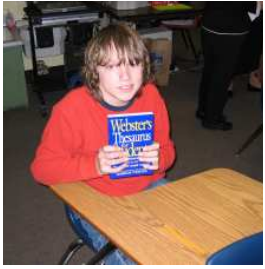


operation of the Home. Renovations of Buildings H and I into viable, income-producing apartments is an approach that is being considered. In addition, one of the ways to help raise funds is through the "Buy-A-Brick" program which we introduced recently. Please consider Giving from the Heart for this valuable asset to Elkdom.



As Elks we are proud of our many programs that benefit the youth of our nation. Penny and I met Dictionary Project Founder and Director Mary French in 2003 and proceeded to

introduce the program to New York State Elks that fall. The success in New York supported my introducing the Dictionary Project to Grand Lodge in 2004. The program received the full support of the Youth Activities, Public Relations and Advisory Committees. The goal of this program is to present a dictionary to every third grade student in the United States, and Elks lodges nationwide are working hard at making this a reality. Last year the Elks Magazine ran a special feature article on the Dictionary Project. Director Mary French requested and received Grand Lodge permission to feature this article on the Project Website which is visited by thousands of non-Elks. This resulted in outstanding public relations for our Order. I truly hope that your lodge members will give this program your utmost consideration if you are not already involved.

In conclusion, on many occasions I have been asked, "What is your favorite song?" and I have always answered, "**God Bless America!**" "**God Bless America!**" was written by one of America's greatest songwriters, Irving Berlin, and was introduced on national radio by Kate Smith during her weekly Kate Smith Hour on November 10, 1938, to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I. The song was heard by millions of radio listeners. What most people do not realize is that Irving Berlin was an Elk. He joined New York Lodge No. 1 when he was 40 years of age and remained a proud member until his death at age 104.

Like Elks members then and now, Irving Berlin had no desire to cash in on his patriotism. In 1940 he established the **God Bless America Foundation**, with all royalties from the song and its performance earned by either Berlin or Miss Smith going to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America. That arrangement exists to this day because, and I quote, "The complete nonsectarian work of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts is calculated to best promote unity of mind and patriotism, two sentiments that are inherent in the song itself." Irving Berlin, like all proud Elks, demonstrated even long ago that **Elks Give from the Heart**. Indeed, **ELKS CARE AND ELKS SHARE**.

Again, ...thank you all for your wonderful support and we look forward to visiting you soon.



**God Bless you!**  
**God Bless the men and women serving in our military forces and their families!**  
**God Bless our Veterans!**  
**And God Bless America!!!**

