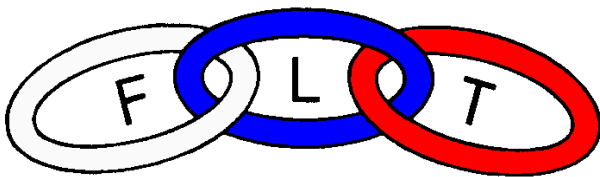


THE SAMARITAN

THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS NJ GRAND LODGE

Volume 1, Issue 4

June 24, 2010



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

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: IOOFNJ.ORG

What's So Odd About Helping Others ?

175th SESSION ISSUE

RESORTS INTERNATIONAL CASINO
ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

June 23, 24 & 25, 2010

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

What a terrific year it has been for me. It is hard to believe that it's over. What an opportunity I was given. I truly hope that I made the best of such a worthy challenge and that it was also a good year for the Order.

I've met a lot of very fine people while travelling around the state and my hope and confidence in the NJ Odd Fellows has been confirmed. This is a tremendous organization and in it we have the opportunity to do some amazing things. I have found that being an Odd Fellow, active in the business of our Lodge, allows for a general feeling of well being inside. It is something truly wonderful when a person believes they are doing something really worthwhile; something that can make a difference in the life of another. The Odd Fellows do that and being an Odd Fellow allows me to feel that way.

I'd like to thank Ruth Nichols and Terry McElroy for the work they have done with the Rebekahs. Each has worked hard and is a capable and dignified representative of the Assembly. Terry and I have been to many functions and Official Visits and she has been a great source of support and enjoyment.

Each of the members of the Grand Lodge Staff has been of tremendous help to me this year and they are responsible for any of the successes we may have had. Thank you for your patience, understanding, good will and friendship..

I offer Congratulations and good luck to Mike Perez, our incoming Grand Master. We are in good hands with Mike at the helm. He is a talented and dedicated man who will work hard to continue the growth we have been experiencing for the past several years now.

I am always proud of my affiliation with the New Brunswick Lodge and this year, their support and spirit meant more than ever. Their willingness to tackle challenges and get involved is why I am here.

To members through out the state, may you be an Odd Fellow or a Rebekah; a Challenge. Help with a Walk. Throw a Christmas or holiday party for kids who don't have as much Hope in their lives. Get involved and do some thing to help some one else less fortunate than yourself. Talk to those you know who would make a good Odd Fellow and bring in new members. It may be a surprise that you can have a lot of fun. It will strengthen your lodge and will make you a better member. The Odd Fellows can make you feel like a better person.

I believe we are on the cusp of a strong surge of growth due to the activity of our lodges. Look at what French, New Brunswick, Alvarez del Portal and Clinton Lodges have done a relatively short amount of time. We have found the key and it is **ACTIVITY**.

To any Odd Fellow out there who might be interested in doing a little more.. give it a try. You may find, like I did, that it benefits you personally more than you realized.

Thank you,
In Friendship, Love & Truth, Dan Lefever

INCOMING GRAND MASTER MESSAGE

I admit that becoming Grand Master of New Jersey is an honor I never dreamed one day would be bestowed upon me. I could not have anticipated that I would be holding the same office held by so many distinguished and highly qualified brothers who preceded me. I begin my term as Grand Master with some apprehension, but also with high hopes and a positive attitude. The Office can be intimidating. It is one that requires hard work, sustained effort, many sacrifices and an extraordinary amount of personal time. It also requires making decisions that are not easy ones to make and often are not pleasant but need to be made. I am sure that I will have the support of a group of hard working, dedicated, selfless and knowledgeable brothers and sisters who make up my staff. That is the main reason why I accepted the challenge. With such a formidable team on my side and my willingness to work hard I don't see how we could not have a successful term.

Following the steps of Dan Lefever is no easy task. Dan has been a dynamic and tireless warrior who has performed well beyond the call of duty. With his infectious smile and friendly disposition he has spread nothing but good will and harmony among the Odd Fellows in New Jersey. One of Dan's greatest successes is the Samaritan, a quarterly publication that covers the pulse of all branches of our Order in the state. It is an excellent means to make ourselves known to others as well as to keep our brothers and sister informed of what is going on. Dan has offered to continue its publication during my term, for which I am most grateful.

One of the fundamental problems we face is obscurity. We are a great organization and do wonderful things but very few know us. I plan to do whatever I can to support and promote any activity we have opportunity to participate. There are many parades, walks, runs, fairs, etc. which could allow us to make ourselves known. We need to let people know who we are and of the good things we do.

I plan to visit as many lodges as possible during my term and will encourage the interaction and cooperation between the lodges. It is essential that we work together and help each other with events and functions in order to be successful. STRENGTH IN UNITY is my motto. We are in this together as one big family.

I will be open to new ideas, suggestions, constructive criticism or anything that is offered that can benefit the Order. I am willing to try new programs. Some things will work and some will not, but the only way to find out is to try. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "It is hard to fail but it is worse never to have tried to succeed".

I will work with the District Deputies and expect them to what is going on in the lodges they represent. I will maintain the programs of the Honorable JR Powell and Dan Lefever. They are excellent programs and we should continue them. The charities we are associated with are wonderful organizations whose work exemplifies the principles of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. I believe we should continue providing them support.

I look forward to working with Terry McElroy and the incoming Vickie Burger, of the Rebekahs; Steve Wooton and the incoming JR Powell of the Frand Patriarchs.

We see new members coming in and lodges becoming more involved with communities. I say, "Keep up the effort". Keep the momentum, the Order deserves our best effort. I intend to lead by example and encourage everyone to do their part to keep our Order active and vibrant, so we may continue the charity work that is so desperately needed in today's world.

My thanks for your support;
May God bless the Independent Order of Odd Fellows,

Mike Perez

Grand Patriarchs' Message

It's been a year already.... Wow how the time flies. As I look back, I cherish the fellowship and fraternal bonding that I have experienced over the last year. I would like to first thank everyone for their hospitality during my visits this year. I also would also like to thank Dan and Terry for sharing their year with me.

As we sit here in Atlantic City, I have to reflect on a speech I heard recently from Steve Wynn, who is best known for his casinos. He was talking about how Las Vegas, markets its casinos and how that is related to his philosophy of creating the perfect experience for guests. Here's where you may ask yourself what does this have to do with Odd Fellows, Encampment, Canton or Rebekahs? Well read on....

In the beginning casinos used big billboards to attract customers, Then, the draw was large attractions (where else can you find Camelot next to Paris and across the street from New York). The philosophy was to attract the customer in hopes that they walk in the door. Notice I used the term customer and not Guest. Steve Wynn felt that there was something wrong with having these bold attractions outside and a half mile walk to the elevators.. I agree.

His philosophy was to create an environment that makes people feel like guests. Rather than turning the outside of his casino into a theme park, he turns the inside into something of comfort. Larger rooms, easy accessibility. I had the opportunity to stay at his crown jewel, the Wynn, last year. The registration desk was 20 feet from the door, it was over staffed and friendly. My room wasn't ready so they made me reservations for lunch and the waitress told me when my room was ready. That gave me that feeling of being a VIP, even though I was just there for a small Board Retreat. This is the core of his training. He teaches his staff to go out of their way to make every guest feel like a king. He found out that the last flight into Vegas is 11:45. So at 12:30 if a staff member (any staff member from a manager to the person sweeping the floor) sees a guest come into the hotel at 12:30, they are to stop what they are doing, and console the guest concerning their plane being late and assist them to the registration desk and get them to their room. He feels this is when a customer becomes a guest.

This is where I associate Steve Wynn's philosophy to Odd Fellowship. We don't have big billboards or flashing signs, all we have is stable buildings to meet in. We have members, but do they feel welcome, are they truly guests and do they feel at home? All too often a new member comes in the door. We initiate them, introduce them and then tell them to sit down and join the meeting. Make a point to take them around the hall, show them the history, give them the "lay of the land". Things like who to go to if they have a question, what is the next event, What do all of the symbols mean around the lodge, when did the lodge start, give them history and just make them feel at home. Remember, they not only joined the lodge to help others, they joined for the fraternal bonding. During my 20+ years of odd fellowship, I feel I have helped a lot of people but I also cherish the bonds of friendship that I have made.

So let's go out and make our members into guests and build those lifelong friendships as we help others.

Thank you for a wonderful year!
In Faith Hope and Charity

Steven M. Wooton

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

This is my last newsletter until the fall, but there are a few dates I want everyone to be aware of so they can participate, If it is convenient for them:

On July 14th is the visitation day at Camp CHAT where every Rebekah and Odd Fellow can see the enjoyment of the campers and where their money is being used. The camp is located at Camp Merry Heart in Hackettstown, I have gone for the past few years and it really is a very enjoyable day.

On July 23rd there is an Official Visit to Amor y Verdad #118, Union City. This Official honors Sister Carie Alvarez, Color Bearer and Sister Gladys Guitierrez, United Rebekah District Deputy President.

The Annual Statewide Picnic this year will be held on July 31st in Ocean County Park. Come and see the worthy recipients of the Rebekah State Scholarships and the Grand Lodge Scholarships. Also enjoy a hamburger and /or a hot dog.

I am looking forward to attending the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies in Kansas City, Missouri from August 23rd to the 27th. It is my honor to represent you; and I will do so to the best of my ability.

On September 1st an Official Visit has been scheduled at Hijas De Cuba #116, in Elizabeth.

It has been a pleasure working and travelling with Dan this year. I wish him the best of luck. I look forward to working with Mike Perez. I am sure he will do a fine job as Grand Master.

Have a great summer and as the song goes – See You in September.

In Rebekah Love, Terry McElroy

PAST GRAND MASTERS

Theodore May	Leonard Burger	William H. Hough
S. Warren Perrine	Eduardo Perez	Julio J. Jurjo
Donald H. Anderson	Ronald Seilheimer	Donald J. Chormanski
Harold W. Delhagen	Ralph D. Hughes, Jr	Steven M. Wooton
Peter Broeren	Robert P. Wooton	Michael K. O'Connor
Hector Galano	George C. White III	Gary Clemmens
Hugo Cabrera	Armando J. Guerra	Joseph Hubbs Sr.
Norman V. Johnson	Rafael Rosales	Honorable J.R. Powell
Robert F. Barrett	Walter A. Norris	Dan Lefever

GRAND LODGE STAFF

2009 - 2010

GRAND ENCAMPMENT OFFICERS

Grand Master	Dan Lefever	*	Grand Patricarch	Steven Wooton
Deputy Grand Master	James Ammann	*	Grand High Priest	J.R. Powell
Grand Warden	Mike Perez	*	Grand Senior Warden	Hector Galano
Grand Secretary	Mike O'Connor	*	Grand Junior Warden	Guido Miranda
Grand Treasurer	Gary Clemmens	*	Grand Scribe	Joseph Hubbs, Sr.
Grand Representative	Robert P. Wooton	*	Grand Treasurer	Robert P. Wooton
Grand Representative	Joseph Hubbs Sr.	*	Grand Inside Sentinel	Marcel Borges
Assistant Grand Secretary	Don Chormanski	*	Grand Outside Guardian	Oscar Gonzalez
Assistant Grand Treasurer	Frank Rodgers	*	Grand Marshall	Walter Norris
Grand Chaplain	Walter Norris	*	Advisory Officer	George Ward
Grand Marshall	Peter McElroy	*		
Grand Conductor	Julio Garcia			
Grand Guardian	Diane Brierley			
Grand Herald	Doug Planer			
Grand Instructor	Peter Broeren			
Advisory Officer	J. R. Powell			

2009

- June 24,25,26 - Grand Lodge Session, Atlantic City, NJ at Resorts International Hotel
- July 4 - Marching, Milltown Independence Day Parade, New Brunswick Lodge
- July 4 - Marching, Pitman Independence Day Parade, French Lodge
- July 4 - Marching, Gloucester City July 4th Parade, Amity Lodge
- July 18 - French Lodge Picnic
- July 25 - Grand Lodge Picnic, Lakewood
- July 29 - Camp CHAT Visitation Day, Hackettstown, NJ
- July 30 - Dinner, Scholarship Recipient, Alvarez del Portal
- August 8 - Pancake Breakfast, Fund Raiser, French Lodge
- August 8 - Miriam Rebekah Lodge Picnic
- August 17-21st - Sovereign Grand Lodge Session; Santa Clara, California
- August 27 - Meeting with AF Peggy Lotkowitz regarding Data Bank for Grand Lodge
- September 3 - Grand Lodge Reorganization Meeting
- September 12 - Meriam Rebekah Lodge 50th Anniversary Dinner
- September 16 - Initiation of new Members, at Lawrence Lodge, assist by New Brunswick Lodge
- September 19 - Gospel Music Night, Fund Raiser, French Lodge
- September 20 - Dinner, Fund Raiser, Alvarez del Portal Lodge
- September 24 - Golf Outing, Fund Raiser for Tori Lee, 5 year old with Leukemia. New Brunswick
- September 25 - Connecticut Grand Lodge Session
- September 26 - ChessFest, Benefit for Prevention First, Convention Hall, Asbury Park, NJ, Navesink Lodge
- September 27 - Motorcycle Poker Run, Fund Raiser, New Brunswick Lodge (RAINED OUT)
- October 3 - Grand Lodge Meeting, East Brunswick VFW
- October 4 - Tree Dedication, Milltown, NJ, New Brunswick Lodge
- October 4 - Milltown Community Day, New Brunswick Lodge
- October 13 - Installation of New Officers, Sanchez Moya Lodge
- October 15 - Installation of New Officers, Alvarez del Portal Lodge
- October 18 - Gift of Life Celebration, 35 years
- October 20 - Kick Off for Middlesex County Jingle Bell Run, New Brunswick Lodge
- October 21,22 - Rebekah Assembly Session, Ocean City, NJ
- October 23 - Grand Master Testimonial, Cranbury Inn, Cranbury, NJ 7pm
- November 1 - Sanchez Moya, 30th Anniversary Dinner
- November 7 - Grand Lodge Meeting, East Brunswick VFW **9am** Special Time
- November 7 - State wide Secretaries Meeting, East Brunswick VFW, 11:30 am
- November 10 - Kick Off for Middlesex County Arthritis Walk, New Brunswick Lodge

- November 13, 14 - Delaware Grand Lodge Session
- November 14 - Arthritis Foundation Volunteer Awards. 3rd Annual "Odd Fellows Spirit Award"
- November 21 - Bake & Tape Sale, Grace & Peace Church, 950 Raritan Road, Cranford, Clinton Lodge; 9am
- November - Rebekah President Testimonial Dinner
- November 14 - Beef & Beer Dinner Dance. Union Lodge, Farmington Fire House, 301 Maple Ave.
- November 15 - Union Lodge Officer Installation, Crab Trap restaurant in Somers Point, NJ, Time not set.
- December 5 - Grand Lodge Meeting, East Brunswick VFW (Date to be Changed)
- December 5 - Christmas Party for Children of Emanuel Cancer Society, French Lodge
- December 6 - Arthritis Foundation Jingle Bell Run, Metuchen, New Brunswick Lodge
- December 12 - Christmas Party for Children, Amity Lodge
- December 12 - 4th Annual Christmas Party for under privileged Children, New Brunswick Lodge

2010

- March 3 - Official Visit of Rebekah President, Miriam Lodge 112, Burlington
- March 7 - East Brunswick Community Day, New Brunswick Lodge
- March 13 - Charity Ball Fund Raiser,
- March 26 - 28 - Multi-State Conclave, Delaware (conclave@OddFellowsDE.org)
- April 5 - Official Visit, Clinton Lodge
- April 12 - Official Visit of Rebekah President, Mantua Oak Lodge 114, Mantua
- April 23 - Official Visit of Rebekah President, Eden Lodge 5 & Rockaway 86, Dover
- May 2 - Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington Cemetery, Washington DC
- May 3 - Official Visit of Rebekah President, Echo Lodge 96, Elmer
- May 8 - Mother's Day Breakfast. – Sponsored by Arwames Rebekah #84
- May - Memorial Day Grave Flags ceremonies
- 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 26 - Official Visit of Rebekah President, Joseph R. Deacon Lodge 106, Burlington
- 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
- July 29, 30 & 31 - Juvenile Arthritis Conference, Philadelphia
- July 31 - Annual state wide Picnic, Freehold
- September 20 - Annual Golf Outing, New Brunswick Lodge @ Peddie Golf Course, Cranbury, NJ

GRAND LODGE CERTIFICATES

The awarding of Certificates began under the term of Past Grand Master, J.R. Powell. It is a very good way to reward our members for a job well done. While the certificates in themselves are not special, in presenting such awards we are able to show appreciation of the effort these Brothers & Sisters have made for their Lodges.

The 2010 AWARDS of MERIT Certificates were issued to:

Justo Urquiza & Dacio Sanchez of Alvarez del Portal

Justo is a Past Noble Grand of the Lodge and has been a very energetic and enthusiastic member. He has been responsible for repairing and maintaining the Lodge building and in dealing with inspections and other key functions. Dacio is a long time member and, as Treasurer for the Lodge, is very prudent with the money. An outgoing and exuberant personality, he is involved with fund raising activities, holding events & chartering buses to Atlantic City.

David Eckman & Lester Cotton of Burlington Lodge

Dave has been the Secretary of the Lodge for about 10 years. He is also the President of the Trustees of the Cemetery. Dave is a very active Odd Fellow, as he paints and repairs things at the Lodge, when necessary. He is at most, if not all, of the meetings and activities of the lodge. Lester is presently the Left Supporter to the Vice Grand of Burlington Lodge. He is an active member, always attending the meetings and events and helps the lodge in any way her can.

John Park & Tom Calabrese of New Brunswick Lodge

In his 5 years of membership, John held a 2 year term as Noble Grand as well as other Chairs. He is the Lodge's liaison to the community of East Brunswick, has brought in several new members, is a great idea man, is extremely active and is the first to offer a helping hand. There are few Lodge events that John does not attend. Tom has only 2 years with the Lodge but in that time has developed a successful Golf Outing, produced several inexpensive quality banners, IOOF golf shirts and clothing. Presently, Tom is preparing a new fund raiser; he is developing a Lodge 6 web site and is busy planning the 2nd Annual Lodge 6 Golf Outing.

Brian & Donna Simmons and Gene Lalicka of French Lodge

Brian Simmons, a 6 year member, is a Past Grand and has been through all the chairs. Known as the Lodge Handy Man; Brian builds and cleans for the Lodge and manages supplies for numerous events. Donna is the 1st female Noble Grand in French history. She basically runs the kitchen for most events, shops for supplies and, for all intents & purpose, is the assistant Secretary. Each is at most of the lodge events and have become important parts of French Lodge success. Gene is an active new member. He created the IOOF NJ web site and is responsible to maintain it. Due to Gene's hard work, the Odd Fellows in New Jersey have one of the premiere Odd Fellow sites on the web.

Doug & Dottie Planer of Clinton Lodge

Doug & Dottie are two of the core members who have not only kept Clinton alive, but have worked it into a growing and healthy Lodge. Membership is up, activity has expanded and the future looks bright. In the past few years, they have been instrumental in supporting a new food bank, holding events to raise funds and to grow membership. They regularly attend the Conclave and were proud Jersey Jammers. Doug is also a Grand Lodge Staff member.

Ramon & Belgica Cartagenas of Sanchez Moya Lodge

Both are very active and enthusiastic members of the Lodge and volunteer any time they are asked. They transport members who would not normally be able to make it to meetings, then back home, on a regular basis. They assist on the various bus trips that Sanchez runs and have "lifted the spirits of the lodge" other members say. Ramon also visits lodge brothers when they are hospitalized.

Mario Hidalgo of Patria y Libertad Lodge

A Past Grand, Mario recently received a fifty year pin for having been an Odd Fellow for that many years. He's held most of the chairs in the Lodge and he has been an active member and a good influence on his Brothers.

(CONTINUED)

Idelfonzo Rivas of Perez Ochoa Lodge

Idelfonzo has been an active Odd Fellow in New Jersey for about 33 years. He has been on committees and helped out his lodge any way he could. He is a Past Grand of Perez Ochoa. He was a member of the Order in Cuba for almost twenty years before emigrating to the USA.

Robert & Robin Elder of the Bergen Lodge

Bob & Robin have been very busy in the Bergen Lodge. Robin is the present Noble Grand, while Bob is Past Grand. Each has been involved in many lodge projects over the years. They are planning a fish fry to raise funds and to get The Odd Fellow name out. During the Holidays, they portray Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus while visiting the under privileged and passing out gifts.

Gary & Sandy Clemmens and Russ Collins of Amity Lodge

Gary has been an Odd Fellow for 14 years and has served 5 terms as Noble Grand. He helped to develop and carry out Amity's Annual Christmas Party, which has been held 13 years. He is a great idea man, initiated many community events, has been a co-chair on the state wide picnic for 10 years, ran the Session Committee, is a Past Grand Master and Grand Treasurer. Sandy has held several Chairs and is the first female Noble Grand in Amity history, is a go to person regarding event preparing, cooking and general Lodge activity.

Russ Collins has been a member of Amity for 62 years. He is the current Vice Grand and is very active in the lodge, attending most, if not all, lodge functions and fund raisers. He also volunteers his time several days a week to work on the Battleship New Jersey in Camden.

THE ODD FELLOWS

First published Dec.2003 on "The Northern Light", Scottish Rite Freemasonry, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, USA

"There's Nothing Odd about these Fellows"

"What's so Odd about the Odd Fellows?--- nothing"

What was the largest fraternal organization during the so-called "Golden Age of Fraternalism" (1870-1910)? You may be surprised to know it was not Freemasonry but the Odd Fellows. In 1890 Freemasonry had 609,000 brothers while the Odd Fellows had over 672,000. You may also be surprised to know the Scottish Rite Masonic National Heritage Museum probably holds the largest public collection of Odd Fellows artifacts, and materials in the county; some 700 items. Just as many men joined both the Craft and the Odd Fellows, so our museum collections both Masonic and other American fraternal history. Indeed the relationship between the Freemasonry and Odd Fellowship was quite similar and often truly fraternal.

As with Freemasonry, the Odd Fellows is a British institution. They began in England in the late 1700s as a "friendly society" for working class men and artisans. Meeting in taverns to socialize they also pooled their resources to help each other in times of need and for burial fees. That such an "odd" assortment of men would organize for such benevolent purposes was considered "odd" for the times and from which perhaps their name sprang. That they also practiced such broad charity may have also caused these fellows to be considered "odd." Whatever the origin of the name the first lodge proudly adopted the title and have continued to care for each other for well over 200 years.

Like Freemasonry there were individual Odd Fellows in the United States prior to the first lodge forming in 1819. The revered founder and first "Grand Sire" of the American Odd Fellows is Thomas Wildey (1782-1861). A coach-spring maker, he became an Odd Fellow in London before immigrating to America in 1817. Through his efforts he organized the first lodge in Baltimore and received a charter from the English Grand Lodge to spread the fraternity in the United States. Blessed by boundless energy and a dedication to help those in distress between 1819 and 1840 he started 155 lodges in 14 states that initiated over 11,000 brothers. Its great national Grand Secretary Thomas Ridgely who served the fraternity from 1833 to 1880 further supported Wildey's fledgling order.

So successful was American Odd Fellowship that it came in conflict with the Odd Fellow's "world headquarters" or the Grand Lodge of England. After the separation in 1843 they changed their name to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and within ten years the number of lodges leaped to 2,941 in 33 states and a total of 193,000 brothers.

Similar to Prince Hall Freemasonry, African Americans have their own Odd Fellows lodges. In 1842 the English Odd Fellow Grand Lodges issued a warrant to black sailor named Peter Ogden from New York City. Unlike Wildey however, Ogden

never separated his lodges from England and to this day it remains part of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows. When Ogden died in 1852 there were 32 lodges, by 1863 there were 50 and by 1900 2,253 with 70,000 members. The GUOOF continues to this day and are headquartered in Philadelphia.

Although heavily influenced by Freemasonry's rituals, symbols and tenets, a large measure of the Odd Fellows' success came from its dedication to serve its members. Its three secret ritual initiations taught the "three links" of fraternity as "Friendship, Love and Truth" and commanded its brothers to "Visit the Sick, Relieve the Distressed, Bury the Dead, Care for the Widow, and Educate the Orphan." In the forty years between the founding of Wildey's first American lodge and his death in 1861, Odd Fellow's paid out nearly \$9,000,000 in relief. After the Civil War State grand Lodges began building homes for widows and orphans. With the first opening in Meadville, PA in 1872 by 1927 there were 62 home in the United States. Between 1830 and 1936 the fraternity had paid out over \$247 million in relief.

In other ways the Odd Fellows innovated before Freemasonry. Before the Order of the Eastern Star for female relatives of Masons the Odd Fellows started the first women's auxiliary. Call the Daughters of Rebekah it was begun by future Vice President of the United States (and Freemason) Schuley Colfax in 1851. The Rebekahs have one initiation degree based on wife of the Hebrew patriarch Isaac. Within 50 years of its founding it had over 340,000 daughters and it membership peaked in 1925 at just over one million. In 1932 Rebekahs formed their girls' youth group called Theta Rho.

Similar to the Masonic Royal Arch Degrees of the York Rite, the Odd Fellows established "higher" degrees in the Encampment. Containing three degrees, the Patriarchal, the Golden Rule and the Royal Purple they originated in England and were first performed in the United States in the 1820s. Like the Royal Arch the Encampment had its own state and national hierarchy but ultimately remain subordinate to state and national grand lodges.

Building upon the success of the Encampment, in the 1870s and 80s the Odd Fellows established their own Masonic Knights Templar-like order. Call the Patriarch Militant it officially became part of the Order in 1886. Rather than commanderies, the Patriarch militants met in Cantons. Individual members were titled chevaliers and within three years of its organization it had over 12,073 members in 356 cantons. The Militants' mottos are "Justitia Universalis" (Universal Justice) and "Pax aut Bellum" (Peace or War) and its insignia is the crossed crook and sword with crown. Several factors led to the Militants success; a love of marching and military music after the Civil War, a fear of labor unrest and riots after 1877 and a huge war surplus of uniforms and swords.

The Odd Fellows even created their own Shriner's in the early 1900s. Several different groups were attempted, called the Order of Muscovites, Prophets of Bagdad and the Knights of Oriental Splendor. The successor of these and most successful were the Ancient Mystic Order of Samaritans or AMOS who wore red fezz with the motto "We Never Sleep."

The Odd Fellows membership peaked in 1920 at 1.7 million brothers. While still strong during the Roaring '20s the Great Depression nearly bankrupted the fraternity. The Stock market crash caused families to drop their membership, lodges to fail to meet their mortgages and homes to lose donations. The advent of social security, welfare, private health insurance and other forms of relief made most of the Odd Fellows' charity obsolete. The popularity of radio, movies, and later TV and other forms of leisure all help to erode Odd Fellow, and most other fraternal orders' membership. By 1960 the Odd fellows had half the members they did in 1920. Today there are still many active Odd Fellow lodges across the country, mostly in small town and rural communities, yet firmly linked by "Friendship, Love and Truth."

Sources:

- Theodore A. Ross, *The History and Manual of Odd Fellowship*. M.W. Hazen Co. 1900.
- *Album of Odd Fellow Homes*. Ida F. Wolfe, editor. Minneapolis, MN: the Joseph M. Wolfe Co., 12th ed., 1927.
- [Schmidt, Alvin J. *Fraternal Organizations*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1966.](#)

Thank you to Gary Clemmens, Mike O'Connor, J.R. Powell, Frank Rogers and the others who have planned so well and made this a terrific Session. Congratulations New Jersey Grand Lodge for 175 years!

SPOTLIGHT LODGE : NEW BRUNSWICK LODGE #6

The New Brunswick Lodge was instituted in the City of New Brunswick on December 28, 1836 by the Grand Lodge of New Jersey in special session. This Lodge was the sixth such Odd Fellows Lodge in the state. It is said that those who would become members began at least four years earlier, initiating community work and organizing their fraternity network into the lodge.

The Odd Fellows Lodge was to become one of the foremost institutions in the City. With a membership comprised of ordinary and prominent citizens, working men, business owners, professionals and politicians, the Lodge occupied several locations downtown until finally purchasing and expanding a building at the corner of Neilsen and Liberty Streets. Records indicate that “practically every other order in the City met or was organized” at the Lodge 6 hall. Social and Charity events were often held here and membership grew.

The Odd Fellows, also known as the Three Ring Society, held true to the ideals of “Friendship, Love and Truth” and pledged to uphold four basic charges: To.. (1) visit the sick, (2) comfort the widow, (3) educate the orphan and (4) bury the dead. The members of the New Brunswick Lodge keep these ideals to this day.

Many times in the past, the Lodge acted when called upon. During the Cholera outbreak of 1849, the lodge employed nurses to assist families afflicted with the disease; they formed a Widows and Orphans Committee which was responsible to see that children got a good education; they supported the Humane Society, holding concerts and balls to raise funds for that group; they instituted the first “Safe and Sane” celebration in the City on the Fourth of July with a parade, concert and fireworks; they purchased and made available cemetery plots for those who could not afford a proper burial. The New Brunswick Lodge flourished.

New Brunswick Lodge #6 continued its activity in the city until the late 1960’s. The lodge building was sold and, true to form in song, they took paradise and put up a parking lot. The Wolfson Parking Deck now stands where a seat of social activity once stood. As society changed, it was not kind to Fraternal Organizations. Throughout the nation, such groups lost membership and many ceased to exist. The same is true for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows... numerous lodges closed their doors forever while others merged within other locals. American society has never fully grasped what was lost.

The New Brunswick Lodge moved to its new location at Cedar & Chestnut Streets in North Brunswick and remained there for many years. Good years mostly; years of hard work, dedication, friendships made and strengthened. Millstone Lodge # ___ and the Queen City Lodge of Plainfield merged with Lodge #6. As the membership aged, many could no longer get to meetings. It was a time when being in a charity or a fraternal organization was not “cool”. Membership waned badly. At meetings, it became difficult to make a quorum. Those that continued to show up did so to see their old friends. For some reason, they never gave up. Men like Frank Nagle, Carl Myers, Harry Jaffe, Jack Oziel, Al Young, Steve Csontos, Harold Delhagen and Tom Calabrese would not surrender. Then, somehow, they found a way to bring in some new members. Carl convinced a young man named Mike O’Connor that he knew from his church to join. After some small “events”, if they could even be called that, a few more members joined. As the activity of the lodge picked up, more people joined.

In 2005, Lodge 6 moved again. Now at the V.F.W. Hall, located at 485 Cranbury Road, East Brunswick, the Lodge still meets on the first and third Monday of each month. This terrific new facility and our very accommodating Veterans of Foreign Wars hosts have allowed the New Brunswick Lodge to become quite active; more so than the Lodge had been in decades. The recipe of the Lodge 6 success is its great mix of new and old. There are new members and a new agenda, but the same values hold strong. While the newest have recently joined, some members have been Odd Fellows for over 60 years.

The first New Brunswick Lodge member to become Grand Master of the New Jersey Grand Lodge was Abram B. Provost, in 1866. Others include, William B. Baldwin (1940), Carleton J. Myers (1973), Frank M. Nagle (1975), Harold W. Delhagen (1976), Michael K. O’Connor (2005) and B. Daniel Lefever (2009),

Lodge 6 is still doing its part to benefit those in need. Donations are regularly made to food banks, less fortunate families are given meals during the holidays, Golf Outings are held for families during their most terrible crisis, members are key components of the Middlesex County Arthritis Walk and Jingle Bell Run. An Annual Christmas Party is presented for children from local Homeless Shelters, trees are donated to local communities, and through events such as Community Days, the Milltown Fourth of July Parade and New Brunswick’s Soapbox Derby, members are working hard to get the Odd Fellow name out to the public. Of course, Lodge 6 also supports the NJ Grand Lodge charities, such as the Emanuel Cancer Foundation, The Gift of Life House, Rhonda’s Club, aka/ the Gynecological & Ovarian Cancer Coalition and others.

New Brunswick Lodge #6 has a rich history that spans 174 year. It also has a future that its members are still writing.

SPOTLIGHT MEMBER : JOE HUBBS

Joe Hubbs is an unassuming guy. He is a nice guy. It is said, he does many helpful things quietly and unknown to others; some of which even Doris is probably not aware. Because of that, he doesn't get recognition for much of what he does, although recognition for himself doesn't seem high on Joe's list. What does seem important to him is just getting the job done and he has always been able to that just fine.

Joe became an Odd Fellow some 59 years ago at the young age of 18. He was Initiated into the Arwames Lodge #37, in Gloucester City; which later consolidated with Senatus Lodge #76; which then merged with Amity #166 in 2004. He has been an active member and a positive influence in all three.

During that time, he did a four year stint in the United States Air Force, being Honorably Discharged in 1956. He later worked for Boeing-Vertol Aircraft for 34 years as a flight test mechanic, on such important projects as the *Chinook* multi-mission, heavy-lift transport helicopter and the *Osprey*, an American multi-mission, military, tilt rotor aircraft with both a vertical takeoff and landing and a short takeoff and landing capability. He Retired from the company in 1995. Joe was also an active member of the Audubon Fire Department for 53 years and is currently serving in his 30th year as secretary of the Audubon Borough Firemen's Relief Association. In 2006, he was honored as the "Fireman of the Year". He also found the time to marry and raise a family of four kids.

Besides that, he has always found time for the Odd Fellows. He would be at events and he would make most of the meetings. He travelled to see the kids at Camp C.H.A.T. in Jersey as well as in Connecticut. He made it to some of the Donor Dash events in Philadelphia for the Gift of Life, as well as many, many other events and he did whatever it took to help his Lodge. He has been an important go to guy in Amity. Joe went to a lot of Official Visits in his time and made many friends along the way. He is held in high regards and is well respected by those who know him.

Joe was elected to be the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge in 2004, and has been re-elected every 2 years since then. He was the Grand Warden in 2005, Deputy Grand Master in 2006 and Grand Master in June 2007.

Joe is also a long standing and active member of Fraternal Encampment #23, Canton Ridgeley #5 , MOAS Sanctorum #281 and Arwames Rebekah Lodge #84. He was elected Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment in 1998, and elected to his current office as Grand Scribe in 1999.

Joe has been serving as treasurer of the Grand Bodies Planning Board for a number of years. He keeps the records of ads and tickets sold for the Charity Ball and Roast of the Year and he does much more than most of us notice. Joe is that guy you have to go through to get in the door of the Ball or Roast, and he is on the team that plans these events.

Joe and Doris will soon celebrate 55 years of marriage. That in itself is an amazing feat in today's culture, but they make it look easy. They have four children and ten grand children, of which Joe has a special "buddy" in the youngest who is one of the 3 who are living at home.

Joe Hubbs is a busy man. He is a special man. He exemplifies the purpose of the Order to seek to improve and elevate the character of mankind. The Odd Fellows would not have been the same without Joe Hubbs.

Every Odd Fellow in New Jersey owes Joe a "Thank You" for his many years of dedication and service to the Lodges, his leadership by example and his volunteering spirit to our communities. By being Joe Hubbs, he makes us look good.

On this date, June 24, 2010, the Grand Lodge of New Jersey bestowed upon Joseph Hubbs the highest award that this jurisdiction of the Odd Fellows has the power and authority to do.... The Meritorious Service Jewel for Exemplary Conduct in Odd Fellowship.

Congratulations Joe, you deserve it.