



THE ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

Serving in Illinois Since 1838

Our 183rd Year

VOL. 71, NO. 6 USPS 258240

November/December 2023

50 cents per copy
Subscription \$5.00 per year

SYCAMORE ANGELS REBEKAH LODGE

Sycamore Angels Rebekah Lodge hosted an evening where three scholarship winners received their certificates. The lodge served a delicious meal to all who attended.

From the time the girls and their parents came in the door and were greeted by the members, you would have thought everyone was old friends. The exchange between the girls and parents was priceless, sharing plans and concerns. One of the fathers said to me, "I can't believe you are doing this on a one to one presentation, and having a meal. This is a very special time for all of us." It was indeed my privilege to represent the Scholarship Committee and all the lodge members in Illinois.

Thank you once again Sycamore Angels and all the other lodges who have hosted a presentation and have been a positive influence in these young peoples lives and their families. We never know what an impression we may leave on others lives.



Margaret Wilder is attending Loyola University, Chicago; Majoring in Criminology and Minoring in Spanish. Her parents are Steve and Michelle Wilder, Sycamore.



Angelina Cutrona is the daughter of Tony and Claudine Cutrona from Palatine. Angelina plans to become an Interior Designer.



Dominika Brzegowy plans to become a Biology Teacher. Her parents are Rafal and Eva Brzegowy from Huntley. Her mother was able to accompany her for the presentation.



Pictured are: Angelina, Dominika, Maggie, and Bonnie Hensley

ILLINOIS ODD FELLOW

(USPS 258240) is published bi-monthly by the Grand Lodge of Illinois, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, 845 Wyatt Avenue, Lincoln, IL 62656-0248.

SEND NEWS TO:

Grand Lodge of Illinois
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Lincoln, IL 62656-0248
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Directors
Executive Committee
Grand Lodge of Illinois
P.O. Box 248
Lincoln, IL 62656-0248
Web Site: www.ioof-il.org

Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, Illinois and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the **GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS I.O.O.F.**, P.O. Box 248, Lincoln, Illinois 62656-0248.

Contributions of current news and articles pertaining to the welfare of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows fraternity solicited.

This publication is mailed by the first of the month, publication and contributions must reach the editor by the 10th of the preceding month.

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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I.O.O.F. International
Press Association

*"Promoting Odd Fellowship
Through Positive Communication"*

ODD FELLOW - REBEKAH HOME

201 Lafayette Ave., Mattoon, Illinois 61938



JANUARY/FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Irma Gobelman **2nd**, Rita Skinner **10th** celebrating **90th**, Janet Fraembs **15th**, Susan Murray **19th** celebrating **80th**, Charles Parker **23rd** celebrating **85th**, Margaret Phillips **27th** celebrating **85th**, Cheryl Lee **28th**, Hazel Blagg **30th** Celebrating **99 years!**, Carol Englund **30th** celebrating **85th**

Esther Nichols **5th**, Hannelore Smith **15th**, Patsy Behncke **20th**, Viola Boyd **20th** celebrating **85th**, Joan Kehoe **24th**

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Happy Holidays!

I hope this finds everyone in the best of health and care! We are busy getting the Christmas Cheer going here at Odd Fellows! The decoration of the trees has begun. As always, the facility is decked out in the Holiday spirit! We anxiously anticipate Santa's arrival!

The residents have been busy preparing crafts and goodies for the bake sale on December 15th! Stop by the facility and purchase some of their delicious cookies, cakes, treats and beautiful crafts! All proceeds go to help our Activity Department. The residents will have their Christmas Party on this day as well. They always get so excited to unwrap the gifts the Board has so generously given! We all enjoy some good sing-a-longs and food!

We are sponsoring our Mattoon Lightworks with our "Gingerbread man" again this year! Drive through the park on December 10th from 5-7pm and come see us! We will be at the end of the lights passing out candy canes! On the 16th we will be hosting Breakfast with Santa from 8am-10am at the Fellowship Center! We enjoy visiting with our neighbors and spreading holiday cheer! I also do an exercise class with them as well to work off that holiday pie! Later in the evening Bert Allen and I will travel to Arthur to Aikman's Wildlife Park from 5:00-8:30pm for their walking lights! We will have a booth set up so stop by and visit us! We have a lot of fun holiday give-aways!

I will be out marketing to the local doctor offices, businesses, and Senior Centers! December we are playing Holiday Bingo on the 1st at Lifespan center. We will do a craft later in the month there as well.

We do so much hustle and bustle during this time of the year! Remember it is so important that you take time to relax. The season isn't about how much you can spend financially, but how much you can give of your time. Memories are never made in a wrapped box. They are made with those that you love. Stay blessed and enjoy your Holiday season.

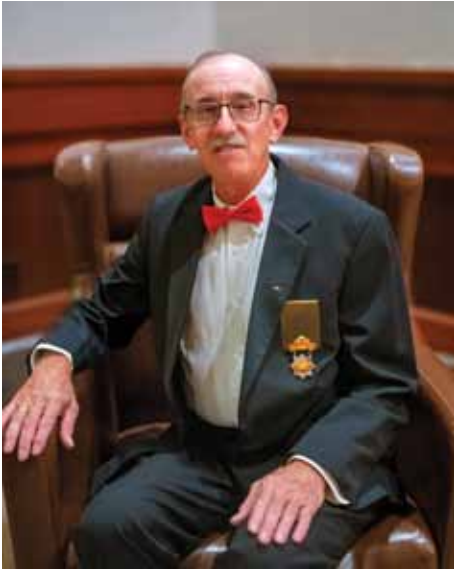
Until we meet again,

*Penny R. Shinholster, CRC
Community Relations Coordinator*

CALENDAR

Dec 12 Bushnell Rabbit Supper 6 p.m.
Dec 15 Christmas at the Nursing Home 10 a.m.
Dec 19 Mgmt - Mattoon 9:30 a.m.
Jan 2 District Meeting Alton 6 p.m.
Jan 8 Encampment Presents Autism Chk 1 p.m.
Jan 16 Mgmt - Buffalo 9:30 a.m.
Jan 20 Executive Meeting 10 a.m.
Jan 22 Brighton's Oyster Soup Dinner 6 p.m.
Feb 3 Fairbury Pancake & Sausage 6 a.m.-12 p.m.
Feb 9 Pilgrimage to Biloxi MS
Feb 10 Encampment Sycamore All Degree Day
Feb 17 Yorkville Masquerade Ball
Feb 17 Executive Meeting 10 a.m.
Feb 20 Mgmt - Lincoln 9:30 a.m.
Feb 24 Farmington Region #2 10 a.m.
March 2 Waterloo Region #4 10 a.m.
March 5 District 78 meeting Winchester
March 9 Rebekah Assembly (RA) Fairbury
March 9 Bushnell Pancake Breakfast
March 10 Open House Pigg's 50 Wedding Anniversary
March 16 Mt Zion Region #3 10 a.m.
March 16 Executive Meeting 10 a.m.
March 19 Mgmt - Mattoon 9:30 a.m.
March 23 RA Sycamore 10 a.m.
April 6 RA Troy 10 a.m.
April 13 RA Mattoon
April 13 Carpentersville Region #1 10 a.m.
April 13 Executive Meeting 10 a.m.
April 16 Mgmt - Buffalo 9:30 a.m.
April 20 RA Lewistown
April 27 RA Bushnell
May 4 Tomb in Arlington
May 18 Flora Region #5 10 a.m.
May 18 Executive Meeting 10 a.m.
May 21 Mgmt- Lincoln 9:30 a.m.
June 1 Family Picnic Mattoon 10 a.m.
June 1 Executive Meeting 10 a.m.
June 8 Dist 78 Jerseyville
June 8 Field Meet & School Peoria
June 18 Mgmt - Mattoon 9:30 a.m.
July 6 Jerseyville Encampment Degree Day 10 a.m.
July 16 Management- Buffalo 10 a.m.
July 10 Executive Meeting 10 a.m.
Aug 3 AMOS Cruse
Aug 4 AMOS Cruse
Aug 19-22 SGL
Aug 13 Mgmt - Lincoln 9:30 a.m.
Aug 24 Executive Meeting 10 a.m.
Sept 10 District 78 Jacksonville
Sept 17 Mgmt- Mattoon 9:30 a.m.
Sept 21 Executive Meeting 10 a.m.
Oct 8 Mgmt- Buffalo 9:30 a.m.
Oct 13-15 Grand Lodge
Oct 15 Executive Meeting 6 p.m.
Oct 16 Encampment Lincoln GL Ofc
Oct 17 Department Recreation Center

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



Greetings Brothers and Sisters

I never imagined that the office of Grand Master would ever be on my plate. I always liked being a part of Grand Lodge. Before actually doing that, the pictures in our Illinois Oddfellow newspaper showed members having a fun and engaging time. When I started being a part of our Grand Body the interaction of members from all parts of Illinois was very enjoyable.

My fund raising project goes to the disaster and relief fund. I ask all lodges to place a tip jar, coffee can or anything that will hold coin and currency in your lodge room during meetings. Members can put their spare change in and at next years session your lodge representatives can bring the money with them to be tabulated.

I would ask all of you to support our various charities as they are all underfunded. If we work together in harmony we will make the world a better place.

My symbol is the scales and sword, an explanation taken from, The Brotherhood of Odd-Fellowship by Rev. Thomas G. Beharrell, Grand Lodge of Indiana 1860.

Scales and Sword

United they emblem just prudence which correctly weighs every action and motive, cutting off every principle in the nature which would lead to the commission of wrongs and it teaches us that justice and mercy are to meet together, righteousness and peace are to kiss each other. The rich and the poor the

high and the low, the learned and the unlearned, the young and the old are to meet on a common level and unite in harmony in their work.

Thank you to my appointed officers and committee members for helping make my term complete. Thank you, and congratulations to all of our elected officers, I could not ask for a better team.

As of this writing I had the privilege of attending the Grand Lodge of Michigan session with Grand Marshal Allen Lester in Frankenmuth. If you have never been there it should be a destination in the future.

On October 21, traveled to Ottawa with three other AMOS shieks to jump start Omar #185 sanctorom. The next day I traveled to Palacky Lodge #630 with sister Bonnie Hensley for a degree day, 6 new members and a scholarship presentation.

I wish all my brothers and sisters a safe Thanksgiving as we have many things to be thankful for in the good ole U.S.A.

Christmas will soon be on us and the birth of Christ so changed the world. Peace to all.



Fraternally yours in F,L & T
Terry Lester
Grand Master



ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



Dear Lodges,

Hello from my lodge to yours, I hope that everyone is doing well. First, I want to thank you all for making me your President. It is an Honor that I thought I would never live up to. Second, I have been a Rebekah with the Sycamore Angels since 2011. I was brought in by Darlene Lancaste my Neice. I have loved this group of Sisters and brothers since the first day I was here. Now I'm President of the Rebekah Assembly of Illinois HOLY COW! Sitting here after all that I have done with my Rebekah sisters I feel so good about MYSELF let alone all my sisters.

Third, My Charity this year is the Living Legacy Program. This is a program about planting trees. If you want to know more about it go to IOOF.org from, there go to Rebekah's and then to Living Legacy Program. Let's plant some memories that will last a lifetime. Plant a tree with your sisters and add to the air we breathe. Please send me pictures so that I can display them at Session.

I really am excited for this year, and I hope that we can make a difference.

In F,L & T
Buffy Lancaster, R.A.P.
Assembly President



GRAND LODGE ELECTED OFFICERS



FR: L-R: Eric Smith, Grand Rep., Ray Jackson, Deputy Grand Master, Terry L Lester, Grand Master, Steve Pigg, Jr PGM, Rich Herring Grand Sec.

BR: L-R: Jody Jedlicka, Grand Warden, Arlan Miller, Grand Treasurer, missing is Jim Bott, Grand Rep.

REBEKAH ASSEMBLY ELECTED OFFICERS & INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE



FR: L-R: International President of the Rebekah Assemblies, EllenJean Whited, Buffy Lancaste, Assembly President, Carole Day, Assembly Treasurer,

BR: L-R: Janet Bruce Assembly Secretary, Sandra Coulter, PPRA, IARA Rep., Lisa Miller, Warden, Susan Schove, Vice President

DEPARTMENT OF PATRIARCH MILITANT OFFICERS



L-R: Captain Jim Turner, Department Quartermaster, Col. Janet Bruce Department Adjutant, B/G Frederic Barlow, Department Commander, Col. Jim Bott, Deputy Department Commander, Col. Dan Davis, PDC.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT OFFICERS



L-R: Jim Turner, Grand Treasurer, Donna Grable, Grand Senior Warden, Jim Bott, Grand Patriarch, Bonnie Hensley, Grand Junior Warden, Richard Hays, Grand Scribe.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT



Pictured L-R: Marion F. Owens, Jr, General Commanding of the World of Ohio, Jim Bott, GP, Brad Hufeld, Executive Officer of the PM of Ohio, Clinton Block, PGP



Pictured L-R: Jim Bott, Grand Patriarch receiving the Crook from Clinton Block Past Grand Patriarch.

November 1, 2023

Greetings Patriarchs and Matriarchs,

First of all, I want to thank you for entrusting me with the position of Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment of Illinois. This is truly an honored position and one that requires a lot of work to have a successful year. I accept this mission with all the seriousness that it requires.

Everyone agrees that the primary focus of the Grand Encampment is our dedicated project that helps to fund AUTISM. In the past 10 years, we have consistently been able to donate towards this program to the tune of over \$10,000.00 per year. This year, we will only be able to send a check for \$8,000.00. Now, don't get me wrong, as \$8,000.00 is not a small amount; however, it's just smaller than the \$10,000.00 to \$17,000.00 that we have been able to contribute to the past.

Every one of our members knows of someone that has AUTISM. The AUTISM spectrum has many, many sub diagnosis. Most people are fortunate enough to be considered as 'highly functioning autistic'. These are the lucky ones.

AUTISM is not like Cancer or heart disease that can in most cases be cured. AUTISM is there for life. The only thing that can be done for a child would be to teach them to be a functioning member of society. Teach them to obtain job skills or simply be able to cope with the ignorance of others.

This is the mission that the Grand Encampment of Illinois has assigned to its members for the past 40 years or more. We have done well, but we are far from finished.

Now, therefore, my charge to all the nine Encampments of Illinois, is to double or triple down on your commitment to fund this most worthy of causes and reinvigorate your efforts to support our obligation to those with AUTISM.

In F.H.& C.
Jim Bott, G.P.

PAST GRAND MASTERS LUNCHEON & GUEST



SEATED, L-R: Allen Jones PGM, Michelle Heckart PSGM, Charlie Campbell PGM, Terry Barrett SGS PGM.
1st ROW, L-R: Niles Reamer PGM, Jeff Jones PGM from Wisconsin, Rick Deputy Grand Master & wife Connie Clowers of Indiana, Jim Bott PGM, Dr. Steven Lee Grand Master of Georgia, Rich Herring PGM,
Back Row, L-R: Gregg Worrell PGM, Jerald Sarnes PGM, Gene Curfman PGM, Jim Turner PGM, Dan Davis PGM.

TUSCOLA LODGE MASQUERADE BALL



Deputy Grand Master Ray Jackson, Grand Warden Jody Jedlika, and District Deputy Grand Master Ainslie Heilich in Costume at the Tuscola Lodge's Masquerade Ball.

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION



Bonnie Hensley, Illinois Odd Fellow Rebekah Scholarship Committee presented Isabella Kostallari from Pearl City, one of the Glen Coursey Agricultural Scholarships. Isabella is a Sophomore at Iowa State earning an Animal Science and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree.

OTTAWA LODGE #41 TOOK MEMBER TO JANESVILLE WI FOR DEGREE

Ottawa 41 member Richard Schmidt (Pictured here in the middle) received his 3rd degree in Janesville September 30th . Richard is a newer member of our order and is already doing great things to better the Lodge.



Pictured L-R: Jeff Jones GM of Wisconsin, member Richard Schmidt, Ray Jackson, Deputy Grand Master of Illinois

LEROY LODGE #149 PLANTS A TREES

On October 14th 2023, members of Le Roy Lodge 149 planted four trees in memory of brothers lost this past year. They were planted in the following locations around the City of Le Roy: 1 on Park Avenue, 2 in Bowman Park, and 1 replanted in Brickyard Park. Members helping with the planting were: Jeff Regenold, Dennis McCormick, Doug Etherton, Dale Baker, Clarence Thomas, and Kenny Heavlin.



PICTURED; Jeff Regenold, Dennis McCormick, Doug Etherton, Dale Baker, Clarence Thomas, and Kenny Heavlin.

OTTAWA LODGE #41



Ottawa 41 members, (From Left) Rod Osborne, Chip Altobella, Ray Jackson, Gary Wantroba and Mike Dudzik passed out candy on Halloween at the city Fire and Police Department's "Trunk or Treat " event! Kids swarmed the Fire Department's building to grab a tasty treat and escape the snowy weather.

PALACKY LODGE #630 DEGREE DAY CANDIDATES



Pictured from left to right: Kent Rathmann, Anita Rathmann, Mike Royster, Wayne Hoppenrath, Ikuji Mgeni, & Alex Kasielski.



Degree Day Staff & special guests Grand Master Terry Lester & Bonnie Hensley.



Evie Mrizek receiving a Scholarship from the Grand Lodge presented by Bonnie Hensley.

PALACKY LODGE #630



Ikuji Mgeni receiving recognition for his participation in the Pilgrimage for Youth Trip presented by Bonnie Hensley.



Nyles Schumm from Livingston Lodge #290 joined us on degree day and was also our auctioneer!

PALACKY LODGE #630 HALLOWEEN MONSTERS ON MAIN STREET 2023



Palacky Lodge #630 participates each year in the town trick or treating event giving out popcorn to the residents. This year we gave out nearly 1500 bags of popcorn!

PALACKY LODGE #630 COAT DRIVE 2023!



MT ZION FOOD PANTRY DONATION

The Mt Zion Odd Fellows recognize the great work done by the Mt Zion Food Pantry. The food pantry serves hundreds of Mt Zion area residents that struggle to provide for their families. The Food Pantry sees increased need as the colder months approach and residents see increasing utility bills, thereby decreasing the funds available for adequate food supplies for the families. The upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas season only add to the challenges families face.

On November 11th, 2023 the Mt Zion Odd Fellows presented a \$2,500 donation to the Mt Zion Food Pantry to assist the pantry with their efforts. The Mt Zion Odd Fellows will also be holding a food drive asking for donations from Mt Zion Odd Fellows and area residents able to assist. The donations will be accepted through December 4th and then food donations will be presented to the food pantry.

Pictured below, pantry volunteer Cathy Landreth, Odd Fellow NG Paul Higar, Food Pantry President Earleen Hartrich, Food pantry Treasurer Aaron Ridenour, Odd fellow Scott Flannery and Food Pantry founder Rose Long.



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.

Send "In Memoriam" to P.O. Box 248, Lincoln, IL 62656-0248.

The Illinois Odd Fellow

The Illinois Odd Fellow (USPS 258-240).

Published by the Grand Lodge Office of Illinois, P.O. Box 248, Lincoln, IL 62656.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Illinois Odd Fellow, P.O. Box 248, Lincoln, IL 62656.

Periodical
Postage Paid at
Lincoln, IL 62656
And At Additional
Mailing Offices
USPS 258240



Paul Manning
Earl M. Frank

Greg Gatta

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you
From Your Grand Lodge Executive Committee

Steve Pigg

Terry Lester G.M.,

Ray Jackson D.G.M., Jody Jedlicka G.W.,

Rich Herring G.S., Arlan Miller G.T.,

Eric Smith G.R., Jim Bott G.R.

Steve Pigg P.G.M.

Jim Bott

Ray Jackson

Jody Jedlicka

Arlan N. Miller