



Celebrating 157 Years of Pythianism

The New

Pythian International

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*From the
Desk of Supreme Chancellor
Joel D. Fierstien, KGS*

We are living in an anxious, challenging, and stressful time, but be optimistic for ourselves, the country, and the Order. Despite the terrible toll from the COVID pandemic, the optimism comes from the population that has been vaccinated. Rates of infections and deaths are declining daily, and the Order has seen new lodges, new members, another lodge in Georgia, and tremendous potential in Manilla. We stretch there to Italy. WOW! We were last in the Philippines in the early 1900's. There has been great leadership in Membership provided by SIG Don Stamm, SVC Bruce Brown, and Finance Chair Dennis Adams. So, how we continue.

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Grand Lodge Conventions 2021

What we know as of this writing

South Carolina Ellore	March 13 SVC Brown
Maine Gouldsboro	April 24
Massachusetts Peabody	May 20-21
Tennessee Pigeon Forge	June 4-6
Texas Mineral Wells	June 11
Indiana Lafayette	July 15-17 SS Morris
Pennsylvania Dunmore	August 21

Supreme Lodge Convention August 26 - 31, 2021 Newark, New Jersey

Ohio Fairborn	September 2-4
Iowa Des Moines	September 10-11
New Jersey Monroe Township	September 12

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Supreme Chancellor's Message

Cont. from front page

The future is bright even, with the COVID restrictions and suffering and sadness from illness, death, unemployment, and business closings, coupled with recovery from the misery of winter weather, especially in Texas. Practice safe measures with masks, handwashing and sanitizers, social distancing, and importantly vaccinations, and have live in-person meetings or online on "Zoom." Support and attend our upcoming Supreme Lodge convention August 28-31, making hotel and banquet reservations. The convention committee has done an admirable job under difficult circumstances in working with the Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel with added support from the Newark area Convention Visitors' Bureau. The event is historic for New Jersey, as it is the first time a Supreme Chancellor from New Jersey will preside over a Supreme Lodge Convention in New Jersey. I am looking forward to seeing and chatting with each of you during our stay in Newark.

Enthusiasm and optimism are eternal as we come to Spring, the echo of "Play Ball," and looking to Easter and Passover. Be positive, promote, and recruit for the Knights of Pythias at every opportunity! PERSEVERANCE!!

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER
COMMUNITY.**

STAY SAFE! STAY HEALTHY!



*From the
Supreme Secretary's Desk*

Brothers, Sisters, All:

Wow, the COVID vaccine has been and is continuing to be distributed. Millions are being vaccinated with one of the approved drugs we all hope will cure, or at least put the brakes on this worldwide pandemic. As restrictions are relaxed, we seem to be going out a bit more, although we're still taking the necessary precautions, as we should.

The Supreme Lodge Office, thanks to the idea of SIG Donald Stamm, distributed free COVID masks to the Grand Lodges and now we are selling them. We had what we thought was an ample supply, but they are selling out quick – we may have to order more. Knowing that many of you will be wearing a mask at the upcoming Supreme Lodge Convention – a complimentary COVID mask will be given to all members that register for the convention - as part of the welcoming package.

Attached at the end of this issue is all the information you'll need to make room and banquet reservations, including directions, and schedule of the business sessions and locations. It has been established by the Supreme Chancellor, the registration fee for the convention has been set at \$20.00.

STAY SAFE!

Fraternally,
Allen S. Morris, KGS
Supreme Secretary



*From Supreme Secretary
Connie Edwards*

Hello,

The topic for February was the weather. I am sure there are many who would agree with me. There was snow and more snow, then a cold snap for a week plus, days and nights with temperatures zero and below. Valentine's Day the wind chill and temperature combined was -38 degrees. Happy to say it has warmed up and spring is around the corner.

Been receiving Pythian jewelry from family members or friends who no longer belong. And instead of destroying the pieces are being forward to me. Sisters or Knights if you had or know of jewelry that is just setting sound why not forward the pieces to the Supreme Secretaries. The last piece is a older pin from many years ago.

As things start picking up, we will be able to attend meetings in person. Of course wear a mask, keep safe spaces between you, this is still better than last year.

With spring around the corner, the snow will go away, the weather will warm up, but the best thing is we will be able to get out, see family and friends. In the meantime still wear your mask, keep spacing, be careful and safe.

Connie F. Edwards,
Pythian Sisters Supreme Secretary

WELCOME LODGE 158, MASSACHUSETTS



2020 Christmas Eve

2020 will be a year that many of us won't easily forget! Many events, get together, and meetings have been canceled due to the Global Health crisis.

However, Welcome Lodge 158 of Massachusetts still had their eyes set on continuing the 66-year tradition of a Christmas Eve celebration at The Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, in Boston, MA. Dept of Mental health.

PC Alan Goldberg, and PC Paul Deletetsky both started to think how can Welcome Lodge still give these special people a Christmas Celebration without being there in person, along with their fellow brothers, families, and friends.

With the help from their fellow members, friends and other lodges, a collection of over \$1200.00 was raised to purchase much needed goods, i.e., New clothing, toiletries, healthy snacks, etc.. For the 75 plus clients.

Two days before the holiday, the items which had been stored at the shop of CC Tom Glaser, were loaded and delivered to the hospital.



All this could not have been accomplished without the generous contributions from the following members, and friends of Welcome Lodge: Alan Goldberg; Paul Deleletsky; Michael Schreier; Michael Silverman; Jim Popkin; CC Tom Glaser; Jerry Fleishman; Steve Sarnowitz; Ted Foundas; Marc Neustadt; Steven Weber; Terri Deletetsky; Jayne Bennett Friedberg; Debbi Flanzbaum; Bruce Sarnowitz; and Dan Tushar.

GENEROUS PYTHIAN GIFTS FEEDS POOR DURING COVID

The Domain of New York directed more than \$75,000 in donations for COVID Relief efforts to feed New Yorkers, including \$57,000 to relief organizations servicing the five boroughs, Long Island, Hudson Valley and upstate regions and an additional \$18,000 from New York Pythian Districts matched by the domain's humanitarian funds. Fundraising efforts continue and will target local food pantries.



Met Council a major New York City-based relief and social services organization operating community-based food pantries in the five boroughs received a \$20,000 from Grand Lodge December 23, 2020 in Queens. (L to R) Leah Schechter, Met Council Senior Director of Volunteer Services and Donor Engagement, accepts check for COVID19 relief from New York Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias Grand Vice Chancellor Harvey Rosenshein (Ramapo Lodge #485), Grand Chancellor Randy Silverman (Pelham Brotherhood University Coop City Lodge #616), Past Deputy Supreme Chancellor Sir Roger Siegel (New City-Orangetown Lodge #854) and Chief Grand Tribune Corey Bearak (FDR Lodge 613). Read more online at <https://bit.ly/KOPNY122320>



On Monday, December 21, 2020 the Grand Lodge of New York Humanitarian Fund donated \$15,000 to Island Harvest for its Covid19 relief efforts. At its Hauppauge warehouse and distribution center, Vice President of Development Marc Suntup (c) accepts the donation from Associate Grand Tribune Sir Barry Weiner (Alliance MidIsland Lodge #801) and Past Supreme Representative Jerome Bernzweig (United Queens Lodge #175). (Photo courtesy of New York Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias)



On December 31, 2020, Pythians from the 72nd District presented People to People, Rockland County's largest food pantry, with a \$10,000 check. (L to R) Past Deputy Supreme Chancellor Sir Roger Siegel (New City Orangetown Lodge #854), Deputy Supreme Chancellor Erwin Grill (Ramapo Lodge #485), Clarkstown Town Supervisor George Hoehmann, People to People Executive Director Diane Serratore, Grand Vice Chancellor Harvey Rosenshein (Ramapo Lodge #485), Past Deputy Supreme Chancellor Sir Michael Sukenick (New City Orangetown Lodge #854), Grand Chancellor Randy Silverman (Pelham Brotherhood Co-op City Lodge #616) and Past Supreme Representative Susan Grill (Pythian Sisters). (Pic courtesy of Supervisor Hoehmann).

RATHBONE CELEBRATION IS HELD IN NEW CASTLE, INDIANA

The annual Rathbone Celebration, this the 157th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Order Knights of Pythias, was held in New Castle. We say WELCOME into the Order to our new Knights seen below! What a great day it was as we had 35 in attendance to celebrate our awesome Order's Anniversary! A chicken finger lunch was served by the Grand Lodge prior to the Rank Work. Grand Lodge Officers in attendance were GC H. Wade McIntosh, III; GVC Keith D. Ruetz, Sr.; GS Denny Adams; GMA Jeffery Strahan; GOG Donald Adams; and DDGC #4 Gary Griggs. There were 9 from Crescens Lodge #33 (New Castle); 22 from Brotherhood Lodge #3-5-7 (Carmel); 2 from Ashley Lodge #394; 1 from Welcome #37 (Muncie); and 1 from Worthington Lodge #253 which included the awesome Rathbone 2021 Celebration Class of 15 candidates!

WELCOME BROTHERS!!!



157th Rathbone Celebration Class – Domain of Indiana

L-R – Knights Colin Denhart (357); Shinji “Tak” Takahashi (357); Mike Phillips (357); Dennis Huff (357); Enrique “Rick” Cuenca (394); Jason Watters (37); Jim Williams (357); William Eric Seidensticker (357); Andy Harry (33); Rob Wisneski (357); Theodor “Theo” Schizas (357); Philip Gumm (357); Demetrius Cowherd (357); Drew Godby (33); and Steve Milligan (357).

Our hats are certainly off to Brotherhood Lodge #3-5-7 as being a model lodge for their ability to sign up large groups of new members with varying ethnicities. We should all take a lesson from this lodge as they are turning out to be the leader in Indiana. They have now become the 2nd largest lodge in Indiana at 75 strong! Great job Brotherhood!!

NO FLIES ON NORTH CAROLINA

Knights of Pythias Centre Lodge #3 Food Drive

Food collected to help feed families
in Wake County North Carolina.

Pictured in photo From left to right:
Rick Roberson, Anthony Bonapart,
Dr. Sean Van Pallandt & Bob
Wildman

2/20/2021





Adrienne and Jerry Fleishman

WELCOME LODGE 158



FEBRUARY 2021

WELCOME LODGE #158 RUNS A FUNDRAISER FOR A LOCAL FOOD BANK IN CANTON, MA

Adrienne Fleishman, wife of PC Jerry Fleishman SEC of Welcome Lodge, several years ago helped start a food bank in Canton MA. in conjunction with The Family Table run by the of Jewish Family Services of Greater Massachusetts. Both Mr. & Mrs. Fleishman have devoted countless hours working on Sunday mornings packing and delivering much needed food to local needy families. Welcome Lodge 158 decided to initiate a fund raiser wherein the Lodge would match every dollar donated. The total turned out to be over \$1000.00, which will be used to purchase much needed non-perishable food items.

Kudos to Welcome Lodge #158 who, for the third time in the last 5 months has raised and donated over \$20,000.00 in money and goods to local charities in Massachusetts.

HISTORIC PYTHIAN CASTLE SAVED: THE LAST-MINUTE RESCUE OF AN ICONIC DOWNTOWN STRUCTURE

BY SEAN NESTOR. FEBRUARY 2, 2021.



Photo Credit: Sean Nestor

There is no building in Toledo quite like Pythian Castle. A beautiful Romanesque structure at the intersection of Jefferson and Ontario, it is one of the only towers built in the late 19th century still standing in downtown Toledo. Its black steeple and spires, looming over 100 feet from the ground, symbolize our city's prosperous past— while simultaneously reminding us of our precarious present.

Its original owners, a secret society known as the Knights of Pythias, sold the building to Greyhound in 1951. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and has stood vacant since 1974, enduring decades of neglect and weather damage. With each passing year, the cost of renovation went up while the chances of its preservation went down.



Developer David Ball stands below the new roof of Pythian Castle. Photo Credit: Sean Nestor.

Enter David Ball. A Toledo native and Bowsher graduate, Ball is a serial entrepreneur who runs STS Property & Facility Management with his brother Dean. An experienced developer, Ball has worked on over a dozen major buildings downtown since 1985, when he first fell in love with Pythian Castle. Following Greyhound's relocation to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza in 2016 and the Lucas County Land Bank's subsequent acquisition of the property, Ball finally got his chance – but it turned out to be more than he bargained for.

“People said it was impossible.” To begin with, the building's interior was in shambles. The roof had caved in long before, leaving it exposed to the elements. Years of rain and snow piling on gradually caused all five floors to collapse into the basement.

While clearing out the debris this left, it was discovered that the iconic steeple off the intersection of Jefferson and N. Ontario was unstable, causing work to be stopped for eight months while a 4000-pound support bridge could be constructed and installed.



Developer David Ball shows off the empty interior of the recently renovated Pythian Castle. Photo credit: Sean Nestor.

With the steeple stabilized, work began on constructing new floors from the ground up so that a new roof could be safely built. However, it was discovered that the mortar in some of the brick walls had deteriorated over the years and couldn't carry the weight of the new floors. This added another seven-month delay while the walls were replaced, brick by brick.

Undeterred by the outbreak of COVID-19, work has continued at a steady pace since then and is nearly complete. Modernizations and improvements to the original structure include an entirely new roof and new windows; a new, modern elevator replacing three broken units; a new stairwell replacing a series of unsightly fire escapes along the building's exterior wall; a series of internal downspouts for distributed rainwater, replacing a system of exterior gutters; and new fiberglass replacements for the building's exterior details.



Pythian Castle interior before development. Photo courtesy David Ball and STS Property & Facility Management.

“Nobody thought we could pull this off.” Shielded from the elements for the first time in decades, the castle’s preservation is a testament to the vision and heart of David Ball and STS properties. “I fell in love with the building as a young guy coming to do real estate downtown,” Ball said. “There is nothing like it in this city. To have it removed from our skyline would have been a real loss.”

Pythian Castle is a comeback story for the ages, one that should inspire hope in every Toledoan. Once a somber symbol of decline and disinvestment, the building now stands tall and proud, ready for use again. Its character and personality — nearly condemned to live on only in photographs— are now preserved for Toledo’s next era of prosperity.