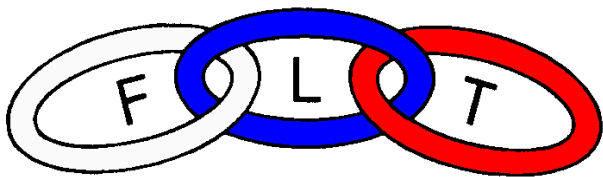


THE SAMARITAN

THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS NJ GRAND LODGE

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Welcome to the **THE SAMARITAN**, the news letter of the New Jersey Grand Lodge.

Contact us at Dan7113@msn.com with items of interest or comments.

Send photos of Members and Families for future issues; or memories of Odd Fellow days gone by.

Also needed: Photos of IOOF buildings, signs, yards, cemeteries, etc. with any identifying info if available.

GRAND LODGE MEETINGS

1st Saturday of each month
10 am

VFW Hall
485 Cranbury Road
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

What's So Odd About Helping Others?

2010 New Jersey SESSION

@

Resorts International Hotel Casino

Atlantic City

June 23, 24, 25

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Spring is in the air with trees turning green, flowers blooming and their wonderful aromas surrounding us. It is a great time of year to be outside, soaking up the gifts that God has given us and doing our best to help those in need.

In that vein, I encourage all of our members to take part in the upcoming Arthritis Walks that will soon be taking place around the state. There are other events and opportunities to become involved with, such as parades in northern, central and southern Jersey, several Odd Fellows Golf Outings, the Soap Box Derby races in New Brunswick and proposed Rallies in other areas, our annual picnic and Roast and many other social and fund raising events. Remember, Camp C.H.A.T. visitation day will be held on July 14th and a Walk for the benefit of the Children's Specialized Hospital in Johnson Park, Piscataway on May 22nd.

In late July, the Arthritis Foundation is holding the National Juvenile Arthritis Conference in Philadelphia. We have been asked to help them with needed volunteers and also invited to present an Odd Fellows table. Volunteer slots are broken down in three hour time lines. Any one interested in spending some time there is asked to contact us as soon as possible.

It is still not too late to plant trees. Sovereign's Living Legacy program asks us to do just that. It is a way to beautify our community and be noticed at the same time.

I am still seeking donations for The Grand Master's Charity which is Rhonda's Club (aka/ the Gynecological & Ovarian Cancer Coalition). Any one who may have a jar bank ready for pick up, please let me know. Also, Pins are still available as are 50/50 tickets. (CONTINUED Page 4)

GRAND PATRIARCHS MESSAGE

Spring has Sprung....I think. As I sit here and think about the weather over the past several months I can't stop thinking about the Encampment Perspective: Faith, Hope and Charity.

During the early part of this year, we witnessed the devastation in Haiti and grabbed our **FAITH** tightly, praying for the families there. In February we **HOPE'd** for the snow to stop and in March we **HOPE'd** for it to stop raining. Now as I travel around the state I have seen the **CHARITY** of our Order. I would like to personally thank everyone for the warm receptions, great fellowship, donations to ECF and last but not least, the great food.

Over the last couple of months I have been from the borders of New York to the borders of Philadelphia seeing first hand that our Order is alive and well. It has been my honor to be part of installations of new officers throughout the state. As one Rebekah Lodge expressed their concern that they would not have enough members to hold a meeting (due to some illnesses), I saw car after car arrive from throughout the state. Not only did they have enough members for a meeting they had one of the largest turnouts for one of my visits. Congrats to Mantua Oaks Rebekahs' for a beautiful evening.

I have FAITH in our Order and HOPE that you all experience that too. But most importantly, remember that we are a single unit that can accomplish anything as we provide CHARITY to those in need.

In FL&T made stronger by FH&C

Steven Wooton, Grand Patriarch

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Greetings from the Rebekah State Assembly. It's so nice to see the beautiful colors of spring, after the dreary and bleak weather of winter white.

I want to thank all who came up to Little Ferry for my Testimonial, and /or took ads in my journal. It was a very enjoyable evening and I hope everyone had as good a time as I did.

As Grand Master Lefever's year comes to an end I wish him the best with his future endeavors. I enjoyed working with him for the betterment of Oddfellowship and I look forward to working with Mike Perez as the new Grand Master for the time remaining until my year ends.

Please observe Memorial Day by remembering our deceased Veterans who gave their lives to give us the Freedoms we enjoy.

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers.

In Rebekah Love
Terry McElroy
RSA President

2010

- March 6 - Grand Lodge Meeting, East Brunswick
- March 7 - East Brunswick Community Day, New Brunswick Lodge
- March 9 - Grand Bodies Planning Board Meeting, Amity Lodge
- March 10 - Unofficial Visit, Medford Lodge
- March 12 - Official Visit of Grand Master, Burlington Lodge
- March 13 - Charity Ball for Arthritis Foundation
- March 16 - Official Visit of Grand Master, French Lodge
- March 26,27 & 28- Multi-State Conclave, Dover, Delaware
- April 3 - Grand Lodge Meeting, East Brunswick
- April 5 - Official Visit of Grand Master, Clinton Lodge
- April 6 - Official Visit of Grand Patriarch, Arthur Baker Lodge
- April 7 - Official Visit of Rebekah President, Miriam Lodge
- April 10 - Degree Rally, Burlington Lodge
- April 12 - Official Visit of Rebekah President, Mantua Lodge
- April 13 - Official Visit of Grand Master, Sanchez Moya Lodge
- April 14 - Official Visit of Grand Master, combined; Patria' Libertad & Perez Ochoa Lodges
- April 15 - Official Visit of Grand Master, Bergen Lodge
- April 17 - Meeting of the Past Grand Masters, Cherry Hill
- April 18 - Unity Service, Saint Vincent Pollatti Church, Hadden Township
- April 20 - Unofficial Visit, Grotto Lodge, Pittsgrove
- April 23 - Installation of Officers, Rebekah Lodge
- April 24 - President of Rebekah Assembly, Terese McElroy Testimonial
- May 2 - Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington Cemetery, Washington DC
- May 3 - Golf Outing, Fund Raising Event, French Lodge
- May 3 - Open House, Clinton Lodge
- May 8 - Mother's Day Breakfast. – Sponsored by Arwames Rebekah #84
- May 8 - Grand Lodge Meeting
- May - Cuban Day Parade, Alvarez del Portal Lodge, West New York
- May 16 - ARTHRITIS WALK - Bergen Community College - Paramus
- May 16 - ARTHRITIS WALK - Challenge Grove Park – Cherry Hill
- May 16 - ARTHRITIS WALK - Middlesex County College – Edison
- May 22 - Walk for Children's Specialized Hospital w/ Clinton Lodge, Johnson Park
- May 24 - Official Visit of Grand Master, Amity Lodge
- May 26 - Official Visit of Rebekah President, Joseph R. Deacon Lodge 106, Burlington
- May - Memorial Day Grave Flags ceremonies

- June - Cuban Day Parade
 - June 7 - Official Visit of Rebekah President, Arwames Lodge 84, Gloucester City 8pm
 - June 23,24,25 - Grand Lodge Session – Resorts Hotel and Casino – Atlantic City
 - June 23 - Encampment Meeting; Fun Night at the Movies
 - June 24 - Odd Fellows Grand Lodge Session; Banquet, INSTALLATION New Officers
 - June 25 - Odd Fellows Grand Lodge Session (if necessary)
 - July 23 - Official Visit of Rebekah President, Amor y Verdad Lodge 118, Union City
 - September 20 - Golf Outing, Fund Raising Event, New Brunswick Lodge
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UNITY SERVICE

The 2010 UNITY Service was held at Saint Vincent Pallotti Church in Hadden Township on April 18th. This is the new Home Parish of our Odd Fellow Brother, Father Walter Norris, who was very gracious in allowing the event to be held at his Church.

Readings were done by RSA Chaplain Betty Inglis, RSA Marshall Myrtle Hubbs, RSA Conductor Doris Hubbs and New Brunswick Lodge #6 Members Donna, Christopher and Tom Lefever. A niece of the GM, Jennifer L. Baldassano sang a rousing rendition of the Star Spangled Banner and Amazing Grace.

Words were offered by Grand Patriarch Steve Wooton, Rebekah President Terry McElroy and Grand Master Dan Lefever. Spiritual Offerings were made by Father Walter Norris.

What a beautiful Church it is and what terrific Parishioners they have! The Organist, Chris Daly, donated his great musical talent and his time, as did the Parish Women’s group, led by Virginia Farry, who prepared a fantastic dinner for our reception that followed the service.

It was a nice Service. For those who were not able to be there; if you can, try to come next year.

PAST GRAND MASTER MEETING

A group of past GMs held their annual meeting on April 17h for the benefit of incoming Grand Master Mike Perez of the Alvarez del Portal Lodge. The group, which included the present GM as well, met at the Coastline Restaurant in Cherry Hill to discuss pertinent issues such as the way annual budgets are set, how to deal with Committees as well as other situations that may arise during his term. They had some laughs and offered advice, support and assistance to Mike, no matter what might come his way.

Those in attendance were the Honorable Past Grands; Walter Norris, Bob Barrett, Joe Hubbs, Bob Wooton, Don Anderson, Steve Wooton and Mike O’Connor; the present GM, Dan Lefever and the man to be installed in June, Mike Perez. That is an experienced group and all feel the Grand Lodge will be in good hands with Mike at the helm.

There is a lot of preparation work to be done before his Installation and some things arise unexpectedly, but Mike will be ready for a smooth transition. As he said afterwards, “I will be learning as I go,” as does everyone accepting that role.

Juvenile Arthritis Conference, Philadelphia, Pa. July 29, 30 & 31

(Continued from page 1) Both should still be available during Session and the 50/50 tickets will be drawn during the Banquet on June 27th. Needless to say, this is a very worthwhile charity and I ask your help in supporting it.

Remember, it is what we do that keeps us relevant; it is those we help that measure our true importance.

Thank you for your support. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be Grand Master. See you at Session.

In Friendship, Love & Truth, Dan Lefever GM

News from Navesink Lodge

As per our last meeting, we made a sizable donation to our local Haitian Parishes for earthquake assistance.

Tina Duda, one of Navesink's initiatory candidates, is participating in the Louisville Ford Ironman Triathlon on August 29, 2010, to benefit a local charity, 'Jason's Dreams For Kids'. For those of you who may have forgotten, she will swim 2.4 miles in the river, then bike 112 miles, and THEN run 26.2 miles. Who said getting into the Navesink Odd Fellows was easy! Anyhow, we are sponsoring her effort by covering expenses and also making a donation to 'JDFK', which is one of our "preferred" charities.

We are working on getting the Odd Fellows logo on her various attire, and hope to have pictures of the event. Well, that's it for now.

In F,L&T Cliff Rasmussen, Secretary

News About Clinton Lodge

Great news from Clinton Lodge! This year, six new members have come into the fold. This has become a GROWING and ACTIVE lodge due to the core of Doug, Dottie, Gene & Bill who have stepped up against the tide of negativism that says it cannot be done.

Their members take part in many of the state wide events, regularly attend the Session and this year were the driving force behind the "Jersey Jammers" skit at the Delaware Conclave.

Among the Charities they support are; a bustling Food Bank and the Children's Specialized Hospital system of New Jersey.

Donations to the Food Bank are always welcome and can be made either through the Clinton Lodge or the Grand Lodge of NJ. On May 22nd, Clinton Lodge took part in the Walk & Roll, to benefit the Childrens Specialized Hospital system of New Jersey. The Walk was held along the Raritan River at Johnson Park in Piscataway, just off Route 18, near New Brunswick. It was a great event and interest was generated for the Order which could benefit several lodges in our state.

New Brunswick Golf Outing

The New Brunswick Lodge will hold its 2nd Annual Golf Outing on September 20th at the Peddie Golf Course in Hightstown, NJ. It will benefit the Kristen & Fred Fegel Family of East Brunswick, who in February, lost their 7 year old son, Brett, to Cancer. The couple has a 5 year old daughter, Kelly, at home. Presently, Fred is fighting Liposarcoma, a rare form of cancer of the fat cells. Funds raised will go to help offset their mounting medical bills. Watch for fliers and other info in the short future.

CHARITY BALL

It was a heck of a storm but it couldn't stop the Rebekahs and the Odd Fellows from getting together to raise money for a great charity! What a turn out, in deed. High winds? ... no problem. Heavy rain? ... humph. Flooded roadways? ... forget about it! We knew what was coming. It was predicted by the so called "experts". A nasty, nasty day for sure, but the show went on. The weather may've even kept a few mail men indoors but the Order & the Assembly came out in force!

While decorating the hall on that March day, some had questions about how many might stay home. But soon, those wondering were amazed when the crowd kept building. As the room began to fill with people, those from the Arthritis Foundation just smiled. What a testament to the Rebekah Assembly and to the Odd Fellows it was, that their members would be willing to travel so far to fellowship and raise funds for a deserving Charity.

As expected, the entertainment was up to par. Jim Ammann did his usual great job as Disc jockey and the Jersey Harmony singing group was just terrific. Dinner was superb and it was served with a smile by members of the Grand Lodge Staff in tuxedos, a few other Odd Fellows as well as AF volunteers, Nicole Lewis, Peggy Lotkowitz and Karen Drizsk. It was a nice affair. Then the lights went out. Then they came back on.

While we ate and laughed, the trees outside the windows were seen leaning, churning and straining against the gusty wind as the rain fell in buckets. Later, after the door prizes, raffled baskets and the 50/50 were claimed, it became time to leave. The lights were off again.

That is when the adventure began. The drive home was like a trip to Oz, except that we stayed on the ground. There were trees and wires down, roads closed, puddles and bodies of water streaming down or across streets, rain falling too heavy for the windshield wipers to keep up. All this and a few crazy drivers to boot conspired to take a usually comfortable hour or so ride and make it a frustrating and harrowing experience, that lasted far too long.

For some, the ride home took as long as the Charity Ball and the drive there combined. Those that lived closer had a shorter ride, but they had 18 hours with out electricity.

No matter how well this Charity Ball went off; no matter how good the food was or how much fun we may have had; this day, this Ball, will be remembered for the storm and its aftermath and that darn long ride home.

But, we did make some money to fight arthritis. And we do have something to remember.

Ann "Penny" Burger

Penny Burger passed away on May 10, 2010 at about 9:30 pm. She suffered through a long hospital stay and a much longer illness. The Rebekah Assembly and Grand Lodge of New Jersey each held a Funeral Service for her on May 12 at Platt Memorial Chapels in Cherry Hill. Penny will certainly be missed.

Penny Burger was a long time member of Miriam Rebekah Lodge #112, was active within the Assembly and Chair holder for several positions, including her recent one as District Deputy President of the Mercer District. Penny was also a member of the Odd Fellows, Burlington Lodge. She was the friend of many people within and outside the Orders.

Our condolences and our Prayers go out to the entire Burger family.

SPOTLIGHT LODGE : AMITY LODGE

Amity Lodge #166 is located at 456 Hudson Street in Gloucester City, NJ. It was chartered on June 6, 1872 and has been serving the community for the past 138 years. The term Amity comes from the Latin word “amicus” which means friendship, one of the Three Links of our order. And yes, Amity lodge is one of the friendliest lodges.

Originally, Amity Lodge was located in Merchantville, NJ. Eventually, the lodge purchased a building in Pennsauken and the lodge prospered. During those days the lodge was a major focal point in the community, holding various socials and fund raising activities. Membership thrived, reaching well in excess of 100 members, as it did in all Odd Fellows lodges in the 1940’s through the 1960’s.

As interest and membership declined for the Order in the past forty years or so Amity Lodge declined as well. Ten years ago, the average age of an Amity Lodge member was sixty. The lodge hall in Pennsauken was sold and Amity Lodge began to hold their meetings in Gloucester at the Arwames’ Rebekah building.

In 2005, Amity Lodge merged with Senatus Lodge #76.

Senatus Lodge received their Charter in 1848 and they too had a long history of service to the community. Amity Lodge moved into the Senatus Lodge hall in Gloucester City and the members of the two lodges have worked together to form one.

Over the past few years, Amity Lodge has increased its membership to over 50 members and we are continuing to grow. Besides the increase in sheer numbers, it is also important to note that most of these new members are younger people who bring energy and enthusiasm to the order.

Besides this increase in membership, we have again become active in our community. That first event that took place ten years ago was a Christmas Party for underprivileged kids. Now an annual event, our parties have brought joy to countless kids and their families who would not normally have had a Christmas “celebration”. The look on those children’s faces as they receive gifts from Santa warms our hearts and motivates us to do more. Over the past few years, we have held pancake breakfasts and spaghetti dinners to raise money for various causes. We provide modest scholarships to both of the local high schools to deserving students. We participate in the annual 4th of July parade in Gloucester City with a trailer promoting Odd Fellowship.

Amity Lodge is proud of the several Past Grand Masters within its ranks. They include Joseph Hubbs, Walter Norris, Robert Barrett, Gary Clemmens and Leonard Burger. Other Past Grands from Amity; Irv Holt, Harold Casper, David Johnson Sr, and Don Buchanan, have since passed but are a significant part of the history of the Lodge. Currently, we have several members holding key seats on the Grand Lodge Staff, including Jim Ammann, who is Deputy Grand Master.

Amity Lodge has always been active in Odd Fellowship, and though we have experienced lean times, we are a tribute to what can be accomplished through hard work and dedication.

Join us at the Picnic.... July 31 @ Ocean County Park

News from Bergen County Lodge #73

On April 15, 2010 Grand Master Daniel Lefever was welcomed to Bergen Lodge for his Official Visit. The highlight of his visit was the presentation of Certificates of Merit to Robin and Bob Elder. Robin is Noble Grand; and Bob is Past Noble Grand . They were honored for their unselfish deeds on behalf of the Lodge. At Christmas, they shopped for and presented gifts to a needy family. Last Christmas Bob dressed up as Santa and Robin as Mrs. Claus. It was agreed that the children this year were older and that Santa would show up in street attire.

THE BERGEN ARTHRITIS WALK : The day for me started early, at 6 am. Walk volunteers had to be at Bergen Community College to set up the site for the walk. Work consisted of unloading supplies, moving tables and placing route markers for the walkers. Then setting up the table provided for us under a tent. Mike Perez was going to speak on behalf of the Order, but he called as he couldn't make it. He has a sick relative and was on his way to Florida. Pete McElroy got the opportunity to speak for the Odd Fellows and our part in the Arthritis Walk. The weather was better than last year with none of the terrible wind and rain. This year many groups and Walk Teams waited till the last minute to make a commitment, but, as it turned out, the number of walkers seemed to be larger than last year. Terry, Bob and Arline Kallenbrun manned the table, passed out Frisbees and participated in the walk.

FRENCH LODGE GOLF OUTING

French Lodge held its 3rd Annual Charity Golf Outing at Ron Jaworski's Valley Brook Country Club Golf Course on May 3rd. Despite the early storms and downpours passing through, a good crowd combined for 18 holes of fun and giving for a good cause. A refreshment cart was available all day, door prizes were handed out and a very enjoyable dinner followed. Chairman Frank Fear and his staff did a great job as it was the most financially successful of the outings French has held so far.

Coming up for French Lodge; a Coin Drop fund raiser during the weekend of July 30-31 and a Pancake Breakfast on August 7, at the Richwood Academy.