



Rebekah Assembly of California  
President 2024-2025  
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Friday, February 7, 2025

To all Rebekah Lodges,

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The California State Fair is coming, July 11-27, and the Odd Fellows will have a booth focused on the Living Legacy Program, with information about planting trees and with brochures from I.O.O.F. and other groups. This year, we will tell the public about the I.O.O.F. Tree in Sequoia National Forest, which was named and dedicated in 1903.

We need donations to support this project, Send checks to: Grand Lodge of CA, 122 Race St., San Jose, CA 95126. Please mark "For CA State Fair IOOF Booth". GM Dave Reed and I approve this project. I will be there to help in the booth for a few days. .

Here are more itinerary corrections:

No visit to Eldorado Rebekah Lodge on March 3.

Tea Party on March 29 will be in Cupertino (20589 Homestead Road, 1:00pm, High Tea, cost \$10. RSVP to Mary Lou Lang, 408-252-3954)

I visit Lompoc Rebekah Lodge on April 1.

I visit Golden Rule Rebekah Lodge in Dutch Flat on April 25.

A long time ago, people sat down and wrote poems for our opening and closing odes that fit to familiar melodies. Writing new words for existing melodies is a popular craft in science fiction and fantasy fandom (and the Society for Creative Anachronism). The result is called Filk Music.

We need new songs about Odd Fellowship and Rebekahship!

We are having a Odd Fellows Filk Music competition at Good Fellowship Night in May. Good Fellowship Night will be held in the room where Grand Lodge meets, so that we have big screens to display the new words. Filk Music is going to be judged on several points, including on how many people will sing along.

So start thinking about a tune you like and about being an Odd Fellow and Rebekah, and make some new words for that tune. Get together with others from your lodge and district to refine your work and to practice. Bring your entry to Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly as a document on a flash drive. If possible, bring a karaoke version of the source song.

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](http://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



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## THE I.O.O.F. CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR BOOTH COMING SOON!!

The application for the California State Fair IOOF Booth has been submitted! Thanks to the lodges that have given to this worthy IOOF event. But, the IOOF booth still needs contributions from our lodges. The focus is the Living Legacy Program, where the I.O.O.F. presents one of its most important programs. We plant primarily trees, but all vegetation. We plant trees for the environment. Since 1991, this has been an official program and focus of our Order.

We share this goal with the public at the State Fair, so they learn a little more about what we do as Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. We were surprised to learn that many people did not know the Order planted trees and encouraged the planting of trees. Luckily, our volunteers at the booth are there to inform and create awareness.

One year, we gave away over 1000 seedlings in a single weekend. Last year, we shared other organization's tree planting programs. For the past three years, we have received the support of the arborists, who are also in the same building as the I.O.O.F. booth. They provide brochures to compliment our brochure on the planting of trees.

This July, we have something very special to share with the public that deals directly with trees, more specifically, the Sequoia National Forest. We learned this past year, that of the three named trees in this forest, one of them was reported to be named and dedicated the "I.O.O.F. Tree" in 1903. This tree was located and photographed for us. An outside historian brought this to our attention. We are grateful. He thought that if worked with the Superintendent of the National Park Service that the I.O.O.F. could rededicate the tree. The booth at the State Fair allows us to bring awareness to people.

With your kind donations, we can continue sharing one of our most important programs with nearly a million fair goers over a 16-day stretch this coming July. We need your support.

Send checks to:

Grand Lodge of CA  
122 Race Street  
San Jose, CA  
95126

Please mark "For CA State Fair IOOF Booth"

The Grand Master, brother Dave Reed has approved this request for support.

In Friendship, Love and Truth,

Debra LaVergne, PRA