



Rebekah Assembly of California
President 2024-2025
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To all Rebekah Lodges,

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Happy New Year! Did you all see our float? This year, ABC and NBC both showed it. On January 2, I took the IARA President Mira Pittmann to Float Fest in Pasadena, where all the floats were on display so you could see them up close. After lunch, I took the Pittmanns to Oceanside Lodge #346 for a meet and greet with local members.

My grandmother Irene Schroeder got me initiated into Orland Rebekah Lodge in December of 1970, while I was with her for Christmas vacation from Stanford. In April of 1971, Sister Irene summoned me to join her at the Children's Home Festival in Gilroy. I helped in Orland's booth and toured the Children's Home, which was still an orphanage. I went to the Children's Home Festival most years thereafter, helping in Philotesian Rebekah Lodge's booth, or the District #24 pie booth.

I am bringing the Children's Home Festival back this year, on Saturday, April 12. Secretary Donna Miller is the chairman of the committee for the event, with assistance from Sister Sharon Vargas and Brother Joseph Ouellette with Gilroy Odd Fellows Lodge #154 cooking food. The event is being targeted for the families who are the clients of Rebekah Children's Services. I hope lodges will bring booths with games for the children to play and useful goods for the families to buy. More information and booth signup forms will come from the Assembly Secretary.

<http://www.burwur.net/IOOF/> was recently updated with information for the annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington, VA on Sunday, May 4, 2025. This year, Sister Marilyn Nichols will present the wreath from California on behalf of Rebekah Assembly. When she was President, COVID had caused the Pilgrimage to be cancelled. I have been in the wreath presentation before, and gave her my place. I still plan to attend the Pilgrimage, wearing my PM uniform. The picture on my web page is a double exposure composite I created in a PhotoShop class. My father carried the IALAPM wreath for me to present as President of International Association Ladies Auxiliaries Patriarchs Militant.

Please remember the web site at <http://www.burwur.net/IOOF/>. You can also reach that page by clicking on the "President's Letters" button on the California Grand Lodge home page, www.caioof.org. I keep updating the page, adding visit information and reception invitations as I get them.

In Friendship, Love and Truth,

Debra LaVergne, PRA