



News for and About Oregon Pythians

Oregon Pythian News

New Year's Eve Invitation from North Plains' Knights!

You're Invited!

We are throwing a New Year's Eve Party at the Glencoe Lodge hall again this year!

This is an adult only gathering. Please do not bring anyone under 21 years of age. We will have 4 Blackjack, 1 Craps and 1 Let-it-Ride, professional dealers and lots of fun! Hope to see you there!

- Doors open at 7:00
- Dinner is potluck
- Dress is casual
- You will receive \$500 in chips for \$20, unlimited purchase amount.



- Casino gaming begins at 8:00, ends at 11:00.
- At the end of the evening, your chips will be exchanged for tickets to be entered into a drawing for prizes!
- We will have beer on tap, water and soda pops. Please bring your own hard alcohol and / or wine.

**Please RSVP by calling
Corkye Funk at 503-939-3250**

Article submitted by Corkye Funk

'Tis the Season of MANY Holidays (Article Reprinted from December 2004 OPN)

The Season of Multiple Holiday Celebrations is Upon Us ~

No matter how you celebrate the holidays this time of year you are not alone. Many celebrate in different ways and customs. In the Pythian world we accept all religions and hopefully we will take pleasure that all of our neighbors, friends and fellow Pythians will glean comfort, and pleasure by those customs and family practices that bring them joy during this special season.

A brief description of three different, and yet with some sameness, celebrations follow for your knowledge and enjoyment. If you know of others you would like to see highlighted in next year's December issue of the Oregon Pythian News please feel free to write an article for publication or send a suggestion to the editor of our publication so that materials can be developed during the coming year.

Happy Holidays to All!

Christmas: Celebrating the Birth of Christ ~ By Don Lacy

The word Christmas comes from the Old English term *Chirstes maesse*, meaning "Christ's Mass," the festival service to commemorate the birth of Jesus. We do not know the actual birth date of Christ. Therefore, the Western Orthodox Church chose December 25, as there was a common feast day at that time in Rome; while the Eastern Orthodox Church chose the "appearance day" or Epiphany of January 6th. Thus, we have the Twelve Days of Christmas. *(Continued on page 13)*



Grand Chancellor Don's Message



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The past two years have been good for Oregon Pythians, and hopefully the next two will be better.

After our Grand visits with **GC Mike Talbot** over the past two years, we have good news. **Oregon Knights of Pythias** are alive and well. We have 5 strong lodges, 3 good lodges, and 2 that need our help.

Membership is hanging tough and has increased again. Most of the lodge buildings have received some tender loving care over the past two years, and hopefully will continue to be updated.

Grand visits are a very important part of Grand Lodge Officers duties. As Grand Chancellor, I

would like for all the Lodges to invite us to a business meeting rather than just feeding us. It is important that we socialize, but I think more important we are recognized by the Lodge members.

We need to recognize the strong lodges and try to help the other lodges. We are all BROTHERS.

Over the past few years the **Brothers and Sisters** have drifted apart, and as Grand Chancellor, I would like to get us back together. We need to work on having more social events together. It would be nice to see more **Sisters** and families attend the **Pythian Fun Days**. (See article on page 16.)

My wife Donna and I would like to wish everybody a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Fraternally,
Don Allen, Grand Chancellor

Grand Chancellor's Visitation Schedule



JAN.8 HELMET #33 EUGENE LODGE 6PM

JAN.10 GLENCOE #22 NORTH PLAINS 7PM

JAN.15 PHOENIX #34 HILLSBORO 7:30PM

JAN.17 GASTON #104 GASTON 7PM

JAN.21 IVANHOE #1 PORTLAND 10AM- GRAND LODGE COUNCIL MEETING

FEB.21 HERMES #56 AURORA 6:30PM

MAR.12 DAMON #4 PENDLETON 6PM

MAR.13 IVANHOE #1 PORTLAND 7:30PM

MAR.28 DIANA #63 MCMINNVILLE 7PM

APRIL 15 TALISMAN#31 GRANTS PASS 1PM

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Grand Chief Maureen's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I'm so honored to be your Grand Chief for the second time! Thank you for the privilege.

I would like to congratulate **Don Allen**, who is the new Grand Chancellor for the Knights. I look forward to working with you and the Knights in partnership with the Sisters for the coming year.

I'm so glad that my sister **Shelley Corby** is going through the chairs and that I will be her Sitting Past Grand Chief. To me that is so special.

Thank you for all the love and support you have given me and the confidence in me to give me the honor of being your Grand Chief.

We need to get new members if we are going to continue. I think one way is to do fun activities together. It could be activities such as parties, plays, musical events, a family night of games or a movie night, with snacks, of course! It could be a community event. Our Lodge and Temple has sponsored a team at Relay for Life for 15 years.

It is for a very good cause and it is fun.

I urge you to find out if there is one in your community and to attend if possible.



My motto is Love, which is the greatest gift one can receive or give to another. It can be very simple and easy, a hug, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear or a shoulder to cry on. The price is right! It's FREE!

My theme is "Serving with Love." Let's sprinkle a little kindness and love like confetti, wherever we go.

My flower is the red rose for Love. My Mom, **Viona Lacy's** favorite color was red, therefore I'm picking the red rose to honor my Mom who loved everyone unconditionally and made everyone feel important and special.

The young people of today are so busy. They have so many electronic appliances that I did not have at that age. If we're going to gain them as new members, they need to feel wanted, needed and feel like they have accomplished something. That is one reason I like the Relay for Life activity which Phoenicia-Rose and Phoenix Lodge have participated in for 15 years.

My Grand Chief's project is the ChildLife Department of Doernbecher's Hospital.

My official visitations for this year are as follows:

- ♦ **March 4th – Thermopylae #37**
- ♦ **March 12th – Helmetta #29**
- ♦ **April 5th – Phoenicia-Rose #10**
- ♦ **April 15th – Ivanette #68**
- ♦ **April 17th – Fern #46**

The District Convention will be held on Saturday, May 5th in Hillsboro hosted by Ivanette Temple #68, with Mary Lou Sullivan serving as District Deputy Grand Chief.

Thank you so much for the privilege of being your Grand Chief. I will do my very best.

I wish you all Happy Holidays filled with love and joy.

In Pythian Love,

Maureen Murphy, Grand Chief



Grand Secretary Charlie's Message

Oregon Pythians,

The 2016-2017 year ended with Grand Lodge Convention at the Gaston Lodge. We were able to conduct all the business required, and install the new officers. We had a great banquet, served by the Gaston girls Volleyball team. **Grand Chief Paula** had a raffle during the banquet raising funds for **Oregon Pythian Scholarship**. There were so many prizes that just about everyone went home with something.

Since becoming the Grand Secretary, I've found that there are a lot of things I need to learn about the job. **Ed Yates** has been very patient with me, answering all my questions.

2017 is coming to an end. That means it almost time for the annual reports from the lodges. As soon as I receive the information from Supreme I will forward the forms to the lodge Secretary's. Please include an updated membership list with mailing address, phone number, and E-Mail address. (If you have your membership list in either Excel or Word format, please email it to me.)

Fraternally,

Charlie VanDomelen

Grand Secretary



HELMET LODGE # 33 & HELMETTA TEMPLE # 29

OF EUGENE, OREGON

WISH YOU AND YOURS A VERY

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS

NEW YEAR 2018!



Grand Secretary Sherri's Message



It has been a hectic year so far for me, and I continue to have many irons in the fire, with moving, pending divorce, medical appointments, and I am once again your state secretary. I look forward to being able to fulfill the required duties of my office, this year. With the assistance of **Risa Riggen, PSR**, who has allowed me to be her roommate. She encourages me, and as the behind the scenes

assistant, and also is helping me to stay on top of things.

We had our Grand Temple in McMinnville, October 20-22 at the Red Lion Hotel. **Grand Chief Paula Talbot** presided over the events, until Sunday morning, when she took her husband, **Grand Chancellor Mike Talbot** to the hospital. **Maureen Murphy, PSR**, Grand Senior then presided over the remaining session, and was later installed as our new Grand Chief.

Kudos to Paula Talbot, SPGC for having such an array of wonderful gifts, which she collected for three years, ensuring everyone went home with something. She made sure there were gifts for men that bought tickets. **Paula raised \$647 at Grand Temple** in donations, tickets sold to the Sisters, and tickets sold to the Knights. Add this amount to what she had already collected, **giving her a total ending project fund for Oregon Pythian Continuing Education Fund (OPCEF) of \$1,044!** We are very proud of Paula for her efforts.

A big, congratulations to the new Grand Officers and thanks for all the behind the scenes work each one does, in their individual Temples and for the Grand Temple. Also, for the caring, diligent work of the PGC's and PSR's, as they continue to serve our Order. It is appreciated and we look to you for guidance and advice as we continue to grow ourselves in knowledge.

The following list is our new line up of Grand Temple Officers for the term of 2017-2018:

Sitting Past Grand Chief – Paula Talbot

Grand Chief – Maureen Murphy, PSR

Grand Senior – Shelley Corby, PSR

Grand Junior – Arlene Kimball

Grand Manager – Heather King

Grand Secretary – Sherri Lee, PSR

Grand Treasurer – Barbara Christopher, PGC

Grand Protector – Sarah Murphy

Grand Guard – Sarah Owens, PSR

Grand Musician— Paula Bice

This is Maureen's second time around as was Cheryl Bergman's in 2016. We appreciate her stepping up and below are her choices for her year:

- Grand Chief's Project – Doernbecher's Child Life Department
- Theme – Serving With Love
- Song – Let Them Be Little
- Motto – Love
- Flower – Red Rose (for Love) (This was her Mom-Viona Lacy's-favorite color.)

As we are into the Holiday Season with Thanksgiving just around the corner, let us think of others, and if able, reach out a hand and help where we can! It is not necessarily the monetary help, but in our time and encouragement, even in the small ways! Don't forget to ask others to join our Order and help us grow in numbers again. We can get there again, if we all try!

**WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING
AND
A MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!**

In Pythian Love, Sherri Lee, PSR, Grand Secretary



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
to the Sisters and Knights of the
Grand Jurisdiction of Oregon
Your friends
Grand Jurisdiction of Washington/Alaska

Greetings from Grand Treasurer Ed Yates

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL PYTHIANS AND PYTHIAN SISTERS

This is my first report as Grand Treasurer. As most of you know by now **Charlie VanDomelen** is our new Grand Secretary. Any information you requested from me, now will be handled by him. I wish to thank all of you for your support you gave me in the past as Grand Secretary and look forward to serving you as Grand Treasurer.

We have been able to get all the accounts changed over to the new officer group and I was able to update our financial and check writing program to the current Quick Books accounting program.

I am looking forward to seeing you on the Grand Chancellor's official visits coming up after the first of the year.

Fraternally,

Ed Yates, Grand Treasurer



Fern Temple Awards 6 Scholarships (Again!)



Fern Temple, is doing well this past year. We now meet the 3rd Tuesday at 1pm in the Yamhill City Hall , Community room. We have changed our break from summer to winter,

and will be off December-January. Some of our members live in the Salem area and driving can be difficult in winter.

Again this year we have awarded scholarships to six deserving young people three new and three renewals. \$500 each:

- **Emily Lockhart --Corban University**
- **Paul Myers - Chemekata**
- **Ashley VanDeWalle - Western Oregon University**
- **Abby Berhorst - Eastern Oregon University**
- **Nate VanDeWalle - Willamette University**
- **Matia Ellis - Pacific University**

Ann Myers our Treasurer, was recently in hospital for an emergency surgery for a ruptured esophagus. She

spent 8 days in ICU and another 8 days in critical care. She is home and doing well, She has a feeding tube and will need some reconstruction later after the first of the year.

Our new officers are the following ladies:

MEC Cheryl Bergman PSR

Excellent Senior Farrel Fuerst PGP

Excellent Junior Kelly Martin

Manager Carol Jenkins GG

Treasurer Ann Myers PSR

Secretary Jan VanDeWalle

Protector Donna Johnson PGC

Guard Arlene Kimball GP

Installing Officer Ann Myers

For our community service project this year we donated \$ 500 to Share and Care our local emergency food bank, we have supported them in the past.

Article submitted: Jan VanDeWalle Sec.

Greetings from Southern Oregon

Thermopylae Temple and Talisman Lodge wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and most Happy New Year.

We hope you are well and happy and hope to see you soon.

Article submitted by Robyn Neeley, PSR



Eugene Pythians Celebrate and Offer Community Support



Eugene Knights and Sisters recently held their annual Christmas party. At the party we gave our annual donation funds to two woman's shelters, Meals on Wheels, Lane County Food Bank, two children's actives and local Eugene meals for Christmas



Article and photos submitted by Jerry Girard



Some friends make you laugh, some make you feel loved.
Some friends keep your deepest secrets, some keep you honest.
Some friends walk through life with you,
Some dream with you and some even cry with you
and there are my Pythian friends...who do it all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
My Pythian Friends!

Gwen Rhodes, Supreme Manager



Gaston Lodge Supports Boy Scouts and Community

**GASTON'S BOY SCOUT TROOP #168
AND CUB SCOUT PACK #168**



On December 2 ,Gaston's Boy Scout Troop 168 and Cub Scout Pack 168 collected food for the Gaston Food Bank. The boys walked on the cold rainy day for two hours and collected 638 pounds of food.

The Gaston Knights are very proud of our Scouts and want to give a BIG GREAT JOB to them. We would also like to thank our leaders. **Scout Master Spenser Hansen** , **Cub Master Mike Rosenberg**, and **Cub Den Leader Maria Rosenberg**.

**GASTON PYTHIANS COLLECT TOYS FOR
CHRISTMAS**



The Western Washington County Fire Departments annually collect toys for kids at Christmas.

This year the **Gaston Knights of Pythias Lodge** decided to collect toys from members in the lodge. We also contributed money for us to buy toys. **Don Allen** and **Terry Clark** delivered the toys on December 5th to the Gaston Fire Station to **Fireman Randy Hoodenpyl**.

Articles and Photos submitted by Don Allen



From our family to yours:
Best wishes for Happy
Holidays and
a New Year filled with Peace,
Happiness and Good Health.
The Lacy Family

Damon Lodge Summer Activities



Pendleton Knights and family members camped at the **Scott Hancock Friendship Campground** this summer. The photo to the right is a group photo of the amazing crew who camped there this year!

The second photo shows the new “front entrance” to **Pendleton’s Pythian Lodge Hall**. Due to new instructions from local authorities, the Knights had to move the door from the front (street) side of the building this year. It looks good!

Articles and photos submitted by Ray Cable



Supreme Manager Gwen’s Message

Happy Holidays! Excitement will soon be mounting as we ring in the New Year! 2018 will bring us the next Supreme Convention in New York City. As we are all aware, this session will be a little more expensive but it offers us an opportunity to see and experience the Big Apple. If you have not read the current issue of the Pythian Sister Tidings, you need to do so and note the special instructions regarding hotel and event registration.

An issue that each Temple needs to consider before the 2018 Supreme Sessions is the inevitable raise of Per Capita Membership Dues. In the last session they were raised to \$15 per paid member which was subsequently reduced back for 2017 by Supreme Chief Nancy Hall. This will be a major item of discussion requiring some resolution at the 2018 session. So analyze what you can afford and get that information to your Supreme Representatives before they leave for the session. A couple of ways you can help Supreme financially would be to support the 25/25/50 drawing and the quilt raffle. You should be hearing from those chairs soon.

Changing back to my Washington/Alaska hat. We will welcome any of you who wish to attend our Installations and Temple Inspections (Visitations). With luck we will be able to send representatives to some of your fun activities in the coming year.

Enjoy the holidays and keep safe and healthy.

Gwen Rhodes

Supreme Manager



Oregon Knight's Grand Convention—Gaston Lodge

We had a good meeting of the Grand Lodge on Saturday, October 21 at Gaston Lodge Hall. The meeting started promptly at 9:00am with 21 delegates and officers in their chairs and ready for business. Everything went along smoothly with the reading and accepting of the credential committee report and the Grand Lodge officer reports. We learned that our membership numbers are going up, not by much, but up from the Grand Secretary report. The other officers reported a Grand Domain in good shape with some lodges needing help to get their membership up.

A delightful lunch was served by Gaston residents and we enjoyed every bite.

In the afternoon we started the election process and took the recommendations of the Grand Council. For Grand Chancellor, Grand Vice Chancellor Don Allen of Gaston Lodge was nominated and elected. As were Grand Prelate Scott Swartout of Hermes Lodge for Grand Vice Chancellor, Grand Master at Arms Ray Cable of Damon Lodge for Grand Prelate, Grand Secretary Ed Yates of Gaston for Grand Treasurer, and Past Grand Chancellor Charles Van Domelen of Phoenix Lodge for Grand Secretary. The offices of Grand Master at Arms, Grand Inner Guard and Grand Outer Guard are appointive by the incoming Grand Chancellor. As usual, the meeting just zoomed along and in no time we were discussing the budget. The Grand Treasurer presented the budget and explained each line item. This was a continuing effort by the Grand Officers and particularly the Grand Treasurer to get a more realistic budget for the Grand Lodge. In the past, we have had a budget way over expected income but never come close to having a problem as the budget would be around \$30,000, but we would only spend around \$15,000. Even with that our income would be not be enough to cover our expenditures.

After the budget was approved, we set up for the installation of officers and adjournment of the meeting.

We successfully installed the elective officers and the incoming Grand Chancellor adjourned the meeting and opened a meeting of the Grand Council.

We are planning on having a Pythian Day at the Silver Spur Campground in July, with a visit to the Oregon Garden. Next meeting of the Grand Council was set for Sunday, January 21 at Ivanhoe Lodge.

The final event was a dinner with the Pythian Sisters who had traveled from McMinnville where were holding their own meeting.

I was surprised but happy to represent the Supreme Chancellor at this meeting and help guide the meeting as well as install the officers. May the officers help to guide our Domain and help those lodges needing it.

Article submitted by Mark Erickson

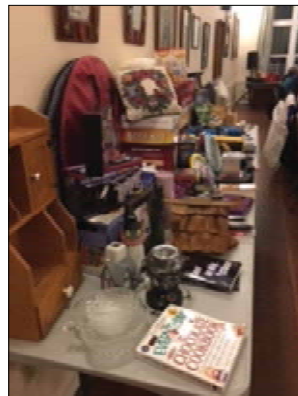


Oregon Sisters' Grand Convention—Red Lion in McMinnville

October 2017— The Sisters Grand Convention was held at the Red Lion Hotel in McMinnville. We started Friday evening with a pizza party, followed by the Joint Memorial Service. Meetings began Saturday morning with **Grand Chief Paula Talbot** presiding. The meetings were smooth and productive. We had many visitors from out of state—Utah, Washington and British Columbia! It made our convention feel very festive. The convention committee of **Cheryl Bergman, Arlene Kimball and Carol Jenkins** did a great job! On Saturday evening we travelled to Gaston Lodge to join the Knights at their Grand Banquet. The Knights even offered free rides for the Sisters who did not want to drive up to Gaston—this service was much appreciated. On Saturday evening after the banquet, **Grand Chief Paula** and **Grand Chancellor Mike Talbot** drew tickets for the many prizes which **Paula** had been collecting for 3 years so that she could raise money for the Oregon Pythian College Fund. She chose this as her project so it would raise money for a project which was supported by both the Knights and Sisters. There were many prizes at both the banquet and at the Sisters meeting, so everyone could go home with a gift.

On Sunday we were told that **GC Paula** had to take her husband **Mike** to the hospital so **Grand Senior Maureen Murphy** presided over the meetings on Sunday. In the afternoon we had Installation of Officers. See **Grand Secretary Sherri's report** and page ___ for the new officer's list.

Next year we are looking forward to having a joint convention with the Knights again. It will be held at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville, which is on I-5 south of Portland. We look forward to seeing everyone there.



Hillsboro Pythians Activities



The members of **Phoenicia-Rose Temple** have been busy as usual this fall since the last issue of the OPN was published. So far this fall we have participated in two Bingo night fundraising dinners along with the **Hillsboro Pythians** to raise money for the **Relay for Life** which will be held next June. **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** We just voted to change the day of week and time of day of our fundraisers.

Going forward we plan to have them at NOON on the 1st SUNDAY of each month for our Bingo nights. (For many years we held them

in the evening on the first Saturday of each month.) If you like to play bingo and also like to help raise money for the American Cancer Society, please join us at the Hillsboro Pythian Hall. Everyone is invited to attend. **Our next event will be SUNDAY, January 7th at NOON at the Hillsboro Pythian Hall.**



We also participated in a Holiday Bazaar at the Tuality Hospital in Hillsboro to raise money for our favorite charities. **Barbara Christopher, PGC** and **Betty Alexander, PSR** coordinated getting the table at the bazaar reserved then the Sisters helped by crafting beautiful home made treasures and assisted in selling these items at the event. We all had plenty of fun while raising funds.

Our next event will be our annual **Holiday Dinner** hosted by the **Nomads** on December 9th at the Hall. We will also have Holiday music provided by **Mark Erickson**, decorations and show a Holiday movie for entertainment. The **Phoenix Lodge Knights** will provide the ham while the other members will bring side dishes and desserts. We are looking forward to having the members of the **HART Theater** group join us at our Holiday Dinner this year. This Theater group uses the Hillsboro Pythian Hall as a meeting place where they practice their performances for upcoming plays at the HART Theater. HART is an acronym for

Hillsboro Artists' Regional Theater.



We are so excited to have our own member, **Maureen Murphy, PSR** elected to serve as **Grand Chief** this year at Grand Temple. **GC Maureen** has been busy planning her schedule of visitations to each of the Temples coming up next spring. Our Temple also has several other Sisters serving as Grand Temple Officers. They are: **Grand Press Correspondent Donna Johnson, PSR**; **Grand Guard Sarah Owens, PSR**; **Grand Protector Sarah Murphy**; **Grand Treasurer Barbara Christopher, PGC**; **Grand Secretary Sherri Lee, PSR**; **Grand Manager Heather King** and **Grand Senior Shelley Corby, PSR**. The **District Convention** will be held at the Hillsboro Pythian Hall on the **first Saturday of May 2018**. It will be hosted by **Ivanette Temple #68** with **Mary Lou Sullivan** as the **DDGC**.

Another activity our Temple enjoys is the **Hillsboro Symphony**. On November 11th we attended a concert, the theme was the music of Composer John Williams. They played music from popular movies such as Harry Potter, Superman, Raiders of the Lost Ark and Star Wars. Since it was Veteran's Day, they opened the

concert with the Armed Forces Medley and asked Veterans who were present to stand during the performance of their branch's song. It was so moving to see all of the men and women who have served our country stand for this special performance. After the concert we went to Shari's restaurant for a refreshing snack or dessert while we discussed the wonderful performance. We were happy to have **2 special guests this time, Don Lacy's sister Dixie Logan and nephew Pat Lacy** were in town visiting so Don asked them to join us for the concert.



The Sisters of Phoenicia-Rose Temple wish the extend a Happy Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year to everyone. We look forward to another busy year filled with many worthwhile activities.

Article submitted by Shelley Corby; Photos submitted by Shelley Corby and Kathlene Henry

The Season of Multiple Holiday Celebrations is Upon Us ~

(Continued from page 1) The giving of gifts and spreading of cheer is associated with the Gifts of the Magi, or Eastern Kings who presented gifts. We also associate the gift giving and spreading of cheer with Saint Nicholas of Northern Europe who arrived on December 6th with gifts for the good children. And also with the Roman holiday of Saturnalia from December 17th to the New Year when homes were decorated and gifts were given to the children and the poor.



Chanukah: Festival of Rededication ~ By Darrell Henry

Chanukah, the Jewish festival of rededication, also known as the festival of lights, is an eight day festival beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev. Chanukah begins on December 7th this year. Chanukah is probably one of the best known Jewish holidays, not because of any great religious significance, but because of its proximity to Christmas.

The story of Chanukah begins in the reign of Alexander the Great who had conquered Syria, Egypt and Palestine, but allowed the land under his control to continue to observe their own religions and retain a certain amount of autonomy. More than a century later a successor of Alexander, Antiochus IV was in control of the region. He began to oppress the Jews severely. Prohibition of the practice of religion, massacring Jews, and desecration of their Temple by requiring the sacrifice of a pig (a non-kosher animal) on the altar, resulted in a revolt. The revolution succeeded and the Temple was rededicated.

According to tradition as recorded in the Talmud, at the time of the rededication there was very little oil left that had not been defiled by the Greeks. Oil was needed to burn the menorah (candelabrum) in the temple throughout the night every night. There was only enough oil to burn for one night, yet miraculously, it burned for eight days. An eight-day festival was declared to commemorate the miracle. It is of interest to note that the miracle of the oil, not the military victory; was celebrated. Jews do not glorify war.

Another tradition of the holiday is playing dreidel, a gambling game played with a square top. A dreidel is marked with four Hebrew letters: nun, gimel, heh and shin, which supposedly stand for the Hebrew phrase, "nes gadol hayah sham, which translates to "A great miracle happened here." While this is not the correct translation it does help to celebrate the remembrance of the miracle.

Kwanzaa ~ The First Fruit of the Harvest—From Kwanzaa website.

Kwanzaa is an African American holiday that was developed by Dr. Ron Karenga on December 26, 1996 to celebrate the oneness and goodness of African American life. Kwanzaa means "first fruit of the harvest" and claims no ties with religion. The purpose of Kwanzaa is to honor African American history and culture, and to celebrate the unity of families. There are seven principals of Kwanzaa that are celebrated over a seven-day period; each represented by a lit candle (mishumaa saba).

The first day of Kwanzaa celebrates the principle of Unity (Umoja). Family, friends, and neighbors gather together in order to create a sense of unity. The second day celebrates Self-determination (Kujichagulia). On this day, African American history is recognized as a means to self discovery and is used by people who celebrate Kwanzaa to decide who they are and who they want to become. This is a day of self-reflection and affirmation of future goals.

The third and fourth days of Kwanzaa celebrate Collective Work and Responsibility (Ujima) and Cooperative Economics (Ujama). Families and communities come together for a feast that everyone contributes a food item to. These days are significant to African American history because throughout time, farmers in Africa have celebrated bountiful harvests in a very similar way. The feast is a means of giving honor to this ancient African tradition.

The fifth day of Kwanzaa honors Purpose (Nia) and concentrates on hopes and dreams for the future. An ear of corn (muhindi) is placed on the Kwanzaa table for each child to symbolize the desire that parents have for their children to grow up strong, healthy, and fulfilled.

On the sixth day, Creativity (Kuumba) is celebrated. The purpose of the day is to make the world more beautiful by creating items that beautify the home. One of these items is a traditional placemat (Kkeka) that is created for the purpose of laying all other Kwanzaa symbols upon.

The seventh day of Kwanzaa celebrates Faith (Imani). On this day, people concentrate on believing in a productive, happy future and giving thanks for all that is good in the present. Each child receives gifts (Zawadi) that represent promises to keep during the coming year. Finally, at night, a big feast (Kkaramu) is eaten, followed by music and dancing. The celebration of Kwanzaa is then officially over.

Kwanzaa is a beautiful holiday that not only celebrates African American culture and history, but also the joy of being together as a family and community. According to Dr. Karenga, Kwanzaa is a way of life, not just a celebration. It is a week of actual remembering, reassessing, recommitting, rewarding and rejoicing.

***Editor's Note:** This article is a reprint from the OPN's December 2004 issue. Darrell Henry PSC was the OPN Editor from 2004 until his passing in October 2011 when the baton passed to me. As many of you know, Darrell was an uncommon man—always thinking and planning for the future. He spent much effort encouraging our members to follow **Pythian Principles** of being respectful, inclusive and charitable in our behavior toward others. In essence, to live by the Golden Rule, which is to treat others as you want them to treat you. Shortly after Darrell became the OPN Editor in 2004, he decided that the December issue of the OPN would be a good time to offer an explanation of the **MANY HOLIDAYS** which occur at this time of year. He solicited input from others and researched and wrote some of these sections himself. The goal was two-fold: to provide information which we might not otherwise know—and—to remind us that while each of us may celebrate one holiday or another, we should be respecting and accepting of holidays which are celebrated by others.*

Happy Holidays to each of you! Kathlene



Oregon Pythian Continuing Education Foundation (OPCEF)

The Oregon Pythian Continuing Education Foundation (OPCEF) encourages all students to apply every year for the OPCEF scholarship. Any Oregon Pythian member in good standing, their children, grandchildren, or relatives of a deceased Oregon Pythian who was in good standing at the time of their passing, is eligible to apply. A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required and applications are due by April 15th of each year. Scholarship applications are available from any Knights of Pythias Lodge or Pythian Sister Temple, or by contacting the OPCEF directly at:

OPCEF
c/o Gaston Lodge, PO Box 507, Gaston, OR 97119

The Board invites you to support continuing education for Oregon Pythians! Donations of any size are deeply appreciated and are welcome at the address listed above.

Please keep OPCEF in your thoughts during this time of giving. Scholarship funds are heavily dependent on your donations and donations of any size are deeply appreciated.



Ivanhoe's FRC Robotics Team Update

FIRST Team 1432 or Post 89 gathered at **Ivanhoe's Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall** on a cold Saturday morning. Although we weren't able to enter the Bunny Bot competition, designed to help new teams get ready for the main event in January, we were able to read the rules and make assumptions about how we and others would play the game.

The way that buckets were stacked turned out to be something we hadn't fully foreseen. Half of the buckets had the bunnies in them (see photo below) and tall stacks meant that bunnies fell out onto the carpet, making them easy to get or fell outside the field and neither side could get them. Another lesson is to build things strong enough to stand up to the inevitable bumps. We got a look at a new tool that lets a team place its virtual robot on this year's field.

*Article and Photos submitted by:
Alan LohKamp via Facebook*



← Photo of bunnies in a bucket and on floor outside of buckets



2018 Supreme Pythian Convention Info

Registration Forms and detailed information for the 2018 Supreme Pythian Convention in New York City have been published in both the *Pythian International* and *Pythian Sisters Tidings*. Please note that registering for this convention will be different than most Supreme Conventions that we have attended in the past. **New York's Supreme Convention Committee asks that you "Please send in your Reservations to the Convention Committee as listed in the Registration Forms. Please Do Not Call the Hotel."** Also, payment for hotel rooms, banquet meals and convention tours are to be paid by checks made payable to the KOP Humanitarian Fund Supreme Convention and mailed to: Supreme Convention 2018, c/o Jordan Levy, KGS, 2547 Mill Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11234

Convention Dates: Sunday, August 5- through Wednesday, August 8, 2018

Location: Sheraton Times Square Hotel, 811 7th Avenue, New York NY 10019

Special hotel room rates available from Friday, 8/3 through Saturday, 8/11.

\$199 for 1 or 2 people in room; \$229 for 3 people in room; \$259 for 4 people in hotel room.

Tentative Schedule:

Sunday, August 5th—

Morning—Trip to National September 11 Memorial & Museum (Cost \$45)

Afternoon—Joint Opening & Memorial

Evening—Cocktail Hour and Joint Banquet Honoring Supreme Lodge and Temple Officers (Cost \$65)

Monday, August 6th—Official Opening of Sessions

Evening—World Yacht Dinner Cruise Around Manhattan (Cost \$75)

Tuesday, August 7th—All Day Sessions

Far Western Society Luncheon

Wednesday, August 8th—Sessions until business completed

Installation of new Supreme Lodge and Temple Officers



Please use the Supreme Convention Committee's published forms to register for this convention.



To Our Pythian Friends & Family
Our best wishes to you for a
Happy Holiday Season!
Bruce & Marilyn Stevens

Pythian Fun Weekend—LaPine State Park

Pythian Fun Days were a great success again this year. We had members from 7 Lodges and 2 Temples. We had about 75 campers at **La Pine State Campground**. Friday evening, we drove about 60 miles to **Cowboy Dinner Tree Restaurant** for dinner. For the people who didn't attend, you missed the best meal we have ever had. We had 57 for dinner Friday evening. On Saturday morning we had 57 members and family tour the High Desert Museum. A good time was had by all. That evening we cooked dinner for 89 members and family. Sunday morning breakfast was served to about 59 people.

The only problem we had for the weekend was a slight difference I made in the reservation counts for one night, so a couple of people had to move their rigs after the first night. With the help of a great park ranger, and Pythians who pitched in to help people switch campsites, we got it all worked out and everybody had camp spots.

I almost forgot, we had one more small problem. Some of our folks were having too much fun and got a little loud after 10pm. The ranger had to pay a little visit to us, but all was well.

Ray Cable and I did really well playing horseshoes. A BIG THANKS to all who helped make it a great weekend.

Next years Pythian Fun Days will be at the Silver Spur Campground in Silverton, Oregon on July 12-15, 2018. We will visit the Oregon Gardens, and Silver Creek Falls is close by. Sorry, no tents are allowed at this campground. The camping fee is \$50.00 per night. For reservations or questions, call Don Allen @ 503-985-9548.



Pythian Fun Weekend—LaPine State Park



2018 Grand Convention—"Save the Date" Info

Here's preliminary information for 2018 Grand Convention:

Dates: Friday, 10-19-2018 through Sunday, 10-21-2018

Location: Holiday Inn—Wilsonville, Oregon

Hotel has ample free parking

Convenient location on I-5 south of Portland

Free wireless service

Accessible (Handicap) rooms available

Pets are allowed

Kids ages 18 and under "Stay and Eat Free"



Please stay tuned for more info in OPN Spring Issue.

OPN Editor's Message

Dear Brothers, Sisters, Family and Friends,

I'm so proud of my sister **Maureen Murphy** who is serving as Grand Chief this year. It is her second time as Oregon's Grand Chief. She follows in the footsteps of our dear, sweet **Mom Viona Lacy**, who was loved by so many people. Our Mom had a special way of making everyone feel loved and important. Maureen has that same wonderful attribute. Everyone just loves Maureen and with good reason! Enjoy your second term as GC, Maureen. We love you!

I'm proud of **GC Don Allen** too! His Grand Chancellor's message in this issue demonstrates leadership skills which should help us move forward. I also appreciate Don's willingness to **partner with the Sisters**. It will be nice to have joint Pythian functions again.

As one year comes to an end and a new year begins, we pause to spend special times with family and friends. We think of those who are far away and those who have passed to the Temple Above. We count our blessings and offer hope for the New Year to come.

I hope that each of you will enjoy this special season. I hope that your health is good and that you are happy, or at least content.

Please give some thought to Pythian projects for the 2018 year. Be Proud to be a Pythian and help us get our name out into the community so that others will hear about us and want to join in our good works.

Last year we went back to having 3 issues of the OPN—Spring, Summer and Holiday issues. We plan to do the same for 2018. Please continue your support of the OPN. We appreciate all support: OPN Boosters, Holiday Greetings, advertisements and donations—even coin marches from regular and district meetings. OPN Boosters (see chart on right) contribute an extra \$8 or \$10 to help defray the cost of printing and postage for our older and/or housebound members who cannot get the OPN via the internet. or at their lodge or temple meetings.

Request: If you change your email address or postal mailing address, please promptly notify both the OPN and your Grand Secretary. If you're currently receiving a paper copy of the OPN via postal mail and you're willing to switch to email, please let me know. Any names we can remove from the "snail mail" list save precious OPN budget money.

If you have suggestions for the OPN, please submit those also. We're always looking for new ideas.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!

Kathlene

OPN Editor

Happy
Holidays!

OPN CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

If you move or change your email address, please send updated info to
Kathlene Henry, OPN Editor @ PO Box 40713, Portland OR 97240.

YOUR NAME: _____ LODGE/TEMPLE: _____

NEW MAILING ADDRESS: _____

OLD EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

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OREGON PYTHIAN NEWS

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Unsigned material will not be accepted for publication.

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Change Service Requested

**SEE THE OPN AT
oregonpythians.org**

Upcoming Pythian Events

- ⇒ **December 31**—North Plains New Year's Eve Celebration—
Details on Cover Page
- ⇒ **January 7** (Sunday) — Hillsboro Pythians' Relay for Life
Fundraiser Dinner—New Date and Time: 1st SUNDAY of
each month at NOON (*January 7th is also Don Lacy's 91st
Birthday*)
- ⇒ January—Aurora's Annual Crab Feed—Contact Hermes
Lodge for date and time
- ⇒ **February 5** (Sunday) - Hillsboro Pythians Relay Fundraiser
Dinner—1st SUNDAY of each month at NOON
- ⇒ **May 5** (Saturday) — Pythian Sisters' District Convention in
Hillsboro hosted by Ivanette Temple #68
- ⇒ **June 18** (Saturday) —Relay for Life walk-a-thon—Hillsboro
Stadium
- ⇒ **July 12-15** (Thursday—Sunday) — Pythian Fun Weekend in
Silverton—Contact Don Allen or Ed Yates for details
- ⇒ **August 5-8** (Friday-Weds) - Supreme Convention in New
York City (See page 15 for details)
- ⇒ **August TBD** (Saturday) — Wapato Showdown Car Show in
Gaston—Details at www.WapatoShowdown.org
- ⇒ Please send details of your Pythian events to the OPN Editor
and we'll add them to the calendar in the next issue!

2018 Pythian Fun Weekend Save the Date



Dates: July 12–15, 2018

Location: Silver Spur RV Campground located near Silverton, Oregon. They have 20 acres of landscaped grounds with several ponds for fishing, walking trails, family activities and group meeting areas. Free wifi.

Lots to See & Do: We will visit the Oregon Gardens on Saturday morning. Other nearby venues: Silver Creek Falls State Park, Covered Bridge Tour, Willamette Valley Fruit Company, Mt. Angel Glockenspiel, local wineries and tastings; plus downtown Silverton with many shops and restaurants.

RV Camping: Prices are \$50.00 per night for campsites. Sorry, no tent camping at this location.

To reserve an RV spot—or—if you have any questions please call:

Don Allen 503-715-6312 or

Ed Yates 503-806-5359

RIGHT AWAY BEFORE ALL THE SITES ARE FILLED.

Information submitted by Don Allen