



NORTH SHORE LODGE #824 Knights of Pythias.

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December 2011
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The Knight Light

CHANCELLOR COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

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Recently, a prospective member of a burial plot—for free. I never thought complained to me that it was taking too long for him to be initiated as a Knight. I was getting the impression that he might lose interest, because there seemed to be no end in sight. It was hard for him to understand that he needed to go through a three-in-one rank in order to become a Knight. It has become a sad state of affairs that it takes a whole year to do an initiation. The reason is simple; we just do not have enough prospective members to have ranks on a regular basis.

About three years ago, I was on the Internet looking for scholarships for my son who was entering college. I accidentally came across the Grand Lodge website and read its scholarship program. Then, for some reason, I looked at the list of lodges. I saw that there was one close to my house and I decided to get more information and to attend a meeting. I thought it might be something that would interest me, in that I had been playing around with the idea of retiring. Although I did not retire—still too young—attending that first meeting sparked an interest and made me finally understand what being a Knight is all about. I only wish that I had made this discovery sooner. It is for this reason that I would like to keep the interest of this prospective new member alive and I hope that he will persevere and attend this three-in-one rank, which is just a few months away.

I think back to when I became a Knight a little over 30 years ago. At that time, three-in-one ranks were rare. The initiation took three evenings and during each ceremony there were over 100 people there. I recall an elaborate collation during each evening. When it was over, I was presented with a certificate in honor of the occasion. It was a very nice experience and I recall it fondly.

However, what I did after that initiation is very telling. I became the cause of today's problems. It would be 30 years before I would again enter a Castle Hall. I was part of the modern baby boomer generation and was just too busy. I only joined, because it made my father happy and I would reap the extra benefit

Fraternally,

Arthur Getzel

HOLIDAY PARTY

By popular demand, it's back—the event is **YOU**. So, fill in the gap and **BE** Umpteenth Annual Holiday Party. **THERE!!!** On the other hand, if you have something better to do, please invite me, because you must be going to Hawaii or some similar vacation paradise. For those of you unable to vacation in the warm sun, your alternate choice should be the Holiday Party.

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Schedule
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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK (NOV. 2011)

Anyone who was there will tell you that our picnic at Cunningham Park on September 11th was the greatest one we ever had, even though a little rain sent some of the guests home early. We ate all we wanted, and still there was so much left over. From the hamburgers to the watermelon, the Committee did their usual best. We even picked up one or two candidates for membership.

Anita and I were headed to a parking space when I saw a sight I could not believe. I said to Anita, "Look, do you see who I see?" She exclaimed in one word: "Betty." Sure enough, it was Betty Birnbaum accompanied by her daughter Eileen. Betty and the lodge lost a very good active Pythian when Paul passed away. He is surely missed by our lodge and Betty, who now lives in Florida. It was nice chatting with her. She said that she reads and enjoys every issue of the Knight Light.

We had a great turkey dinner on November 15th. Sorry ladies, but it was only for the men. Besides all the trimmings, we raffled off three turkeys.

Now for what is coming. Our next picnic is scheduled for September 9, 2012.

Not to worry. There will be many activities before that. As I write this article, one of the most attended parties of the year is quickly approaching. The annual Holiday Party will take place on December 20. Naturally, we will have entertainment to go along with the food. So come with your dancing shoes and an appetite.

Because we love to eat, we will have one or two meetings in a restaurant. Our lodge will visit other lodges in the domain. Some meetings are open and others are closed. The more you participate, the more enjoyment you will get from the K of P.

Look for our late PC Jesse Levine's poem in this issue of the Knight Light. It is titled "My Spring." Jesse has been supplying us with poetry for some time now. The good news is that other poems will be published in upcoming issues of our award winning Bulletin.

To keep the issues coming, I suggest that you go out and get ads to cover the cost of printing and mailing.

Fraternally,

Irving Kleiman, Secretary

FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY

This year, and for many preceding years, the Grand Lodge has been stressing the need for obtaining new members. The Membership Committee of the Grand Lodge has come up with many ideas to help us get and keep Pythians.

We have a new business card that lists the many activities and benefits of becoming a member. It has places for your name, phone number and an e-mail address. There is a very attractive poster that can be displayed in local business establishments. A telemarketing firm will be making calls with certain guidelines.

New brothers will be given a booklet describing things we do, committees that they can join, and much more. Long-time members should sit next to new Knights and make them feel comfortable in their new surroundings and welcome. They should be encouraged to join one or two committees to help prepare them for going up the chairs. Keep informed. Check the Grand Lodge's website: www.kopny.com.

Irving Kleiman, Grand Secretary

GREATER QUEENS BENEVOLENT ASSOC

As written in this Bulletin, North Shore and Greater Queens Lodges have merged. The effective date is January 1, 2012. Even though the Lodges have merged, the Benevolent Associations remain separate entities. Still, members of the Greater Queens Benevolent Association must be Brothers in good standing in North Shore Lodge in order to remain members of the Benevolent Association. In order to be a Brother in good standing, a Brother must pay his dues. If a former Greater Queens Brother gets suspended from North Shore Lodge, he no longer will belong to the Greater Queens Benevolent Association. Hopefully, a word to the wise will be sufficient.

KENNETH I. AARONSON

Dear Fellow Pythians,

Here I am again with a familiar complaint.

I know that there is a Holiday party scheduled for December. I want to remind you that business in the catering business is slow because of the current economic conditions. The only time I get busy is during the holiday and spring wedding seasons. My complaint is this. Why do we have our parties—and free parties at that—when I have a chance to be working? Next thing I know, the Executive Committee will plan a New Year's Eve party. I don't think they are doing these activities to hurt my economic condition, but a little consideration wouldn't hurt. If we would hold the Christmas and Chanukah Holiday Party in March, my family and I could attend. Is that too much to ask? When the Aaronson family cannot attend lodge affairs that cost nothing and lose the chance of coming home with a doggy bag, it hurts. Please schedule the parties and other happy events when my family and I have nothing else to do, so that we can join you. Does the Executive Committee of the lodge ever vote on this? I have another question. Is food served at the card games after meetings?

Your Brother

Kenneth Aaronson

ONE OF OUR LATE PC JESSE LEVINE'S POEMS**MY SPRING**

The sky is blue my world is bright
 Sun is shining everything light
 Spirits are warmed by sights and sounds
 Trees budding, life just abounds
 This happy feeling that fills my being
 Exuberance at this harbinger of spring
 Beautiful women as they jiggle along
 Riotous colors, on their lips a song
 Makes me young, to feel so gay
 Think of summer and its wondrous way
 I feel this tingling, rushing like spice
 Warming my flood, removing the ice
 Seemingly like the return of youth
 Not young again, but warmed by the truth
 Of spring

NOSTALGIA CORNER

The December 1969 issue of the *Douglaston Knight Light* listed all the Committee Chairmen for the 1969-1970 Pythian Year. The Chancellor Commander was Hal Zakow. I recognized the names of five Chairmen who are still members of the Lodge. Three of them are Dr. Danny Klein, Seymour Resnick and Fred Scheinfeld. What is more amazing is that 42 years later, two of the Chairmen today are officers of North Shore Lodge and are still devoting so much time and energy to the Knights of Pythias. In 1969 Irv Kleiman was Chairman of Charity Aids and Jerry Geier was co-Chairman of the Spring Folic.

Before he wrote his column, "It Seems to Me," Ike Roffman wrote "Guess Who?" and "Guess What?" articles for the *Bulletin*. He stopped for a while and then started up again. The following article appeared in the January 1970 *Knight Light*:

GUESS WHAT?

By Ike Roffman

The Editor of the *Knight Light*, in a thoughtless moment, has asked me to resume writing my *Guess Who?* and *Guess What?* Columns. When some of the Brothers heard about it, they came over and pleaded with me. But I've decided to write anyway. I figure that since my last column appeared, about a hundred new members have joined our Lodge. Why should they be spared?

One of the reasons I had stopped writing was that my work on the Hospitalization Committee was taking up much of my spare time. It's ironic that I was appointed to that committee. I think I'm allergic to hospitals. As a matter of fact, on the three occasions that I have been in a hospital for any length of time, I've been pretty sick. My Mother, understanding woman that she was, must have sensed my aversion to hospitals. She made sure I was born at home. My Father, of course, helped make sure I was born.

In my previous column, I covered most of the personalities in the Lodge. But I think there are still some left I can write about. If not, I can always start on the "characters." Sometimes I'll write a *Guess Who?* column, other times a *Guess What?* column, and occasionally I'll give you a break and write no column at all. At any rate, I hope to keep you guessing.

Please send any comments, suggestions, and especially money to Ike Roffman.

FAREWELL MONTY

PC LM Mortimer (Monty) Leschen was a co-founder of Great Neck Lodge. Anyone who attended our meetings knew him well. He was always upbeat, friendly, and hardworking. He also had a good sense of humor. Unfortunately, the death of his wife Selma, after a long illness, was difficult for him to overcome. Now, he has joined her. On November 20, 2011, he passed away.

We are informed by Monty's daughter, Gloria Leschen, that he sent her god daughter to camp and the girl now has a very important job with the Parks Department. It would bring Gloria great comfort if donations were made to Pythian Camp in Monty's name. Anyone interested in making a contribution should send a check payable to The Pythian Camp to its offices at 2347 Jericho Turnpike, 2nd Floor, Garden City Park, New York 11040 and ask that the Camp notify Gloria Leschen, 354 East 83rd Street, Apt. 2B, New York, NY 10028-4271 that a contribution was made in her dad's memory.

We miss Monty, thank him for being a positive part of our lives, and wish his family comfort and happy memories.

ONE OF THE EDITORS SPEAKS

North Shore Lodge is a consolidation of three lodges—Douglaston, Great Neck and Glen Oaks. As of January 1, 2012, Greater Queens Lodge will be merged with North Shore Lodge. Of all the lodges, Douglaston and Great Neck were the closest. For many years they had joint meetings before they finally became one. Recently, three longtime members of Great Neck Lodge passed away. First, PGC Sir Paul Schack, then PC Marvin Sharfman, and just last month, PC LM Mortimer (Monty) Leschen left us. Sadly, I must report, no members of what once was Great Neck Lodge have been coming to our meetings. We are left with a great void that cannot be filled. When I joined Douglaston Lodge in 1977, Douglaston and Great Lodges were holding combined meetings and sharing the Castle Hall. When I became Chancellor Commander five years later, I worked with the Chancellor Commander of Great Neck Lodge. We alternated opening and closing the meetings. Those were the good old days.

As much as we tend to reminisce about the good old days, we should remember that one day, today will be one of the good old days. Although we are fewer in number, we still have a core of hardworking and dedicated Pythians holding the lodge together and moving forward. We still have fun meetings, we still have special events, and we are still getting new members. So while fraternal organizations throughout the country are diminishing in size, we ain't dead yet and we ain't about to die. Of course, we would have a much better chance of succeeding, if you gave us a hand.

YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE

We had some great meetings this past fall and the best is yet to come. Besides the Deputy's visitation on October 4th, which brought visiting dignitaries into our Castle Hall and was an enjoyable evening for all, we had regular meetings, card games, and a ball.

At our Annual Chicken Dinner, held on November 15th, we served delicious turkey with all the trimmings and no one complained. Followed by dessert, a brief meeting and a raffle, a good time was had by all. The winners of the turkey raffle were Paul Tessenholtz, Mickey Bock and a visiting Brother (Harold Kahn).

On December 5th, it was just a regular meeting and we were squeezed into the library at Marathon Jewish Center, but it also was a lively and fun evening. A number of Brothers from Greater Queens Lodge joined us and attendance was good. The meeting was not too long, the cake brought by PC Sidney Weber was very tasty, and the conversation was stimulating. PDGC Robert Banks sold special lottery tickets for the Diabetes Research Association. For \$20, you can purchase an envelope with a three digit number in it. Each time that number comes up in the evening New York lottery in 2012, you will be a winner. The prize is \$25 on weekdays and \$50 on weekends. Imagine that, getting 365 chances to win for \$20. The Brothers loved the odds and the opportunity to contribute to a worthwhile charity, so Robert sold every envelope. However, he is getting more. If you are interested, come down to a meeting or give him a call.

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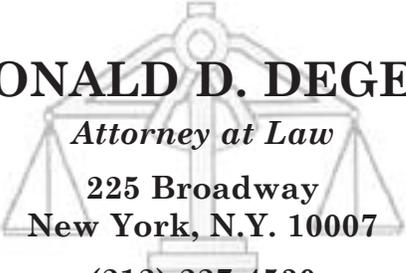
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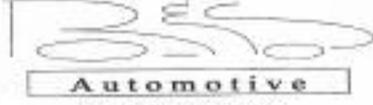
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IRA S. LUGENER

To My Brothers,

The over 60 crowd should remember the silly advice given to Dustin Hoffman in The Graduate at his college graduation party. It was “plastic.” Of course, the future in 1968 was technology and the place was Silicon Valley. Oh, if I had only bought IBM, Microsoft or Google stock when the companies were infants. Such is life. But I have the magic words for the future of the Knights, a way to attract new members. They are “occupy Wall Street.”

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not becoming a political activist. No, no, no. I'm just trying to ride on the protestors' coattails. All we have to do is take our Pythian signs and march with them shouting, “We are the 99%. We support friendship, charity, benevolence, the police and protestors.” The media people will be all over us asking what we stand for and what we are doing there. Everyone will love us, because we support everyone. Besides getting great publicity, we should be able to get some of the free food donated to the OWS people. Iris and I plan to bring our doggie bags

Fraternally and Sincerely,

Ira S. Lugener

THE MERGER

It's official. As of January 1, 2012, North Shore Lodge and Greater Queens Lodge will be consolidated. The new lodge will be called North Shore Lodge and retain its number 824. It is a win win situation. Greater Queens is getting the benefit of a full team of officers, which it was lacking, and North Shore Lodge is gaining some great new members. In numbers, there is strength and we will be able to do more. To my Brothers of what once was Greater Queens Lodge, welcome.

OVERHEARD CONVERSATION

- Knight 1: Guess who is NOT going to the Holiday Party.
 Knight 2: What?
 Knight 1: Guess who is NOT going to the Holiday Party.
 Knight 2: Who?
 Knight 1: No. You tell me who.
 Knight 2: What?
 Knight 1: Not what! Who! Who is NOT going to the Holiday Party?
 Knight 2: Is it all of the Democratic and Republican contenders for president?
 Knight 1: Yes, you are right.
 Knight 2: What did you say?
 Knight 1: I said, “Yes, you are right!”
 Knight 2: Good, I'll be there. What do I bring?
 Knight 1: Just remember DASH. Your Dancing shoes, Appetite, Spouse or Significant other and Hearing aid.
 Knight 2: What?
 Knight 1: JUST BE THERE!!!

A LETTER FROM ROBERT

My Brothers,

As we approach the end of the 2011 calendar year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of my brothers and their families a happy, healthy and joyous holiday season. As many of you are aware, we at North Shore Lodge will be hosting our annual HOLIDAY PARTY on Tuesday evening, December 20th. I hope to see all of my brothers there with family and friends (Non-Pythians are invited as well).

Your brothers, including myself, are currently involved in a very potent membership drive, but we need your support and input in order for this effort to succeed. As our Grand Chancellor says in his message, “WITH EFFORT COMES SUCCESS”!! And I know my brothers at North Shore will not let their lodge down. It is so simple to attract new members – JUST ASK A FRIEND, A NEIGHBOR OR A RELATIVE. The programs which have been instituted by Grand Lodge are great selling points. One example is the \$3,000 scholarship. A child whose father joins the Knights of Pythias and who is a high school freshman or sophomore will be eligible to receive a partial scholarship for four years. We are confident that once these prospective members join our lodge and participate in all of our altruistic activities, as well as the dinners and other events run throughout the Order, they will stay on as permanent members.

If you would like more information about scholarships or other programs, you can contact me or I am sure our Secretary (Grand Secretary the Honorable Irv Kleiman) or our Chancellor Commander (Arthur Getzel) and any one of us will be more than happy to provide you with the tools you will need to bring in new members. Remember, WE CAN DO IT, BUT ONLY WITH YOUR HELP.

Pick up the business cards which will aid you in your efforts.

Fraternally yours in Friendship, Charity & Benevolence,

Robert Banks, PDGC

DOUGLASTON WELFARE ASSOC.

The Douglaston Welfare Association will be holding short meetings after each meeting of North Shore Lodge. The money and graves belong to the members of the Association. If you want to have a say in how the money is spent and the graves are distributed, BE THERE!!!

FOOD DRIVE

Grand Lodge is holding its Annual Food Drive and it needs your support. Each lodge has been asked to have a night when Brothers bring non-perishable items to the meeting for the Food Drive. We have chosen December 20th—the night of our Holiday Party. Please join us then and please bring a can or two or some other non-perishable food item with you. Let's make a difference in this world and let's show that we are a charitable organization.

DINNERS

If you expect to be hungry this spring, we have the answer for you. Three dinners are scheduled and, depending upon you, they may be heavily subsidized. Often, we vote for subsidies to encourage Brothers to attend events, but then the same Brothers who would have gone anyway are the only ones who show up. Therefore, I am going to try to reduce or eliminate subsidies, unless they truly act as a draw. The dinners are the Dinner for the President of the Long Island Pythian Council (April 25th), the Dinner in Honor of The Deputy of the 52nd District (May 22nd), and the Grand Chancellor's Dinner (June 9th). If you are interested in attending one or more of these dinners, please let Irv, Robert or Ron know.

The editorial policy of the Knight Light is the sole responsibility of the editors and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of North Shore Lodge No. 824 or its officers. Copy will be accepted by the editors during any meeting. We reserve the right to decide which copy to print and when. Only typed copy is acceptable. The editors and North Shore Lodge do not vouch for the accuracy or the validity of any legal or financial advice that may be published." The editors hope that the opinions expressed will be taken in the spirit in which they were written and that the readers will realize when we jest and that no real criticism is intended.

WHERE ARE YOU GUYS?

Once upon a time, we had a softball team. It was made up of a fine group of young men who loved to play ball. We wanted them to be part of our lives, to come down to a few meetings each year, and to eventually become an important part of our Lodge. We even had a dinner to honor their captain and to show how much we cared. For if each young man brought in another young man who brought in another young man, we would just keep on growing. Sadly, such has not been the case. They have disappeared. While we will go on without these fine young men, we would be much happier if they had decided to become part of our lives. Wherever you guys are, we wish you the best and say, well, it was nice while it lasted.

NECROLOGY

It is with deep sorrow and regret that we offer our sincerest sympathy to our Brothers and their kin upon the demise of dear members of their families.

MORTIMER "MONTY" LESCHEN

11-20-11

CAROLYN ROTHSTEIN

Wife of Jerry Rothstein

11-22-11

FRED RUBIN

11-13-11

IRVING KREINER

11-5-11

SAM JAFFE

10-10-11

MARVIN SCHARFMAN

9-26-11

*We thank thee, O Lord for their companionship
and the sweet memories they leave behind.*

*May their souls be bound up in the Bond of Eternal Life
and may their families know no more sorrow.
Amen*

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**Douglaston Welfare Assn. Inc.**

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Executive Board Meetings are held at Sinai Chapels 162-05 Horace Harding Expy, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365

* Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

Dec. 20 Holiday Party 7:30-9:45
Jan. 3 Regular Convention
17 Regular Convention
24 Executive Convention
Feb. 7 Regular Convention
28 Executive Convention
March 6 Regular Convention
20 Regular Convention/Wine Night
27 Executive Convention
Apr. 3 Regular Convention
17 Regular Convention
24 Executive Convention

Holiday Party

Please join us on Tuesday evening, **December 20, 2011**, for a wonderful evening in our Castle Hall. The fun begins at 7:30 P.M. and features food, entertainment, dancing, and time with your friends in North Shore Lodge.

Membership Application

New Applicant Renewal

Full Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt. _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Annual membership is from January 1, thru December 31 of same year.

Annual dues are \$55.00.

Make checks payable to North Shore Lodge #824.

For information E-mail: kop@littleneck.net