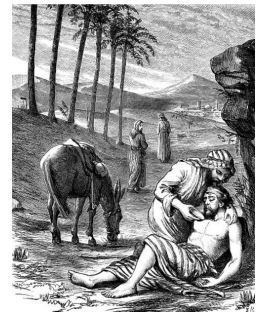


INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS
GRAND LODGE OF NEW JERSEY

THE SAMARITAN

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 14 JULY 2026



GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Acceptance Speech

Grand Master Joseph
Miczak 2026–2027
Grand Lodge of New
Jersey, In-dependent
Order of Odd Fellows

As I begin this journey, I
want to be clear about my
vision for the future

.My number one priority
as Grand Master will be
membership growth.

Every lodge in New Jersey must become a lodge that is actively seeking new members. We can no longer afford to sit back and hope someone discovers us. We must tell our story. We must be visible in our communities. We must invite people into our lodges, show them who we are, and demonstrate through our actions why the principles of Friendship, Love, and Truth are just as relevant

today as they were more than two centuries ago.

The truth is simple, and while it may not always be comfortable to hear, it must be said.

Without membership, we have no future.

If we fail to grow our membership, we are on a path toward disappearing. That is not the future I envision for our beloved Order.

But I also believe there is another path.

The future can be brighter than ever before.

We have a choice. We can continue doing the same things we have always done and risk ceasing to exist in just a few short years. Or we can embrace change, work together, rebuild our lodges, welcome new generations of members, and ensure that the Independent Order of Odd Fellows continues to thrive for another



200 years.'

The choice is ours.. I know what I believe . I believe we will grow.

I believe New Jersey can become the shining star of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

I believe our lodges can once again become vibrant centers of fellowship, charity, leadership, and community service.

Most importantly, I believe in each and every one of you.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Membership growth is not the responsibility of the Grand Master alone. It belongs to every Odd Fellow and every Rebekah. If every member commits to bringing just one new member into our fraternity, imagine what we can accomplish together. Imagine our lodge rooms filled once again. Imagine new leaders stepping forward. Imagine stronger communities because of the work we do together.

That future is within our reach.

During the coming year, I pledge to visit our lodges, listen to your ideas, celebrate your successes, and help every lodge develop the tools and confidence needed to grow. We will share ideas, support one another, and remember that when one lodge succeeds, we all succeed.

Our founders entrusted us with a remarkable fraternity. It is now our responsibility to leave it stronger than we found it. Future generations are counting on us to make the right decisions today.

I ask each of you to join me. Let us work together with optimism, enthusiasm, and determination. Let us embrace new ideas while remaining true to our timeless principles. Let us show New Jersey what it means to be an Odd Fellow.

I am excited about the future because I know what this fraternity is capable of achieving. Together, we will write the next chapter in the history of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey—a chapter defined by growth, service, compassion, and renewed purpose.

Together, we will ensure that the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in New Jersey is not merely remembered for its past, but celebrated for its future.

Thank you once again for this incredible honor and privilege.

May God bless each of you, bless your families, bless the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, and continue to bless the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Thank you, and may Friendship, Love, and Truth always guide our path.

GRAND MATRIARCH'S MESSAGE

As we start this year, let us strive to maintain harmony and perseverance in all our discussions and decisions. It is in togetherness that we find strength and purpose.

As your Grand Matriarch, I want to take a moment to highlight a cause that is very close to my heart—Operation Smile. This incredible organization provides life-changing surgeries for children born with cleft lips and cleft palates. For too many of these children, simple activities like eating, speaking, and connecting with others. **Let us help them.**



In Faith, Hope & Charity,

Belgica Cartagena

Grand Matriarch

New Jersey Rebekah Assembly President's Program 2026-2027



Wow!!!! It's such an honor to be here. I don't know where to begin!

A famous Cuban poet, Jose Marti, once wrote "that Cuba and Puerto Rico are the two wings of a bird". As you know, ever since I joined this Order, I have served two jurisdictions, my two homes, my two wings.

My New Jersey Sisters and Brothers have supported me through all the trials and tribulations that life have thrown at me. For that a thank you. This past April the stars finally aligned, and I joined Miriam Rebekah lodge #112 as an associate member. Ever since then I have been asked to serve more closely with the Rebekah Assembly....and here I am ready to serve you as your president.

My program is as follows:

GUIDE: The Bible and the books of the Order.

MOTTO: "Honor the past and work toward the future" that means that to honor those who came before us we need to learn the new ways and teach those who come after us so they could take the reins when their time come.

PIN: A Quilt, for from old little pieces of materials we can make a brand-new quilt to keep us all warm.

COLORS: Dark Blue, it symbolizes depth, stability and trust and Yellow which symbolizes hope.

FLOWER: None in particular since I like them all.

SONG: "We Are the World"

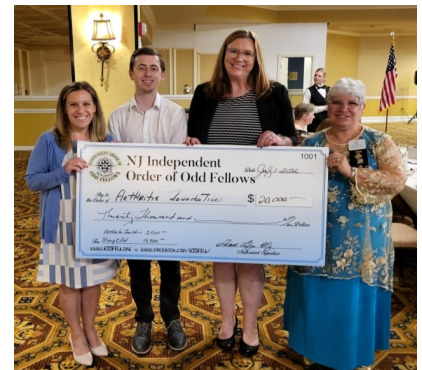
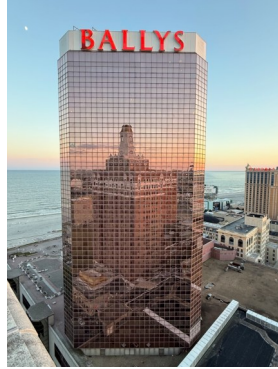
HYM: "Count your Blessings" By Rosemary Simmons

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 145:4 "One generation commends Your work to another: they tell of Your mighty acts"

CHARITY: Alzheimer Association. Alzheimer is a progressive irreversible brain disorder that slowly destroys memory, thinking skills and the ability to carry out simple tasks. I first became exposed to the devastating effects of this disease when my paternal grandfather, a prominent journalist and motivational speaker in Cuba, succumbed to this disease and could not recognize my grandmother or anyone else in our family and could not care for himself, yet days before his death he told me "Take care of my babies" pointing to my sons which made me feel that he somehow recognized that my sons were somehow relate to him. This disease has also affected Rebekah Sisters and Brothers from both New York and New Jersey. So in their Honor I ask you to help me support this cause.

Thank you again for putting your trust in me.

Grand Lodge of New Jersey Session



EDICT FROM THE GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NJ

To All Members, Lodges, and Officers of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey,

Subject: Declaration of a State of Emergency on Membership Decline

Date: 6/26/2025 From: Joseph Miczak, Grand Master

In the spirit of brotherhood and mutual aid, I, Joseph Miczak, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, hereby declare a state of emergency regarding the alarming decline in our membership. This issue poses a significant threat to the longevity and vitality of our cherished Order.

Whereas:

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows has a proud history of providing support, fellowship, and community service since its founding.

Current membership levels have reached a critical point, jeopardizing our ability to fulfill our mission and support our communities effectively.

Therefore, Be It Resolved:

The Grand Lodge of New Jersey is hereby directed to take all necessary actions to promote membership growth and the formation of new lodges.

We will explore innovative outreach initiatives, community engagement strategies, and membership drives aimed at invigorating our Order and attracting new members who share our values.

Call to Action:

All lodges are encouraged to collaborate with the Grand Lodge in these efforts and to report back on their activities and successes.

I urge each member to actively participate in recruitment efforts and to share the benefits of Odd Fellowship with family, friends, and community members.

This edict shall remain in effect for the entirety of my term of office, as we work together to ensure the future of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows remains bright and impactful.

In unity and with a shared commitment to revitalizing our Order, let us work together to ensure our mission continues to thrive.

Fraternally yours,

Joseph Miczak

Grand Master Grand Lodge of New Jersey Independent Order of Odd Fellows

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

FRENCH LODGE #89

HOAGIE SALE!

\$8 OR 4 FOR \$30

SATURDAY, JULY 11TH

- ✓ FRESH, DELICIOUS HOAGIES!
- ✓ PERFECT FOR LUNCH, DINNER, OR GATHERINGS!
- ✓ SUPPORT FRENCH LODGE #89 AND ITS CHARITABLE WORK!

PICK UP:

SATURDAY, JULY 11TH
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

836 LAMB RD
MULLICA HILL, NJ

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR LODGE AND OUR COMMUNITY!

FRIENDSHIP LOVE TRUTH

DOOR PRIZES!

50/50 RAFFLE!

New Jersey

STATE WIDE PICNIC

★ Come join us ★

SATURDAY, JULY 18TH
at
TALL CEDARS PICNIC GROVE
245 SAWMILL RD
HAMILTON TWP, NJ 08620

10 AM TO 4 PM

★ FOOD PROVIDED ★
(Hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, coleslaw, chips, soda, & water)
BYOB
(bring your own beer)

★ PRIZES ★
for the Odd Fellow and Rebekah lodges with the most in attendance and the lodge that brings the most guests!

GRAND LODGE OF NEW JERSEY

ODD FELLOWS 3 LINKS

★ JOIN US FOR A DAY OF BROTHERHOOD, BASEBALL & GOOD TIMES! ★

TRENTON THUNDER BASEBALL

ENJOY THE GAME IN COMFORT!

- PRIVATE SUITE
AIR CONDITIONED
- DELICIOUS BARBECUE FOOD
FOOD • DRINKS • FUN
- BROTHERHOOD
FRIENDS • FAMILY • COMMUNITY

GREAT BASEBALL. GREAT FOOD. EVEN BETTER TOGETHER.

AUGUST 9, 2026 | 4:30 PM

DON'T MISS IT!

★ LET'S CHEER ON THE THUNDER TOGETHER! ★

NEW BRUNSWICK LODGE #6

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP • LOVE • TRUTH

CHARITY GOLF OUTING

SEPTEMBER 21ST

AT
CONCORDIA GOLF CLUB

EMAIL TOMZ59@AOL.COM
FOR INFORMATION

FRIENDSHIP • LOVE • TRUTH

THE SAMARITAN
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.IOOFNJ.ORG

FOR HALL RENTALS

ANNA HUNTER

(609) 456-8632



Canton Ridgely # 5

The Patriarchs Militant is the uniformed branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF), dedicated to embodying the principles of fraternity, loyalty, and service. As the highest degree of Odd Fellowship, the Patriarchs Militant promotes chivalry, patriotism, and universal benevolence while exemplifying the ideals of community and mutual aid. Through ceremonial traditions and active participation in charitable efforts, the Patriarchs Militant honor the legacy of Odd Fellowship,

NEW BRUNSWICK LODGE # 6 MILLTOWN JULY 4TH



Dates to Remember:

July 18th – Grand Lodge Picnic

July 28th – PFY Bus for dinner,
Roebbling, NJ

August 9th- Trenton Thunder, Base-
ball Trenton, NJ

August 14-21; Sovereign Grand
Lodge, Dallas Texas

September 3rd– Grand lodge re or-
ganization meeting.

September 21st– New Brunswick
Lodge #6 Charoty Golf Outing.
Concordia Golf Club Monroe 9:00

December 5-Jingle Bell Run Bell
Works Holmdel, NJ

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Grand Lodge of New Jersey

THE SAMARITAN