



## Community Clean Up



**BOULDER CREEK** - On March 18th a group of Boulder Creek Lodge #152 Odd Fellows and members of the Boulder Creek Neighbors community set to clean up the overgrown weeds that had developed over the winter in the Boulder Creek Odd Fellows Cemetery. About 30 people came to help, they worked hard, got a lot done, and enjoyed good fellowship and a bar-beque afterwards!

Steve Briscoe, a 38 year member of Odd Fellows, took the opportunity and talked to the group briefly about history of the cemetery and Odd Fellowship.

The seed for this event started when someone, walking their dog, commented to a local Face book group that the local cemetery needed some attention. The Face Book group, Boulder Creek Neighbors, which generally discuss local events and observations in the community soon was on board to help clean the cemetery. Steve Briscoe, as a member of BC Neighbors, joined the Face Book conversation, got several volunteers and mentioned it at the following Lodge meeting. The Lodge was pleased that we had community support for our cemetery.

A group was organized, a date set and we were off and running. Members of the Boulder Creek Lodge #152 who attended were; Dennis Madison, Ebin Warner, Bob Pilgren, Kat Davies-Janes, ( a future member) and Steve Briscoe. Bob Pilgren followed up with his brush chipper and made the cemetery neat and clean.

This was a great community effort and there were so many positive comments from the people attending and many were disappointed that they could not attend that they plan to hold another community cemetery cleanup day later in summer!

# California Sessions A Big Success!

VISALIA – This past May, joint sessions were held for the Oder in Visalia, California. The 166th Session for the Grand Lodge of California and the 126th Rebekah Assembly Session with Grand Master Dave Reed and Rebekah President Phoebe Astill presiding.

The Master and Mistress of Ceremonies welcomed the group and Grand Master Dave Reed and Rebekah President Phoebe Astill were escorted into the room along with their respective officers. Special guests included W. Larry Ferguson, West Virginia past Sovereign Grand Master and Linda Thompson – Arizona president, I.A.R.A.

The installation of the new officers was held on Saturday, May 19th and the ceremony was opened by Grand Master Dave Reed and President Phoebe Astill. New Elected Officers installed for the 2018-2019 term for the Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly were: Melvin Astrahan, Grand Master and Ernie Olson, RA President; Jamie Jepson, Deputy Grand Master and Marilyn Nichols, RA Vice President; Greg Schomaker, Grand Warden and Mary Sellars, RA Warden; Ray Link Grand Secretary and Karoline Livingston, RA Secretary; Jay Johnson Grand Treasurer and Mary Lou Lang, RA Treasurer. Special Thanks to all the other appointed officers who have chosen to hold positions in both the Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly - we could not do this without all of you!

This year's session were very productive with much good works of the Order being accomplished in the short time everyone was together. We wish our new Grand Master Mel Astrahan and Rebekah Assembly President Ernestine Olson an amazing year as they travel the state continuing the work of the order!





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July, August, September 2018

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Positive Communication"**

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## COME TO THE 2018 CAVE DEGREE

The 72nd Annual Second Degree Cave Ceremonial in the Yreka Cave will be held on Saturday, August 25, 2018. Moonrise will be about 8:10 PM, so we will get to see the moon rise above Mt. Shasta during the early part of the degree.

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 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.

All Lodges are invited to bring their 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.

The 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 are REQUIRED by August 1, 2018. (No Reservation, NO DINNER.) These can be made by email to Secretary Alfred Brandon at [brandonap@sisqtel.net](mailto:brandonap@sisqtel.net) (preferred) or by phone at (530) 468-5481, with payment at the door. They can also be mailed with checks payable to Yreka Lodge #19, to the Yreka Lodge, No. 19, PO Box 445, Yreka, CA 96097.

Incoming Grand Master Mel Astrahan has arranged for Degree teams to confer the Degrees, including a new version of the Initiatory Degree. Others 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 73rd Annual Second Degree Cave Ceremonial needs to be confirmed. The best moon nights are September 28, 2019 and June 1, 2019, which is the reserved date for the Grand Master's Reception. If the Grand Master can reschedule his reception, we will use the June 1st date. Stay tuned for final date!

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Proofing Editors for this edition of the COF&R: Sandra Albers, John Fraher 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.

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## Exploring the World of Art

SAN FRANCISCO - Odin Lodge #393 had a very successful event at San Francisco's Museum of modern Art (MOMA). The group gathered to enjoy the Fisher Collection, which was very interesting and quite beautiful. The Doris and Donald Fisher Collection is among the world's greatest private collections of contemporary art.

After the visit, the group enjoyed a wonderful lunch and good fellowship. Odin Lodge has been working hard at getting new members over the last few years and people are enjoying being involved with the Lodge, and its charities and especially the great events! The group looks forward to doing more good works and enjoying more events in the future.



## Community Members Honored

NEVADA CITY - Two, long time members were recently honored and celebrated at the Nevada City, Odd Fellows, Oustomah Lodge #16 for giving service to their community.

Honored were Jim Driver of Rough and Ready, who received a "60 year Membership Award" and Allan Rogers of Nevada City, who received a "Meritorious Service Award."

Newly elected Oustomah lodge #16, Nobel Grand, Kate Winningham, Vice Grand, Sasha St. John and Treasurer, Richard Gorman, presented the awards. All gathered with some 70 plus family, friends and Odd Fellows dignitaries, including Chairman of the California Grand Lodge Board

of Directors, John Morgan. The ceremony and luncheon had music by the Buffalo Gals, and much to the delight of the crowd the band invited, Jim, Allan and others to join in on the music fun.

## Mindfulness

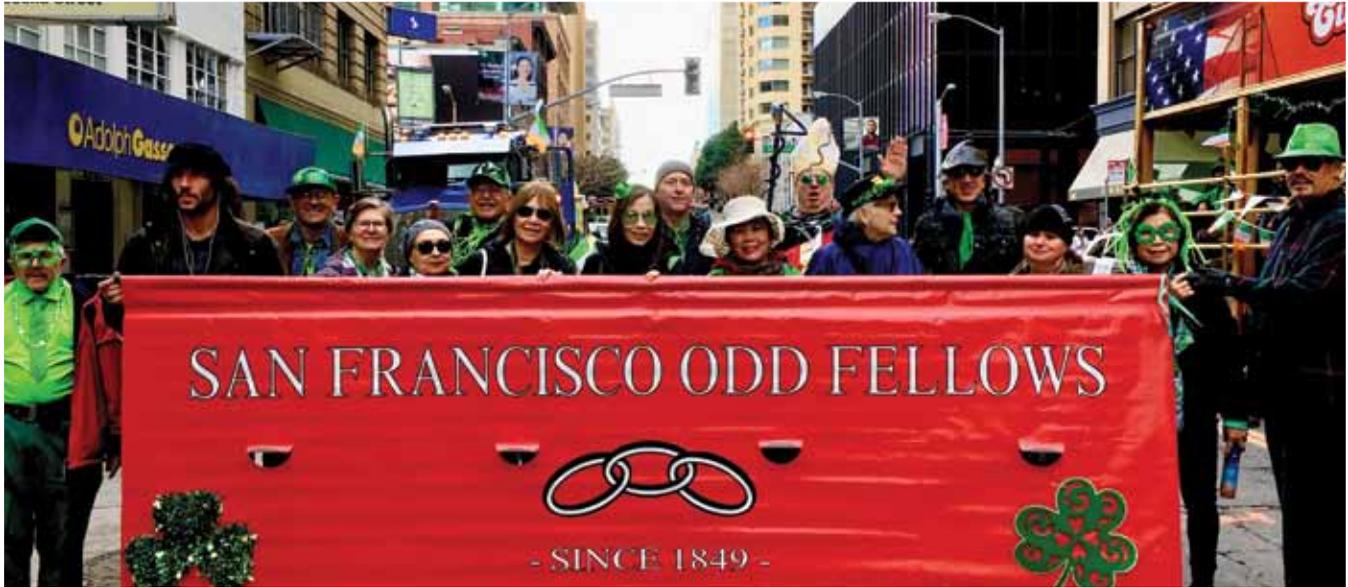
DAVIS - In her year as President of the IARA Joyce Link made the UC David Mind Institute her special project. The UC Davis Mind project was stated in In 1998 by families of children with autism. They envisioned experts from every discipline related to early brain development working together toward one goal; finding and developing treatments for individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities.

Joyce would like to offer her special thanks, "To all you supported this project, and especially to those at the 2017 Sessions in St. Louis, MO who also offered your support for the money tree donations, I thank you!"



Joyce Link's grandson Brady was honored to deliver the proceeds from the 'Money Tree' donations to the Executive Director and other staff of the U.C. Davis Mind Institute. Also in attendance were Brady's mother Kelli and Grandma Joyce.

# Celebrating St. Patrick's Day



San Francisco - This past St. Patrick's Day, members of Morse Odd Fellow Lodge #257 participated in the annual St Patrick's Parade held each year in San Francisco. The members were blessed with no rain & enjoyed giving out candy to the kids & the fellowship shared as they marched up Market street to the San Francisco City Hall. Member Tom Barton stated that "this was a great way to show people all about our Odd Fellows organization. The members can't wait to participate next year...Erin go Bragh!"

## A Bit of Blarney

SAN FRANCISCO - On St. Patrick's Day everyone is a bit Irish. This year, California Lodge #1 celebrated all things Irish at the Winchester Mystery House in San Jose. The members enjoyed a tour of the mansion and learned a bit about this extravagant maze of Victorian



craftsman-ship. The house is marvelous, baffling, eerily eccentric, and undeniably,

haunted. The mansion was designed and built by the Winchester Rifle heiress Sarah Winchester.

There were over 60 members in attendance and all enjoyed hearing the story behind the house. The group then enjoyed a wonderful Italian meal and even though they didn't have the traditional Irish fare, because it was St. Patrick's Day, there was lots of Blarney flowing! Good fellowship was enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Julie Ballard who put this fine adventure together.

## Courting New Members

VAN NUYS - This year, Van Nuys Rebekah Lodge #239 held a St. Patrick's Day dinner. There were over 30 people in attendance. This event was a special social event



to help bring in more members. After an evening of food, fun, education and games they received 3 new membership applications. Way to go Van Nuys!

## Traveling the World

LOS ANGELES - America Lodge 3#85 Travel Club has completed a cruise to Fiji. This group left Los Angeles on its way to Sydney, Australia to pick up the ship. In Sydney they toured the Iconic Opera House and later attended an operetta.

There they boarded the ship and sailed to Lifou, New Caledonia. Then it was off to Vanuatu (formerly known as New Hebrides). After finding those islands interesting and different, they visited Fiji. There were four Fiji ports in three islands of the 320 island archipelago; each of them quite different from the others. On their return trip to Australia the ship stopped at Noumea, New Caledonia, the capitol which is a bustling city and back to Sydney for a trip home.

Since the group had a 12-hour layover in Taipei, Taiwan, these adventurous travelers took advantage of the time to tour Taipei, a magnificent difference from the other places on the trip!



*This intrepid group of travelers from America Lodge #385 included Robert Forthun, Grace Mazik, Evelyn Reed, Chris Greenwood and Leah Greenwood.*

## Giving Back



SAN FRANCISCO - In the spirit of giving back to the community this spring, the Good Work's committee of Morse Lodge # 257 got together to stuff backpacks for the homeless at the Holy Redeemer Church.

There are so many ways lodges can become involved in their community and give back, this is what our Order all about and what a wonderful feeling to be able to know that this small gesture made the day of many people who have so little! Great job Morse!

You can make your world  
so much larger simply by  
acknowledging everyone else's.  
- Jeanne Laskas

## Team Baldfellows

DAVIS - This past March, members of the David Lodge #169 shaved their head to help support the St. Baldrick's Foundation. This foundation support childhood cancer and funds grants for childhood cancer research through shaving events and other fundraisers across the globe.



St. Baldrick's started with three guys in a bar on St. Patrick's Day and a challenge to go bald to raise money for childhood cancer research. Their goal was \$17,000. They ended up raising \$104,000, and from this St. Baldrick's was born. If you or your lodge is interested in supporting this fine cause, please check out their website at: [www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org)

# Helping Where Needed

WINDSOR – On a recent weekend, the Windsor Odd Fellow Lodge #215 got together and helped the Redwood Gospel Mission package food for those in need.

Beginning as a 14 bed shelter in 1963, the Mission now mobilizes the community to minister to the needy through a variety of homeless services, recovery programs, vocational training, jail ministries, outreach events, food bank and thrift store.

The group worked together to fill up orange and pear bags. They worked hard and by the end of the shift, they had bagged over 7,000 lbs of fruit for the seniors, homeless, and families who need help in their community! All that work made them hungry, and once done, they enjoyed a nice dinner at Mi Burrito.

Special thanks to Windsor attendees: Nancy Carey, Walter Schnepfer, Ron Carrey, Betsy Corbin, Denny Pedersen, Roger Sprinkle, Lisa Pena, Larry Corbin, Jill Daniels, Cindy Brown, Denise Pedersen, and Jim Brown.



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## A Taste of Davis

DAVIS - On Thursday, April 26, the Davis Odd Fellows Lodge hosted its 9th annual "A Taste of Davis" at the Odd Fellows Lodge Hall.

Close to 200 guests enjoyed food and drink from nineteen fine restaurants, wineries, breweries, dessert houses, coffee and kava bars. An active committee of 20 Odd Fellows and Pledges, chaired by Dave and Lea Rosenberg, organized and staffed this popular community event, raising funds for Meals on Wheels and other charitable giving by the Lodge.

Plans are already underway for the 10th annual 2019 "A Taste of Davis".



## Davis Encampment

DAVIS - Officers of Davis Encampment #21 were installed on January 29 after a dinner attended by 39 members of the Encampment and guests. Installing officer was Grand Senior Warden Dave Rosenberg.



*Officers installed, pictured left to right are: Back row: Chief Patriarch Lea Rosenberg, Senior Warden Doug Hatton, Junior Warden Juelie Roggli, High Priest Jim Cheney, Scribe Diana Schmiegel, Treasurer Janis Rosenberg, Financial Scribe Tony Pruitt. Front row: Outside Sentinel Joe Otto, Second Watch Kevin Sitz, First Watch Sharla Cheney, Fourth Watch Diane Steele, Guide Charlene Sailer, Inside Sentinel Cathy Aubill, Third Watch Howie Spero.*

## Giving Back

UPLAND – This past spring, Euclid Lodge #68 in Upland, CA decided that they wanted to do something special for their community.

The lodge members got together and decided that they would put together Easter baskets for the children in a nearby family shelter. What a wonderful gift that they gave these families!

Oftentimes a shelter will tell you that they have many, many gifts at Christmas, but sometimes not so many during the other times of the year. This was a great time for the Lodge to get together and prepare these baskets, and what a great way to put a smile on a child's face!



## Beeping Easter Egg Hunt

EL DORADO – Mark Lucas, VG of El Dorado Lodge #8 reported that along with the AT&T Pioneers they sponsored the 31st Annual Beeping Easter Egg Hunt for sight impaired children in the Sacramento area. Held

at Orangevale Park in Orangevale, CA, these two organizations served as hosts to well over a hundred children, who enjoyed two separate hunts.

The first hunt, with beeping Easter eggs, allowed the participation of visually impaired children (and a few adults), many for the first time. The second hunt was for all children, with plenty of eggs to go around. A barbecue, with burgers, hot dogs and all of the fixings, cotton candy, popcorn and face painting could also be found. Several attendees asked about and were introduced to the good works performed by the Odd Fellows in the Sacramento area. It was a tremendous day for all.



## Easter Celebration

DAVIS – What would Easter be, with the annual "Breakfast with the Bunny" at the Davis Odd Fellows Lodge #169. The event took place at the Lodge Hall on March 31.

All tickets were sold out and the 120 community members who attended enjoyed time with "The Bunny", a Continental Breakfast, the traditional egg hunt, plus storytelling, games, face-painting and more. This was truly a successful event that put smiles on all the faces of those present!



## 9th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

SARATOGA – Saratoga IOOF Lodge #428 hosted a very successful Easter Egg Hunt on April 1st at Wildwood Park in Saratoga. This has become an annual tradition for the local children, and all the families look forward to the festivities!

Sister Connie Hall reported that participants enjoyed the event – especially meeting the two Easter bunnies and taking photos with them! Fifteen volunteers from Saratoga Lodge participated, as well as the youth group from a local church and our youth Sigma Tau #92

Theta Rho Fraternity. There were 2 hours of activities including music with a DJ, face painting, balloon sculptures and a hula hoop contest.

Finally, the Bunnies lead off the three Easter Egg hunts! These occurred in divided age groups for 6,000 plastic toy and candy filled eggs. Approximately 300 children, adults, and volunteers attended the Event. Everyone looks forward to next year!



# Meet Your Officers

## Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly Officers for the 2018-2019 Term

**We welcome Dr. Melvin A. Astrahan as the Grand Master for State of California Odd Fellows 2018-19 term.**



Brother Melvin was born in New York and grew up in San Jose. He attended the University of California, Irving

and went on to Graduate school at Northwestern University and received his Ph.D from the University of California, Los Angeles.

He currently lives in Los Alamitos, California and the an Emeritus professor of the University of Southern California (26 years) and CEO of Eye Physics, LLC.

Melvin is the Son of Joan (Schwartz ) and Dr. Morton Astrahan . Brother Melvin's father worked for IBM and managed development of IBM's first computers! Brother Melvin married Cheri (Watson) Astrahan in 1976 and they have 3 children Rachel, Joseph and Andrew, all who live in Southern California. He is the proud grandfather of 2 grandchildren, whom he adores.

Brother Melvin started out as a member of Whittier Lodge #315 (which consolidated with America Lodge #385), Philotesian Rebekah #145, Lauren Encampment #81 and Whitter #31 Canton. He has served several terms as NG and has held many Grand Lodge positions, both appointed and elected offices including Grand Warden, Deputy Grand Master, Director of the Grand

Lodge and Grand Color Bearer.

We look forward to hearing Brother Melvin's ideas for our great Order as he travels up and down the State this year and we wish him safe travels and a wonderful year!

This year, we welcome as **The Grand Conductor for the Grand lodge of California for the 18-19 term Brother Richard M. Perry.** Also serving as the **Outside Guardian for the Rebekah Assembly is his lovely wife Delphine Ridolfi Perry.**

The Perry's are both now retired and live full time in Brentwood, CA. When they married in 2005 they brought all of their children into the fold. Together they have a total of 5 children/step-children and 13 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren who keep them busy!

Brother Richard and Sister Delphine are both long time members of Livermore #219 and of Silver Star Rebekah #336. Delphine was also a Theta Rho having joined Naida Theta Rho #88 in her youth. They have both served the Order in many different jobs. Brother Richard has served as District Deputy #36 and has served as his lodges served in many on the positions in his lodge, including Noble Grand and he is a Director at the odd Fellow memory Gardens Cemetery of Livermore. Sister Delphine has served as Color Bearer to the Rebekah Assembly and she too has served as Noble Grand and served in other lodge positions as needed.



We wish them both well as they travel the State for the Order!

Serving as the **Grand Musician for the Rebekah Assembly this year is Gail M. Warness.** Sister Gail lives in Sacramento and grew up the Sonora/Stockton area. Gail is married to Raymond Warness, and they have three children, nine grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren all living close by so they get to enjoy them all!

Sister Gail has been a member of the Order for

many years, starting out with Theta Rho Florin #68 . She is also a member of the River City Odd Fellows #17, Florin Rebekah lodge #20

and the occidental LEA #2. She has served the Order in many areas and was the District #6 Deputy in 2009-10.

Gail is a retired Hair Stylist and Bookkeeper and in her spare time she loves to paint portraits and landscapes with oils. She also loves to crochet, knit and play on the piano - loving to keep her fingers busy! She will be a big asset to the order this year as she travels the State as Grand Musician.

**The Conductor for the Rebekah Assembly for this year's term is Patricia A. Player.** Sister Patricia grew up in Redding and attended UC Berkeley where she earned her Teaching Credential. She married and raised a family and has two children, 3 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Sister Gail was a high school teacher for 33 years and retired having won several teaching awards including Teacher of the Year nominee from West Contra Costa District in 1997. Sister Gail is a long time member of the Order and followed both her parents and Sister into the Order.



She started as a Theta Rho in Redding and was the president of the Theta Rho Assembly during her time there. She is a member of Mt. Shasta Rebekah in Redding/consolidated in 2013 Millville Lodge #3 and an Associate member of the Ivy Rebekah Lodge #23.



Sister Gail keeps very busy in her retirement and is a member of the American Association of university Women, Vista Cerrito, Eastern Star and the California Retired Teachers of Richmond. She has served on the Tree and Parks Commissions for the City of El Cerrito and served on the Contra Costa Unified School Board.

She is now a resident of the Meadows at Napa and has thoroughly enjoyed the change to get back into the Rebekah's where her love for fraternal like was nourished in her teens and 20's!

**Serving as this year's Marshal to the Rebekah Assembly is Melinie P. Caines.** Melinie hails from El Segundo, California. She grew up in Southern California and obtained her BS degree from CSU Dominguez Hills and now works as a Licensed Custom broker.

Sister Melinie is married to Phillip Caines and they have four children and four grandchildren. She is a long time member of the order and is a member of Ontario Odd Fellow #345, Silver Crest Rebekah #295.



Melinie is also involved in the Auxiliary to

the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and is a past Department President for the Past National Counsel. She has also served as A District Deputy to the RA President and is looking forward to serving as this year's Marshal and we wish her well

We are pleased to welcome **Chelsey Vinsant as this year's Color Bearer to the Rebekah Assembly.** Chelsey grew up in the order. She is a 4th generation, preceded by her great grandmother Miriam, her grandmother Carolyn, her aunt Monica and father Jack.



Chelsey joined Theta Rho when she was 10 years old and the Rebekah Order when she turned 16. Chelsey was President of the Theta Rho Assembly for 2 years. Shortly after, she followed in her Grandmother Carolyn's footsteps and was DDP of District 6 as well as a past Noble Grand for both the Rebekahs and Odd Fellows. She has been an advisor for Florin Theta Rho #68 for 5 years. Chelsey is one busy young woman...she currently has 2 jobs and is attending Sacramento State in pursuit of her Bachelor's degree in Communications. Congratulations and thank you for your time Chelsey!

**The Rebekah Assembly of California is proud to welcome Sister Patricia Aaneson as this year's Chaplin.** Sister Patricia was born in Denver and moved to Ridgecrest, CA where she attended school and now lives in Saratoga, CA. She is married to Charles Aaneson and they had four children and now have 4 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren!

Patricia has had many family members in the Order, and she is a long time member of Philotesian

#145, Cupertino, Desert Primrose, Ridgecrest. She is a member of the Hope #60 LEA and Santa Clara #6 LAPM. She has served in many positions in the Order, including Past DDP Rebekah, Past Grand High Prestis and is a current trustee of Grand LEA.

She has also been very involved in her community and over the years has worked with the Mission City Football Leagues and the El Camino little League where she was a coach. And also volunteered with the both the Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts, and volunteer at the library.



She enjoys handcrafts and sewing and still enjoys her work in sales. We wish her well in her job as this year's Chaplin.

Capital City Rebekah Lodge  
#150 Invites You to a  
**High Tea**  
September 29  
at  
1831 Howe  
Avenue  
Sacramento, CA



Tickets: \$25 per person,  
Table of 6 for \$100 and  
Table for 8 for \$150  
Shop at Noon and  
Tea Room opens at 1PM

Purchase tickets from  
Betty Rasor  
betty-gene7420@sbcglobal.  
net or Marcia Pratt at  
alzgr11@aol.com

# Membership

FRESNO - Fresno Lodge #186 has been hard at work recruiting new members. They are doing many good works in their community and getting people interested in becoming a part of our great fraternal Order!

They recently initiated nine new members and reinstated one previous member. We know that they will be a great asset to our Lodge. We welcome back Chuck Falls, and our newest members: Marilyn Bolin, Alice Falls, Sally Minkler, Yvonne Fasset, Barbara Jennings, Marcia Weaver, Julie Skiba, Nora Rose and Barbara Kjer.



## “For the Love of Apricots: Recipes and Memories of the Santa Clara Valley”



by Lisa Prince Newman

My apricot adventure began several years ago, while visiting Novakovich Orchards, the last commercial apricot orchard in my hometown of Saratoga. I had grown up with the Novakovich boys and, although I moved away after high school, decades later, I developed the habit of visiting their orchard with my elderly father, as a way of remembering our property that was located nearby. Surrounded by the gnarled fruit trees and mountain views, I had a personal epiphany: to write a cookbook focused on apricots, my favorite fruit, with memories of growing up during the Santa Clara Valley's orchard era. Our family home was a two-acre property with fruit orchards and views across the valley to the distant foothills. Growing up there, in an era when life was lived more simply and slowly, I gained a deep appreciation for the land, the seasons, and the region's agricultural heritage.

My mother was a gifted cook and master gardener who took full advantage of the rich soil and excellent climate for growing fruits and vegetables. Learning from her about “farm to table” cooking, long before the term was born, was one of her greatest gifts to me. I developed a love for baking and cooking along with a lasting taste memory of the fruits we grew: apricots, French prunes, figs, and persimmons, which shaped my life. Yet, despite the Garden of Eden in my own backyard, the Santa Clara Valley was quickly transforming from farms and fruit orchards to silicon manufacturing plants and suburbs. The steady loss of the familiar orchard landscapes touched me deeply and influenced my choice of a career in city planning.

This inspiration to blend my passions for apricots, cooking, and planning into a cookbook set me on an adventurous path to develop apricot recipes, get acquainted with the remain-



ing orchardists in the region, and learn more about apricots and their history.

The cookbook project would never have come together without my friendship and shared experiences with Neal and Eric. Their enthusiasm and engagement in the idea helped move the project forward at every step. Eric's beautiful fruit and orchard photography and Neal's resourcefulness with community, technology, and research were indispensable. I am so proud of the result of our joyful collaboration that has resulted in an apricot cookbook that home cooks will enjoy and people interested in the unique beauty, history, and resources of the Santa Clara Valley will find compelling.

After four years of renewed friendship, discovery, and hard work, the cookbook project is complete! For the Love of Apricots: Recipes and Memories from the Santa Clara Valley will be published just in time for the fresh apricot season! I hope you enjoy reading more about our apricot journey, cooking the wonderful recipes in the cookbook, and learning more about our region's history. For more information and to purchase the cookbook, please visit <http://fortheLoveofApricots.com>

# THANK YOU

“California Here I Come” was what I said last year, when I was installed into the office of President of the Rebekah Assembly. I am here to tell you it has been a wonderful year, traveling from San Diego to Mt Shasta, I have enjoyed my travels and meeting with the members of this great jurisdiction.

From helping some Odd Fellow Lodges celebrate their 146th and 150th anniversaries, to having the honor of presenting Veteran Jewels to some of our Rebekah sisters, helping dedicate “Rebekah’s Bistro” at “The Meadows” in Napa, the honor of helping to lay the wreath at Arlington National Cemetery, and many other wonderful events, I have been truly blessed.

Thank you to all for the wonderful meals, gifts, and social times I have had with everyone, but now it is time for me to sit back and enjoy the memories I have made. Congratulations to the new officers and I wish for them the best.

Again, thank you for everything and now instead of saying “California Here I Come” I can say “California It is Good to Be Home”

*Phoebe Astill, Past Rebekah Assembly President*

## A Special Celebration

VAN NUYS - At a special ceremony this past March, Sister Donna Miller of the Van Nuys Rebekah Lodge #239 received her 50-year jewel.



Sister Nancy Latu, NG stated that Sister Donna started as a Theta Rho at age 10 and has always remained a member of our Order and we congratulate her for this wonderful achievement!

## Oustomah Pays A Visit



NEVADA CITY - This past January, Oustomah Lodge #16 came to visit the Davis Lodge #169. Six members of Oustomah (Nevada City) visited and participated in the Davis Lodge meeting.

Davis Lodge, under the leadership of NG Jim

Bledsoe, arranges reciprocal visits to and from sister Lodges.

## Day At The Races, Another Success!

BERKELEY - “Once again, the annual Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Day At The Races event turned out to be a huge success” stated Peter Sellars, Past Grand Master. This year, nearly 600 members and guests attended the outing! Members of several different lodges were represented.



Yerba Buena Lodge #15 was the host of the event. This is the largest attended Order-related event in the state.

During the course of the day, a check was presented to the Rebekah Children’s Services (RCS)

by sister Anne Leong, the Noble Grand of Yerba Buena Lodge #15. The event is also used as a fundraiser for RCS.

The food was delicious as usual and the atmosphere was full of energy. One could hear the many shouts of joy when a winning horse crossed the finish line. The event was exciting and fun.

There were several representatives on hand at the event, as well as a few key members of the Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly .

Special thanks to all of the lodges who came out to support the Day At the Races event. Each year, these lodges come through in a big way to help give a little back to the Order and to have a fun time in the process. It is a supreme gathering of many members and an opportunity to socialize and discuss matters, where otherwise the opportunity does not present itself.

“It is awesome to see so many members enjoying themselves at this event,” said event chairman, Peter V. Sellars. “Odd Fellows and Rebekahs come together to just have a good time with each other.”

Next year, we shall work to make the event even bigger and better.

# Leaders and Leading

Every year at the Grand Lodges Sessions, the “leaders” of California Odd Fellows meet. Our leaders include current and past Grand Lodge officers, directors of the various boards, and representatives from lodges. To be a representative, you must be a Past Grand.

The leaders make decisions about the direction of the Odd Fellows in California. They make decisions about changes in Roberts Code. They make decisions about ideas to improve the Order. Not surprisingly, many of the leaders have filled those roles for years. That is not a bad thing. Experienced leaders are valuable. Every organization needs leaders.

When I visited lodges, their leaders were easy to spot. Sometimes, they were the Noble Grand. Not always. Sometimes, they were the Secretary or Treasurer. The leaders participated in nearly every discussion. Sometimes, they were the ones who corrected other members. Every lodge needs leaders. One good leader is great. Several leaders in a lodge is even better.

Leaders provide direction. But leaders can do much more. Leaders can make others feel wanted and valuable. Leaders listen. Leaders should encourage discussion. Leaders should encourage improvements in their lodge. Every lodge can improve in one way or another. Leaders should encourage ideas to improve their lodge. Leaders should encourage actions to improve their lodge. Leaders should try to inspire and motivate members to make their lodge meaningful.

Some lodges have one or two members who are the leaders. In small lodges, those members are vital to the existence of the lodge. Without them, the lodge will likely wither. In those lodges especially, the leaders must be proactive in preparing other members to lead.

Leaders should encourage others to become leaders. Leaders should share their experiences and wisdom to help other members become leaders. Help them learn how to plan an event. Help them learn how to run an event. Help them learn how to run meetings. Let them run events and meetings. Leaders should support and encourage members rising into leadership

positions. They should make sure that mistakes do not become a negative experience. They should make sure that mistakes are just a constructive part of the lessons of leadership. Remember that we learn from our mistakes. Those lessons will help us become wiser and stronger leaders. Leaders should be conscious of the need to develop new leaders who will lead the lodge in the future.

There is an old Zen proverb that applies to leaders and leadership: To follow the path, look to the master, follow the master, walk with the master, see through the master, become the master.

If we want to nurture our future leaders, we must serve as an example and a model. Actions speak louder than words. We must let them walk with us and work with us. We must lead them down the path of Odd Fellowship. We must share our views and insights on leading. We must encourage and support them. We must let them become leaders. The future of Odd Fellowship will be shaped by our leaders and our future leaders.

In Friendship, Love & Truth,

Dave Reed  
Grand Master

## Have Fun (or else...)

Have fun is one of my favorite expressions. I say it all the time. I believe it's integral to our survival. So much of what we do appears painful or at the very least perfunctory. But the question of how our group attracts new members should be integral to all that we say or do. The simple answer is to make our order as attractive as possible to people looking in. Many of our members and lodges fall into a comfortable rut. Reciting ritual work or chanting something else from memory. While it may seem impressive to have committed something to memory, it is not attractive to someone looking in – on the contrary, it may seem belittling to someone new.

Many of us who have been in the order for years have a lot of mileage and experience to contend with, perhaps not all of it positive, but of course, negativity does not attract anyone, as the rules of attraction are simple. Remember when you were young, the most popular kids were generally the kids who sent a message of happiness. In my youth, the popular kids had the biggest parties, and tended to be having an exciting time every opportunity I had to interact with them. Of course, therefore they were popular, because they were greatly admired, and in many cases, emulated.

It's common sense, really. Negativity, prejudice, hatred, despair, all succeed only in driving people away. Happiness is an attraction without qualification. I've always been surprised by many who run for office in our order, because they often descend into name-calling, obsessive hatred, pettiness, and yet are shocked when they fail to get elected. People are generally smarter than we give them credit for. Most people want happiness, pleasant interactions, truth, and yes, love. After all, it is the implication our order sends. Those of us who want to lead by fear, or punitive behavior, are only kidding ourselves. Leadership means to lead by example, not by wielding a club, but extending an open hand and heart.

Of course, it's a trend of those of us who have been in the order for awhile to look at the newest among us with suspicion, but this distrust is generally borne out of ignorance. Most people, young or old, want mainly to be known as good human beings; it's hard to imagine anyone wishing it any other way. The older members are used to tradition, while the younger members seek innovation, and neither direction is bad, so somehow both must be encouraged with the same level of energy.

Finally, my deeply wondrous theory of “have fun” has some basis in fact, since the lodges that tend to grow are those with the most events and occasions. It's hard to imagine a lodge with very few active members, no events, no refreshments, and punitive behavior growing. It will not happen. The straightest line is the most direct and easiest path. Both smiles and frowns are infectious, but smiles attract, while frowns detract. If we want growth, a smile is what will bring them in and keep them happy.

In Friendship, Love, and Truth,

Rick Boyles  
Past Grand Master

Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
Grand Lodge of California, I.O.O.F.  
122 Race Street  
San Jose, CA 95126



Lodge Number or Expiration Date After Name

## 70 Year's and Counting

WINDSOR - At a recent meeting the members of Windsor Odd Fellow Lodge #215 were pleased to be able to present long time member Manuel Lownes his 70 jewel.

We congratulate Brother Manuel who was delighted to receive his pin and had his daughter there to help him receive this award.

The Windsor Odd Fellow Lodge has been working hard to broaden it's community presence and expand its membership. They do many community events and good works including participation in the Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival for Windsor Days, they have had crab feeds and participated in classic car shows.

They also have open meetings where they invite community members to join them and hear about Odd Fellowship. Having a 70 year member in their midst, to tell them what the Order is about is quite an accomplishment and testament to our Order. We commend and congratulate you for your service Manuel!

