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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

Helen Douglas	1/04/19
Irma Fengel	1/06/29
Laura Wiese	1/11/29
Doris Meditz	1/15/26
Wanda Shaffer	1/17/24
Harold Beaty	1/18/32
Kenneth Nolte	1/20/24
Dale Flaugher	1/22/37

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The Spirit of Christmas is many things. It is the soft glow of candles on church alters, the fragrance of evergreens and the joyful music of carols. Christmas has always been a holy day. For the very essence of the spirit of Christmas, which distinguishes it from all other holidays and gives it real meaning, is found in the faith of people of all denominations who will be in their accustomed places in their churches on Christmas eve and Christmas Day.

The spirit of Christmas is entwined in tradition, folklore and fancy, as Christmas is the happiness. It means good cheer and good food. It is a day of feasting on stuffed turkey, roast beef, baked ham, plum pudding, lebkuchen, kolaches, stollen, and mince pie - depending on one's ancestry and inherited traditions.

Here in America - these and other customs of the Season have been brought together into a Christmas Spirit that has no equal in all the world. Aside from its reverence and holiness, the Christmas Season has become a time to think about the many ways in which we can live better and happier lives.

The Spirit of Christmas has a strange magic that cannot be escaped. It brings a Sparkle to people's eyes and is a special time when families get together to forget the cares of the past, and to look with hope to the future. The spirit of Christmas brightens everything it touches - the gleam in children's eyes - the smiles on familiar faces - and the beauty of the world around us.

The Spirit of Christmas creates an atmosphere that causes us to realize how much our loved ones mean to us. It makes us aware that each individual's safety is import to all the others and that safety is priceless and takes continuous effort to preserve and perpetuate.

The Spirit of Christmas makes us realize that it is worth the extra effort it takes to guard against injuries that can occur when exhilaration of the Holiday Season can cause us to relax our safety awareness. When driving, remember the winter weather creates many additional hazards - that daylight arrives later and darkness comes earlier - so we must adjust our driving habits accordingly.

To keep the Spirit of Christmas we

must keep ourselves and our families safe and we must always remember that - SAFETY IS A PRICELESS GIFT.

Writer Unknown

NEWS FROM THE HOME

Hello from the home,

Can you believe it's time to say
Happy Holidays!

We had our annual Thanksgiving Feast for our residents and their families on November 14, it was absolutely amazing. Everyone looks forward to this celebration not only for the food, but also the good company! We are also starting to prepare for all the fun activities we have planned to kick off the holiday season!

We are all looking forward to a busy month decorating for Christmas and all the fun festivities that come with it. We are having a craft and bake sale to raise money for our activity department. We will have our resident Christmas party for anyone who would like to join us! We would love to see you all! We are also having our breakfast with Santa for the fellowship center, which we enjoy doing every year. There will be visitors throughout the month for holiday entertainment, and beautifully decorated Christmas trees throughout the home to top off our holiday cheer! We will end the month with a New Year's Eve party!

We want to wish a world of Good Wishes to family and friends. One of the real joys this holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you to the Odd Fellow- Rebekah Board for everything they do and to wish you all the very best for the Holiday Season. We are looking forward to another busy year.

Until next month- take care and be well.

Danita Starwalt



ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



I would again like to thank everyone for the support I have received on my journey to be your Rebekah Assembly President.

I am so humbled by this experience!!

The Leaders Banquet and School of Instruction were held at the Northfield Inn and Suites in Springfield the first weekend of November. You will be receiving a letter regarding qualified instructors for your Schools of Instruction.

We had great food and we danced until we were so worn out, we had to stop! Thanks to Matt Miller, Secretary of Six Mile Odd Fellow Lodge #87 for the music, it was awesome! Thanks to all who helped me decorate. A special thank you to Allen Jones for being my escort for the evening. Also, a special thank you to Dick and Linda Jones on the great job they do taking reservations for the banquet, and getting the program made for that night. They have been so great helping me!

For those that came to Springfield on Friday to tour the Dana Thomas house it was a great experience and good fellowship, seeing this house that was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

I continue to keep busy with my lodge and the other lodges to which I am an associate member.

I will be taking a short, but much needed bus trip, yes, I am finally qualified to take a senior trip on the bus, to Branson, Missouri. I know it will be a great time. My Great Aunt Thelma, a

deceased Rebekah, would be so happy and proud! She did so love her senior bus trips.

By this time, you have probably all had your Fall District Meetings. I hope all went well with those meetings.

I hope everyone has a blessed and Merry Christmas with family and friends.

In closing, remember to Respect each other — Believe in the good work we do— Love each other.

In F.L. & T,

Nann Johnson, Assembly President

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



HAPPY HOLIDAY BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

I hope everyone enjoyed your Thanksgiving Holiday, giving thanks and able to see family members.

After Grand Lodge session my wife and I attended the Grand Lodge of Indiana. Then I went to Michigan for their Grand Lodge Session. With the lights going out in most of the town.

I am looking forward to the Rabbit supper in Bushnell and Christmas Party at the Odd Fellow-Rebekah Home in Mattoon.

I hope everyone at the Leaders Banquet on November 2nd and 3rd had a good time. Rich Herring held a school of Instruction on Saturday morning.

The Holidays are upon us, have a wonderful time with family and friends. While traveling have a safe journey.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

*In Friendship, Love, and Truth,
Niles Reamer, Grand Master*

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTORS

QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS FOR 2019-2020 are:

Bonnie Hensley
PO Box 32, Stronghurst, IL 61480
309-924-1662

Sharon Landry
701 N Vermillion St., Pontiac, IL
61764
815-674-6648

Judy Sarnes
320 E. Market St., Havana, IL 62644
309-360-0989

Donna Gable
437 Home Ave., Edwardsville, IL
62025
618-578-1695

Lisa Miller
21694 N CO 38 HWY, Smithfield, IL
61477
309-224-3826

Your Committee,
Bonnie Hensley PP
Sharon Landry PP
Judy Sarnes PP
Donna Gable PP

RECIPE FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS

To: 1 Crisp December Night
Add: A Generous Portion of Frosty
Air...A Large Handful of Stars
Blend in: The fragrant Scent of an Evergreen Tree and Bay Leaves,
Mix: Into a Family Circle with a Large Scoop of Love
A Child's Smile
The Sparkle in His Eye
The Touch of a Red-nosed Reindeer
A Sprig of Mistletoe
Set Mixture: Beside Fire in the Warmth of the Age-old Tiding
Peace on Earth
Garnish With: The Light of the Star in the East.
Serve: To the Tune of a Favorite Christmas Carol.
Number of Servings: Will Serve All People Everywhere.
Cost Per Serving: Absolutely Nothing!
Contributed By: Cindy Elsberry PP of Theta Rho Clubs of Illinois

DISTRICT #19 HOLDS FALL MEETING

District Association #19 held its Fall Meeting on October 15 at Geneva Rebekah Lodge #274. Had lunch before meeting served by Peace Meal. Had there business meeting conducted by Becky Sykes President. Had election of officers for 2019-2020. Officers elected are Cleo Rose-President, Shirley Wilkey-Vice President, Betty Brandvoid-Secretary, Ruth Goad-Treasurer. They were installed by Anita Jones, District Deputy President, assisted by Evelyn Kidwell and Shirley Wilkey.

Anita Jones Sec
Geneva #274



Pictured Seated-Shirley Wilkey- Vice President, Cleo Rose-President, Standing Betty Brandvoid- Sec., Becky Sykes- Jr & Ruth Goad-Treasurer.

CENTURY LODGE #492



During the Thursday, October 10th meeting of Century Lodge #492 Carpentersville, Noble Grand Grant Dudar presented Brother Luis Chino Garcia with his 5 year pin.

DECEMBER 2019 & 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Field Meets for the Patriarch Militants

February 22, 2020 - Masonic Hall 2900 West Lake Ave, Peoria, IL - 10 a.m.

June 6, 2020 - Jerseyville Lodge, 124A West Pearl St. Jerseyville, IL - 10 a.m.

Grand Encampment

February 8, 2020 - All Encampment Degree Day, Sycamore Lodge #105 starting at 10 a.m.

March 28, 2020 - Round-Up at Friendship Manor, Lincoln starting at 10 a.m.

Regional Meetings:

February 1, 2020 - (North) #4 - Winchester 10 a.m.

February 22, 2020 - #2 Farmington 10 a.m.

March 7, 2020 - #4 (South) Waterloo 10 a.m.

March 21, 2020 - #3 Mt Zion 10 a.m.

April 11, 2020 - #5 Flora 10 a.m.

April 18, 2020 - #1 Sycamore 10 a.m.

Rebekah Assembly Spring District Meetings for 2020

March 14, 2020 - District #16 Warden

March 21, 2020 - District #6 Warden

April 4, 2020 - District #20 Warden

April 24, 2020 - District #11 Vice President

April 25, 2020 - District #12 Bushnell Vice President

May 16, 2020 - District #19 Mattoon Warden

May 30, 2020 - District #26 Granite City - Vice President

Other Dates:

December 10, 2019 - Bushnell Rabbit Supper at Bushnell 5:45 p.m.

December 7, 2019 - Chili Supper at Rockford- anytime after 3 p.m. No charge but baby diapers, baby wipes, etc would and will be accepted.

December 20, 2019 - Odd Fellow - Rebekah home annual Christmas Party at Mattoon starting at 10 a.m.

December 20, 2019 - The Executive Committee will have a meeting at 1 p.m.

January 27, 2020 - Oyster Supper at Alton, Illinois after 5:30 p.m.





WISHING YOU EVERY HAPPINESS AT THIS
BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY SEASON AND THROUGHOUT
THE COMING NEW YEAR.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Niles Reamer—GRAND MASTER

Mathew Yingling—DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Steve Pigg —GRAND WARDEN

Jerald T. Sarnes — GRAND SECRETARY

Arlan Miller—GRAND TREASURER

Eric Smith—GRAND REPRESENTATIVE

Rich Herring —GRAND REPRESENTATIVE

Jim Bott—JR. PAST GRAND MASTER



**WISHING YOU EVERY HAPPINESS AT THIS
BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS SEASON AND THROUGHOUT
THE COMING NEW YEAR.**

REBEKAH ASSEMBLY OF ILLINOIS

Nannette Johnson—PRESIDENT

Susan Schove—VICE PRESIDENT

Sandra Coulter—WARDEN

Janet Bruce—SECRETARY

Carole L. Day—TREASURER

Donna Grable—REPRESENTATIVE

Elizabeth Mowrey-Herbstreit - PRESIDENT IARA.



Wishing you a wonderful Holiday Season

With happiness and prosperity

Throughout the coming year.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT

Steve Adams, Grand Patriarch

Richard Bright, Grand High Priest

Ernest Higginson III, Grand Senior Warden

Jerald T. Sarnes, Grand Scribe

Allen H. Jones, Grand Treasurer

Clinton Block, Grand Junior Warder

Arlan Miller, Grand Representative

Janet Bruce, Jr. Past Grand Matriarch



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.

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Department Council of Illinois

During the Holiday Season more than ever, our thoughts
Turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible

And in this spirit we say, simply but sincerely...

Thank you and Best Wishes

For the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year

Colonel Janet Bruce, Department Commander

Lt. Colonel Steve Adams, Deputy Department Commander

General Commanding® Jerald T. Sarnes, Captain, Department Adjutant

Captain Jim Turner, Department Quartermaster

Major Rick Baker, 1st Battalion

Major Dan Davis, 2nd Battalion