



CALIFORNIA PYTHIAN



Published for the Knights of Pythias of California, a Fraternal
Organization

GRAND CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias, Domain of California:

I would like to introduce you to the first edition of the newly revised California Pythian, the Official publication of the Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias, of the Golden Domain of California. It has been several years since this form of communication has been used, and as Grand Chancellor, I would like to see monthly publications of the California Pythian that contain written articles (photographs, if available) from every Subordinate Lodge within the Domain, communicating the activities of their respective Lodges, such as: meeting dates and times; community interactions; fundraising events; volunteer opportunities and charitable donations.

If your Subordinate Lodge or the Grand Lodge has a story to share, this will be the forum to do so. The Grand Lodge and Beverly Hills Lodge #393 are featured here.

First, I would like to introduce the newly elected Officers of the Grand Lodge:

Grand Chancellor Richard Dorfman, PSR (Beverly Hills Lodge #393)
Grand Vice Chancellor Sheldon Ochitill (Beverly Hills Lodge #393)
Grand Prelate Frank Rose (Tustin Lodge #85)
Grand Secretary Sir Dan Cowan, PSC (Beverly Hills Lodge #393)
Grand Treasurer Greg Siegmann, SR (Tustin Lodge #85)
Grand Master at Arms Marcus Myers (Lincoln Lodge #34)
Grand Inner Guard Steve Dunner (Gov. Frank Merriam Lodge #401)
Grand Outer Guard Tom Rose ((Tustin Lodge #85)

I am personally inviting all who wish to attend my first Grand Council meeting on Saturday, December 11, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., at the Castle Hall of Beverly Hills Lodge #393, located at 1720 Ocean Park Boulevard, Santa Monica, 90405. COVID-19 protocols will be in effect and enforced.

Fraternally yours,
Richard Dorfman/PSR
Grand Chancellor

BEVERLY HILLS LODGE #393 DONATES LOCALLY

Saint John's Health Center is a complex, vibrant and nationally renowned 266-bed hospital that has been serving the Santa Monica and Westside Los Angeles communities since 1942. Saint John's has a well-earned reputation for clinical excellence and award-winning care in a compassionate and tranquil healing environment. Distinguished by its patient care programs, it is also the anchor for two outstanding partners, the Saint John's Cancer Institute and the Pacific Neuroscience Institute. The dynamic collaboration between Saint John's and these two world-class research institutes offers a uniquely nimble approach to medical care. Innovative research directly impacts health center patients with rare immediacy. Clinical trials give patients access to leading-edge treatments and procedures—while facilitating research discoveries. And everyone benefits. Through the Power of Partnership, Saint John's will advance its service in every area of clinical patient care— and create four additional institutes spanning women's health, digestive health, orthopedics and spine, and heart and vascular. On Tuesday, November 9, 2021, Chancellor Commander Steve Dunner accompanied by Inner Guard Alan Halpern of Beverly Hills Lodge #393 visited the Saint John's Health Center Foundation. CC Dunner presented Pam Solomon, Director of Development and Bob Klein, President & CEO with a charitable donation from Beverly Hills Lodge #393.



BEVERLY HILLS LODGE #393 DONATES LOCALLY

Vista Del Mar Child & Family Services guided by core values of empowerment, equity, and excellence. They consider the youth and families they work with to be equal partners in pursuing improved wellbeing and individual, family, and community equity and empowerment. They provide services and facilitate opportunities without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, gender expression, sexual orientation, religious preferences, or physical ability. They actively advance equal opportunity, equitable access, mutual respect, collaboration, and teamwork. Their goal is to deliver innovative, best-in-class services and build a sustainable organization that consistently improves wellbeing among their clients, their families, and their respective communities. On Tuesday, November 9, 2021, Chancellor Commander Steve Dunner accompanied by Inner Guard Alan Halpern of Beverly Hills Lodge #393 visited the Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services. CC Dunner presented Diane Duncan, CFO with a charitable donation from Beverly Hills Lodge #393.



Grand Lodge and Beverly Hills Lodge #393 Support Project: PeaceMakers, Inc.

By vote of the Grand Lodge Council with approval from the Grand Lodge Foundation Trustees, a donation of \$500.00 was presented by the Grand Lodge to Project: PeaceMakers, Inc. Beverly Hills Lodge #393 presented an additional donation of \$250.00 to aid in the exceptional work provided by Project: PeaceMakers, Inc., whose Mission is to interact with all aspects of the community in an endeavor to enhance the quality of life by addressing Domestic Family/Intimate Partner Violence (DF/IPV). Through education, intervention, empowerment and prevention, they are able to teach and apply a healthy, positive life-changing approach in helping break the cycle of violence in our homes and our communities.

Project: PeaceMakers, Incorporated (PPMI) is a California nonprofit public benefit corporation founded in 1995 to address the under-served population affected by Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence (DV/IPV) and its effects. PPMI provides prevention and intervention support services in English and Spanish through case management; individual counseling; group counseling; domestic violence, parenting and anger management classes, as well as housing assistance, crisis intervention, and safety planning. PPMI's program further provides information and referrals for job training, and placement.

During PPMI's 26-years in existence, the agency has collaborated with Great Beginnings for Black Babies, Jenesse Center, Los Angeles County Department of Social Services, Los Angeles Child Guidance Center, His Sheltering Arms, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, African American Unity Center, City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security, just to name a few. Presently, the agency is contracted with the County of Los Angeles, SPA 6, Department of Public Health-Office of Women Health, and still collaborates with both Los Angeles and Long Beach LGBTQ Centers, Jenesse Center, Los Angeles County Probation Department, Coalition for Responsible Community Development and Ruby's House for Sober Living.

Project: PeaceMakers, Inc. Collaborates with Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund

By Kelie J. Sturgis, Chief Operations Officer

There are so many domestic violence victims who feel there is no way out of their current situation because of a lack of knowledge and resources. At Project: PeaceMakers, Inc. (PPMI) in Los Angeles, California, we have over 200 clients that our case managers assist each week in classes, individual counseling, Temporary Restraining Orders, and essential resources like housing, food, and clothing. Seeing these victims and their children become healthy survivors is my motivation to keep being a servant-leader for all human beings!

I am the chief operations officer and have worked for the organization steadily for the last five years. I am a retired Los Angeles police officer, and my mother, who is the co-founder and CEO of the organization, asked me to assist her in operating the business as she is getting older. My mother has been working in the domestic violence and

intimate partner violence arena for 41 years. Knowing how dedicated and committed she has been to helping victims and survivors, as she is a survivor, it was a no-brainer that I needed to assist her in any way I could to continue to fulfill her vision and mission.

Gun violence is extremely prevalent in the lives of the victims we come in contact with on a daily basis in Los Angeles. We need to educate our clients on how to SAFELY avoid incidents of gun violence when they are in a domestic violence environment, especially in their homes.

With the support of an Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund Domestic Violence Grant, we have formulated a gun safety survey so all of our clients receive detailed information on the correlation between gun violence and domestic violence victims and survivors. We have added gun safety as a topic to our syllabus to teach in all of our classes, including domestic violence/intimate partner violence education classes, parenting education, and anger management classes. We share these materials so our communities understand the importance of gun safety and how it can impact the lives of victims and their children.

We are a small nonprofit organization with 15 total employees, but our amazing team—receptionist, case managers/facilitators, administrative staff, management, and board of directors—are large in heart, dedication, commitment, and a passion to assist all human beings, especially those of people of color, LGBTQ+, faith-based communities, and low-income families in the heart of South Los Angeles! Our motto is, “We want to ‘BE’ the change in your life!!!” This is the passion that drives each of us to ‘BE’ the difference to our clients.

Grand Lodge Supports American Cancer Society

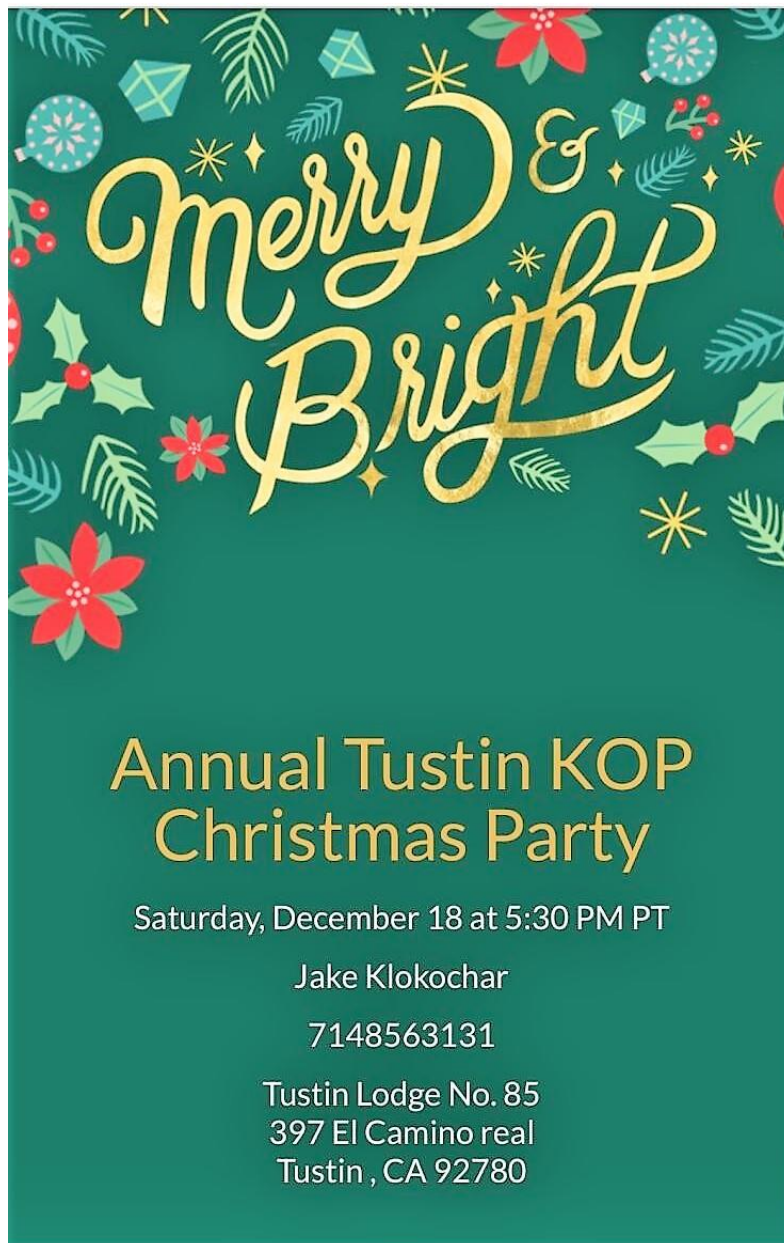
At the recently convened Rescheduled 2020 Grand Lodge Convention held at the La Quinta Inns and Suites in La Palma, California October 22-23, 2021, the voting members contributed \$700.00 dollars through good natured fines, all in the name of charity. Presiding Grand Chancellor Dave Klokochar selected the American Cancer Society to be the recipient of the funds raised. PC Art Cohen, a member of Gov. Frank Merriam Lodge #401 announced that he would at least match or increase the amount raised by his own personal donation to support the American Cancer Society. Additionally, by vote of the Grand Lodge Council with approval from the Grand Lodge Foundation Trustees, the amount of \$1,000.00 was approved to be donated by the Grand Lodge to the American Cancer Society. On Friday, November 12, 2021, Grand Secretary Dan Cowan, KGS/PSC personally presented three checks representing a total of \$3,000.00: \$1,300.00 from Brother Cohen; \$1,000.00 from the Grand Lodge Foundation; and \$700.00 from the Grand Lodge Convention attendees to Kim McCormick, Team Leader of the TMPN Cancer Care Bears Relay for Life Team. Although due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Cancer Care Bears’ team consisting of doctors, nurses, medical assistants and staff for the TMPN Cancer Care Center in Torrance, California, have been unable to Relay in-person, their fundraising efforts directly benefitting the American Cancer Society have been in full swing. The charitable donations from Brother Cohen and the Grand Lodge will greatly help the Cancer Care Bears in reaching their goals in their Fight Against Cancer.

**Tustin Lodge #85 announces
its Annual KOP Christmas Party**

**397 El Camino Real
Tustin 92780**

Festivities will start at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets for this event are \$30 per person and must be purchased in advance by contacting Jake Klokochar, PC at (714) 856-3131.





Supreme Lodge Knights of Pythias

Bruce H. Brown, KGS

Supreme Chancellor

1619 Robinhood Drive

Charleston, SC 29407

Tel: 843-571-2614 E-mail: bhb4201@gmail.com

November 12, 2021

As the pandemic is seeming to wane and we gather to give thanks for family, friends and all the trimmings; let us not forget those who are less fortunate than we and include them in our giving.

We the Pythian family have always been there to help others when in need. As this time of year brings family and friends closer together, let us do this in a giving and safe manor for all our Sisters and Brothers.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Bruce H. Brown

Bruce H. Brown, KGS

Supreme Chancellor