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CELEBRATING 153 YEARS OF PYTHIANISM
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Volume LII, No. 3

May/June 2017

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- MAY 1ST** PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST – BATTLEGROUND-CENTENNIAL LODGE
- MAY 6-7** CYSTIC FIBROSIS WE CARE WEEKEND
- MAY 6TH** AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE – VIRGIL SASSO FIELD, FAIR LAWN
- MAY 9TH** GRAND COUNCIL VISITATION – JERSEY SHORE LODGE
- MAY 16TH** JERSEY SHORE LODGE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – BLUE CLAWS STADIUM, LAKEWOOD
- MAY 21ST** WALK FOR AUTISM – GIANTS (METLIFE) STADIUM, EAST RUTHERFORD
- MAY 22ND** GRAND COUNCIL MEETING – FAIR LAWN SENIOR CENTER
- MAY 24TH** GRAND COUNCIL VISITATION – FORTITUDE LODGE
- JUNE 4TH** GRAND LODGE CHARITY FOUNDATION CIRCUS – MEMORIAL PARK, FAIR LAWN
- JUNE 20TH** BATTLEGROUND-CENTENNIAL LODGE MEMBERSHIP DINNER
- JUNE 21ST** GRAND COUNCIL VISITATION – BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO LODGE
- JUNE 26TH** GRAND COUNCIL MEETING – PERKINS RESTAURANT, EAST WINDSOR
-

A Message from the Grand Chancellor . . .

My column for this edition of the NJ Pythian will be a departure from earlier ones in that it will not directly deal with membership or the happenings around the Domain. That subject matter is being dealt with by others in the publications of our subordinate Lodges.

On April 8th, I attended the 50th reunion of my class at Hunter College. I did not see anyone at this event, and that was to be expected, since I attended the Bronx Campus, which became Lehman College several years after I graduated; most of those in my class were scattered to the four winds. Nevertheless, when I received the notice of our 50th reunion, I felt there was a compelling reason to be

[continued on pages 2 and 3]

there. After all, 50 is a nice round number, and you only have one of those; although I imagine one could have marked a 50th High School reunion, or a 50th Graduate School reunion, or for that matter any 50th reunion that someone felt worthy of observing.

As a graduate of Hunter College in the Bronx, my fellow classmates and teachers were all individuals who commuted to a rather unusual Bronx campus that was very rural and had served as the location for the United Nations General Assembly in the years after WW II, before the location on the east side of Manhattan was ready to accommodate the delegations of the member states. The Bronx Campus of 1967 did not look like it was in New York City at all -- it had beautiful athletic fields; old Tudor Style buildings, which served partially as classrooms and administrative offices; and a number of modern buildings that provided classrooms and all the other venues that were necessary for a modern college of that era. And it had fraternities, sororities and, what was unique to the City University (of which Hunter was a part), House Plans. While at Hunter, I pledged a fraternity in the second semester of my freshman year and became a Life Member merely by paying dues through the entire period of my college attendance. Although I maintained contact with one member of my pledge class, total contact with members of that group ended with his passing several years ago.

So to make a long story short, it was with mixed feelings that I decided to brave Manhattan traffic and parking to attend this one-time 50th class reunion. Well, it was not a mistake, because the highlight of the morning's events was a lecture by Harold Holzer, a recognized Lincoln scholar and the *Jonathan F. Fenton* Director of The Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute. The subject matter of his lecture was the relationship between President Lincoln and the Press, a topic that formed the basis of his latest book and which, as you can imagine, has particular relevance in today's environment with our current President, who has labeled the Media ". . .the enemy of the American people."



Justus Rathbone

But what, you may ask, has all this to do with the Knights of Pythias? Well, let us not forget for a single moment that our Order is intimately entwined with the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln. Indeed, the founder of our Order, Justus Rathbone was motivated to create it by the events of the Civil War and there are several anecdotal stories about President Lincoln and the founding of our Order.

In any event, Dr. Holzer proceeded to recount that one of the more famous early instances of contentiousness between President Lincoln and the Press was the case of one Clement Vallandigham, a Democratic Congressman from Ohio and the leader of the Copperhead faction of anti-war Democrats. He served two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and in 1863 was convicted at an Army court-martial of opposing the war. Following his conviction he was exiled to the Confederacy but made his way to Canada where he ran for Governor of Ohio but lost the election.



Clement Vallandigham

Upon his return to Ohio after the Civil War, Vallandigham ran unsuccessfully for several statewide public offices, and ultimately returned to the practice of law.

Now as a result of my interest in Pythian artifacts and the history of the same, I knew of a Pythian connection to Clement Vallandigham that Dr. Holzer was apparently unaware of; so at the

conclusion of the lecture I went up to him and asked him whether he knew what happened to the Copperhead leader. He said he didn't, so I proceeded to tell him of the events that marked the "rest of the story." To wit: In 1871 at the age of 50, as a defense attorney, he was representing a defendant in a murder case for killing a man in a barroom brawl in Hamilton, Ohio. Vallandigham was attempting to prove that the victim had in fact accidentally shot himself while drawing his pistol from a pocket while rising from a kneeling position. As the star-crossed Copperhead conferred with fellow defense attorneys in his hotel room, he showed them how he would demonstrate this to the jury. Selecting a pistol he believed to be unloaded, he put it in his pocket and enacted the events as they might have happened. Unfortunately, he caught the loaded gun on his clothing and unintentionally caused it to discharge into his belly. Although he was fatally wounded, Vallandigham's demonstration proved his point, and the defendant was acquitted and released from custody.

But what of the connection to the Knights of Pythias? Well, back about 10 years ago when I was avidly seeking out and collecting all things Pythian, I came across an item being offered by an individual whose name was Vallandigham. Having done my research, I called this gentleman and inquired whether he was related to Clement L. He did admit that he was a direct descendant of the original, so I let him know that the item I had just won at auction was all the more valuable. This descendant did not admit to being a member of the Pythian Order, but was engaged in the buying and selling of antiques and had come by the particular Pythian artifact as a result of an estate sale. Personally, I do believe this man's forebear was a former member.

In addition to this story, there are a number of instances where the Knights and members of the Order come into contact with Lincoln and Vallandigham and the coincidences are eerie. For instance, Vallandigham is buried in Woodland Cemetery (remember Peter Woodland of Hudson River fame). One of our newer brothers, JJ Hallinan of Jersey City (the city in which is located the final resting Place of Peter Woodland), was recently elected President of the Lincoln Society, the oldest organization observing the birth of the sixteenth president. So even across the span of history, what they say about six degrees of separation has some merit. And as to why I chose to write about this particular topic, it is simply because I got tired of preaching about Membership. Indeed, if you found this column a bit interesting, please remember that without membership we could easily see stories like this disappear.

Another bit of historical relevancy is that Vallandigham's deportation to the Confederacy prompted Edward Everett to write "The Man Without a Country," one of the most famous Civil War era short stories and magazine articles.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to our Grand Prelate, Sir Steve Pardes, who is doing an outstanding job publishing and editing The Jersey Pythian. Please read this paper and let him know your reactions. Send in articles that you believe would be of interest to your fellow Brothers. Finally, we are approaching the summer season when we take advantage of the open road. Be careful out there and remember, keep an eye out for potential new members and take advantage of all that the Knights have to offer. We really do have a remarkable organization that we can all be proud of.

**GRAND LODGE OF THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS
OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**



The Domain of New Jersey Grand Lodge Convention will be held this year at the St. Barnabas Ambulatory Care Center, 200 South Orange Avenue, Livingston, New Jersey on Sunday September 17th, 2017. A reservation form, venue address and directions are on the following page

The hours of the Convention will be from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM with the sessions scheduled as follows:

Simple Coffee Break – 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM

Business Session – 9:30 AM until 11:30 AM

Short break - 15 minutes

Afternoon Session – 11:45 AM until 12:15 PM

Open Session from 12:30 PM for the Memorial Service, Presentation of Donation to the St. Barnabas Children's Cystic Fibrosis Center, and Installation of Grand Lodge Officers for 2017-18

Luncheon – 1:15 PM until 2:15 PM

Please note:

All Grand Lodge Officers, Lodge Representatives, and those Committee Members and Members of the Grand Lodge who would normally be entitled to per-diem and mileage will be entitled to meals at no charge in lieu of the usual stipends, (which will not be offered).

Any other members of the Order may attend the proceedings and join us for the Breakfast and Luncheon at the cost of Twenty Five Dollars (\$25.00) per person. The Grand Lodge is paying for all costs of the venue, service, and gratuity charges for the event.

Everyone who is attending the Convention and expects to partake of the meals being served must register in advance with the Convention Committee to insure that there will be food for them. Anyone not registering may attend the sessions without joining us for the meals being offered.

Dress code for the Convention will be Sport Jacket, dress shirt, tie and slacks (no jeans) for Grand Lodge Officers, everyone participating in the CF ceremonies and the Installation and Memorial Services. All other members of the Order please dress appropriately.

The form on the following page must be detached and received by Grand Secretary, Sir David N. Bellask before August 11th, 2017

2017 Grand Lodge Domain of New Jersey Convention Registration Form

Name _____

Title _____

Lodge _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone Number _____

Please check one: Grand Lodge Officer Member of the Order
 Committee Member
 Lodge Representative

**St. Barnabas Hospital Ambulatory Care Center
200 South Orange Avenue
Livingston, New Jersey 07039**

Directions to our facility

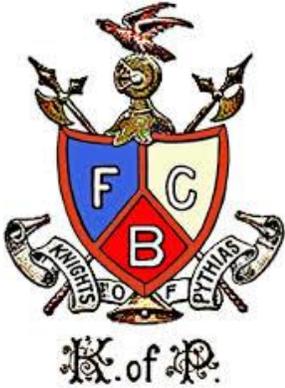
**Barnabas Health Ambulatory Care Center (200 South Orange Avenue.
Livingston, NJ. 07039).**

From GSP-North and South to Exit #145 to Route 280 W. to Exit #4B. Take Eisenhower Parkway South to its end and make a left turn around the rear of the Livingston Shopping Mall (South Orange Avenue), Turn right into Barnabas Ambulatory Care Center. Park near the lot by the canopy in front of the building or in the garage.

Mail this form to:
Sir David N. Bellask, Grand Secretary
97 Draw Bridge Drive
Monroe Township, New Jersey 08831-7931

Convention Committee: PGC Sir Marvin I. Diner, SR, Treasurer. PGC Sir Saul S. Rochman, PSR, PGC Sir David N. Bellask, PDSC, PSR - Co-Chairmen

Testimonial Luncheon
Honoring our New Grand Chancellor
Allen Haller



**Sunday November 5th, 2017
1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Knob Hill Country Club
1 Shinnecock Drive
Manalapan N.J. 07726**

Choice of Entrée:

**Chicken Madeira
Crabmeat Stuffed Filet of Sole
Crusted Prime Rib of Beef**

A Bottle of Red and White Wine will be on each table
\$47.50 per person (\$95.00 per couple)

Please send your reservation and check
payable to **Jersey Shore Lodge #76/167** to:
PGC Henry Kazin
61 Sandpiper Drive
Manalapan NJ 07726

Ads for the Testimonial Luncheon Dinner are being accepted now.
Please see the order form on next page



Ad Journal Honoring Grand Chancellor Allen Haller

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Outside Rear Cover	\$300.00
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All ads must be received by October 3, 2017
Attach Business Card or Print text in the box above

Mail your ad form and check, payable to
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to:

PGC Henry Kazin
61 Sandpiper Drive
Manalapan NJ 07726

Here is a scrambled word puzzle to challenge you. Rearrange the scrambled letters to spell words familiar to every Pythian, then write each unscrambled word in the boxes above the word. Rearrange the letters from the shaded boxes to spell out the answer to the riddle.

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For our Order to thrive we must all get "on board" with this

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Answers on page 9



<p>ATLANTIC LODGE NO. 98 Meets 2nd Tuesday 8:00 PM VFW Post 3361 601 N. Dorset Avenue Ventnor, NJ</p>	<p>BATTLEGROUND-CENTENNIAL LODGE NO. 100 Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 8:00 PM Manalapan Community Center 114 Rt. 33 West Manalapan, NJ</p>	<p>BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO LODGE NO. 163/157 Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 8:00 PM Fair Lawn Senior Ctr. 11th St & Gardiner Rd. Fair Lawn, NJ cardozospeaks.org</p>	<p>FORTITUDE LODGE NO. 160 Meets 4th Wednesday 8:00 PM Monroe Township Senior Center 12-Halsey Reed Rd. Monroe Township, NJ</p>	<p>JERSEY SHORE LODGE NO. 76/167 Meets 2nd & 4th Tues. 8:00 PM Arista Care At Manchester 1770 Tobias Ave. Manchester, NJ</p>
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StevePardes@gmail.com

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Grand Vice Chancellor PDGC Allen Haller
Grand Prelate.....Sir Steve Pardes
Grand Secretary.....PGC Sir Dave Bellask
Grand Treasurer..... PGC Henry Kazin
Grand Master At Arms PCDGC Matt Silverman
Grand Inner Guard. .PGC Norman Goldenbaum

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The Jersey Pythian will be published 5 times during 2017. It is most important that your articles reach the Editor by the deadline dates listed below. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Articles for publication must reach the Editor, Steve Pardes, at StevePardes@gmail.com **no later than the following Publication Deadlines:**

January-February Issue, December 1st
March-April Issue, February 1st
May-June Issue, April 1st
Sept.-Oct. Issue, August 1st
Nov.-Dec. Issue October 1st



Answers to puzzle: charity, Rathbone, password, Damon, anteroom **Riddle answer:** membership

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SENATOR SCHUMER PRAISES PYTHIANS

Senator Charles Schumer recently shared a special message with the Order Knights of Pythias in recognition of the 153rd anniversary of the founding of the Order on February 17, 2017. The Senator's letter follows:

CHARLES E. SCHUMER
NEW YORK

COMMITTEES:

JOINT ECONOMIC
BANKING
JUDICIARY
RULES
FINANCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 2017

Grand Lodge, Knights of Pythias
Domain of New York
71 S. Central Avenue, Suite PH1
Valley Stream NY 11580



Dear Friends:

Please accept my salutations and sincerest congratulations as you gather to celebrate the 153rd Anniversary of the founding of the Knights of Pythias. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the exemplary work of the Knights of Pythias on this auspicious occasion.

Founded in 1864, the Knights of Pythias promote universal peace, fraternity, understanding and cooperation amongst men and nations. With fraternal chapters across the country, with more than 2,000 lodges in the United States and Canada alone, the Knights of Pythias—and its notable members—unify people across the globe to support charitable works and fundraising events to support harmony across the globe. Your continued commitment to foster universal peace through understanding is one of the most commendable ambitions, and is an example of excellence to us all. I applaud the Knights of Pythias' commitment to support and promote peace and continuation to uphold friendship, charity, and benevolence.

Congratulations and thank you for your commitment and dedication to universal peace. I know the Knights of Pythias will continue their noble efforts for many years to come. Best wishes on this momentous occasion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles E. Schumer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate Minority Leader