



# NORTH SHORE LODGE #824 Knights of Pythias.

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December 2007  
Volume 5, No. 2

## The Knight Light

### CHANCELLOR COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

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PC Izhak Sirota

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PC Izhak Sirota

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Arie Bauer

"If fraternal love held all men bound, how beautiful this world would be!"

I am pleased to report that as the first half of this Pythian Year draws to a close, it has been a great success. Even though we are having problems with holidays falling on one of our regular meeting nights in October, November, December, January and February, we have been able to adapt and have a wonderful time doing so. I'll let the Editor tell you about the events of the past. What I want to tell you about is the future.

We are always wary about planning events in January and February, because old man winter always seems poised and ready to rear his blustery head. Still, we will meet once in January and once in February just to enjoy each other's company and Arie's collations. Of course, you can also come down to the Executive Board meetings, which are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month in Sinai Chapels.

At the moment, the two March 2008 meetings are regular conventions. However, we are talking and planning, so look out for the next Knight Light, which will give you an update on that month. Meanwhile, I am

always open to suggestions. Tell me what will make you give up TV reruns (we have a writers' strike) for an evening with your Brothers and I will try to make it happen.

April will bring us another Bingo Night and Wine Night, May will be time for our annual memorial meeting, nominations and elections, and June, of course, will mark our installation of officers and our usual open meeting extravaganza. Interspersed among these activities are dinners, honor nights, the Memorial Day parade, and other special events.

For December, we have a special meeting on December 11th, because December 4th is Chanukah, and our annual fun-filled and tummy filling Holiday Party on December 18th. As has been often said in this publication, **BE THERE!!!**

I wish all my Brothers and their families a Happy Chanukah and/or a Merry Christmas and I wish everyone a Happy New Year with good health, much happiness and prosperity in 2008.

Fraternally yours

Izhak "Itzy" Sirota

### ONE OF THE EDITORS SPEAKS

If you have not been down to one of our meetings recently, you don't know what you have missed; unless, of course, you have spoken to someone who recently has been to one of our meetings; in which case, you don't have to read this column; because you know what you have missed and certainly will attend the next meeting. To say that the meetings have been fun is like saying that Miss America is merely pretty. She is gorgeous and the meetings have been fantastic. No one leaves a Lodge convention sorry that he spent the evening with his North Shore Lodge Brothers. From Irv's witticisms to Arie's collations to Ed's stories to Itzy's new ideas to Barry's advice to Jerry's and Tony's reports to Robert's comments to Barney's insight to Dave's handling of the sword to Sidney's enthusiasm to Michael's camaraderie to everyone else's laughter, the meetings are wonderful.

Our motto is friendship, charity and

benevolence. The friendship is so thick, that your shoes could get stuck in it during the meetings. What we need is some charity and benevolence; not that we don't have a lot of both. It's just that we need more. No matter what your feelings are about the war in Iraq, our brothers and sisters are there and need our support. I do not mean that you have to support the war. What they need are care packages. Please read the articles in this Knight Light and send a donation of food, clothing, toiletries, money, etc. The soldiers, sailors and marines all are our sons and daughters.



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## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Grand Lodge, under the able direction of its Membership Chairman, PGC Sir Lloyd Merson, has come up with a program that could greatly benefit the Order and our advertisers. It is called the "Pythian Discount Card" Program. Each of the advertisers of every Bulletin published by a Lodge will be asked to join. In return for giving a discount to any Pythian who has the Pythian Discount Card, the advertiser would be listed in a booklet of Pythian advertisers. Each advertiser also would be provided with a poster indicating that he is a member of the Program.

Now that you have the information, let me see how you react to this. Please hand in your ads prior to our next convention.

On November 3, 2007 a testimonial dinner was held at Verde's in Westbury to honor PGC David Cohen for having served as Grand Secretary for five years. It was my first visit to Verde's and I was quite impressed. The food, company, service, speeches, and the ambiance were beyond compare. I thank the Brothers of North Shore Lodge for sending me. The Long Island Pythian Council is considering having the President's Dinner there next April. If it decides to do so, you will have another good reason for going to it.

I will be selling calendars for \$20.00 each to raise money for Juvenile Diabetes Research. There are many, many chances for you to win \$25.00 or \$50.00 at a clip. The number of times

that you can win are almost endless. Please see me at one of our meetings for details or give me a call.

Elsewhere in this edition of the Knight Light you will see information on the forthcoming Talent Contest. The contest is part of the Veterans' Committee effort to raise money to send packages to our service people in Iraq, Afghanistan and in many hospitals where our wounded are being treated.

Also, look for another poem from the booklet titled "All I have to Say" by the late PC Jesse Levine.

Faternally,

GS LM Irv Kleiman,  
Secretary

## BINGO

On October 16, 2007 we had another great Bingo Night in our Castle Hall. It was an open meeting at which everyone had fun. Mark your calendars for April 1, 2008. You don't want to miss the next Bingo Night, and that's no April fools joke.

BE THERE!!!



"The Picnic Team"...(L to R) Prelate/Collation Chairman Arie Bauer, CC Izhak "Itzy" Sirota, Mark Kilmnick, PC Jerry Geier.



"The Bingo Team" GS LM Irving Kleiman and PDGC Anthony Rivers.



"Collation Team" Prelate Arie Bauer and PC Jerry Geier.

## WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

True to his word, our Chancellor Commander has made it a terrific fall season! We started out with our Third Annual Picnic on the first Sunday after Labor Day. It was a total success. You may recall that Itzy first conceived of the idea of having the picnic two years ago. Each year it seems to get better. We sat around in our lounge chairs talking, the children played in the playground and on the ball field, and everyone ate hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings, salads, and desserts. Unlimited soda washed down the food, and we enjoyed a warm day in the park.

Itzy arranged for Dr. Michelle Klein--a chiropractor and nutritionist--to speak to us on September 18th. She gave an informative lecture and held our attention. Then he inserted some extra meetings to make up for the times we could not meet. We had a successful convention on October 9th and plan to have another one on December 11th. Meanwhile, our open meetings--Bingo Night on October 16th and dinner at Giardino's on November 13th--were delightful. Of course, our Chicken Dinner and Turkey Raffle on November 20th was a complete success.

## ONE OF OUR LATE PC JESSE LEVINE'S POEMS

### SNOW

Walking along a street filled with snow  
 People shoveling it to and fro  
 Soft white dust blowing here and there  
 Gliding along on currents of air.  
 A world bathed in white what a sight to see  
 Sparkling like diamonds for you and me  
 The beauty surrounds us, this gift to us all  
 it's only in winter, not spring nor fall  
 Just gaze around you at the shapes snow makes  
 As it piles on bushes, one can even see lakes  
 Let your mind wander, see all you can  
 Roll it together, build a snow man.  
 Slide on a sled, throw some in the air  
 It will land on your clothes, even your hair  
 Enjoy this mysterious soft white snow  
 For its here a short time and then it will go.

## THE GOOD NEWS, THE BAD NEWS, THE IN-BETWEEN NEWS

The good news: We had a fantastic first half of the year, with many successful events. It started off with the 10th District Kickoff Dinner on August 22nd at Giardino's in Douglaston. Fifteen North Shore Lodge Brothers attended and had plenty of good food and companionship. Each Chancellor Commander told the group what his Lodge had planned for the coming year.

The bad news: Some of our once regular attendees who are getting on in years have not been showing up too often for meetings. If anyone is staying home because he needs a ride, please call Irv, Ronnie or Itzy and we will arrange transportation for you.

The in-between news: None in this issue.

The celebratory news: We are always thrilled to announce birthdays, anniversaries and other reasons to celebrate.

Congratulations go to: Brother Sidney and Marion Weber on the marriage of their grandson Adam to Talie on October 14, 2007; PC David and Roz Gurock on the engagement of their granddaughter Linda McGarry to Albert Vota on October 27, 2007; PC David and Irma Gratt on the marriage of their granddaughter Alison Rakofsky on November 8th; PC Barry and Kathie Wheatman and Brother Don and Judy Sims on the birth of their grandson--Noah Gabriel Sims--on November 12, 2007. Noah joins his brother Ethan and his parents, Yvette and Jason Sims, who live in Rockland County. Also, PC Sidney and Pearl Lann joyfully announce the marriage of their granddaughter Janice to Stuart Deutsch. The newlyweds honeymooned in Tahiti.

### KENNETH I. AARONSON

Hi Brothers, I'm writing this to explain once again why I did not attend Bingo Night. I was baby sitting for little Hillary. Last time my wife Evelyn attended the Bingo, she had a great time. She did not win, but she said she was a winner because of all the great food that she consumed. She did forgo dinner at home, knowing that all that food awaited her. This time, she did win, so she had no complaints and she did enjoy the coffee and cake. Even better for her, was the Lodge Picnic. She was there with little Hillary. Evelyn ate more than her usual fill and even Hillary had some morsels. No hot dogs, but she did enjoy part of a hamburger. Instead of soda, she had apple juice from her bottle. That little kid is growing up. She was too little to play with the little boy Brian. I think his last name was Degen and is the grandchild of Arleen and Ronald Degen, a Past Chancellor. I still have not found a new position, so I will have to continue to work weekends for Simon the Caterer. Also on weekends, I am learning to use a computer at the local 'Y'. If and when I become computer literate, I may be able to quit the catering business and have a normal life. Till next time.

Kenneth I. Aaronson

### YOUR MONEY MATTERS

This monthly newsletter is aimed at saving our readers valuable tax dollars. First, all NYC residents should file a tax return EVEN if they are below filing guidelines, since NYC will give all residents a tax credit of \$115 (single) and \$230 (married). The amount was raised this year from \$63 and \$125, respectively. Every resident is entitled to this benefit. If someone did not take advantage of this benefit, all is not lost. One can recoup this benefit for the last 3 years by filing the correct City forms.

Additionally, The Basic STAR is available to all home, condo, and co/op owners regardless of age or income. Seniors (age 65 by Dec. 31) with a household income of \$67,850 or less may be entitled to the Enhanced Star. Most NYC taxpayers will save \$200 per year with Basic and \$375 with the Enhanced STAR. Outside NYC, (i.e., Nassau, Westchester) the savings are dramatically higher.

Happy Anniversary PDGC LM Alfred and Pearl Manning (51 years on August 31st), Brother Gerald (Jerry) and Pearl Gilbert (50 years on September 14th), Brother Mark and Ruth Kilmnick (3 years on October 17th), and PC LM Monte and Selma Leschen (64 years on February 12, 2008).

Happy Birthday PC Robert Banks (December 10th), the Leschens (Selma, December 28th), (PC LM Monte, March 1st), Chancellor Commander Izhak Sirota (January 28th), Anita Kleiman, Irv's Valentine sweetheart (February 14th), and PC Meyer "Mike" Flam (February 25th).

Happy Birthday and many happy returns are wished for the family of PC Barry and Kathie Wheatman: daughter Elyse Isopo (November 9th), daughter Yvette Sims (January 22nd), granddaughter Arianna Isopo (4 years on January 22nd), Kathie (? years on February 10th), and grandson Alexander Isopo (3 years on March 15th). Happy Birthday Ethan Sims (4 years on March 25th), the grandson of PC Barry and Kathy Wheatman and Brother Don and Judy Sims.

Happy Birthday to the grandsons of Ronnie and Arleen Degen--Zachary Noah Degen, son of Jeffrey and Jill Degen (2 years on December 23rd), and Brian Mateo Chirel, son of Tracy and Tony Chirel (4 years on January 19th).

Congratulations Brother Sidney and Marion Weber, who were married 60 years on November 29th. Their son threw them a surprise party and invited 100 of their closest friends. Don't feel bad if you weren't included, because neither was I!

### IRA S. LUGENER

To My Brothers:

Many of you purchased the first volume of *Letters from Ira in the Eighties*. It contained all the masterpieces which I wrote through December, 1989. It was followed by *Letters from Ira in the Nineties*. Both of these publications were highly lucrative, because I am so widely admired. Of course, I was eagerly looking forward to publish *Letters from Ira in the First Ten Years of the 21st Century* at the end of 2009, that is, I was looking forward to it, until King Itzy started placing the issues of the Knight Light on our web site. Now, all those Brothers who throw away the Knight Light without realizing that they are discarding Ira's columns can get them free just by going to [www.littleneck.net/kop](http://www.littleneck.net/kop). The King is taking the bread out of my mouth and I do not like it. I am seriously considering starting a legal action based upon this obvious infringement of my copyright.

Meanwhile, there are still a few issues of the first two volumes available. Remember, each issue will be autographed by Yours Truly. So be the next person on your block to have every single literary wonder created by Ira and published in the Knight Light. Just contact the Editor, who will forward your request to me.

Ira S. Lugener

Finally, additional tax exemptions are available for senior citizens with incomes below \$34,400 (SCHE), disabled homeowners, veterans, and clergy. Outside counties may have property tax exemptions for voluntary firefighter/ambulance workers, persons with disabilities and limited income, and capital improvements (i.e., new rooms, CAC, decks, etc.).

Please note: A new scam e-mail that appears to be from the IRS and the U.S. government for charitable contributions to victims of the recent Southern California wildfires has been making the rounds. The IRS does not send e-mails to taxpayers soliciting donations to a charitable cause.

Any questions regarding these tax saving programs, please email me at [MRBARRYTAX@aol.com](mailto:MRBARRYTAX@aol.com) or call at 516-TAX-SAVE (829-7283).

Barry Lisak, IRS Enrolled Agent



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## A "KNIGHT" OUT WITH THE KLEIMANS

Terrific!! We got a call from Irv and an invitation to join him and Anita on their visit to FDR Lodge in Brooklyn. "Come join us for a fun evening. They always have a great collation, the guest speaker will be Councilman Anthony Weiner, and they plan to show a movie about Pythianism. We'll pick you up."

Dave and I decided that we did not want to pass up such fun and being with people whom we like. "Sure, we would be glad to join you," I told him.

So we took Irv's instructions and didn't eat too much for dinner to leave room for the feast. On a terrible rainy night, Irv picked us up at our door and our adventure began. And what an adventure it was! As we were riding on the Belt Parkway, we asked Irv what exit we get off. He wasn't too sure, but he said that he would find it. Anita said, "Irv, I told you to write it down!" Our mighty Irv responded, "I did write it down, but I didn't take it with me." That went over pretty big. But our Irv did find his way and, like a true gentleman, he dropped us off right at the door.

The meeting was called for 8:30 p.m. and we got there at 8:28 p.m. Excellent! Everything was right on schedule. But then we all sat around for more than an hour with our stomachs growling as we waited for the guest speaker. In the meantime, the Brothers were trying to get this movie started without success. So there we were, with no movie, no guest speaker, and no dinner. The members and the guests were getting a little antsy waiting and the room started to empty as many people went downstairs to eat. Of course, we joined them. That's when we found out that we had been misinformed about the menu. Dinner was not being served. Still, dessert was better than nothing for our famished tummies.

Finally, Anthony Weiner showed up and all the guys gathered around him to shake his hand. The photographer clicked away and took pictures of many of the men with Anthony Weiner. The Congressman spoke about Pythianism

and his roll in it. He apologized for being late and before we knew it, we were putting on our gear to start for home. Irv went to get his coat and, would you believe it, someone had taken it and left another one in its place. Luckily, he had not left his car keys in his coat pocket. (This should have been an omen of what was to follow.) We decided to walk with Irv to retrieve the car, instead of having him pick us up at the door. And so into the cool rainy night on the dark Brooklyn streets we followed our mighty leader. Up and down many blocks we trod behind him, until, finally, Irv admitted that he did not remember where he had parked. Needless to say, our evening was getting more "interesting." Irv, being a marathon runner, went ahead at full speed and quickly was out of our sight. So there we were, three seniors, standing on a Brooklyn street corner looking every which way for our mighty leader.

We put our three heads together and decided to go back to the Lodge Hall to wait for Irv's return. We also thought that we would ask one of the Pythians playing cards to drive us around to look for Irv's car. Would you believe it, the doors were locked and no one answered the bell or our screams to let us in?

Finally, Irv came back, on foot with no car in sight. Then he took a different route and, lo and behold, he found his car just forty feet away from the Lodge Hall. Now we knew true happiness.

But it was a FUN night and we had many laughs and a bit of an adventure. Every day is indeed a gift. Thank you, Irv Kleiman, for our night out. Please ask us again, but next time, please bring your compass.

Roz Gurock (wife of PC LM David Gurock)

## ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER AND TURKEY RAFFLE

Do you know why we hold an annual chicken dinner and turkey raffle? It's because they always are a success. Some Brothers who do not attend meetings regularly join us and whoever comes down has a great time. Everyone was a winner, but the winners of the turkeys were PC Izhak Sirota, Brother Richard Katz and PC LM Monte Leschen. Also, PC LM Dave Gurock won the chuck-a-buck. If you missed this year's feast on November 20th, please don't make the same mistake twice. Be sure to join us on November 18, 2008 for a great dinner and the chance to win a turkey. Don't be a turkey, win one! BE THERE!!!

## KOP DIABETES RESEARCH ASSOCIATION



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## TOP AMATEUR TALENT SHOW

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Beginning in March 2008, a talent show will be held for all Pythians who think that they can act, sing, dance, play a musical instrument, tell jokes or perform magic. For more information, please contact Irv Kleiman.

## GRAND LODGE CORNER

You will be happy to know that North Shore Lodge is being well represented on the Grand Lodge level by Grand Secretary Irving Kleiman. The job of Grand Secretary is challenging and time-consuming. As an observer who attends every Grand Council meeting and is deeply involved in Grand Lodge activities, I am happy to be able to report that Irv is doing a great job. Keep up the good work, Irv.

## 10TH DISTRICT HOMECOMING

On Thursday evening, December 20, 2007, the Homecoming for DGC Harvey Sobel will be held at Ruben Americo Citadel Academy Lodge, which meets at the Forest Park Jewish Center. Ed Rasquin--President of the 10th District--GS Irv Kleiman, PDGC Tony Rivers and Ron Degen will be there. Please let us know if you would like to meet to car pool and join us for an important event. BE THERE!!!



**SERVICEMEN AND VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dear Pythian:

In continuing the program set by both our Supreme Chancellor David Mead and our own Grand Chancellor Allan Greenberg, we are asking all Lodges in the domain to contribute to the Support the Troops Program. No matter what your personal feelings may be about the war in Iraq, we must support our young people in harm's way. In addition, the Committee also helps veterans confined to hospitals in our local area. All checks should be made payable to N.Y. Knights of Pythias and sent to me at 29-09 137th Street, Apt. 2F, Flushing, NY 11354-2001. Please note in the memo lower left hand corner of the check "Servicemen and Veterans Committee". If you have any questions, you can contact me at the above address or at DVVDOG35@AOL.COM.

Yours in F.C.B.

Sir Joseph Robinson  
Supreme Chairman

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

Some North Shore members may not have received their dues notices, because I do not have their correct addresses in my files. If any one recognizes any of the names listed below, please contact them and ask them to contact me at 718-428-0379 Solomon Cohen; Morris Goldberg; Norman Gottfried; Stanley Hirsh; Gerald Leavitt, Stanley Reich; Ira Tillman; Victor Weinstein; Martin Weisback & Milton Edelstein.

Fraternally and Sincerely  
PC Jerry Geier

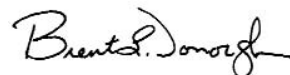
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**A MARINE THANKS THE KNIGHTS**

My name is Brent Dorrough and I am a Master Sergeant with 14 years of service in the Marine Corps. I was born and raised in Georgia and am currently stationed in Virginia, but I'm hardly ever there... Go figure. My team mates and I are here in Iraq serving on what is known as a MiTT team, and we'll be here for an entire year (ending this December). MiTT stands for Military Transition Team. MiTTs are at the forefront of the effort to get US forces out of Iraq, basically we have to train these guys how to run their own military and then get out of their way. Sounds easy right? Hardly! There are only 11 of us on this team, 10 Marines and one Navy Corpsman ( medical guy ).

You can not imagine just how grateful we are to receive packages in the mail. Our BP ( battle position or base) is extremely isolated out on the Syrian border and we have absolutely no way to get the essentials that we need on a daily basis. We do have access to a few things when we travel to the nearest FOB ( forward operating base) in Al Qaim, but even there the supplies we can purchase are very limited. So, I guess you could say that wonderful Americans like yourself are our WalMart.... Seriously, we are very appreciative of the fact that you have not only spent some of your precious time and money to go out and buy these things for us, but also to package and mail them to, us. Those are all very nice things that you have done, for people you have never met and trust me, it always puts a smile on our faces and makes us feel appreciated. Especially with all of the negativity in the news that we hear about, it is good to know that we still have some supporters out there. God Bless y'all

Semper Fidelis,



The Marines and Sailor of MiTT 10

**NEW GRAND LODGE WEBSITE**

The Grand Lodge has a brand new web site at www.kopny.com that was created by our own PC Izhak Sirota. It is a must see for all Pythians. You should not miss the 17-minute video about the Order. It is so interesting, that it will make you want to join again.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

**Douglaston Welfare Assn. Inc.**

Robert Banks, President 631-608-3707  
Anthony Rivers, Vice President 516-294-9734  
Jerry Geier, Secretary/Treasurer 718-428-0379

**In Case of Death**

Seymour Resnick 718-445-0300

**Great Neck Benevolent Assn. Inc.**

PC LM Monty Leschen, Secretary  
Howard Kotkin..Emerg. Committee 516-921-5757  
Sir Paul Shack, GT Florida (Fl. Contact) 561-496-6954  
Emergency (Gutterman's) 800-922-9262

**Glen Oaks Welfare Assn:** Call Cemetery Direct

**Free Community Ambulance Service**

Little Neck-Douglaston Community Ambulance Corps....718-229-0400  
Bayside Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps.....718-225-2828  
Bay Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps.....718-352-1133  
Flushing Volunteer Ambulance Corps.....718-353-4900  
Glen Oaks Volunteer Ambulance Corps.....718-347-1600

**or  
911**

# **NORTH SHORE LODGE #824**

## **Knights of Pythias.**

245-37 60th Avenue,  
Douglaston, NY 11362

Phone: 718-225-4166

Email: kop@littleneck.net

www.littleneck.net/kop



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### **Meeting Schedule for 2007**

CONVENTIONS ARE NORMALLY HELD EVERY FIRST & THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 8:00 PM

Marathon Jewish Community Center 245-37 60th Ave. Douglaston, NY (718) 428-1580

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

\* Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

Dec 11	*Regular Convention *Second Tuesday
18	Holiday Party 7:30-9:45 (Open meeting)
Jan 15	Regular Convention, Special Guest Speaker
22	Executive Meeting
Feb 5	Regular Convention
26	Executive Meeting
Mar 4	Regular Convention
18	Regular Convention, Special Guest Speaker
25	Executive Meeting
Apr 1	Bingo Night (Open meeting)
8	*Regular Convention - Wine Night *Second Tuesday
29	Executive Meeting
May 6	Regular Convention, 1st Nominations & Memorial Night
20	Regular Convention, 2nd Nominations & Elections
May 27	Executive Meeting
June 3	Installation Night (Open Meeting)
17	Final Meeting

#### **Holiday Party**

**Tuesday, December 18th, 7:30pm-9:45pm**  
**at Marathon Jewish Community Center**  
**245-37 60th Ave. Douglaston**

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**Greg Wilder, The Singing DJ**

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**Goodies, Classics From the 40's to the 21st Century**

### **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 \$45.00.**

**Make checks payable to**  
**North Shore Lodge #824.**

**For information E-mail:**  
**kop@littleneck.net**