

The *Visor*

*The official publication of Albany City Lodge #540
Knights of Pythias*

*Meetings on the 4th Sunday at 10:00 A.M.
Jewish Federation Building
184 Washington Ave. Ext
Albany New York 12203*

'If fraternal love held all men bound, how beautiful this world would be'

March 25, 2025

Vol. # 25.3.1

MEETING REMINDER

Due to a scheduling conflict, our next regular lodge meeting will be on Sunday morning March 30, 2025, at the Jewish Federation Building on Washington Ave. Ext. @ 10:00 AM (9:30 AM coffee and bagels)

Your input is important as your officers cannot continue to run your lodge without your support. They hope to see you on Sunday, at the Jewish Federation building on Washington Avenue extension.

Albany City Lodge #540 Celebrates 100th Anniversary

You are cordially invited to celebrate **Albany City Lodge's 100th Anniversary**
Brunch on Sunday, May 18, 2025, at the Italian American Community Center, 257 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, New York.

Lox & Bagels, Scrambled Eggs, Home Fries, Bacon, Cinnamon French Toast, Fresh Yogurt Bar, Juice / Coffee / Tea, Danish and Cake.

The cost is **\$25 / person** (the lodge is subsidizing the event to keep the cost down to the attendees) Doors open at 11:00 A.M. with open seating. To reserve a table for eight, please provide attendee names with your reservation.

Please notify us of any dietary restrictions or allergies.

For reservations please contact:

Martin Seaman: (518) 452-5416

Fred Simon: (518) 489-0257

Harold Rockowitz: (518) 727-3088

ALBANY CITY LODGE #540, Knights of Pythias

Chartered - May 11, 1925

REMEMBERING HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS in

Friendship, Charity & Benevolence

In this year, a century milestone for Albany City Lodge, we pause to reflect on some highlights, starting with prior milestone celebrations. For those of our brothers who were active in the 1970s, we last celebrated our 50th anniversary in 1975 under the then Chancellor Commander Stephen Grobman. We held a well-attended dinner dance with a cocktail hour at the Italian American Community Center. The Chairman was Supreme Representative, Leonard A. Weiss.

At that time, records show our Lodge was comprised of about 650 members including Brothers from Peabody Lodge No.32 and Troy City Lodge No. 793 who

had merged with our lodge. We also had an affiliate Pythian organization, The “DOKKIES” (El Jebel Temple No. 166) to which many of our brothers belonged.

Our Lodge was located for many years at 728 Madison Avenue in Albany. That building was purchased in 1958 after 33 years of meeting in eight prior different locations. Our Castle Hall included basement office space for our Federal Credit Union that was established in 1967. We had an upstairs lounge for members cards playing. Beginning in 1973, once a week we ran popular BINGO games open to the community, at which we had hot pizza and refreshments available. Many of our brothers volunteered to work BINGO and the kitchen. A few member teenagers worked as “soda boys or girls” like waiters and waitresses. It was rewarding fun. Our Madison Avenue location was usually a busy Pythian activity place.

On June 3, 2000, we celebrated our seventy-fifth anniversary with a dinner dance at the Marriott Hotel on Wolf Road, under the leadership of Chancellor Commander Michael Stracher. Our membership remained strong with over 400 brothers, many of whom attended the celebration event. It was again chaired by Judge Leonard A Weiss, Past Supreme Representative. Our State Grand Chancellor Bergenfeld also honored our lodge by attending.

While looking forward to our Centennial celebration this year, we will try to present some highlighted recollections from the past. If anyone has pictures or memorabilia they would like to share, please make it known and contact Martin Seaman (518) 452-5416.

100 YEARS OF F-C-B – Albany City Lodge #540 Activities

Sample of Lodge Activities over the years - Do you remember?

New Year's Eve Parties at our Castle Hall; Dancing, Food and BYOB.

Fifties Sweetheart (Valentine's Day) Dances at our Castle Hall.

Membership Breakfasts (& Dinners) with Guest Speakers.

Leukemia Fund Raising Radiothons at our Castle Hall.

Bowling League at the Playdium/Schades – Monday nights – over many years.

Pythian Family Picnics at Ben Becker's Camp Nassau.

Parent-Child Sunday Bowling at Schade's Bowling Academy.

Group vacation Trips (1980s) including to Miami, Acapulco, St. Maarten, Atlantic City.

Bus Trips NYC Lower East Side (1981); South Street Seaport (1984); Atlantic City.

Bus trips to Massachusetts -Football games or Celtics basketball/hockey double headers.

Bus Trip to Quincy Market, Boston (2007).

Utica Lodge Smokers (Bus, Dinner & Show).

Annual Golf Day and Steak Dinner at Shaker Ridge Country Club and other golf venues.

Annual Indoor Olympics for Mentally Handicapped Children & Adults at the New Scotland Avenue Armory (annually 1972-1983).

Identify-A-Child Project (Child Safety Public Service) with local & NYS Police & US Navy (In 1966 it was reported that nearly 600 children were fingerprinted and photo identified at the Local shopping malls. The parents were given the ID packets by the police).

Adopt a Needy Family holiday project.

BINGO fund raiser Friday nights at our Castle Hall.

Colonie Coliseum & Starlight Theater Shows (Sammy Davis, Jr, Neil Sedaka, Wayne Newton).

Grand Lodge Upstate NY Investiture & Convention in Syracuse and later years at Turning Stone.

Old Timers' Night Meetings (Honors to 25&50 Year Members) & Memorial Service.

Bowl-A-Thon fund-raiser to benefit Cystic Fibrosis Society.

Pythian Players Fund Raiser - Stage Productions (1980-84) "Come Blow Your Horn", "Dear Me the Sky is Falling", & "Forty Carats" (Actors and Stage Crews Brothers, Spouses & Friends).

Annual Lodge Officers' Installation Ball at Shaker Ridge Country Club.

Outstanding Pythian and Life Member Honors Dinner-Dance.

Annual Halloween visits in costumes to cheer kids in hospital pediatric wards.

Halloween Party for Pythian Children Grandchildren at Castle Hall including our "Town Clowns".

Autumn Hayride Saturday Evening Social at Hemlock Ridge Farm.

Youth Bowling boys and girls 7-17; 3 games, free T-shirts, shoes & trophies.

Little League baseball team(s) sponsorship at Westland Hills LL & National LL in Albany.

Saratoga Gaming & Raceway socials including prime ribs buffet.

Grand Lodge Three-in-One Ranks and Dinners.

Does anybody have information or stories about the Minstrel Shows???

A great 100 years of Friendship, Charity and Benevolence. More to come.

Chancellor Commander / Harold Rockowitz (518) 727-3088	Prelate / Hal Tanzman (518) 729-8929
Vice Chancellor / Michael Shapiro (518) 373-5999	Master at Arms / Michael Stracher
Treasurer / Mark Kovach (518) 221-3561	Inner Guard / Martin Green
Rec. Secretary / Sir Martin Seaman PACDGC (518) 452-5416	Outer Guard / Donald Basin
Financial Secretary / Jayson Schnier PACDGC (518) 577-5505	Master of Work / PACDGC Fred Simon