



Educating Our Youth



DDGM District 84 Joe Vail presented a scholarship to Barstow Central High School graduate Robert John Rodriguez Hall at the June 3rd Graduation.

BARSTOW - For many years, the Graduation Ceremony in the Barstow Community has been a big part of the giving program for Barstow Lodge #91. During the year, Barstow raises money to support the Emery Bishoff Memorial Scholarship. This is the most valuable scholarship awarded to a Central High graduate. This year, Barstow is proud to announce that the two year award will be \$1,900 as long as the recipient maintains the criteria of the award.

Barstow Lodge #91 raises the money for this scholarship by holding a cribbage tournament. The third Saturday of each month, each participant donates \$10 to play and the winners receive a gift certificate to one of the following local business: Idle Spurs, Steak House-Pennys, Dinner-Rosita's, Panda Palace with the last place person receiving a certificate to have their car washed at the Sparkle car wash. Currently, the lodge has one student in their second year at Barstow Community College and now they will have Mr. Robert John Rodriguez Hall beginning his Freshman year. This fall, Robert hopes to become a certified welder.

During their term in college, they always try to maintain contact with their recipients, meeting with them to encourage them towards attaining the goals that they have set.

Giving support for our youth is a practice observed by many lodges around the country, and there are specific scholarships that are set up by lodges, by the State's Grand Lodge and by the Sovereign Grand Lodge. For more specific information, please check with your Grand Lodge or contact the Sovereign Grand Lodge to see what types of scholarships are available for higher education.

Special Jewels Presented



Picture by Sally Butters

HUGHSON - At a special barbecue held on June 24th, two long time brothers of the Order and members of Hughson Lodge #461 were honored.

The Order was proud to award Art Tomlinson Jr, his 50 year membership jewel and presented Homer Combs, with his 70 year jewel.

These awards were handed out by DDGM Wendell Watson of District 24. Special congratulations are extended to Art and Homer on their wonderful achievement!

Fun Time Had At Sugar Barge!

Those that gathered for the all degrees of odd fellowship membership rally at Sugar Barge RV resort on Bethel Island enjoyed good food, good companionship, games, relaxation and fun, fun, fun!



Many thanks to Noble Grand Carolyn Twyman (and husband Leon) of Rising Star Rebekah Lodge, Delphine and Rich Perry of Livermore lodges, Lorna Hemphill and Mary Sellers advisors of Florin Theta Rho # 68 for the hard work put into organizing this event as a vehicle to inform others about odd fellowship and recruit new members. Grand Master Tim Brown and President Rebekah Assembly Debbie Shuler lent their support to the membership rally. Marjorie Knieriem was the leader of the black berry picking crew.

Claudette Lange member of Mt. Diablo Rebekah Lodge and owner of Concord Coach RV , Stockton Odd Fellow Lodge # 11, and Florin Theta Rho Girls' Club # 68 were the sponsors of the event.

A highlight of the weekend were the pedal boat excursions enjoyed by many. The winners of the pedal boat race were Juliana Porter and Arielle Green of Florin Theta Rho. Everyone enjoyed the Saturday afternoon ice cream social and swimming in the pool each day. President Debbie and husband Ben were surprised with a cake following dinner to celebrate their anniversary. The Bingo games Saturday evening were lively and fun filled.

Applications were passed out during the weekend to other people at the RV resort and every effort was given to inform the public of who we are and what the objectives of odd fellowship are.

Ready, Set, Action

DAVIS - The "Davis Odd Fellows Lodge Classic Film Festival" will be held at the Lodge on three successive Sunday evenings in November. The first Film Festival earlier in the year drew almost 200 members of the community to the Lodge Hall to view classic films, that the Classic Film Festival Committee decided to do it again, and to feature two festivals per year in the future.

"These Classic Film Fests present a win-win-win scenario for our Lodge," said Classic Film Festival Committee Chair Dave Rosenberg. "They are a lot of fun for the Lodge members and members of the public who attend; they bring high visibility to the Odd Fellows in our community and surrounding cities; and they expose our Lodge Hall to potential new members."

Members of the Davis Lodge Classic Film Festival Committee Juelie and Kurt Roggli, Rene Martucci, Richard Urbino, Lea Rosenberg, Robin Dewey, Beth and Bob Dovi, and Joel Mandel decided to focus the November festival on classic westerns and have chosen: "Stagecoach", "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre," and "Cat Ballou". Hope to see you there!

**Autumn
carries
more gold
in its pocket
than all the
other
seasons.**

~Jim Bishop

Joyce Link Elected I. A. R. A. Warden

VICTORIA, BC - California celebrates, as Joyce Link is elected and installed as IARA Warden at their most recent sessions held in Victoria, BC. Joyce Link, is a 51 year member of Elk Grove Rebekah Lodge #136. There to cheer here on were IARA Past Presidents Betty Moates and Judette Rippetoe along with lots of Californians. There were over 41 members from California in attendance this year.

Over the next three years, she will represent the I. A. R. A. at Rebekah Assemblies throughout North America. Sister Joyce will be installed as President in Rapid City, South Dakota in August of 2016. Congratulations Joyce!



Franco American Welcomes Grand Master



SAN FRANCISCO - On August 7, 2014 Franco American # 207 was honored to have an official visit by the Grand Master Tim Brown. The Grand Master was accompanied by his Grand Marshal and Grand Chaplain.

Prior to the meeting we had a great meal at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. The group then drove to our 7th street lodge in San Francisco and held the regular meeting in French.

Our Noble Grand ,Jean Claude Mallein, welcomed the Grand Master & his Grand Lodge members to our meeting. We were also honored to have Peter Sellars, the Grand War-

den, in attendance at our meeting. At the close of the meeting Tim presented his goals for the year & encouraged us to continue to attract new members.

After the meeting, we had a nice Casse Croute with various deli meats & cheeses, some nice french wines, bread and dessert (Mille Feuilles) supplied by our Boulanger, Jean Claude Bunand. This was followed by coffee & brandy. As they say in Louisiana, Laussez les bonnes temps rouler... or " Let the Good Times Roll" . It was a great evening and we wish Grand Master Tim Brown a very successful year.



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Why Us?

Those who look for a silver lining inside every cloud, there is one within our order: we still exist.

There are many now defunct fraternal groups whose members could testify that this alone is not an easy task. The question is why do we still exist? In my year as Grand Master, many members would say that it was our name Odd Fellows that chases prospective members away, that it is an old name which is no longer relevant, but I personally don't believe that's true. In fact, the sheer oddity of our name can give our order a type of attraction. Some lodges have even capitalized on our name by calling events "Odd-toberfest", "Odd Poetry", and other variants including the word "Odd". The point is by blaming the decline of our order on such a mundane thing as our name, we miss the larger issue. I believe that our order has ceased to be odd enough; we no longer are equal to our name. In fact, it's that very oddity that we should be trumpeting, not trying to subvert. In many of the lodges I visited I found most of the members quite ordinary, and clearly not odd, and surely not odd enough. In order for us to grow into our name, we should try to embrace all that is odd within our world. Why not? In fact, if you think about it, many of the oddest things we do lend our order its flavor - the cave degree comes to mind, an odd but beautiful tradition.

Some say it's because many, if not most of us are elderly, that we are complacent within our communities and just ordinary citizens. Nothing wrong with that of course, but a little complacency goes a long way, and gives the feel of a flat existence, unmarred by change or even emotional highs or lows. Many of our lodges can't cope with emotional outbursts of any type. Successful lodges often lend a sense of energy that failing lodges do not. While most lodges fail due to a lack of members, a lack of funds or both, some lodges can fail even though they have a fair amount of members.

Why? Because the feel of the lodge is one of failure, or boredom, or what some modern philosophers call "Nada", and some even describe death as the "Nada of the Dark". Our Sovereign Grand Master, upon his last visit to our state quoted Carl Jung, and Carl Jung describes existence as sort of a "collective unconscious". Jung also said "The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed." So then, if we agree this to be true, we know that the emotional make-up of our lodges is dependent upon the interaction between our members. Flat existence begets more flat existence; excitement begets excitement. To expect excitement to grow out of flat existence is illogical.

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Mail News-Pictures to:

Carol A. Fraher

1365 DeSoto Ave.

Burlingame, CA 94010-5633

Phone: (650)342-7188

Email - carolfraher@aol.com

Member
IOOF
International Press
Association

"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.

Mail Address Changes & Subscriptions To:
Grand Lodge of California, IOOF

14414 Oak Street, Suite B

Saratoga, CA 95070-6186

Phone: (408) 867-0231 Fax: (408) 867-6272

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

Food For All



Picture by Sally Butters

SACRAMENTO - Sacramento Odd Fellows Lodge #2 presented a donation check to River City Food Bank in July. The River City Food Bank has served the community for over 40 years and is the oldest continuous serving food bank in Sacramento County,

Brother, Gary Karl presented the check to Lisa Campodonico, Director of Fund Development, when she came to give a presentation of the food bank after a lodge dinner.

This is a year round project for Sacramento #2 as during the year, members of the District also bring donations at our annual Christmas dinner, along with lots of canned food and a monetary gift from each lodge.

Continued from page 4

Flat existence more easily becomes "the Nada of the Dark".

I see our oddity being a mark of our ability to survive, so we need to nurture our own oddity. This does not mean I suggest eliminating such things as our ritual as I believe a framework is called for, but not a framework which is mind-numbing. Some lodge meetings are so tedious that it is amazing anyone attends. When one attends a meeting of such tedium it's not a surprise that they are failing. Try to inject some humor into your meetings, some fun, "laissez faire" (laissez-faire assumes that the individual who pursues his own desires contributes most successfully to society as a whole. The function of the state is to maintain order and avoid interfering with individual initiative) some "joie de vivre" (cheerful enjoyment of life; an exultation of spirit). My dad always used to say live a little. Why not? Have fun and perhaps by doing so, we may oddly enough gain new members!

In Friendship, Love, and Truth,

Rick Boyles

Music...Music...Music

DAVIS - On July 11, the Davis Lodge Music & Concerts Committee (co-sponsored by the Davis Lodge Community Support Committee) hosted a show at the Odd Fellows Lodge as a benefit for our local radio station - KDRT. Over 150 patrons enjoyed a show featuring numerous local artists, and \$1,450 was raised for KDRT.

Davis Lodge members Juelie and Kurt Roggli (pictured) are instrumental in organizing these concerts at the Lodge. The Music & Concerts Committee is chaired by Bob Bockwinkel, a long-time member and Past Grand of the Lodge. The Davis Lodge hosts these music and concerts for the community once each month, featuring an eclectic variety of music styles and local musical talent. These music venues have become a very popular event in Davis, and have developed quite a loyal following in the community. The Lodge itself has several musicians who are members and who have applied for membership consideration.



KDRT broadcasts the shows live from the Lodge every month, and re-broadcasts the shows from time to time, so the exposure to the community is great.



Finding a Need....

SONORA - Sonora Lodge #10 did just that! They have undertaken a project that has proven to be very beneficial to their community and also to their Lodge. Sonora Lodge #10 is a smaller lodge in the Sierra foothills. They also have a cemetery to maintain and it has proven to be a challenge to find the resources to bring the cemetery up to par.



Therefore, they decided to organize an Adopt-A-Grave program, whereby volunteers can help with future upkeep and maintenance on one of our 254 graves. People who participate in the program receive a certificate with a picture of the plot and name of the gravesite. The program was well received, and the Odd Fellows and members of the community have already adopted 95 of the 254 graves. Adopting a grave requires visiting and tending to the plot on

a regular basis. All maintenance of fixed features on the plot, such as railings, fencing and headstones, requires prior approval by the cemetery trustee to ensure historical integrity. Volunteers can choose their own schedule or join others on our scheduled workdays. At these events, bottled water is provided and the community spirit is tangible. A sign announcing the Adopt-A-Grave program and also the upcoming workday was hung on the entrance fence. This has proven to be a win, win for Sonora Lodge #10. Front page newspaper coverage prompted a great turn-out. Four new members were also recruited following the newspaper article and a follow-up article in the local paper also brought good reviews.

We have recently initiated a newsletter that is sent to all "adopters" highlighting the work being done and featuring



a short biography on one the ancestors buried in our cemetery. It gives dates of scheduled workdays and other bits of news regarding our site. Pat Dambacher from Sonora Lodge stated that they would be happy to share more detailed information with any Lodge interested in such a project.

SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2014

12th Annual
Festival of Trees
Gala Fundraiser



12th Annual
Festival of Trees Gala Fundraiser

presented by

**KIRKORIAN
FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2014
6 O'CLOCK - 10 O'CLOCK

CORINTHIAN EVENT CENTER
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

The evening includes dinner, silent auction, raffle and a chance to bid on one-of-a-kind, lavishly decorated trees and wreaths to make your holiday celebration magical.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED | FORMAL ATTIRE PREFERRED

FOR SPONSORSHIP AND TICKET INFORMATION
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Oh Those Summer Days!

SAN FRANCISCO - Members of Bay City Lodge #71 enjoyed good fellowship with a lodge picnic at San Mateo Central Park this past summer. The sun was mild and the weather was perfect!



Members Karen and Glenn managed the cooking and Bob De Lue took care of games with many hands making light work. The lodge had about 50 members, guests and family attend the festivities and a good time was had by all!

Know When To Fold'm

DAVIS - Every Thursday evening, the Davis Odd Fellows Lodge opens its doors to members, applicants, and their friends and family, for some relaxing social time. The bar is open, dinner is available for those who wish to partake, the big-screen television is on, table games are available, a Wii is set up for the younger set, lounge chairs are set up, and participants just have a good time. An activity is always scheduled - sometimes its trivia night, poker night, charades, bunco, karaoke. This weekly endeavor is called "Club Night at the Lodge" and its organized by the Davis Lodge's Good Fellowship Committee.

Recently, during poker night the big winner was Noble Grand Lea Rosenberg (pictured next to her loot) and surrounded by the other players at her table. Who knew Lea was such a card shark?



Congratulations on the Successful SGL Sessions

The 188th annual Sovereign Grand Lodge Sessions just finished, and we congratulate Jimmy Humphrey, our new Sovereign Grand Master.

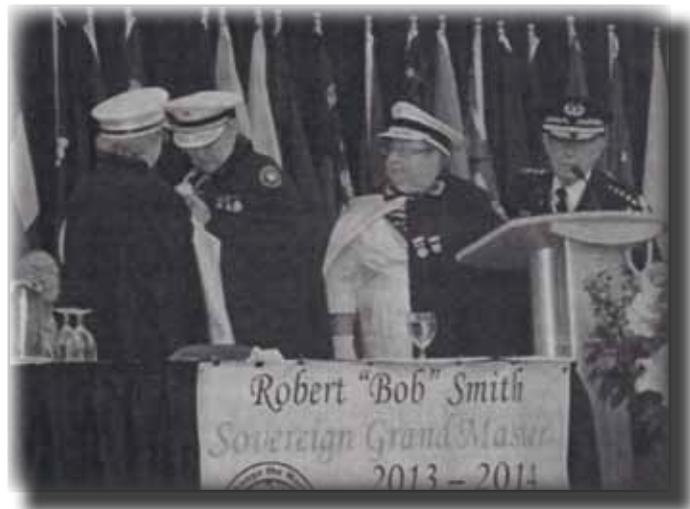
Dave Rosenbery, Deputy Grand Master for California stated that " Brother Humphrey is a dedicated Odd Fellow, an intelligent and visionary man, and a brother dedicated to moving our Order forward."

We in California wish Brother Humphrey well, and offer our support as he performs the duties of Sovereign Grand Master for us all!

Lady Debra Ends Her Term

VICTORIA, BC – Lady Debra LaVergne completed her term as President of the IALAPM at the sessions in Victoria, BC earlier this summer. Her mother, Lady Dorothy Brouse, pinned the Past President jewel on Debra's cape during the installation ceremony on Tuesday morning.

Lady Debra did a fine job presiding, and we thank her for the wonderful job that she did this past year as she represented not only the IALAPM, but the California members of the Order. Thank you Lady Debra!



2014 CAVE DEGREE CONFERRED ON 24 MEMBERS

Photo courtesy of Brian Schlesinger

YREKA - The 68th Annual Second Degree Cave Ceremonial was held in Yreka on Saturday, August 9 and Sunday August 10, 2014. A total of 24 members from 9 lodges of the Order received degrees, starting with 7 for the Initiatory, 20 for the First, 24 for the Second (at the Cave), and 20 for the Third (on Sunday morning).

All of the degrees were conferred in good form by a team led by Grand Master Tim Brown and his officers, assisted by many of those attending. Past Grand Master/Past Grand Patriarch Gene Rasor served as Acting Noble Grand. There were 69 persons present at the excellent catered dinner, and there were about 70 at the Cave. The moon, faintly visible against a still bright, hazy sky, was seen rising to the left of the peak of Mount Shasta a few minutes before the start of the Degree work at the cave. The sky remained bright throughout the Second Degree, which was conferred in good form by the degree staff. The sky was still fairly light when everyone left the cave, but the nearly full moon was quite bright above Mount Shasta.



In the evening, at the start of the dinner, Richard Brouse, Vice Grand of Yreka Lodge, on behalf of the Grand Lodge Cave Degree Committee, introduced the dignitaries present. These were: Grand Master Tim Brown, President of the Rebekah Assembly Debbie Shuler, Grand Representative Paul Pike, Past Grand Master/Past Grand Patriarch Gene Rasor, Past Grand Patriarch Brian Riehl, and Past Grand Patriarch Paulette Lamphere. Also introduced from Yreka Lodge #19 were Junior Past Grand Dorothy Brouse, Secretary Alfred Brandon, and Treasurer Alice Brandon. The ranking officers of all branches were invited to introduce their Directors and appointed officers.

Several new Cave Associate memberships were received at this event. Candidates receiving degrees were from the following lodges: Sacramento #2, Yerba Buena #15 (San Francisco), Petaluma #30, Ocean View #143 (Half Moon Bay), Boulder Creek #152, Garcia #240 (Point Arena), Morse #257 (San Anselmo), and Redding #271. The Lodges are receiving letters confirming the conferring of all of the degrees. On Sunday morning, members of Yreka Lodge served the usual fine breakfast at the Lodge Hall, before the start of the Third Degree. At the conclusion of the Third Degree, Noble Grands and other representatives of the lodges that had brought candidates thanked Yreka Lodge for providing this opportunity and congratulated the Degree teams for the impressive degree work. Grand Master Tim Brown, briefly addressed the new Third Degree members and urged them to pursue the new opportunities ahead of them in the Order.

The date for the 69th Annual Second Degree Cave Ceremonial will be August 29, 2015. Moonrise then will be about 8:10 PM, which is fine. From the cave, we will be able to watch the moon rising near Mt. Shasta as we start the degree. We will again confer the Initiatory and First Degrees at the Lodge Hall, starting at 1:00 PM in the afternoon to qualify candidates for the Second Degree at the Cave, and we will again confer the Third Degree in the Hall after breakfast on Sunday morning. Dinner information and other details will be announced prior to the Grand Lodge session in May, 2015.

Submitted by:

Richard Brouse, Vice Grand Yreka #19
(707) 251-1592, rabrouse@juno.com

New Members Initiated

DAVIS - On August 27, 2014, Davis Lodge #169 initiated the following 17 new members (8 men and 9 women) into the Order: Kevin Cornell, Robert Dick, Beth Dovi, Bob Dovi, Michael Dufresne, Phyllis Himmel, Crystal Junge, Brett Lemke, Celine Livengood, Shannon McCall, Jeff Oblinger, Kathie Rose, Pat Rose, Donna Rutan, Janis Samms, Steve Wathen, Cathy Wilken.

All 17 new Odd Fellows went through a six-month long process of learning about the Order and the Lodge, and getting to know the members, prior to initiation. Over 40 members of the Lodge, led by Noble Grand Lea Rosenberg, conducted the initiation. The new members range in age from 30 to 64. Their professions cover a wide spectrum including accountant, army officer, air quality inspector, bounty hunter, deputy district attorney, scientist, student and others.

The Davis Odd Fellows Lodge, one of the largest and most dynamic in North America, now has 230 members. The Davis Lodge conducts two initiations per year. The Lodge has already received 14 applications for membership for the next initiation in early 2015.

Front row seated on floor, left to right: Celine Livengood, Crystal Junge, Kevin Cornell, Janis Rosenberg. Standing, left to right: Bob Dovi, Pat Rose, Donna Rutan, Cathy Wilken, Beth Dovi, Mike Dufresne, Shannon McCall, Steve Wathen, Noble Grand Lea Rosenberg, Brett Lemke, Phyllis Himmel, Jeff Oblinger, Robert Dick.



Garlic...Every Which Way!

GILROY - Every summer during a hot weekend in Gilroy the Garlic Festival is held. This year marked the 26th Annual Garlic Festival. This is a very big festival and well known throughout the state. It showcases everything "Garlic" from your traditional uses of garlic in dishes, to garlic Ice-cream (definitely, an acquired taste)!



For many years, Cupertino #70 has volunteered at Gourmet Alley. The festival donates all of the profits back the city's charity groups; the IOOF Rebekah Children's Services Home of Gilroy (RCS) being one of the long time recipients of the donations received.

Don Lang, PGM and Cupertino member, drove down to Gilroy with a group of eager volunteers, ready to help out the Rebekah Children's Services. Volunteers for the day included Gayle Joslin, Jackie Brown, Mary Lou Lang, Pat Aanenson, Janet Johnson, Nekoo Mesbahi, Ira Racoma, Adam Petersen and Wally Patapoff. The group either cashiered or served the food. The jobs were not hard, but it was a very hot day in the kitchen.

The groups met many very nice people, all volunteers from other local charities, working for their organizations. It was a wonderful way to spend a weekend helping the RCS!

Canton Needs Your Help... Seeking Extra or Unused items

SAN FRANCISCO - Do you have uniforms just laying around not being used anymore? We, the members of San Francisco Canton are looking for your help! Canton San Francisco No. 5 is trying to get its members into uniforms and is requesting any assistance possible.

We are looking for coats, trousers, belts, sword carriers, covers (hats) or any other related items which have been discarded or abandoned by defunct cantons. Our Canton will pay for the postage.

Thank you,

Lawrence Stark Dagesse, Clerk
Canton San Francisco #5
Canton San Francisco #5
26 7th St. San Francisco, CA. 94103
stark28black@hotmail.com
415 756-2976

Past President Trivia Sept. 2014

By: Ruth Morgan, PPRA

I have not reported on any Past Presidents in a couple of years but have some news to share. Joyce Link is the new IARA Warden, installed into Office in Victoria, BC in August. Supporting her there were PPs of IARA, Betty Moates and Juddette Rippetoe. Lucille Mulligan was not able to make the trip this year. Also in attendance were Past Presidents from Calif.: Paulette Lamphere, Betty Rasor, Carolyn DeBoer, Karolinne Livingston, Joan Pike, Betty Jean Reasoner, June Gennaria and Ruth Morgan. There were a total of 41 members from Calif. attending. Next year will be in Fort Worth, Texas.

Judy Poarch is still doing a great deal of Physical Therapy after her stroke this past spring. Diana Carranza does not travel as much as she would like because of back problems. Nora Maxwell is still as active as ever, and in her 80's has served as Grand Matriarch this past year. Margaret Olson has retired and moved to Oregon to be near family there, while Karolinne Livingston fills the Secretary position in the Rebekah Assembly Office.

I did see some Past Presidents not mentioned here at Rebekah Assembly in May and other scheduled events. Would like to have a current report on the following: Ernie Kimple, Joann Burke, Rowena Whitney, Lorraine North, and Joyce Breland.

Sisters, I will be happy to have news to write about. If I don't know about it, I can't write it. Let me know what's going on in your life - Grand and Great Grand Children, illness, relocations, etc... email any news inotruthless@yahoo.com or call me.

Snore and Roar

ONTARIO - The Theta Rho and Junior Odd Fellow members met together for an informal council meeting and area party hosted by Rhododendron Theta Rho # 67 of Ontario and Quicksilver Junior Lodge # 112 at "WILD THINGS" also known as Monterey Zoo in Salinas.



The Youth of our order were treated to a special tour led by daughter of Rhododendron assistant advisor Dian Ingram. During the tour we learned about the animals and got an up close opportunity to see the animals. A yummy burger and hot dog dinner was served. Vice President TRA Shelby Ingram was the chief person in charge of the BBQ.

After the BBQ we all gathered around the campfire to roast marshmallows for smores, and then proceeded to "roast" the three Theta Rho Assembly officers from Southern California as President Theta Rho Assembly Kristina Vasquez talked to the members present.

Tents were set up on the lawn area for everyone to lay out their sleeping bags for an evening of snoring and in between listening to the animals roaring. The meeting was attended by members of Florin Theta Rho # 68, Sigma Tau Theta Rho # 92, Rhododendron Theta Rho # 67, Quicksilver Junior Lodge # 112 and several members of the Joint Youth Committee.



When we awoke from our snoring and the roaring of the animals we had breakfast then set out for the elephant area to try our hands at elephant feeding and washing. All were surprised at the texture of the elephant skin.

SAVE THE DATE BEACH PARTY IN THE PINES



THREE LINKS CAMP FESTIVAL
John & Ruth Morgan, Chairs
Mark Your Calendars Now!
June 27 - 28, 2015

Joining the Order



VALLEJO - San Pablo Lodge No.43 conferred the First Degree on July 14, 2014 for the following members: Patricia Walker-Decker of Yerba Buena Lodge No. 15 in San Francisco; Robert Brooks, Jean Cherie, Paul Coddington, Douglas Williford and Gretchen Zimmermann of San Pablo Lodge No.43 in Vallejo; Richard Rivera and Kenneth Sanders of Suisun Lodge No. 78; Brandon Cherry, Randy Fair and Bruce Valmont of Vacaville Lodge No. 83 and Mito H. David and Vivian Wong of Berkeley Lodge No.270.

Pictured behind Vice Grand Ed Cull and Noble Grand Paul Thorn (kneeling) are members of San Pablo Lodge degree team and also those attending from other lodges were Bonnie Sellars and Pete Sellars, Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Yerba Buena No. 15; Dorothy Brouse, Chaplain of the IALAPM and Richard Brouse, Past Department Commander of the Patriarchs Militant of Yreka Lodge No. 19; George Ambrose, Howard Lockwood, Wes Mitchell and Director Paul Wright of Suisun No. 78; Rick Trefz, District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 15 of Vacaville No.83 and Anita Donnell, Conrad Ettling and Jeff LeRoux of Berkeley No.270.

Chamber Music

HAYWARD - The Hayward Sycamore Lodge #129 Young Musicians Chamber Music Program held its annual concert in August. Eighteen students participated; the youngest was 11, and the oldest was 19. There



were four coaches, as well as a substitute coach for one night. Participants worked on musical pieces composed by: Beethoven, Scott Joplin, Carlos Gardel, Mario Bauza, Schubert, Dvorak, Vivaldi, Haydn, and Mozart. A wide range of musical styles was represented, including: classical, baroque, ragtime, tango, and mambo. Performances included string quintets, quartets, trios, concertos, and duos. Instruments played included: violin, viola, cello, and double bass. After two weeks of rehearsals, the fun culminated in an excellent performance at the lodge, attracting an audience of about 75 people. Everyone enjoyed a reception afterward.

A Message from the President

Wow, I can't believe how fast the first quarter of this year has gone. We had the Youth Camp Festival, and although not as well attended as we would have liked, we did get to see the completion of the pool and it was available for swimming during the camper's sessions.

This is one of my projects, and as the board had to spend money from their reserve funds to build the pool, please see if your lodge can't open their pocket books and donate some money to build that reserve back up.

In June, I was also able to give my Marshal Marlene Bois a surprise mini reception. We got her good.

In July, I attended ODM's in Woodland and Cupertino - both of which were very nice meetings. Some of us also worked at the Garlic Festival at the end of the month. We had a reception for my Conductor, Ruth Schuyler in Lompoc with a follow up day going to Solvang and the Ostrich Farm, where we got to feed the birds. It was a fun trip.

August was busy with a reception for the Theta Rho President, the Saratoga Home BBQ, an ODM in Auburn, and a trip to the SGL Youth Days as an escort for the TRA President.

At the end of August the Membership Rally was held at the Sugar Barge RV Park - Once again, a fun time was had by all who did come. Pedal Boating on the River, s'mores, swimming and Ben Shuler at the BBQ. Oh yeah, they surprised Ben and I with an Anniversary Cake on Saturday night. Thanks everyone.

My visits will swing into high gear starting with the 26th of September, with a visit to Oroville. Don't forget to come to the receptions on September 27th in Santa Rosa and October 18th in Lodi.

Love to you all

*Debbie Shuler,
President*

Community Involvement = Successful Lodge

by: Peter V. Sellars, Grand Warden

Community involvement takes off in so many directions. Some are no or little cost to a lodge; other events are more costly. But, without the aspect of community, inside and outside your lodge, your membership cannot become dynamic and entrenched in the social sphere outside its front doors. Non-members should know of the Odd Fellows. They should know what we do, too.

Community involvement is good public relations. Successful lodges have discovered the value of their communities; vice versa.

As leaders in our lodges, we look at the Order and its membership as a whole and make evaluations everyday or after every meeting. Membership is a key to success, as are the lodge's activities. The more members a lodge receives, the more activities a lodge shall enjoy. Those two factors go hand-in-hand.

Well, they should go together; however, one cannot survive or occur too long without the other. There is yet another important piece of the successful puzzle. This is community involvement.

Community involvement does not have to be extensive or expensive or even labor intensive. It comes in many shapes and forms. Sometimes, it presents itself to you or some of your other members.

And, community involvement may or may not result in several applicants applying for membership into the lodge. Applications are not necessary when presenting your lodge to the community, as this is not the primary goal.

The goal of community involvement is to SHARE the I.O.O.F. with the community and to let them know who we are and what we do as an organization. It is VISIBILITY within your community that is paramount. This could be simply having a table set up at a local fair, farmers market, or some other popular city or town event.

Community involvement could be the sponsoring of a local event or sports team with the Three-Links logo or the words Odd Fellows on a shirt or in a program. It could be opening your doors and giving tours of your lodge room. Perhaps your lodge has a small museum non-members, maybe historians, would love to see.

If your town or city has a community court, city meetings, or other kinds of events, which require space, allow them to use the space at no charge. This is community-relations at its core.

If your lodge or hall has room for art shows where the community may come and see exhibits, this is another good idea. If your lodge can sponsor a local band to play for the community at one of these events, it would be another idea. Poetry or book readings are always good attractions for members of the community.

Directly, none of these are Membership events. These are ways to make the community aware of your existence. These are ways your lodge might connect with its city and its community. Even as you read this, I wager you are thinking of an event that could work in your community.

Bingo at Davis

DAVIS - The Davis Lodge #169 Bingo Committee celebrated its seventh year anniversary hosting live Bingo for the community. The Lodge Bingo Committee presents Bingo every month on the second Sunday, doors opening at 12 noon and Bingo beginning at 1 p.m., usually running till 4 p.m. Typically 60-90 members of the public travel to the Davis Lodge Hall to play Bingo. Winners of each game receive cash, up to \$250 in the final "blackout" Bingo game.

In addition to the cash prizes to winners, the Davis Lodge Bingo Committee donates proceeds every month to a community group. Over the course of the year, the committee donates over \$8,000 to these charitable and community groups, making it one of the major ways the Lodge supports the community.

Davis Bingo was the idea of long-time Lodge member Dave Rosenberg, who implemented it when he served as Noble Grand. Over the seven years, it is estimated that Davis Bingo has contributed over \$50,000 to the community, plus afforded community members many hours of bingo fun. Davis Bingo has also developed a loyal following of players.

In addition to Bingo, the committee presents free door prizes to the players, instant win pull-tab games are available, and the committee runs a snack bar for participants.

Bingo at the Davis Lodge was approved, pursuant to the California statutory framework, by the Davis City Council. The Davis Lodge is the only entity in Davis permitted by law to operate real bingo with cash prizes.

Active members of the Bingo Committee include co-chairs Salie Yin and Eric Davis, and members Lea and Dave Rosenberg, Penny Smith, Melinda Hillis, Diana Schmiegel, Stewart Savage, Heather Barnes, John-Paul Montreuil, Janis Samms, Jeff Oblinger, Rick Gonzales, Crystal Junge, Diane Steele, and Robert Dick.



Dave Rosenberg, long-time member of the Bingo Committee, calling Bingo on July 13. The beneficiary of this Bingo day was the Davis Encampment which raises money to send needy kids to Three-Links Camp.

Celebrating 100 Years Young!

BRENTWOOD - Norman I. Firkins, a 78 year member (almost) of San Pablo Lodge No.43 in Vallejo, recently celebrated his 100th birthday with a party given by his family at the assisted care home in Brentwood where he resides.

Norman was born in Moravia, Iowa on March 21, 1914. He migrated to San Diego in 1934 and then to Vallejo in 1936 where he went to work at the Mare Island Navy Yard and Ammunition Depot.

He was Initiated into Golden State Lodge No. 216 in Vallejo on July 15, 1936, served as Noble Grand in 1941 and consolidated into San Pablo Lodge No.43 in Vallejo in December 1976.

In the 1940's Norman played a magnificent role as "Saul, King of Israel" in our degree of friendship. In 1952 he took a job as Fiscal Controller at the Naval Magazine Concord and retired in 1971. His wife Dorothea passed away in June 2013 at the age of 99.



Norman is pictured with his son Donald and daughter in law Colleen. Not pictured is his daughter Nancy, her husband Stan and several Grand and Great Grand children.

GRAND WARDEN'S MESSAGE

By Pete Sellers

Thank you brothers and sisters for electing me as your Grand Warden this past May. Although this is a small, non-profit and voluntary organization where we can choose whether or not to participate, we should constantly recognize this and work toward the betterment of the Odd Fellows.

As members of this great old fraternity, (one of the best that has ever existed in this country), we seek to be part of the activities as well as improve our lodges and our Order. In 2014, as it was in 2000, and in 1960, and 1920, and before, we have always made changes and have found each change difficult to accept. Our Order, like any organization, needs to constantly evolve. First, we learn the history and the customs of our Order and then we make adjustments to those things that need changing.

Make no mistake, changes must always be made or an organization folds up and goes away. Fraternal organizations used to number in the hundreds in America. So many of them have gone away or are close to going away. We have heard the stubborn viewpoint that change should not occur and, "if you don't like it, then get out." I shall point out that some of this Order's most respected members, like Donald R. Smith, Past Sovereign Grand Master and others have always sought to keep our Order persevering through positive change.

Some of us are ritualists and have learned our history as well, along with becoming familiar with our codes and laws so that we could effect positive change within the Order. We are not blind to the reluctance and resistance to change and must always be prepared to battle those who fail to see the necessity of change. Have we changed? Of course, we have. The "Independent" in our Order's name is because of change and disagreement with our own parent organization in the early 1840's. Our Order became Independent because it did not want to admit blacks into its ranks.

In the 1850's, we established the Rebekahs, as no other organization in America allowed wives and daughters in their realms. In the early 1900's, we removed "white race" and "red race" from the Golden Rule degree. In the 1960's we modified our language to what we consider "Caucasians" to be in relation to applicants. In the early 1970's, we no longer required members to be of all or pure "white blood."

In the 1920's, on a national level, we removed the requirement for stipulated benefits. In the year 2001, women were allowed to join the Odd Fellows lodges. I cannot begin to tell you how we have changed passages in our degrees, as there have been so many. The idea here is that we do not grip onto our heritage and ritual so tightly that we cannot change. We must change. We have changed and we shall continue to change.

There is still language in our rituals, which must be modified and eliminated. We are working on changes as I sit here writing this. Sometimes change is not fast but it shall come with diligence and integrity by those committed to improve the Order. All of this continued change leads to successful lodges. We have successful lodges. We have lodges that have grown and expanded in the past few years. We have lodges that, at the encouragement of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, have attached themselves to their communities.

These are the lodges doing well. These are the lodges that have embraced the less critical and stringent methods of conducting business meetings. Some lodges offer little in diverse ideas or language inside the lodge room. There is no longer room for this kind of behavior. There is no place for criticizing one another because signs or passwords are not presented correctly. These kinds of things encourage new members to leave, not thrive.

Instead of bringing complaints, or criticisms to the table, let's bring ideas and solutions! Let's weed out the bullies and the naysayers and those who wish to remain steadfast in their stubbornness and instead bring in positive men and women with a common goal. A goal to carry on this great Order in the honor and tradition it was founded upon, a foundation of Friendship, Truth and Love.

There are actually members in these failing lodges that criticize other members for not presenting the sign or the password just right. It does not take a Rhodes scholar to figure out why members would not remain in such a lodge. Sometimes, it is one or two older members who are so disruptive and complain about every little thing said or the process of the lodge who drive others away. These are the lodges with the bullies.

As a member of the Dedicated Members for Change, at the behest of the late Donald R. Smith, I look forward to

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San Pablo Confers Degrees

VALLEJO - San Pablo Lodge No.43 conferred the Second and Third Degrees on July 28, 2014 for brothers and sisters from Suisun, Vacaville, Berkeley and Vallejo.

In Third Degree collars and surrounding the cake which congratulated them on receiving the Degree are (not in order) Robert Brooks, Paul Coddington, Khalif Muhammad, Katie Vardijan, Douglas Williford and Gretchen Zimmermann of San Pablo Lodge No.43 in Vallejo; Richard Rivera and Kenneth Sanders of Suisun Lodge No.78; Brandon Cherry, Randy Fair and Bruce Valmont of Vacaville Lodge No.83 and Mito H. David and Vivian Wong of Berkeley Lodge No.270. Kneeling in front are Vice Grand Ed Cull and Noble Grand Paul Thorn.



Visitors attending were Wes Mitchell, George Ambrose and Vince Thompson of Suisun; DDGM Rick Trefz of Vacaville and Mark Donnell, Anita Donnell, Jeff LeRoux, Conrad Ettlting and Klaus Rotzscher of Berkeley

Other San Pablo Lodge No.43 members who assisted in conferring of the degree were Bryn Tucker, Chris Vardijan, Scott Holderby, David Schutjer, Patrick Craven, Dennis Carroll, Bill Schneider, John Nelson, Betty Ronning, Mark Wright, Sandy Sangco, Sean Murdock, Louis Verenini and Marlin Forthun.

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using this medium in the coming years to spread an active message of change and modernization. This is what our SGL was tasked to do in the 1970's with the release of the Daisy Report and it has failed to meet those expectations. There are lodges unwilling to open their doors to ALL people who are otherwise qualified to join. It is those barriers that need tearing down. No one who is qualified to join our great Order should be turned away because of a few unenlightened members.

Ultimately, we need to look toward ourselves and focus on those principles of love and friendship and be fraternal. Our principles are our foundation and were commonly practiced in the early half of the 19th Century, especially in Thomas Wildey's lifetime, whom was beloved by all members. Fraternalism took on a whole different meaning where disagreements were resolved through friendship, love, and truth. We should be united and enjoy each other's company. Leave strife and anger at the door of an Odd Fellows Hall. Once we recognize each other as brothers and sisters, we shall shine.

We have a lot of good to offer our communities and to make our Order shine. It is time to get on board and help make things right.
Fraternally yours,

*Peter Sellars
Grand Warden*

Though They Are Gone, They Are Not Forgotten...

Russel Pohle Called Home

ANGLES CAMP – In April of this year, Hope Lodge #33 lost one of it's long time members, Russel F. Pohle, and we were remiss in not reporting this in the last issue and wish to let the Order know of his passing.

Russell died peacefully at his home after a long fight with a host of physical problems as well as dementia on April 2, 2014. Russell joined Hope Lodge over 25 years ago, shortly after moving to Angels Camp. At the time, the lodge was in danger of closing with the Associate members from Sonora Lodge helping to hold it together.

After joining, Russel quickly went through the various elected and appointed offices and for twenty years worked hard to refurbish, repair and improve the Lodge, both as to the building and, holding activities, and for getting new members.

Russel worked hard to improve the Lodge also knowing that his wife would be there to help by his side. He was a dedicated member and one that emulated what the Order stands for. We offer our sincere condolences to his widow Garda and the entire Pohle Family. Cards may be send to Mrs. Garda Pohle P.O.BOX 399, Angels Camp, CA 95222

Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Grand Lodge of California, I.O.O.F.
14414 Oak Street, Suite B
Saratoga, CA 95070-6186



Lodge Number or Expiration Date After Name

ACHIEVEMENT FOR I.O.O.F.

By: Pete Sellars, GL Board of Directors Membership



Canton San Francisco No. 5 and two of its chevaliers collaborated with Sister Cities International Conference during its 58th Annual Convention.

The special event had never included the Order until this year, on August 1, 2014, when Canton No. 5 members, Bonnie Sellars and Rick Boyles, the Junior Past Grand Master, applied for participation on behalf of the I.O.O.F.

This year's convention was held in San Jose, California, at the Fairmont San Jose Hotel. Odd Fellow and chevalier Rick Boyles of California proudly carried the I.O.O.F. Banner in the Parade of Flags.

Over 200 volunteer, selected, or elected diplomats from all over the world carried flags at the official opening at San Jose City Hall. It was a spectacular scene. The colors of each flag stood out to an enthusiastic audience, where the Three-Link-Fraternity flag was seen by thousands of people.

Bonnie Sellars, who is also the captain for Canton No. 5, presented the I.O.O.F. Flag, as well as a Resolution, to Adam Kaplan, Vice President of Sister Cities International so local Odd Fellows would be encouraged to participate in future Sister Cities events, such as the flag parade.

Our I.O.O.F. banner, which was provided by the Grand Lodge office, and because we are a fraternal organization, shall be included in future Sister Cities Conventions because of the effort and time used by these two dedicated members to establish a valuable relationship. We were put on the map, per se.

