and held a cookie party this past December. The group, along with family and friends, gathered together to place chocolate chip cookie dry ingredients into quart canning jars with instruction tags tied to the lids that said "add butter, eggs and vanilla" to make cookie dough.

Over 150 jars were filled and delivered to the Oroville Salvation Army to be added to the Christmas food baskets handed out to the needy in the area.

Photo by Ron Olson



HOLIDAY ON THE HILL



VAN NUYS - Members of the Van Nuys Odd Fellows #442 held a holiday celebration on December 6, 2015.

Members from the lodge and their guests attended "Holiday on the Hill" at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, in Simi Valley, CA. The museum was closed to the public and they were able to tour the museum before enjoying dinner under the wings of Air Force One.

The evening was filled with holiday music featuring local orchestras and choirs and a visit from Santa Claus. It was a very special evening for all the Lodge members.

Caring For Others

SAN DIEGO - Friday, December 18th, members of Sunset Lodge #328 came together at Propaganda Tattoo (Sunset Member Marc Bennett's business) to feed the local homeless. There they assembled 500 care bags with sandwiches, water, snacks, gloves, winter hats, scarves and hand written holiday notes from the kids.

In living the true tenements of the Order, the group then proceeded to Downtown San Diego and handed out the bags

to folks living on the streets. The response was amazing and the people were so very grateful for the items and snacks. The members could feel the thankfulness and it was a moving experience to be able to give something so small - yet considered "gold" to those that received the care packages.



Surfin' Time

OXNARD - This past Christmas season Oxnard Odd Fellows #89 took part in both the Oxnard and Camarillo Christmas parades. The group gathered to participate and cheer on their respective floats and won 1st place for Service Groups in the Oxnard All Star Christmas Parade for their flying rocket ship float that spread good cheer throughout the town!



In the second parade the theme was quickly changed to sand, sea and surf! The float this year represented a giant wave with Fiddlesticks their very special surfing elf! Lodge member Carl B. Soto had daughters Destini and Dominique and Tami Garcia riding surfboards mounted on both sides. The year's special float was designed by Carl Soto of Soto Designs and the group enjoyed sending out Friendship, Love and Truth through the streets of Oxnard and Camarillo!



A Caroling We Went

DAVIS - On a fine day in December over thirty Davis Odd Fellows (under the direction of Grand Warden Dave Reed) visited a local retirement community to go caroling. The group of Seniors thoroughly enjoyed the visit and loved being able to sing Holiday songs with the group!

This continues a yearly tradition by the Davis Lodge members to visit local nursing homes, convalescent facilities and retirement communities and fill their lives with song and music - taking to heart the admonitions to "visit the sick, relieve the distressed."



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Join Us...2016 CAVE DEGREE

The 70th Annual Second Degree Cave Ceremonial in the Yreka Cave will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2016. The moon should be rising about 6:15 PM, so it will already be over Mt. Shasta when we arrive at the Cave.

To prepare additional candidates for the Second Degree at the Cave, there will again be a special afternoon meeting of Yreka Lodge No. 19, at which the Initiatory and First Degrees will be conferred on any candidates available and qualified to receive them. These degrees will begin at 1:00 PM in the Yreka IOOF Hall and conclude in time for the catered evening dinner, prior to the 7:00 PM departure of the bus to the Cave. We will also be conferring the Third Degree on Sunday morning, after breakfast is served in the Lodge Hall by the regular and Cave Associate members of Yreka Lodge No. 19 and members of the Cave Degree Committee of Grand Lodge. Breakfast is paid for by a free-will offering.

A buffet dinner will be served at 5:00 PM Saturday evening, ending in time for the 7:00 PM departure of the bus to the Cave. The cost of the dinner is \$18 per person.

Reservations, with checks payable to Yreka Lodge #19, must be mailed to the Yreka Lodge, No. 19, PO Box 445, Yreka, CA 96097 by July 1, 2016. Reservations are REQUIRED. No Reservation, NO DINNER! Telephone contacts are Past Noble Grand Frances Morton at (530) 459-3433 and Secretary Alfred Brandon at (530) 468-2477. The email contact is brandonap@sisqtel.net.

All Lodges in California, Oregon or elsewhere are invited to bring qualified candidates. A letter under the seal of the Lodge, giving the names of the candidates and the degrees for which they are qualified, should be sent to the Yreka Lodge, No. 19, P.O. Box 445, Yreka, CA 96097, or hand-delivered by a member of the Lodge before the Degrees are scheduled to be conferred.

Incoming Grand Master Peter Sellars has arranged for Degree teams from San Pablo Lodge #43 in Vallejo to confer the Degrees. A few other attendees may be needed to fill in for some of the minor roles, so those interested should be prepared to assist.

For Motel reservations, call Miner's Inn (Best Western) at 1-800-444-1320, Baymont Inn at 1-530-841-1300, Holiday Inn Express at 1-877-684-9381 or 1-530-842-1600, Super 8 at 1-530-842-5781, or Motel 6 at 1-800-466-8356 or 1-530-842-4111.

The date for the 71st Annual Second Degree Cave Ceremonial will be August 5, 2017. Moonrise then will be about 7:30 PM, so we will get to watch the moon rising near Mt. Shasta just about when we arrive at the Cave. Keep this date on your calendars!

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"Promoting Odd Fellowship through Positive Communication"

The California Odd Fellow & Rebekah is the official publication of the Grand Lodge of California, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and all units of the order in California. It is published by the authority of the Grand Lodge of California, I.O.O.F. The California Odd Fellow & Rebekah is published quarterly during the months of January, April, July and October at Burlingame, CA 94010.

Postage Paid at San Jose, California. News and advertising deadline is two months prior to the month of publication. Advertising rates are available for order related activities.

Proofing Editors for this edition of the COF&R: Sandra Albers, John Fraher, Martin Lyon and Grand Lodge Officers. Pictures are desired of all fraternal activities about Odd Fellow and Rebekah Lodges and other units of the Order. In most cases, it is not possible to return pictures. We cannot reproduce pictures from a newspaper clipping or from faxes.

Subscription Rates. Single Subscriptions are \$8.00 per year, and Club Rates are \$7.50 per year when ten (10) are ordered at the same time. Long term subscription rates are \$7.50 per year, same as club rate. Subscriptions to Canada and Mexico are \$12.00, and rates to Europe, Australia and New Zealand are \$20.00 per year.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS TO: Grand Lodge, 14414 Oak Street, Suite B, Saratoga, CA 95070. Single Copies and sample copies of the California Odd Fellow & Rebekah are \$2.00 each. Ten or more copies of back issues are available at \$1.00 each.

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Email: gs@caioof.org / www.caioof.org

Davis Installs Officers



DAVIS - Presiding at the Installation of Officers for DAVIS #169 were Grand Master Dave Rosenberg and Grand Warden Dave Reed (both members of the Davis Lodge). There were 80 members and guests who attended the installation. Installed that night were: Noble Grand Jean-Paul Montreuil, Vice Grand Stewart Savage, Secretary Jim Smith, Treasurer Janis Rosenberg and Financial Secretary Duff Devine

Outgoing Noble Grand Lea Rosenberg was proud to present awards to over two dozen Lodge members for their deserving actions to the Order.

Vem in vivit, cerion tem, nos horum note

Morse Lodge Installs New Officers

SAN FRANCISCO - On Wednesday, January, 6th, Morse Lodge #257 installed their incoming officers for 2016. A nice Chinese meal was had by all prior to the installation. The degree team headed by Carol Dion consisted of Patricia Servetti, Maria Tagaro, & Walter Ancheta. Forty two people consisting of Odd Fellow members and guests welcomed the new officers and appointed positions. Congratulations to the new officers of Morse Lodge #257.

L - R...Front row...Cathy Stevenson, Conduc-Bearer,...Paul Tan, VG,...Larry Boysen, Chap-Supporter VG, Nancy Wong, Right Support-
protem Secretary, Tom Bernard, Financial Smith, NG, Susan Bernard, Left Supporter.

California #1 Holds Installation



SAN FRANCISCO - This past January, California Lodge #1 held its 167th Installation Dinner and Dance. Over 180 members and their guests joined the Lodge at the Basque Cultural Center in So San Francisco for the formal installation of the 2016 Officers.

Installation was performed by former DDGM's, District #1 Dennis Milton, Tom Manini and John Fraher. George Guerra, NG welcomed the group and Jenny Dadoun, VG told the crowd that it would be a great year for the Order and that we could look forward to having an active Lodge and encouraged all to attend the fun socials and charity work in the upcoming year!



tor...Tina Phanivong, PNG, Second row....Clark Smith, Color
lain,...Nancy Schlesinger, Warden, Third row...Rita Cooper, Left
er to VG, Brian Schlesinger, Treasurer, Third row, Cathy Reed
Secretary, Last row, Joe Stark, Right Supporter to NG, Diana

Great Minds Think Alike!

SILICON VALLEY - In Odd Fellowship, it is often about how can we work smarter not harder and work together more effectively for a great end result! Recently, Michael Greenzeiger had the pleasure of sitting down with Brothers Neal Casteel, Mikey Chacon, Daniel Hoffman, and Adam Potolsky for an informal meeting of the Silicon Valley Odd Fellows Cooperation.

On the agenda was how we work can continue together more effectively as Silicon Valley Odd Fellows rather than merely as separate lodges and individuals. Among the five of us we had four of our lodges represented. We've done pretty well with working together on the degree work lately, but there's definitely more that can be done. For one thing, it would be great to get more of us coming to each other's installations, meetings and social events as it's more fun when we have a bigger turnout. To that end, we've been coordinating our events and they will appear on a Silicon Valley Odd Fellows Google calendar as well as in the excellent District book assembled by Mary Lou Lang. The online calendar allows us to continuously update everyone as new events are planned and as changes are made in existing plans.

Brother Neal Casteel also had the excellent idea of having periodic Silicon Valley leadership meetings wherein the Noble Grand's, Vice Grand's, and any interested Past Grand's of the region could gather together to discuss lodge cooperation. The meetings could be rotated to a different lodge each month. It might also be nice to have some additional purely social Silicon Valley events which would be open to all Odd Fellows and Rebekahs in the area. These ideas are still developing, so please be sure to let one of us know if you'd like to participate or have some more thoughts to contribute.

By: Michael Greenzeiger

Swinging "Fore" The Cause



Noble Grand Ted Poliskey (right) and Mark Printice (left) take a practice swing! Members pose for a photo between holes!

VENTURA - Ventura Lodge #201 members gathered together to work hard in putting together the first Charity Golf Tournament to benefit the Ventura County Medical Center and the Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases.

It is a big task to put on a Golf Tournament, and have it be successful. We owe a great thanks to Blake and Monica and the large group of members for all their hard work including the planning, participation, and dedication to support this cause.

Due to the overwhelming support of all, over \$3,000 was raised for the Center. - Reggie Fleeman, DDGM #47

Visiting The City

SAN FRANCISCO - Sigma Tau Theta Rho #92 made its annual Christmas shopping trip to San Francisco this past December. The group of six, along with adult chaperones, boarded Cal Train and then onto Bart!

In the city they visited the San Francisco Odd Fellows Temple where members of California Rebekah Lodge #1 hosted them for a wonderful Chinese food luncheon. After lunch California Rebekah Lodge #1 presented the team with a check for \$120, representing coin drills earmarked for the Theta Rho.



After a visit to the Odd Fellows museum the group walked through Union Square and into Chinatown for their grand shopping adventure. This is truly a group of shoppers, and true to form - they ran out of money on the first block - but what a fun and wonderful day they had! Special thanks to California Rebekah Lodge #1 for it's support!

Did You Know We Have a Benefit Fund?

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Did you know that our Order in California has a special benefit fund that is available to give short term financial help to members in need?

Well, we do. It's called "Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Beneficial Fund" and it was created by the Grand Lodge Board of Directors to provide assistance to Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. Overall, the fund has provided reimbursements for a variety of short term needs including hearing aids, cancer treatments, dental work, eye glasses, moving expenses, several types of medical treatments, funeral expenses, a wheel chair battery, and even assistance with mortgage and rent payments. The monetary benefits are limited in amount and time, but they do really help members in need who have no other resources.

Neil Allen, the Chair of the Benefit Committee (who also serves as one of my Grand Lodge Officers in the capacity of Grand Instructor) recently wrote: "On several occasions, I have talked with applicants to clarify their situation and they have often expressed with great emotion their circumstances. When I tell them we really want to help them, they are extremely grateful. On other occasions, I am greeted at various Odd Fellows meetings with a big hug from members we have helped. This once again, reminds me that this fund and many others are of great value to our members."

This beneficial fund harkens back to the old days of Odd Fellowship when our fraternity was truly a "beneficial society" (or as the British call it, "a friendly society"). Odd Fellowship in the 1800's provided a wide range of benefits to its members which have largely been replaced by insurance policies and government programs today. But the Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Beneficial Fund is a modern version of the support Odd Fellowship once provided to its members. And it is of vital importance for those members who need it.

Odd Fellows and Rebekahs in need, in good standing, can apply for monetary help by using a simple one-page form. The Benefit Committee will, discretely and confidentially, evaluate the application and make a decision whether or not to provide a grant to help the member. You can obtain the form and more information on the criteria that apply by e-mailing Neil Allen at neilallen@live.com or by writing to the Benefit Committee at the following address: Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Beneficial Fund, 24320 Grand View Avenue Colfax, CA 95713

In F - L - T

Dave Rosenberg
Grand Master

Bingo Anyone!



DAVIS - This past January over 110 local residents attended, and Bingo that day provided over \$1,200 to Team Davis which is an organization for the support of developmentally disabled young adults.

The Davis Odd Fellows Lodge #169 has been running Bingo at the Lodge Hall for over seven years, providing all proceeds to different community and charitable groups every month. It is estimated that over \$50,000 has been provided to beneficiaries of Odd Fellows Bingo.

The idea for Odd Fellows Bingo originated with then Noble Grand (now Grand Master) Dave Rosenberg, who obtained the approval of the Lodge and the City Council. Current Co-Chairs of the Davis Odd Fellows Bingo Committee are Jean-Paul Montreuil and Jeff Oblinger. Jean-Paul also serves the Lodge as Noble Grand and Jeff serves the Lodge as Assistant Operations Manager.

Marching For Those That Served

SAN JOSE - The Odd Fellows were again in the San Jose Veteran's Day Parade. Pictured in the front row is Major General Will Schuyler, Chief of Staff; Col. Don Lang, Equit. Officer; Major Tom Kocal; Lady Pat Anason. Riding in the car was the Grand master. The last vehicle in the parade was driven by Lt. Col Laurie Prescott - Deputy Department Commander.



Visiting Lodges



REDWOOD CITY - Roberta Prosk, VP for the Rebekah Assembly, made an official visit to Olive Branch Rebekah Lodge #48 in Redwood City. The group enjoyed Roberta's visit and was happy to have her visit their lodge and wish her well!

Grand Master Visits San Pablo

SAN PABLO - San Pablo Lodge #43 in Vallejo, Ca was honored on December 7, 2015 by a visit from the Grand Master, David Rosenberg, the Deputy Grand Master, Peter Sellars and several other guests. Noble Grand, Edward Cull asked the members to pose for a photo with visiting dignitaries.



California Lodge #1 Initiatory

SAN FRANCISCO - This past December, California Lodge #1 was thrilled to install three new members to our Lodge. We welcomed John Nyquist, Shannon Vu and William Cummings as our newest members. The group posed with Tami Manini, NG and Ron Carey, PNG. California Lodge #1 worked hard this year to bring in new members, and is proud to say that their effort paid off, with 28 new members joining the Order in 2015!



Davis Initiatory

DAVIS - The newest members of Davis Lodge #169 at their initiation November 18, 2015, with Noble Grand Lea Rosenberg. Eight new members were initiated to the Davis Lodge on November 18. They are pictured with Noble Grand Lea Rosenberg.



Back row, left to right, John Knotts and Ed Lewis. Middle row, left to right, Timothy Wilkinson, Alexis Roberts, Kevin Sitz. Front row, left to right, Priya Sah, NG Lea Rosenberg, Elizabeth Lasensky, Di-
anne Knotts.

Grand Master Visits Oakdale

OAKDALE - January 7, 2016, Grand Master Dave Rosenberg and Grand Guardian Lea Rosenberg enjoyed their visit and welcomed the hospitality afforded to them from Oakdale Lodge.

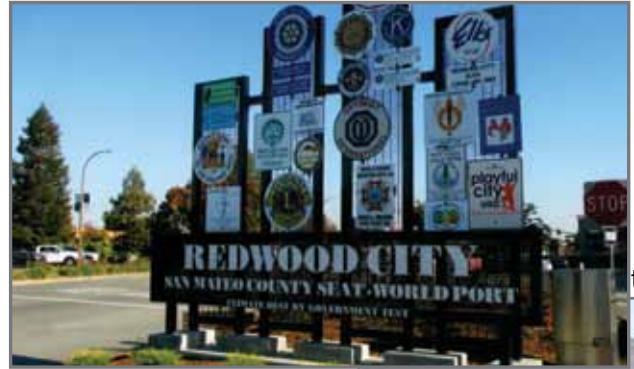


Lighting The World

REDWOOD CITY - Bayview Lodge #109 of Redwood City has gotten the word out that they are out and about in their community!

They have recently installed a new sign on the back entrance of the building. They worked with the City of Redwood City who redid the entrance to city signs and they also restored the electrical sign at the main entrance. This is great exposure for our Order and shows that we are an active part of our community! If you are looking to do a new project at your lodge, you might want to consider the Financial Grand program that can provide money to qualified lodges to enable them to pay for improvements (e.g. plumbing, electrical, painting, signage, roof repair and replacement, door and window repair and replacement, etc) to the Lodge Hall and adjacent Lodge rental property. The program is funded from the sale of defunct Lodges and starting 2016 a percentage of the net sales of said proceeds will be placed in an account to be used for these improvements projects.

Not every Lodge in California will be qualified to receive such grants, as the grant program is targeted to benefit Lodges or Hall Associations which might not otherwise have the funds or assets to pay for improvements. If interested in applying for this grant, please contact the Grand Lodge for an application and information.



Tomb of Unknowns

ARLINGTON, VA - The 2016 Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns is set for Sunday, the 8th day of May, with the Amphitheater ceremony beginning at 3:00 p.m. and the wreath laying ceremonies are set for 4:00 p.m.

The pilgrimage banquet will be Saturday evening the, 7th of May, at the Hilton Mark Center, Alexandria, Virginia. Complete schedule may be obtained from Grand Lodge. As in the past, jurisdictions may purchase one (1) wreath per jurisdiction for presentation by up to four (4) persons.



Hope to see you at this year's **Grand Lodge Sessions** which will open on May 11, 2016 in Modesto. Full registration information can be obtained from your Lodge Secretary.

Visual Research

Dear Members,

The word "Shriners" has become synonymous with "Children's Burn Hospitals" - a major feat of good works in the community and good marketing by the Shriners. Odd Fellows also do good works in the community, but our works are painted over so many different and diverse canvasses that no single good work has become identified with Odd Fellows. In the "old days" Odd Fellows were distinguished for running hospitals, nursing homes, retirement communities, orphanages, and cemeteries. Today, there are no hospitals and nursing homes, no orphanages, and very few retirement communities and cemeteries. We give a fair amount of money to an Educational Foundation, the SOS Village in Cambodia, a pilgrimage to the United Nations for youth, and research into arthritis, among other things. But again, no high level of public recognition or attention to our collective good works.

Interestingly, there is a pretty important piece of work that Odd Fellows engage in that has helped, currently helps, and will provide future help to many people in this country and around the world. It is a project that has the potential of becoming synonymous with IOOF in as significant a way as the Shriners enjoy with hospitals for children. We have been doing it for over half a century. And yet, it is a project that the public does not identify with our Order, and in fact, most Odd Fellow are only vaguely aware of it. What is it? It's none other than our work, as an Order, in visual research. So, I write this newsletter to help inform the members of our Order of this important work.

Here is a quick overview in what our Order does to foster visual research.

The Sovereign Grand Lodge launched a project in 1956 to establish the World Eye Bank and Visual Research Foundation. Funds were collected and used to establish a Chair of Ophthalmology at the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Silverstein was the first professor to fill that chair. The initial fund setting up the chair was \$625,000. Since that time, only interest has been drawn from this fund; the University has provided any needed monies to cover other expenses. By 2010, some \$2.5 million had been raised to support the fund. In 1989, Dr. Silverstein retired, and was replaced by Dr. Green. In 2006, Dr. Jampel replaced Dr. Green, who also retired. Dr. Jampel is widely recognized for his work in glaucoma.

In 1961, the Jurisdiction of California joined the effort and the California Eye Bank and Visual Research Foundation was created. Articles of incorporation were filed with the California Secretary of State in 1964. In 1967, the California Eye Bank and Visual Research Foundation, Inc. signed an agreement with the University of California Medical Center Eye Bank to solicit and collect eye tissue. In 1968, a similar agreement was signed with the Estelle Doheny Eye Foundation in Los Angeles.

In 1995 SGL dropped "Eye Bank" from the title and in 2009, California did the same.

California's Foundation manages two funds.. There is a General Fund which is used for various programs such as visual research, local braille programs, low vision work, and the like. There is also a memorial fund, used only to benefit California, consisting of monies donated to help members of the Order with vision problems. Money from the Memorial fund can be used to assist members, including payments for needed ophthalmology services that are beyond the capacity of the member to pay. Members of the Order can also contribute to the fund by sending a check to the Grand Lodge or the Rebekah Assembly. Checks should indicate "Visual Research General Fund" or "Visual Research Memorial Fund" in the memo line.

The Foundation also has a limited number of "video eye imager" kits for loan to members to allow them to remain independent in their own homes. These kits consist of a flat screen monitor, a reading platform, a surge protector and other items. When set up, the kit allows the user to see images (like a book or knitting) magnified 25x, or 50x, or 100x, on a 27-inch screen.

The Board of Directors of the Visual Research Foundation has developed a pamphlet that explains in detail these and other features of the program. Copies of the updated pamphlet have been sent to every Odd Fellows and Rebekah Lodge in California. More information is also available at www.visualresearchca.org.

F - L - T

Dave Rosenberg
Grand Master

Honoring The Past

REDWOOD CITY - Abby Eller from the historic Union Cemetery of Redwood City recently did a presentation showing a rubbing of a cemetery grave marker which was of a Redwood City Odd Fellow. In days past, there was an Odd Fellow section in the Union Cemetery. The presentation was done at a recent meeting of Bayview IOOF Lodge #109. When the City of Redwood City cut off water to the cemetery, Bayview Lodge stepped in and provided \$100 worth of water for the historic rose bushes.



There are many Odd Fellow cemeteries across the country and for those history buffs, here in California; the IOOF Cemetery of Sonora has quite a collection of stories from Tuolumne County's by gone era. Check them out at either www.ioofcemeterysonora.com or <https://tchistory.pastperfect-online.com>

2016 Officers of Davis Encampment # 21

DAVIS - Members gathered to wish the 2016 Officers of the Davis Encampment #21 well. This year's officers include: Senior Warden Mary Superak, Treasurer Janis Rosenberg, Chief Patriarch Sharla Cheney, High Priest Kurt Roggli, Financial Scribe Lea Rosenberg, Scribe Joel Mandel, Junior Warden Tony Pruitt.



El Dorado #8 Confers Degree

SACRAMENTO - January 7, 2016. El Dorado #8 conferred the Initiatory Degree for 5 new members. The Degree team consisted of members from El Dorado #8 and Sacramento #2 with PGM Gene Breeland #2 as Degree Captain.

We welcome the following new members to the Order: Jeff Dye, Raymond Annis and Charles Justice as members of El Dorado #8 and Amber Seibel and Diane Arelano who were initiated as members of River City #17.

Officers Installed

On Saturday, January 23, a joint Installation of Officers was held at Oroville, CA. The Oroville Odd Fellow Lodge #59 and Orange Grove Rebekah Lodge #84 and Beulah Rebekah Lodge #60 from Chico gathered together to install their 2016 Officers.

Photographed that night were Left to right: Ron Olson, DDGM #59 Sec and #84 VG; Jack Brereton, #59 RSVG; Val Shaner, DDP #59 Treasurer and #84 Sec; Deborah Flower, #84 NG; Shawna Vest, #84 Conductor; Marie Vest #59 NG and #84 Chaplain; Kenny Vest, #59 OSG; Bathus Roberts, #84 ODG; Lacey Mackley, #84 ODG, Sarah Cruz, #59 RSVG and #84 PNG and Warden; Debra Stoukey, #84; Judi Miller, #59 Chaplain, Robert Miller, #59 Conductor; Carmen Perez, #59 VG and #84 Financial Sec; Carilee Shonery, #60 Financial Sec; Virginia Lewis, #60 NG. Not pictured: James Webster, #59 LSVG; Manuel Perez, Sr, #59 Warden and Patricia Foster, #84 Treasurer.



Thou They Are Gone, They Will Never Be Forgotten...



May we remember all members of the order that have recently passed from this life, and especially those listed below:

Frank Long Called Home

Frank Lee Long, Jr., a third generation Californian, cattle rancher and former member of the Board of Supervisors, passed away from natural causes on December 19, 2015 at his ranch in the Buckeye District of the Guadalupe Valley of Mariposa County. He was 89 years of age.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years Frances Ruby Long (Gumber) and sons Mark Long (Donnelle) and Marshall Long (Robin) all of Mariposa.

Frank was initiated into the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows in 1947 making him a 68 year member of the Order. He was a Past Grand of Mariposa Lodge No. 39 and a Past District Deputy Grand Master for District 56 in 1981 and 1983. He lived the Odd-Fellow's Creed of 'to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan'.

Some of his many achievements included: Being the Wagon Master for the California Sesquicentennial Wagon Train from 1997 through 1999; Getting local citizen together to organize Yosemite Bank in 1977 as a home grown and owned bank and serving as a director of the bank for many years and serving as the Chairman of the 125th Anniversary Celebration of the Mariposa County Courthouse and Mariposa Gazette, Heritage of Law and Press.

Frank was a man of vision for the growth and prosperity of Mariposa County and a conservator of the land and water and he will be missed by all.

Ken O'Connell Passes

Brother Ken O'Connell was called home on 11/16/15. Brother Ken was a long time member of the Order, including Odd Fellows, Rebekah & Department of California Patriarch's Militant. He was a great member and all lodge members of the Ventura Lodge will miss his presence.

Past President's Trivia

by Ruth Morgan PPRA 07-08

I have not written in while but will share what I have knowledge of. Edna Valezuela has adjusted well to living in Fresno and thanks to Marcia Weaver as her driver, she is actively involved with Fresno Lodge.

Sad to report the passing of Judy Poarch, Joyce Breland, and Adonna Chesney. They served our Order well, and beautiful Rebekah Services honored them. Emma Hannaford has relocated back to Stockton and lives across the street from her daughter.

Judette Rippetoe and Betty Moates (PPs of IARA) are both good listeners to the VP of IARA Joyce Link. Sister Joyce will be installed as President of IARA in August 2016 in Rapid City So. Dakota.

Sisters Carolyn DeBoer and Diana Caranza are both actively involved as Directors of Rebekah Assembly and Karolinne Livingston serves as Secretary of RA. Laurie Prescott and Nora Maxwell attend Receptions and other events regularly. June Gennaria is Roberta Prosk's travel companion. Betty Jean Reasoner is active in Nevada now and husband Jack is Gr. Master. Jeanette Hughes is adviser to our current president Donna Morrison and still loves her Bingo.

Joan Pike has welcomed another great grandchild and travels to hug and hold each one. Betty Rasor will have finished her 2nd 2 yr. term as IARA Rep in May. That position has allowed her to travels to Ohio, Illinois, British Columbia, and Texas. Sharon Burgess is well and still working hard. Paulette Lamphere has had her 2nd knee replacement and will be happy when the aches and pains are gone. Debbie Shuler is still busy with Rebekah Assembly as Jr. Past Pres.

As for me, my gardening slows down in the winter, but I still spend lots of time outside. My granddaughter is still an equestrian and I go to every show possible to watch her jump.

PLEASE, if your name is not here, let me know how you are and share your news.

The Top Ten Reasons that Lodges Fail

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During my tenure as Grand Warden, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Master, I have visited dozens of Lodges. I've seen the good, the bad, and even the ugly. Some Lodges are thriving. Many Lodges are trying. Other Lodges are fading. In the spirit of giving Lodges the warning signs of a failing Lodge, here - based on my experience - are what I consider the "Top Ten Reasons" that Lodges fail (with apologies to David Letterman and his Top Ten Lists):



Number 10. Inadequate signage. Most of our Lodges have been around for over 100 years, and many are located in the heart of downtown. Yet too often I have seen Lodges that are invisible. Make sure that there is a large, distinct and easily visible sign that proclaims the building to be a Lodge of Odd Fellows.

Number 9. Decrepit halls. Nothing turns potential members off faster than a shabby Lodge Hall. A building with old paint, a clear need for repairs, speaks volumes to the public. Such a building says, "we are old and we don't care."

Number 8. Failure to let go. In some Lodges, the same one or two people run everything, and have done so for 10 years, 20 years, or even longer. It's time to let go. A new generation of leaders needs to be given their turn to be in charge of the Lodge. Don't hold a position beyond your time. Better to train the newer members so they can flourish and continue the Order into the next generation.

Number 7. No, no, no. I have experienced the dreaded "no" in too many Lodges. Newer members are stifled, disappointed, frustrated, and even angered when the "long-time" members always say "no" to every new idea. Don't always say "no"... Learn to say "yes". Let the newer members try.

Number 6. Constant comment. Nothing is more restricting and embarrassing for newer members than to always hear comments from the sidelines during a meeting such as: "You are standing in the wrong place" or "wait, it's not your turn." Everyone makes mistakes in the beginning, help the new members, but do it discretely, and perhaps following the meeting.

Number 5. Booooooring. Nothing says "this is a Lodge of grandfathers and grandmothers" louder than holding a boring meeting. Without committee reports, old business and new business, the message conveyed is that this is a moribund Lodge.

Number 4. Bicker, bicker, bicker. Many times I have heard from newer members who tell me that they attended a few meetings and then stopped because they couldn't stand the bickering and sniping amongst the members. We are supposed to practice friendship, love, and truth. Get over it, shake hands and move on.

Number 3. Failure to have fun. The surest way to send a Lodge into its death spiral is to forget that we are a fraternal order and it's OK to have fun. Lodges must plan social events that the members enjoy.

Number 2. Failure to reach out. It is important to the work of this Order and the image of IOOF for Lodges to reach out into their communities to do good works. And it's not just writing a check here and there. That's too easy. Members want to engage hands-on in good charitable and community works.

Number 1. Failure to bring in new members. The #1 reason the Lodges fail is self-evident. Without new members, a fraternal order ultimately perishes.

Do you recognize any of these "Top Ten Reasons" in your own Lodge?

F - L - T

Dave Rosenberg
Grand Master

The Power of Powerful Words

Friendship, Love and Truth, the Three Links of our Fraternal Order – such powerful words, so familiar to our Odd Fellow and Rebekah brothers and sisters, words treasured and revered, as are our traditions and rituals. But perhaps they have become so commonplace to us that we take them for granted, that we seldom think about their meaning and implications for our Order that so proudly embraces them. Let's take a fresh look at them and what they can mean for us today.

Friendship

Friendship denotes mutual benevolence and intimacy, outside of lover and family relationships. For us, I believe that it should be seen as a charge to extend the hand of friendship to other good people in our community, to share with them the vision and Mission of our Order, and if they can appreciate the warmth and satisfaction our relationships and work can bring, invite them into our fellowship.

Love

We all have our ideas about what love means - so many poems, so many songs. But it is clear to me, and seems to have meant to our Founders, that the love concept for our Order is that of the Golden Rule, or of the maxim "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." This is a love that is to emanate from our Lodges and our individuals out into our community, to touch and uplift the needy, the young, the afflicted, the lonely, and especially to those who want to contribute to the community, to participate in a fellowship ... and just need to be asked.

Truth

Truth, defined as being consistent with fact, in harmony with reality, can be quite subjective, often seeming to vary from individual to individual. I believe that what it means to us is that we are to embrace, and to speak out for our fundamental beliefs, not to sit quietly satisfied with what we hold to be true and beautiful and right. The Odd Fellow presence and philosophy should be expressed in public forums, in Letters to the Editor, in public displays, in the public conversation.

Friendship, Love and Truth. These are our words, great words to live by, to build an organization with. And shouldn't the words Friendship, Love and Truth be on the welcoming door of every Odd Fellow Hall?

Fraternally,
Rita Cooper
Grand Chaplain
Director, Grand Lodge

Annual Seminar - continued from pg 1

The food was delicious. Each morning inside the large spacious meeting space, a buffet was laid out for the members to partake and enjoy. Beverages were available during the entire seminar. The Saturday group dinner was inside the El Dorado Buffet. Foods of different ethnicities and many varieties were available; everything was delectable. The rooms were very comfortable, too.

After dinner, members returned to the meeting space to complete the last of 11 hours of lectures in a 12 hour period. The next day, the group hit it again and went for three more hours, before being handed a certificate of completion by the Grand Master.

With the importance of this year's seminar, brothers Mel Astrahan and John Bellitti, representing IOOFTV, came to record the entire event, most of which will be available on IOOFTV. They also donated two t-shirts for additional drawing prizes. Brother Stewart Savage lead the way with handling the PowerPoint Program and the microphone and other needs of the technical side of the seminar.

Brother Don Lang established the seminar 20 years ago. Brother Ronald Carrey joined as an instructor 19 years ago, and brother Peter Sellars became an instructor 18 years ago. The three have been the mainstays and co-chairmen of the event, only skipping two years in the 20 year period. A great deal of work goes into these events. Moving from Santa Nella, the only place the seminars were held, until this year's change, was a challenge. Not knowing how the membership would respond to the distance, kept uncertainty at the forefront, until the applications started coming in – and kept coming. This was the largest turnout ever for the seminar. It also presented the most speakers ever as well.

In the end, the seminar proved to be a valuable asset to the Order and its goals of maintaining or establishing a healthy organization. Hopefully, the success of this seminar carries over for many years. The success of this event was only through the dedication of every Odd Fellow and Rebekah who came to Reno, Nevada.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Grand Lodge of California, I.O.O.F.
14414 Oak Street, Suite B
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Lodge Number or Expiration Date After Name

Celebrating 60 Years of Service



OXNARD - Montie Harris joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows over 60 years ago - He has traveled, many miles, made many friends, received many honors, but Odd Fellowship means much more, it is more precious than gold - It means Montie belongs to a Great Organization - The Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

We should try to pay back the people in this world who support our lives, and today it's a membership pin. This 60 year jewel was recently presented to Montie Harris with the assistance of Greg Schomaker and Lon Kirkgaard. It shows the dedication to Oxnard Lodge #89 and the Order of Odd Fellowship for many years. Maybe it is wise to remember to keep saying thank you, sincerely, and as often as we can.

As we go about from day to day, whether it be work or play, take time to smile, and to shake hands, take time to show you care for those near and dear to you. Be proud you are an Odd Fellow, be Happy with the Friendships you have made. Share the things we have in life - Friendship - Love - Truth - Faith - Hope - Charity, Kindness and the Joy of being together.

Thank you Montie and Congratulations for 60 years of service!

- Redgie Fleeman, D.D.G.M. #47