



THE IDAHO ODD FELLOW REBEKAH NEWS



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MAR & APR 2020

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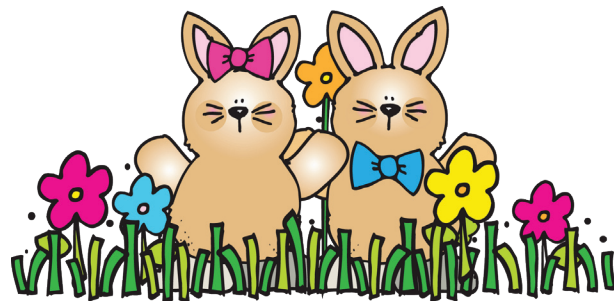
New Members for Royal Gem



White Bird – We welcomed new members to the Royal Gem Rebekah Lodge #13 on February 12, 2020. We had the delightful privilege of introducing three new members to the Mysteries of the Degree. I believe each and every one of them has something special to offer and will be more than glad to share with us! It was a beautiful, fun filled evening for all of us, and we are so glad to have Jordan, Anita, and Cathy join us in our endeavors. We don't often take the opportunity to dress in our finest and it was nice to see everyone looking so elegant. Much love was shared.

After the initiation we gathered together downstairs to enjoy desserts provided by Margy DeSantis and Darla Brumley. Talk about delicious! Different tastes to suit every palate. What joy we take in our existing and new members!

Submitted by Mary Pedersen



From the Office of the
Sovereign Grand Master
Independent Order of Odd Fellows



To all units of Odd Fellowship:

Greetings,

The safety health and welfare of our members, workers, and visitors is of the utmost importance to Odd Fellowship. We want you to know that we are monitoring all recommendations and updates from government officials surrounding COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), and we will inform the Grand Lodges of relevant changes. The first priority for everyone is to take appropriate steps to limit the spread of COVID-19 and ensure our entire community remains healthy.

Lodges that need to be open should take the necessary extra steps to ensure their spaces are clean and safe for the membership and visitors. We want to encourage everyone to follow guidance from public health officials regarding social distancing and proper health etiquette if and when visiting and public spaces.

As many of our membership are of a mature age and are concerned about both their health and the continuity of their lodge work. Short of a government shut down, I hereby give **dispensation** for those lodges who feel they need to go dark to do so without penalty for a period of two months. Be sure to inform your Grand Body office and the Grand Body send notice to The Sovereign Grand Lodge at: ioofthesgl@ioof.org

As soon as we know the status in both Arlington and Ottawa for the pilgrimages, we will pass that information on.

1. In the meantime, be diligent to call your shut-ins and keep in touch with the active members, be it phone, Facebook, etc.

First and foremost, prioritize and take all health and welfare precautions for yourself and others in your community. Health as a whole depends on working together, and our lodges and communities are the lifeblood of the Order. We want to make sure they continue to stay successful while maintaining appropriate public health safety measures.



Fraternally,

E. Wesley Nelson
Sovereign Grand Master

Attest:

Terry L. Barrett
Sovereign Grand Secretary

The CDC has recommended that all mass gatherings scheduled for the next eight weeks be cancelled.

The Pilgrimage to the Tomb falls within that time frame. In addition, John Hopkins has notified Mark (VRF) that the visit there is cancelled.

Arlington Cemetery is closed until further notice. Since we have to make the arrangements with Arlington Cemetery a year in advance to hold the Pilgrimage, it is not possible to change the date for the 2020 Pilgrimage to the Tomb.

Therefore, I contacted the hotel to get a release from our contract for this year. The hotel has agreed to done so. Anyone with a hotel reservation needs to contact the hotel directly to cancel their reservation.

There will not be a Pilgrimage to the Tomb this year. All meetings scheduled for the hotel need to be rescheduled and relocated to a different date and place.

Refunds will be issued in the near future for all meals, bus and wreath reservations already received and the checks deposited. Any reservations received after today will be returned.

Anyone with questions may contact me at clr1220@yahoo.com or by calling 301-350-4495.

Please share this information as widely as possible.

Charles E. "Chuck" Lusk
Deputy Sovereign Grand Master
3430 Mechanicsburg Rd
Springfield, OH 45502-8219
937-399-3882

COMING EVENTS 2020

Events May Be Canceled or Postponed Due to the Corona Virus

APRIL 2020

TBD	NW ASSOC & PNW	CANCELLED
04	DIST. 1 ENCAMPMENT	CANCELLED
04	DIST. 6 REBEKAH	WHITE BIRD
18	PIONEER 1/ROSE 18	CANCELLED
25	DIST. 2 ENCAMPMENT	CANCELLED

MAY 2020

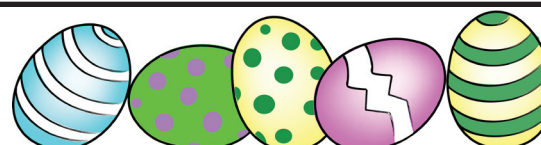
01	HISTORICAL SOCIETY	CALDWELL
02	DIST. 2 REBEKAH	CHALLIS
12	DIST. 7 REBEKAH	CPEUR D'ALENE
16	PIONEER 1/ROSE 18	IDAHO CITY
21	DIST. 6 IOOF	PRIEST RIVER

JUNE 2020

13	ENCAMP. DEGREE	BOISE
27	OWYHEE 2	SILVER CITY

AUGUST 2020

07	HISTORICAL SOCIETY	CALDWELL
17-21	SGL/IARA	WINSTON-SALEM
22	OWYHEE 2	SILVER CITY





Marge Harlan
Grand Patriarch



Dear Patriarchs,

I feel so sad that I have to postpone my official visit to your Encampments in April due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I will reschedule at a later date when the world is not so challenging and stressful.

We have a responsibility to protect the health and safety of our members, especially those of us more experienced and at a higher risk. I urge each of you to follow the recommendations and precautions of the CDC and the state of Idaho to stay socially distant and self-quarantine in order to help stop the spread of the Corona virus.

I have issued an edict to all Encampments stating they are to suspend their meetings, events and activities until further notice. Only activities that are essential to the well being of our members and/or Encampments are permitted. It is crucial that we take the necessary actions to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and maintain the health and safety of our members as well as our family and our community.

While you are staying vigilant against this dreadful virus, I urge you to remember your fellow Patriarchs and try to keep in touch via phone, cards and/or social media. If each of us will do our part to contain the spread, life will return to normal sooner rather than later.

Please follow Governor Little's order and stay inside, limit your contact with others outside your household and help save the world. Yeah, pajamas all day!

In FH&C, Marge Harlan, Grand Patriarch



Cathy Toussaint
Assembly President



Greetings Sisters and Brothers.

Before I start I would like to acknowledge the passing of our dearest member, George McGaffick. We will greatly miss him. He was to be my Historian, I can still hear him on the phone in the background telling Sharon 'TELL HER I'LL BE HER HISTORIAN'. Thank you Sharon.

Also went to a special meeting called by David Livingston, Grand Master. Then I attended the Planning Board meeting the same day.

I am writing this as I had a wonderful time at Melba Lodge #105. Dinner was wonderful and I enjoyed visiting with everyone there. I also enjoyed Unity #8 lodge meeting and the district meeting. Would have loved to see more members there. As I learn so much from both lodges. I had a wonderful time and I am hoping to see all of you at Assembly this year.

The rest of the year will be busy traveling to meetings and visiting lodges.

With great love,
your President Cathy Toussaint.



Unity Rebekah's #8 Welcomes Assembly President Cathy Toussaint



Boise - Unity # 8 welcomed Assembly President Cathy Toussaint to the apron parade! Each year our very own Margaret Odle designs and paints an apron for the new President. Then we gather all the girls together to show off their aprons in a parade. What a wonderful job Margaret does with each apron. The ladies are always very proud to display them. Thank you, Margaret.

Submitted by Glen Schultz

Nampa 40 Presentation



Brother Stephen Mann, Sister Cori Niehoff,
and Brother Dennis Niehoff

Nampa - Nampa Odd Fellow Lodge 40 was happy to present Sister Cori Niehoff with her Past Noble Grand jewel. Brother Dennis Niehoff escorted Sister Cori to the center of the floor, where Noble Grand Stephen Mann presented the jewel. A BIG thanks to Sister Cori for being our Noble Grand.

Submitted by Sister Sandie Chandler

WOW What A Year



Minnie West & Kathleen Kingston

Weippe - What a terrific year we had at White Pine Rebekah lodge in 2019. We added 9 new faces and 18 new hands to our group to help with all of our various project in the order and in our local communities. We have enjoyed these new folks and all of the energy and excitement they bring with them. This past year was a busy and rewarding time under the leadership of Christina Supak our outgoing Noble Grand.

As is the norm for us the weather went from mild to blizzard conditions on the date we hoped to have Lydia Chrane PP DDP install our officers. Cancel that plan and go to plan #2. So at our first meeting in January Lodge Deputy Dolores Watson and her team (of tw0) completed the installation process. Now everyone is in their new position and will be working to learn all the ins and outs of their job. We are all looking forward to the new year and the projects we will undertake as our new leaders move into their jobs Thank you Kathleen Kingston (PNG) – Noble Grand and Minnie West (PNG) Vice Grand for taking on these leadership roles.

In Friendship, Love and Truth
Vickie Jorgenson, Reporter





In Loving Memory



George William McGaffick
February 7, 1939 - February 3, 2020

George was born in 1939, the first child of Harry George and Flo McGaffick. Two years later he was joined by Brother Ted. After their parents' divorce, the three of moved around a lot, finally settling in Alameda, California, where they were joined by little brother Ron.

In 1970 while in basic training he was talked into going to a dance where he met Sharon Black. They were married in 1972 and were joined by Steven in 1974 and Phyllis in 1978.

He served his country for 23 years in the military. This time he spent between the Army, Coast Guard and Marines, He always said that he was never sure which branch of service he wanted to stay and so he joined those three.

When he retired, the family moved to Idaho so that they could be close to Sharon's family. He then went to work for Treasure Valley VW for 12 years and then to Phillips 66 until it closed.

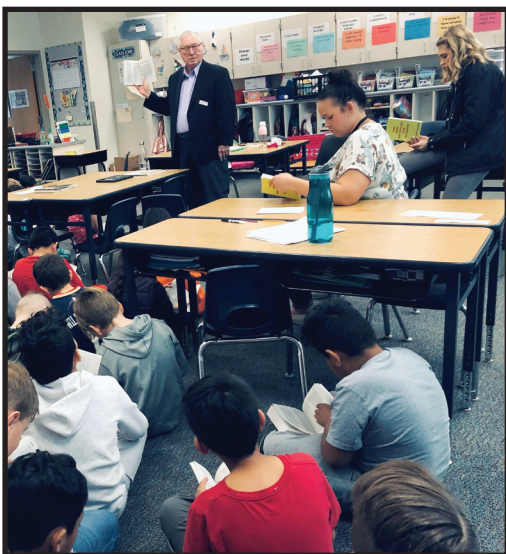
He joined the Odd Fellows in 2005 and was proud to say that he was the last group of members who took the 2nd degree at Dead Horse Cave. In 2012-13 he was Grand Master of Idaho, 2013-14 Grand Patriarch of Idaho. He then served as Battalion Commander of Idaho and retired at a Brigadier General of Pacific North West.

He joined the Rebekahs in 2004. He was proud to be a Rebekah and was glad to have held two appointed offices at the Rebekah Assembly.

Brother George died on Feb. 3, 2020. Payette Odd Fellow Lodge #22 and Melba Rebekah Lodge #105, which were his home lodges, held a memorial service for Brother George on Feb. 16, 2020 at the Nampa Lodge building.

Dictionaries

Nampa - Nampa Odd Fellow Lodge #40 decided to donate dictionaries to Endeavor Elementary School here in Nampa. We purchased the dictionaries for the 3rd graders and delivered them to the students. Brother Tom Ashley told the 3rd graders different interesting things that their dictionaries held. Several different students wanted to know if the dictionary was really theirs and if they would be allowed to take it home. In this day of smart phones, it is amazing the reactions these children have when they are told the book is theirs. Sisters Sharon McGaffick and Sandie Chandler helped hand out the books.



Brother Tom Ashley
talking to the 3rd graders

Submitted by Sister Sandie Chandler

Doings at Melba Rebekah Lodge 105:



Marlene Osborn



Our Distinguish Guests



Connie Evans, Bob Covert,
and AP Cathy Toussaint.



Unity Rebekah Lodge #8
official visit Cathy Toussaint

Nampa - Assembly President Cathy Toussaint made her official visit to Melba 105 on February 6, 2020. This was her first official visit and Noble Grand, Brother Bob Covert and the members were happy to have Sister Cathy. We were pleased and honored to have Sister Connie Evans Assembly Warden, Sister Vicky Kiele Assembly Secretary, Sister Marge Harlan Grand Patriarch, Brother Stephen Mann Grand Warden, and Brother Jeff Mann Grand Secretary, Sister Sharon McGaffick IARA Representative, and Sister Jelene Baird District Deputy of District 4. Another distinguished guest was Sister Marlene Osborn from Guiding Star #4 blessed our meeting with her wonderful piano skills. Before our meeting, we had a nice lunch at LaBaron's (a favorite restaurant and right across the street from our Hall).

The following week we visited Unity Rebekah 8 for their official visit and also attended District 4's district meeting.

We are offering two scholarships, one for a Senior from Melba High School, and another one to a Senior from one of the Caldwell High Schools (this one is in memory of Bethel Wings of Gem of the Mountains who set this scholarship up years ago).

We were saddened by the passing of Brother George McGaffick, and Sister Barbara Olin's son Kevin Root passed away.

Submitted by Sister Sandie Chandler

White Pine Rebekah Lodge #60

The date for President Cathy Toussaint's visit to our lodge has changed to May 12th. Please make a note of this change – hope to see many of you at our May meeting. We have cancelled our lodge meetings thru the end of April..... hope all of you are well and take care during this stressful time.

Vickie Jorgenson, Reporter



A Message Of Thanks

I would like to thank all of my Sisters, Brothers, and Lodges that sent cards or called or sent me e-mails. You will never know how much your show of love and caring has meant to me during my recent surgery. Thank you for being a big part of my family.

Merna Deland





Carnation Rebekah Lodge is proud to announce the birth of another Future Rebekah and Odd Fellow.

His name is Rebel Ban McInelly, born on February 11, 2020 at 4:11 AM. His proud parents are Ryan and Karina McInelly. Rebel was not due until March 13, 2020.

His Great Grandmother is Shannon Vieth, PP and his is Grandmother Marti Moore. This now makes three new Great Grandsons since I moved to Spokane, maybe I should move back to Idaho.

Submitted by
Shannon Vieth, PP
Secretary, Carnation #95

Thank You!

Phyllis and I would like to thank everyone for the cards and phone calls we received at the passing of her father and my husband George. He loved each of you but especially the Rebekahs who were always glad to see him.

In F.L. And T.
Sharon McGaffick.



Melba Rebekah Lodge #105 Delegate for the Pilgrimage Tour

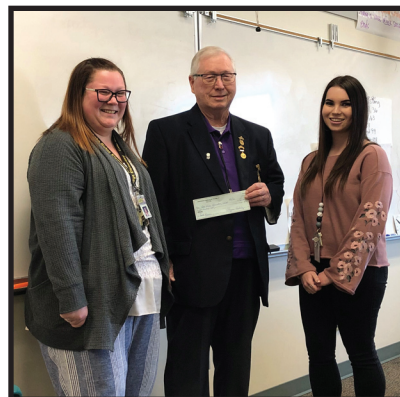


Nampa-Melba Rebekah Lodge #105 is happy to introduce Christopher Parent, our delegate for the upcoming Pilgrimage Tour this summer.

“Hello! My name is Christopher Parent, but I prefer to go by Chris or Azul. I am a seventeen-year-old High School student going into my senior year for 2020-2021. I love drawing art of anthropomorphic animals, more commonly known as “furry art” (despite the negative stereotypes on furies, we are a really charming and fun community, and not really what the internet says we are). I love to play video games on my PC, I play games such as Rainbow Six: Siege, Garry’s Mod, Minecraft, and a few others. I’m excited about the trip and hope to learn a lot while I’m there!”

Submitted by Sandie Chandler

Nampa Odd Fellow Lodge #40



Nampa - Nampa Odd Fellow Lodge #40 presented the book drive check from the Christmas party to Lake Ridge Elementary. Brother Tom Ashley and Sister Sandie Chandler presented the check to the school. Due to the kind generosity of our Christmas Party goers and Nampa #40, the school was able to purchase 560 books for the K-2 graders of Lake Ridge and Endeavor Elementary.

Submitted by Sister Sandie Chandler

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Articles and pictures must be received by the Editor no later than the 18th in order to be published in the next month's issue. The Editor and Editorial Board reserve the right to edit all articles submitted for publication and do not hold ourselves responsible for views or opinions expressed by our correspondents.

Just The Facts

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Promoting Odd Fellowship through Positive Communication

The Idaho Odd Fellow Rebekah News is published twelve times a year by the Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly of Idaho, I.O.O.F.

David Livingston ~ Grand Master
Cathy Toussaint ~ Assembly President

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