



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

Serving in Illinois Since 1838

Our 183rd Year

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January 2022

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MR & MRS CLAUS

Grand Master Mathew Yingling and Grand Marshal Jessica Yingling playing Mr and Mrs Claus in the Plano Rockin Christmas Parade. Merry Christmas to All from your Brothers and Sisters of Legend Lodge 212.



Mr. and Mrs. Claus
Donated By
Odd Fellows Lodge
Plano, Illinois

ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

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WE DO NOT HOLD OURSELVES RESPONSIBLE for any news or opinions expressed by the communications of our correspondents, and RESERVE the RIGHT to publish NEWS that WE feel constructive to our Order.



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*"Promoting Odd Fellowship
Through Positive Communication"*

ODD FELLOW - REBEKAH HOME

201 Lafayette Ave., Mattoon, Illinois 61938



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Fengel, Irma	Jan 06, 1929
Webb, Lourdine	Jan 07, 1929
Skinner, Rita	Jan 10, 1934
Graves, Frances	Jan 20, 1934
Clodfelder, Larayne	Jan 26, 1937
Phillips, Margaret	Jan 27, 1939
Englund, Carol	Jan 30, 1939
Walker, Lila	Jan 20, 1943

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the home!

I hope everyone is having a blessed and Happy New Year!

We are recouping from the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season. I hope everyone has had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's! We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Directors and the Odd Fellow-Rebekah's for giving us the funds to purchase each resident in our facility a personal gift. Our Residents are so excited to receive these. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful organization to do these generous acts of kindness.

Our Holiday seasons are little different with the Covid precautions. We at least have been fortunate enough to allow Families and Friends in to visit. This is such a blessing, especially this time of year when holidays can be a lonely time.

We made sure we decorated our facility to express the Holiday joy! Our residents even assisted in helping decorate a few of the trees. We put 6 trees up this year! We also held a memorial service for those Resident's who passed this year. We made homemade ornaments, as we do every year to send to the families to let them know we still remember their loved ones. We spread our Holiday Joy by taking Brenda's homemade cookies to the area Doctors offices and Hospital, as well as other community service personnel.

We look forward to the New Year and all the possibilities it holds. We hope and pray you all remain safe and well.

*Penny R. Shinholster
Community Relations Coordinator
Activity Director*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THOMAS WILDEY JANUARY 15 1782

*FOUNDER OF THE
INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD
FELLOWS IN THE UNITED STATES
APRIL 26, 1819*

Born in London, England, at the age of five was orphaned and went to live with this uncle. With nine years of schooling, he became an apprentice coach-spring maker. At the age

of 21 he was initiated into an Odd Fellow Lodge in London and advanced through the chairs within 3 years. His intense interest in Odd Fellowship prompted him to spread the teachings of the Odd Fellows to other parts of the city. He married in 1817. He and his young bride sailed to the United States. In 1833 he retired from his work so that he could devote more time to the Order. The enthusiasm, persistence, courage, commitment wisdom and counsel of this great human being endowed him to hold many important offices in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. We must remember that the United States had just emerged from a war with Great Britain, therefore there was an air of hostility toward Englishmen.

On April 26, 1819 Wildey and four men who responded to the advertisement formed the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in North America, dedicating the Order to achieve philanthropic goals. Other Englishmen who were Odd Fellows had grouped in the states along the Eastern Seaboard, and Wildey gathered them all into the newly formed fraternity. He traveled widely to set up lodges in the most recently settled parts of the country.

Today in this chaotic world in which we live we are indebted to Thomas Wildey for his sacrifices and labor in promoting the principles of our Order. He died on October 19, 1861 in Baltimore, Maryland. No man can become an Odd Fellow without becoming a better man.

SEVEN STARS TAVERN

The "Seven Stars Tavern" was located in Baltimore, a short distance from the waterfront, on the south side of Second Street between Frederick Street and Market Space. It was at this tavern ran by William Lupton that five Englishmen met and solemnly instituted and opened a lodge which they named "Washington Lodge of Odd Fellows". The Tavern was destroyed in the Great Baltimore fire of 1904. Today on the former site of the Tavern is located the University of Baltimore.

OUR BASIC CREED

Genuine Friendship, which hears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things is the first step toward progress and personal enrichment, and the teachings of Temperance, Prudence and Justice.

Love, is the basis for all life's ambitions, service to humanity, and more family oriented.

Truth, the imperial virtue promotes economic stability, equality under law, freedom of enterprise, the highest of ethical standards, and lasting peace, the ultimate goal of fraternity.

Universal Brotherhood of Man under the **Fatherhood of God** is imperative to the survival of the world, and can be accomplished only through the practice of fellowship and understanding among all peoples and nations.

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



HAPPY NEW YEAR in Friendship, Love and Truth!!!

By the time you are reading this we will have moved into yet another year. Hopefully between vaccinations, antibodies, and natural immunity we are closer to putting this horrible scourge upon our lives behind us.

I hope your Christmas' brought your families and lodges together to enjoy in each other's company.

We closed the year with happiness and sorrow. I have had many great meetings and discussions with individual members about the things that they feel important for the order. I traveled to Bushnell lodge for the annual Rabbit Supper and of course bought the Grand Master cake for a bargain price of \$300. There was a moment in time that the Deputy Grand Master Steve Pigg was fairly convinced he was going to own it but at the last second, I entered the "winning" bid! Great conversations were had about our future and there were several members in attendance including the Deputy Sovereign Grand Master, Michelle L. Heckart of Iowa!

Unfortunately in an effort to spare the health of our membership I had to make the difficult decision to postpone the annual Christmas celebration at the

home in Mattoon. There are many of our members and residents who may be celebrating their first big Christmas in two years and with the ever looming threat of Covid we took the cautious route. We will be looking into holding an exec board meeting there in the coming months and hopefully a facility tour as well!

The news of Past Grand Master Randy Barnes' passing was sad to hear just as all of the other brothers and sisters that have gone before him. He is however, finally reunited with his wife whom he missed dearly. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Janis Klockenga from the Grand Lodge Office who is also suffering a personal loss in her family.

The Executive Board is meeting a bit later in January and we have a lot to discuss. It is our sincerest hope that we have great news to share with all of you soon!

All of our District Deputy Grand Masters are likely traveling to their lodges for Installation of officers. Please travel safely and let me know if you have any questions as you head out. We have some really great members and officers out there that want nothing but the best. We, the Grand Lodge officers continue to pledge open lines of communication with all who reach out. WE WORK FOR YOU!!!

I am now looking forward to traveling in the coming months to all of the Regional Meetings and hopefully to see the initiation of plenty of new and energetic members!

Until next time, stay safe, stay fraternal and grow the order!

Fraternally yours in F,L&T,

*Bro. Mathew R Yingling
Grand Master*

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



I hope everyone had a great Christmas and Happy New Year. As part of your New Year Resolution I would hope you put your Lodge as part of the works you hope to accomplish.

The following is from District #16 President Della De Johnston's program from 1978. "As I type this long list of Past Presidents of our District, I could not help but think of all that these Sisters have done for us. We did have 12 lodges in our district, and now have only 6. We must work hard to keep lodges going, so that the work of these Sisters shall not have been in vain." She goes on to tell of two Sisters she added to the deceased list, one who was to be a page for her. The other gave the unwritten work and received her Certificate of Perfection the previous year. (I miss laughing with Della De.)

As an order we are planning meetings or attending them. Stop and think of the times when going to these meetings before cell phones, facebook, and emails, was a time to connect, to share the joys of the order. This meeting started at 11a.m., supper break then reconvened at 7.15 p.m. ending around 9 p.m. Then traveling home! These Sisters and Brothers were not worried what they might miss on T.V. (no recording programs) they wanted time to share, to learn, and to enjoy the fellowship. We all need to remember to Honor those that grew this order and to put some time into growing it again.

Honor Thomas Wildey, born January 15, 1782 he founded Washington Lodge #1 - 1818. Honor your Brothers and Sisters in your Lodge for the work they do. A strong state lodge starts with strong local lodges.

Honor, Respect, Promote

*In F.L. & T.
Susan Schove,
Assembly President*



MT ZION ODD FELLOWS #300 PRESENT 50 YEAR JEWEL



NG Jay Woodrum presented Paul Shearer with his 50 year pin and his lifetime membership card at the Mt Zion Lodge #300 meeting on December 6th meeting. Paul joined the Odd Fellows in 1967 however the presentation had been delayed. Brother Paul passed along pearls of wisdom to members about life and brotherhood. 48 year member Dennis White was also present to celebrate the presentation and brotherhood.

MT ZION #300 DONATES TO FOOD PANTRY



The Mt Zion Food pantry supports local families with food supplies when needed. They continue to be there when our area families need them and the Odd Fellows want to help. On December 4th, 2021, the Mt Zion Odd Fellows donated \$1,000 to the Food Pantry. Mt Zion Odd Fellows Noble Grand Jay Woodrum presented the donation to Earleen Hartich, Director of the Food Pantry and Aaron Ridenour a Food Pantry volunteer.

GUARDIAN LODGE #60 CELEBRATES 4 YEAR REBIRTH



We as a lodge have come a long way since this day. From our 1st meeting in a garage. To meeting at the VFW to meeting in a basement. We have reached our 1st goal of having our own building to call home.

Happy anniversary to all of our members. 4 years ago today we were issued our new charter.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT GRAND LODGE



Pictured above from left to right: Sisters Mary Key, Gail Ann Byers, Audrey Jones, Donna Grable, Mary Welburn as they take part in the Memorial Services for Sisters and Brothers who have departed this earthly life since the last session.



Mr. & Mrs. Claus Jessica & Mat Yingling entertaining visitors.

SYCAMORE ANGELS REBEKAH LODGE #106 SUPPORTS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FOR THE CHILDREN



Sycamore Angels Rebekah Lodge # 106 does many events throughout the year , breast cancer awareness 5K, autism awareness 5K, meat raffles to benefit those less fortunate in our community, food drives benefiting our local food pantries, many festivals serving our homemade funnel cakes to raise funds etc... Nothing is more gratifying, or makes a bigger impact in our community than purchasing Christmas gifts for the foster children of DeKalb County! A few of our members grew up in foster care, so we hold this contribution from our lodge very close to our hearts. On November 29th this year our lodge, in conjunction with the Sycamore Odd Fellows Lodge and with the blessing of a grant we received from the Illinois Odd Fellows Children's Home Board, we were able to grant the Christmas wishes of 90 DeKalb County foster children, also contribute gifts to the teens at Safe Passage, a local safe haven for families who are victims of domestic violence, we also contributed to an adopt a grandparent event, donating little goodie bags that we had made when covid first started, that we were unable to distribute, restricted from visiting the nursing home because of the virus. They are finally being distributed just in time for the Holiday! It has been a difficult couple of years for our lodge, Covid has prevented so many events and meetings, but this year the Christmas Star shines bright with hard work and determination of our members striving to continue to make a difference in our community even during the most difficult times! Where there's a will there's a way, and with our watch words of friendship, love and truth to guide us we will prevail. Merry Christmas from Sycamore Angels Rebekah Lodge & Sycamore Odd Fellows Lodge #105.



SKIT HONORS PRESIDENT AT BANQUET



Pictured above is Sister Nannette Johnson, PRA, PPRa being read her rights by Sister Audrey Jones, Bailiff, after being arrested for Stealing the Limelight the past two years. She was escorted into the court room in handcuffs and led in at the end of a rope. She was found "Guilty" and received a life sentence to the work of Rebekah-Oddfellowship.

HALLOWEEN



Pictured Above are the members of Pride of the West Rebekah Lodge #544, Troy, preparing Trick or Treat Bags for Halloween. Left to right are Patricia Bryant, Mary Key, Gail Ann Byers, Mary Welburn, Shirley Allers, Mary Lou Bruce, Marlene Kolbe, and Audrey Jones. The pictured below is the decorated window at the Lodge Hall.



BUSHNELL #322 ANNUAL RABBIT SUPPER



Grand Master Mathew Yingling ended up spending \$300.00 on the Grand Masters Cake at the annual supper. Mat asked them to cut the cake and service it he wasn't taking it home. He won in the cake auction a small round cake that is pictured with the baker. Mat's wife said is that the cake the cost you \$300.00.



(l-r) Terry Lester Grand Warden, Mat Yingling Grand Master, Steve Pigg Deputy Grand Master, Jim Bott Grand Representative



Mr. & Mrs. Claus, Jessica and Mathew Yingling



BEN HUR LODGE 870



Ben Hur Lodge 870 had a great turnout in December for their In-Between The Holiday Party & Toy Drive for Ronald McDonald House Charities.

MEET THE PGM'S AT GRAND LODGE



Back Row L-R: Jim Bott, PGM, GR, Dan Davis, PGM, PGP, Eric Smith, PGM, GR

Front Row L-R: Gene Curfman, PGM, PGP, Richard Herring, PGM, GS, Terry Barrett, PGM, SGS.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

As the mailing list for the ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW is published and corrected by the Grand Lodge Office, please send all changes of address and names of deceased members to the Grand Lodge Office.

Write to: GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS, IOOF, P.O. Box 248, LINCOLN, IL 62656-0248.

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MT ZION ODD FELLOWS TAKE 2ND PLACE IN PARADE



The Mt Zion Odd Fellows Christmas Parade float won 2nd place. The \$100 prize was donated to the Shoni Anderson Fund to help 5 yr old Shoni's family with expenses while they help her fight leukemia. Shoni's float won the 2nd place prize.