



# THE PYTHIAN PRESS

Published monthly by Rochester Jay Lodge No. 639 Knights of Pythias, which meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month at 7:30 pm, live at the Jewish Home of Rochester, 2021 Winton Rd S., Rochester, NY, and on Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/RJLMeet>. Direct mail to the Editor, PACDGC Sir Bruce Nelson, 120 Cobblestone Dr., Rochester NY 14623. or [nelson@pythias.org](mailto:nelson@pythias.org). Our website is at <http://rjl639.pythias.org>

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

September 2023

## Coventions at the Jewish Home on September 7<sup>th</sup> and September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm

We will meet on Thursdays, September 7<sup>th</sup> and September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm (note the time) in the Sands room (i.e. the big room we used to meet in)..

The Zoom session will be opened at 7:15 pm. Certain ritualistic portions of meetings will be "blacked-out" from Zoom. The browser link is: <https://tinyurl.com/RJLMeet>, or from the Zoom app, Meeting ID: 5734154622, Password:639. We do need a physical quorum of 10, so please try to attend in person.

**Our out-of-town brothers are encouraged to attend via Zoom.**

If you have any questions, please contact PACDGC Sir Saul Rasnick at 244-8554.

Masks are not necessary, but encouraged.

You don't need to check in at the Security desk, but you may need to tell the guard that you are going to the Sands Room.



### Upstate Investiture Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>

We are pleased to announce that the date for the Upstate Investiture has been set for November 12<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, it is later than we or Grand Lodge would have liked, but conflicts arose due to the Jewish holidays and availability of Grand Lodge officers.

However, we still do not have a location booked. Turning Stone has increased the room cost beyond what we could afford. While Albany Lodge offered their Castle Hall with catering, the 7 hours of travel time did not sit well with the brothers discussing it at our last meeting. There are several venues near Turning Stone being investigated.

We will be making carpool arrangements.

Plans now call for holding a 3-in-1 rankwork for our new members, Candi Nelson, Scott Singer, and Stuart Brown.

We plan to include full details in the October newsletter.

### The Listening Post

Condolences to the family of PC Arnold Bernard.

Condolences to PC Alan Offen on the passing of his wife Karen Sue Layne Offen.

Get well wishes to CC Mark Alderman.

To report deaths, illnesses, or family events, email **Prelate Sam Waldman** at [swaldman1220@yahoo.com](mailto:swaldman1220@yahoo.com) or call him at 654-9723.

### Program Ideas Needed

Nobody likes the same old business-only meeting time after time.

If you have any suggestions as to who we can invite to speak at a meeting, even over Zoom, please contact VC Lou Babin at 755-4628.

Newsletter sponsored by Cary and Stacey Greenberg

### September Birthdays

6 Stuart Blume  
10 Julian Lee  
11 Ronald Valinsky

12 Alan Offen  
21 Sidney Rosenbloom

### September Anniversaries

2 Howard & Ita Weingarten  
3 Saul & Abbey Rasnick  
4 William & Ethel Farash

5 Julian & Carol Lee  
8 Paul & Cynthia Goldstein  
20 David & Sally Robbins

### The 2024 SaveAround® Books are Here!

The 2024 SaveAround® Rochester Books have arrived, and they are better than ever. The price remains at \$25, but our first 20 customers will also receive a copy of 2023 SaveAround® Rochester Book absolutely **free**, and there's still several months of savings you can use.

There's over \$5,000 in local and national savings in the coupon book. For only \$25 you will enjoy thousands in savings at local and national retailers such as Burger King and Dick's Sporting Goods! In addition to the great local and national coupons, the SaveAround® Mobile App and online coupons allow you to easily SAVE-ON-THE-GO! Download the App on the App Store or Google Play™ and activate your SaveAround® Membership by using the Savings Pass Code on the front of the book.



You can get yours by calling PACDGC Lloyd Krieger at 271-4196 or PACDGC Sir Saul Rasnick at 244-8554 to make arrangements to get them to you.

**In Memoriam**  
**PC Arnold Bernhard**  
**Morton Schwartz**

## Grand Chancellor's Message



Grand Chancellor Richard Resnick

### Be The Change

Friendship is our most important product.

Like any other fraternal order, we are plagued with declining membership and increased costs. As Grand Chancellor you might ask how I am going to address these issues. I won't. Together we will.

During the coming year there will be no "I," but "We." Failure is not an option.

We must all concentrate on the future of the Knights of Pythias order. We need to all keep the same mindset to make the impossible possible.

At every Grand Lodge meeting I look at the wall with photos of past Grand Chancellors. I ask myself are we going to let them down. Those who worked so hard to keep our order afloat.

It is said many times young people won't join. If they say it many times, they have no incentive to maintain membership.

A "one size fits all approach" does not work. We must convince them this isn't your fathers' Knights of Pythias.

I have assembled the best possible team to bring the Knights of Pythias into the future. We will put all failing attempts in the rear-view mirror. I must admit it's a momentous task.

We must invest in the future. Possibilities must be turned into probabilities as we look into the future. Needless to say, my door is always open for new ideas.

It's up to all of us to keep the Knights of Pythias going for future generations. WE ARE CHANGE. The future is now.

Membership and retention go hand in hand for survival of our glorious order. Earnest attempts to use whatever communication channels available to us to contact those who opted to terminate their relationship with Knights of Pythias must

be undertaken. We cannot allow the hard work and dedication of past generations go to waste. We must put our trust in our future generations to carry on the legacy of our wonderful order. We must continue the 159-years of dedication to friendship, charity and benevolence brought forth by our predecessors.

Friendship is contagious. If you see a knight sitting alone go to them and extend your hand of friendship.

I will call on our Ritual Committee to formulate and carry on classes for newly elected officers on all levels to instruct our rituals and our proud history of fraternity and charity.

Charity is one of the pillars of our glorious order. It's a constant challenge to devise creative ways to raise funds for charity.

Needless to say, I am looking forward to a successful year.

Participation in Knights of Pythias is hard work.

We must invest in the future.

My door is always open to new ideas.

Together we will be the change.

Respectfully Submitted

*Richard E. Resnick*  
Grand Chancellor

### What is the Pythian Order

by PACDGC Sir Bruce Nelson

Many of you may know that besides serving as your lodge secretary, that I am also the webmaster for Supreme Lodge, and co-webmaster for the Domain of New York.

As I was working on some membership items for Supreme Lodge, it occurred to me, that maybe some of you have forgotten what we are about.

So, as a reminder, I present to you the welcome message we use on pythias.org.

The Order of Knights of Pythias, a great international, non-sectarian fraternity founded in Washington, DC, by Justus H. Rathbone, in 1864, became the first fraternal organization to receive a charter under an act of the Congress of the United States after careful investigation by then-President Abraham Lincoln.

The Order of Knights of Pythias is an international, non-sectarian fraternal order established in Washington, DC, on February 19, 1864, by Justus H. Rathbone. It

was the first fraternal order to be chartered by an Act of Congress.

Our fraternal order follows three distinguishing principles, **Friendship**, **Charity**, and **Benevolence**. Domains of the Order exist in most states and provinces, and subordinate lodges are located in many cities and towns across the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Our order bases its lessons and builds its ritual mainly on the familiar story of the friendship of *Damon and Pythias*. These historical characters lived about four hundred or more years before the beginning of the Christian era. They were members of a school founded by *Pythagoras*, the father of Greek philosophy. Their loyalty to each other, the adventures that beset them, and the outcome of this noble friendship form the basis for one of the most beautiful stories of history, as exemplified in our ritual.

The Knights of Pythias supports *charitable, benevolent, fraternal, and social activities* through its subordinate lodges, their members, and the communities each serves.

The primary charity supported by Supreme Lodge is the American Cancer Society. Our Grand Lodges and Subordinate Lodges support many other charities and programs.

The real common thread throughout the *Knights of Pythias* involves our commitment to helping people; when asked what we do, we simply answer: **We volunteer! We help people!** This common thread shows itself in everything we do. If someone approaches a Pythian and asks what we do, a Pythian simply lists what our order and the their home lodge do and asks them if they want to help volunteer. The Supreme Chancellor's Message (on pythias.org) outlines our annual program and reflects that imperative yearly.

As you review this, you may think of a friend or relative, male or female, who would like to join our lodge and help renew our commitment to these ideals. Please contact me for membership forms or other information, at [nelson@pythias.org](mailto:nelson@pythias.org)