



# NORTH SHORE LODGE #824 Knights of Pythias.



23 Spring Hollow, Roslyn NY 11576

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September 2013

Volume 11 No. 1

## The Knight Light

### CHANCELLOR COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

It is the beginning of a new Pythian Year. The fun of summer is over, but the real fun is just beginning. On September 3rd, we will gather for our first convention. It should be great seeing each other again. Then, just five days later, we are holding our 9th Annual Picnic. I would love to have you join us at Cunningham Park for good food and great company as we say good-bye to summer and welcome the fall. Please bring your family, kids, grandkids and a friend or two. We are always looking for new members. Last year, we welcomed several new Brothers who now come to meetings regularly.

team will play in 2014 from the end of March until June with our North Shore Knights of Pythias logo on its uniforms. It is our small way of telling the world what the Knights of Pythias does so well. We help community organizations. We give. Because we got a late start last season, we did not get our Brothers involved with the Mets. This year I hope that you will join me to cheer them on. I formed a committee to figure out how we can make our sponsorship more meaningful. In March, we will publish the schedule, so that we can be at the games not only in spirit, but also with loud applause.

We have many fine events planned for this year. On November 19th we will enjoy our Chicken Dinner, compliments of Chef Arie, and on December 17th we will dine and dance at our Holiday Party. As always, the Holiday Party will be an open meeting to which everyone is welcome. Meanwhile, if you enjoy a friendly game of poker, we play after every meeting. If you do not know how to play, we will teach you. The stakes are always low, but the fun is always high.

See, being a Knight is not only about camaraderie, but also it is about giving. Over its long history the Knights have given back over one hundred million dollars to support many worthy causes. Remember, the Knights give scholarships to college students. Please join with us and participate with a group of people who give so much. I look forward to seeing you in 2013-14.

PC Arthur Getzel

Last spring, we sponsored the Mets--a little league team which plays in the Jamaica Estates, Holliswood, Briarwood Little League. The

### NINTH ANNUAL NORTH SHORE LODGE PICNIC

Three things in life are definite, but only one of them is fun. They are death, taxes and North Shore Lodge's Annual Picnic. Once again, we will be enjoying the first Sunday after Labor Day at Cunningham Park. Please join us on September 8th at 11:00 A.M. for the most popular event of the year and make sure that you bring your family and friends.

me. You should bring one thing: a beach chair. Once again the picnic will be held in the Park at 193rd Street off Union Turnpike. Just take Francis Lewis Boulevard south from Union Turnpike, make a right turn at the first entrance, and continue to the end. If you do, you will BE THERE!!!

Free food, free drink, freedom from worry for four hours: that's what we have to offer you. With Arie and Jerry at the grill, the hamburgers and hot dogs are guaranteed to be delicious. Unlimited potato salad, cole slaw and pickles will make them taste even better. Soft drinks will help wash it all down. We add dessert, so you will have a perfect day.

What's the catch you say? All right, you got



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PACDGC Sir Ronald Degen  
PC Izhak Sirota

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PC Arthur Getzel

#### Vice Chancellor

PC Izhak Sirota

#### Prelate

Arie Bauer

#### Master of the Work

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#### Outer Guard

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#### Grand Lodge Rep.

ACDGC Robert Banks

#### Alt. Grand Lodge Rep.

PDGC Anthony Rivers

#### Membership

PACDGC Sir Ronald Degen

#### Collation Chairman

Arie Bauer

Meeting  
Schedule

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**THE EDITOR SPEAKS**

Perhaps, the best way to describe this world is in turmoil. Yes, turmoil. Fighting is running rampant throughout the world, innocent people are being victimized, poverty is a way of life for too many, and the highly paid leaders of our legislative branch cannot get anything done. It makes you want to throw your hands up in the air and come to a North Shore Lodge meeting. As the door closes behind you, all the turmoil remains outside. You will be part of a warm, isolated group of happy Pythians. We talk, we eat cake and drink coffee, sometimes we have chicken or pizza or bagels with spreads, we play cards, and we debate (in a friendly way). It's a great way to check your troubles at the door, even if it's just for a little while.

If you have never seen Arthur Getzel preside over a meeting, then you haven't been to a meeting for a long time. Yes, he is beginning his third year as Chancellor Commander and he is doing a fine job. The Lodge is fortunate and grateful that he has agreed to continue to serve.

The Lodge sponsored a little league team last spring. We started a little late, so we couldn't get the word out. This year, there will be plenty of notice, so that you will have the schedule in advance and, hopefully, come down to one or two games.

North Shore Lodge is a great place to be and things are changing. Last year was a terrible year because we lost some wonderful men. On the other hand, it was a good year, because new men have joined us. While our departed Brothers can never be replaced, we must move on.

I am pleased to report that we took in six new Brothers. They have been attending meetings and one of them—Asher Rynski—is our new Outer Guard. We also have a new Inner Guard—Rod Birnbaum. Welcome all!

We will be starting and ending the year, as usual, with a picnic in September and the installation of officers in June. In between, we will be having a lot of fun, contributing to some charities, and enjoying each other's company. Please take a look at the Calendar of Events and BE THERE!!!

**BUDGET AND PLANNING MEETING**

On Tuesday, August 6, 2013, at 8:00 P.M., at Sinai Chapels, we held our Annual Budget and Planning Meeting. It was well-attended and extremely productive. Tentative plans were made for the upcoming Pythian Year and a budget was put in place. Please come to our first meeting in September to learn the plans and the money situation for 2013-2014. Nothing is written in stone, so your input could change our agenda. But to have any say so, you must BE THERE!!!

**HEY, BUDDY, GOT A QUARTER?**

Yes, prices went up and a dime won't do it anymore. But, it's still not expensive to play poker with us and you don't have to be that good to win a few hands. We play cards after each meeting and sometimes we even fill two tables. Still, we always want more players and we would love to have you join us. We cannot guarantee a win, but we can guarantee a great time at little expense (and you might even win). BE THERE!!!

**FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK**

I am your new Secretary and I am filling two of the biggest shoes known to man. When PACDGC LM Danny Deckler died on May 28, 1999, I stepped in and took over for him as Secretary of the Lodge. Danny was Mr. Douglaston Lodge and he could never be replaced. Needless to say, his shoes were much too big for me.

When elections were held the following May, PGC LM Irv Kleiman, who was the first secretary of Douglaston Lodge, asked if I would like him to take over. Gratified, I said YES! YES! YES! He took the position and for a dozen years, he competently took the minutes, filled out the reports, and acted as our liaison with Grand Lodge. I was so relieved. When Irv passed away last November, once again, I looked around, saw no volunteers, and stepped into his huge shoes. I cannot fill them, but I am trying to move around in them as best as I can.

I am sure that soon my desk will have piles of announcements and things for me to report. For now, I have nothing to add to the articles in the Knight Light. Rather than repeat them here, I will bid you a wonderful year and hope that I have only good news to report.

Fraternally,

Ronnie Degen, Secretary

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**GRAND LODGE CONVENTION**

Robert Banks and Ron and Arleen Degen attended the Grand Lodge Convention in July at the Villa Roma. It was an uneventful Convention, but we had a great time. Robert was elected and installed as Grand Treasurer of the Domain of New York. At his installation, Ron walked him down the aisle and Arleen presented him with his jewel. Erwin Grill moved up to Grand Chancellor and Doug Handler was elected Grand Outer Guard. As usual, the candidates held afternoon parties, we had midnight ice cream parties, and a good time was had by all.

**GRAND CHANCELLOR'S DINNER**

On Saturday night, June 8th, the Grand Chancellor's Dinner was held at Terrace on the Park. North Shore Lodge had a full table. Robert Banks and his friend, Nancy, Arthur and Stacy Getzel, Ron and Arleen Degen, Jerry and Fran Geier, Tony and Carmen Rivers, Itzy and Phyllis Sirota, Roz Gurock and Anita Kleiman all had a great time. Too bad for you, if you decided not to BE THERE!!!

**DEATH OF DOMA AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR TAX ES**

**By PC Barry Lisak, IRS Enrolled Agent**

On June 26, 2013, the US Supreme Court decided that the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman, was unconstitutional and could no longer stand. The case, *United States v. Windsor* (“Windsor”) involved a same-sex couple involved in a long-term relationship who were married in Canada, after forty years together as residents of New York. When one spouse died, the other was not able to use the unlimited marital deduction, causing the estate to pay more than \$363,053 in estate taxes that would not otherwise be due if the deduction had been allowed.

The decision has wide-reaching impact on federal taxes. Same-sex couples who are legally married in a state are treated as married for all federal tax purposes. Such couples must file joint federal income tax returns or choose to file as married filing separately. They can no longer file as single or head of household. If both spouses are high-earners, they face a marriage penalty. If only one works, there may be a marriage premium (tax savings from joint filing). Same-sex couples selling their primary residence will see substantial capital gains tax savings, since a married couple filing jointly can exclude up to \$500,000 in gain, regardless of whether one spouse held title alone. If the title-holding spouse filed as a single taxpayer, this exclusion amount would be limited to \$250,000.

Additionally, such couples can use the unlimited marital deduction for estate and gift tax purposes. Portability, which enables unused estate tax exemptions of the first deceased spouse to be used by the surviving spouse, now applies to these couples. State tax rules remain unaffected by the decision.

Same-sex spouses whose marriages are recognized by their states of residence can now apply for Social Security benefits based on their spouses’ earnings, as well as survivor benefits after their spouses’ death. It should be noted that the Social Security Administration typically looks to the state law of a person’s residence to determine whether a person is married, which may create problems for couples that move to a state where same-sex marriage is not recognized.

As of yet, the IRS has not indicated whether it will determine marriage based on the state in which the marriage was celebrated or the state in which the couple currently resides. This matters because only 13 states and the District of Columbia recognize same sex marriages; 37 states do not. It makes sense to meet with a tax advisor to determine the best course of action. For example, filing amended returns using joint-filer status may be helpful to some couples. There may also be value in reviewing estate plans in light of the Court’s decision.

**CONGRATULATIONS ROBERT**

First it was Brother Robert, then it was CC Robert, then it was DGC Robert, then it was ACDGC Robert. In between, he was President of the LIPC Robert, Chairman of the Grand Lodge Finance Committee Robert, and member of many Grand Lodge Committees Robert. Now, at lightning speed, our own Robert Banks has become Grand Treasurer Robert. After a one-year gap, once again North Shore Lodge has a Grand Lodge Officer.

Robert has been working extremely hard for the Lodge, the District, Grand Lodge and the Order and, obviously, plans to continue doing so. We wish him all the best and are amazed at how many achievements he has under his belt over such a short period of time.

**NEW CASTLE HALL**

We moved two blocks away to our new Castle Hall. It’s a Chinese church located on the corner of 61st Avenue and 245th Road. We hold our regular meetings on the first floor. The card players have a separate room to set up their games after the meetings. Downstairs, a larger room accommodates our open meetings. We have been meeting there since May and it has worked out well.

The reason for the move is that we had to end the meetings at Marathon Jewish Center before 10:00 P.M. Since a good number of Brothers play cards after the meetings, the early curfew did not give them enough time. Now, everybody is happy.

Come on down and enjoy the ambiance, not to mention the company of your Brothers, at our new Castle Hall.  
BE THERE!

**DOUGLASTON WELFARE ASSOCIATION**

The Douglaston Welfare Association holds a brief meeting at the conclusion of each North Shore Lodge convention. At the meetings, we discuss problems that may have arisen, inquiries from members, and our finances. If you would like to have some input, BE THERE!!!

**MEMORIAL MEETING**

At the first meeting in May each year, we have first nominations and a memorial service for Brothers who have departed this life over the past year. For the last few years, the late PC David Gurock ran the service. Sadly, he was one of the departed Brothers whose name was read this year. If you knew David, you know how well organized a man he was. Because he handed over the program which he had prepared, this year’s memorial night went smoothly, as we heard the names of the dear men whom we have lost.

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

**SOUNDS**  
By Jesse Levine

A summer's morn in a garden I sit,  
Surrounded by nature my world is lit  
By the sun shining down light filtering through;  
Flora abounds grass wet from dew.  
The sounds of life enhance this scene,  
Birds singing dogs barking help make it serene,  
Soft conversation in the background I hear  
Tinkling laughter of my loved ones near  
I think to myself how fortunate for me  
To be in this world, in this land that is free.  
If only one could share this simple pleasure,  
Our world would be God’s heavenly treasure.

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## NOSTALGIA CORNER

In the June 1989 issue of the Knight Light, Harold Saldinger, Ike Roffman and Ron Degen contributed the following articles.

## CHANCELLOR COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Hi 824's

My countdown is rapidly approaching. M.A. Irv. Kugler will receive his oath of office at our next open meeting. Give him and his entire group of incoming officers a deserving turnout to start him off on an enjoyable year or more in office. We should have an interpreter on hand in case he goes into "mammalooshin" on his opening speech. With the help of P.D.G.C.L.M.P.C.P.D.W.A.G.L.R.X.Y.Z. Jere Lifson, our own Borough President of Queens, Her Honor, Claire Shulman, will also attend our open meeting. Show up with your wife, girl or boyfriend. I can't believe every Knight is straight.

Twelve of us had a pleasant evening attending the dinner for Bob Fields and the installation of our own P.C. Sol Schneider as President of the 14th District. Have a great and healthy year, Sol. We were fortunate in conducting an executive board meeting during the speech making, so as my last wish I am instructing Sen. Ike Roffman to collect transcripts and give the lodge a report on same.

I wish to thank all of the members of Douglaston Lodge who have helped to make my year in office most enjoyable. A toast to all for a long and happy life.

Yours,  
PC HAL S.

## IT SEEMS TO ME

by Senator Ike Roffman

It is no secret that attendance at our regular meetings has fallen off considerably for several years now. As a result where we once had two or three candidates for each elective office, we now have difficulty filling each position. Consequently we have Past Chancellors occupying the offices of Vice Chancellor, Prelate and Inner Guard. Our Financial Secretary has been succeeding himself in office year after year because nobody else wants the thankless job.

Douglaston Lodge has been fortunate in having a reserve of active Knights who were able to take the place of others who for one reason or another (moved away, ill health, etc.) were unable to continue being active. When our Collation Chairman of almost thirty years moved to Florida, there were others to take his place. When we needed a Treasurer and a Secretary on short

notice, a Past Chancellor became the former and a Past Deputy Grand Chancellor the latter. When the former editor of the Knight Light resigned, the present editor a Past Chancellor, took over without missing an issue.

We are all indebted to these Brothers. But it seems to me that we can't assume that Douglaston Lodge will be as fortunate in the future as it has been in the past. What will happen, to paraphrase the "September Song", when our active Knights dwindle down to a precious few? Who will assume the responsibilities of office? Who will chair committees? Our collation Committee throughout the years, has prepared food for the palate. I hope this article will be food for thought.

## THE EDITOR SPEAKS

June for Douglaston Lodge is like December for everyone else--the end of another year. We tend to think back of what we have accomplished and what we did not achieve, and then to look forward to starting the next year with a clean slate and a chance to do better. Last June our Chancellor Commander took over a lodge with the problems facing many fraternal orders today. He injected his personality into the position, took an active role at our meetings, attended the dinners customarily attended by our leader, and worked well with his committee men. Unlike many leaders, he will not be leaving the Lodge in worse shape than he found it. Thanks, Hal, for a job well done.

As Editor, I am grateful to anyone who makes my job easier and contributes publishable material to the Bulletin. Once again I owe special thanks to Sen. Ike Roffman, who submits his delightful column each month like clockwork. Not only does he fill up space in the Knight Light, but, more importantly, he writes entertaining and thought-provoking pieces. From my conversations with the members of our Lodge, I know that he is read and appreciated. In fact, a number of Brothers go straight to "It Seems to Me" before they read anything else. Probably the next item most readers turn to is the Chancellor Commander's message, since Hal began writing it. To say the least, Hal's approach is novel. Each month he changes the format, but never leaves out the humor. Hal, I thank you too for your positive contributions to the Knight Light. Finally, I feel compelled to mention the columns of Ira S. Lugener. They seem to provoke controversy, which is probably good, and certainly are unique to lodge publications. I hope that the members and their families are enjoying all of the material which appears each month.



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## IRA S. LUGENER

To My Brothers,

The Knight Light is being published just in time to make a difference in this world. You see, I need a groundswell of support in order to win the primary for Mayor of New York City. I intend to run as a write-in candidate and I expect that the exposure the Knights of Pythias can give me will make the difference.

Please do not dismiss my campaign out of hand without at least considering the options. They're all the same--Quinn, de Blasio, Thompson, Weiner, Liu—professional politicians with all sorts of political debts. Only Ira will introduce fresh ideas and new ways of bringing them to life. Only Ira is truly independent. There are many Knights living in New York City. If each one brought two of his friends to vote for me and the friends, in turn, each brought two friends, well, you get the picture.

My platform will be:

1. Ice cream for everyone.
2. Raise the minimum number of mandatory daily playing hours on video games for children under 12.
3. Award high school seniors credits for joining the Knights.
4. Shorten the school day.
5. Lower the voting age to 12.
6. Undo laws allowing bicycle racks where I live.
7. Give out free tickets to rock n' roll shows.
8. Encourage reading of comic books.
9. No long term papers.
10. End homework on Fridays.
11. Require driver's education for high school graduation.

Oh! If only children could vote, I would be a shoo-in.

Well, it's time to get going and get out the vote. I'll be at the picnic on September 8th, should you want to come over and shake my hand and wish me luck.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

Ira S. Lugener

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.

### 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 or their families.

#### MARION WEBER

#### WIFE OF PC SIDNEY WEBER

JULY 20, 2013

#### IRMA GRATT

#### WIDOW OF THE LATE PC DAVID GRATT

JUNE 5, 2013

#### BROTHER MORRIS FALK

2013

#### BROTHER GERALD JACOBS

2013

#### BROTHER LEO ANEKSTEIN

2013

#### BROTHER BEN GLASERMAN

2013

#### SENATOR BEN ALTMAN

MARCH 20, 2013

#### BROTHER IRVING RAVENS

DECEMBER 27, 2012

*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*

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# **NORTH SHORE LODGE #824**

## **Knights of Pythias.**

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### **Meeting Schedule**

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Executive Board Meetings are held at Sinai Chapels 162-05 Horace Harding Expy, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365 at 8:00PM

\* Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

Sept.3 Regular Convention  
8 Picnic  
17 Regular Convention  
24 Executive Convention  
Oct. 1 Regular Convention, GC message  
15 Regular Convention  
22 Executive Convention  
Nov. 5 Regular Convention  
19 Chicken Dinner  
26 Executive Convention  
Dec. 3 Regular Convention  
17 Holiday Party 7:30-9:45

#### **9th Annual Friends and Family Picnic**

**September 8, 2013**

11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Bring your chair, we will supply the hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, trimmings, drinks and dessert.

The place: 193rd Street off Union Turnpike in Cunningham Park with plenty of shade and a playground for the children.

Directions: go south on Francis Lewis Boulevard and go right at the first entrance south of Union Turnpike. Go to end of parking lot.

### **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**