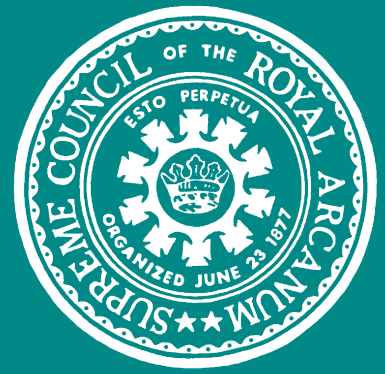


ROYAL ARCANUM
AN INTERNATIONAL FRATERNITY PROVIDING FAMILY PROTECTION

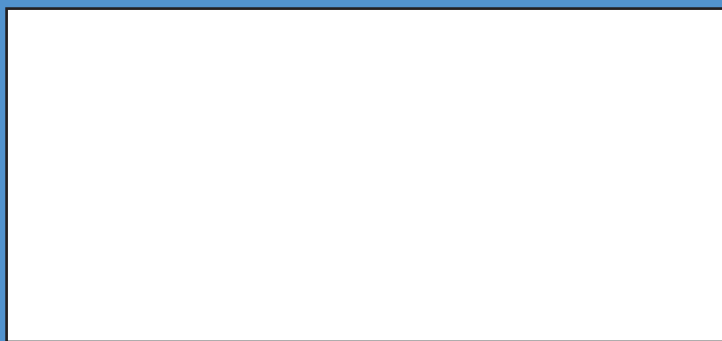


Bulletin

Winter Edition 2018



BRING ON 2018!



Official Publication of the
**Supreme Council of the
Royal Arcanum**
.....
Fraternal Services to Our
Members Since 1877

TEAM WORK

A Message from the Supreme Regent Un Message Du Régente Suprême

Errica Conforto - Supreme Regent

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My husband Joe and I want to wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. My family and I certainly did, but personally, with all the hustle and bustle, I am glad it's over.

As I mentioned earlier, 2017 was a very productive year for the Royal Arcanum, both in the business aspect and in many subordinate and grand councils with members getting more involved. I was also pleased to see the increase in fraternal and charitable activities in the jurisdictions for my **TEAM WORK** program.

As members of one of the oldest fraternal societies, I am asking you, what is your New Year's resolution for helping our organization grow? A simple suggestion is to enroll a new member; they will experience the meaning of fraternalism and **TEAM WORK** and look forward to becoming more active in our Society.

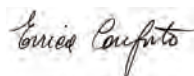
As your Supreme Regent, it has been a wonderful experience throughout the year meeting our members and visiting our jurisdictions, and I will be making presentations in Michigan, Florida and California in the spring.

Congratulations to all the volunteer recommenders who produced in the first year of the **TEAM WORK** campaign. A drawing was held, and seven winners received a Fitbit fitness watch. You can be a winner this year, but you need to be in it, so let's motivate and produce!

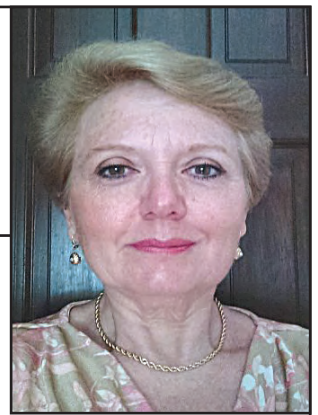
The Northeast has been getting hit with lots of snow and cold weather; please stay warm and safe! I am a bit jealous of those of you in the warmer states! All I can say is that time flies and spring will be here before we know it! I'm looking forward to the sunshine at our 104th Supreme Council Session in Orlando, Florida this July. Hope to see you all there.

All the best for 2018!

Yours in V.M.C.



Errica Conforto
Supreme Regent



Chers frères et sœurs,

Mon mari Joe et moi voulons vous souhaiter une nouvelle année très heureuse et prospère! J'espère que tout le monde a passé de merveilleuses vacances. Ma famille et moi avons certainement fait, mais personnellement, avec toute l'agitation, je suis heureux que ce soit fini.

Comme je l'ai mentionné plus tôt, 2017 a été une année très productive pour le Royal Arcanum, à la fois dans le domaine des affaires et dans de nombreux conseils subalternes et grands avec des membres qui s'impliquent davantage. J'ai également été heureux de voir l'augmentation des activités fraternelles et caritatives dans les jurisdictions pour mon programme de **TRAVAIL EN ÉQUIPE**.

En tant que membres de l'une des sociétés fraternelles les plus anciennes, je vous demande quelle est votre résolution du Nouvel An pour aider notre organisation à grandir? Une suggestion simple est d'inscrire un nouveau membre; ils feront l'expérience du sens du fraternalisme et du **TRAVAIL D'ÉQUIPE** et se réjouissent de devenir plus actifs dans notre société.

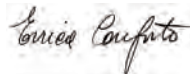
En tant que régente suprême, ce fut une merveilleuse expérience tout au long de l'année de rencontrer nos membres et de visiter nos jurisdictions et de faire des présentations au Michigan, en Floride et en Californie au printemps.

Félicitations à tous les recommandataires bénévoles qui ont participé à la première année de la campagne **TEAM WORK**. Un tirage au sort a eu lieu et sept gagnants ont reçu une montre de fitness Fitbit. Vous pouvez être un gagnant cette année, mais vous devez y être, alors motivons-nous et produisons!

Le nord-est a été frappé avec beaucoup de neige et de temps froid; s'il vous plaît restez au chaud et en sécurité! Je suis un peu jaloux de ceux d'entre vous dans les états les plus chauds! Tout ce que je peux dire c'est que le temps passe et que le printemps sera là avant que nous le sachions! J'attends avec impatience le soleil à notre 104e session du Conseil suprême à Orlando, en Floride, en juillet prochain. En espérant vous voir tous là-bas.

Tout le meilleur pour 2018!

Vôtre en V.M.C.



Errica Conforto
Régente suprême

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Deceased Members

Recently Deceased Members are reported on our website on a monthly basis. Click "About Us" and "In Memoriam."

Cover Caption

Meredith, Hazel, Teddy and Harry Benoit ringing in the New Year.

Bulletin Deadline

Articles and photos must be in the editorial office by **March 28, 2018**. Mail to the Royal Arcanum Bulletin, Home Office, 61 Batterymarch Street, Boston, MA 02110-3208.

Next Publication Date: **May 4, 2018**

NEW JERSEY WELCOMES THE SUPREME REGENT

Members of the New Jersey Grand Council were happy to officially welcome Supreme Regent Errica and Joe Conforto, Supreme Vice Regent Debbie and Morgan Young, and Supreme Orator Maria and Freddy DiBartolo to Bayonne for the presentation of Sister Errica's **TEAM WORK** program on October 8, 2017.

As their charitable initiative, members generously supported Liberty Humane Society by donating pet food and supplies for the non-profit shelter located in Jersey City.

The Arcanians expressed enthusiasm for the innovative **TEAM WORK** campaign, particularly its focus on fraternal volunteerism and look forward to a productive and year ahead.



The Supreme Regent presented Supreme Auditor Joseph R. Macon, FICF with his 50-year RA Veteran's pin.



Supreme Regent Errica Conforto congratulated attendance award winners: Beth Butto, Mary Ann Decha and Evelyn Magarban.



Deputy Supreme Regent Gen Macon presented gifts of appreciation to Supreme Regent Errica Conforto, Supreme Orator Maria DiBartolo and Supreme Vice Regent Debbie Young.



Supreme Council Officers in attendance for Supreme Regent Errica Conforto's program presentation in New Jersey.



Stella Rakowski of Versatility Council received her RA Life Membership Award from the Supreme Regent.



Three generations of the Mincieli-Butto Family were happy to participate in the festivities and welcome Supreme Regent Errica and Joe Conforto to the Peninsula City.



Bayonne, Versatility and Sons of Poland Council members welcomed the Supreme Regent to the Garden State.

CALIFORNIA BRINGS JOY TO KIDS IN HOSPITAL



The Grand Council of California and San Jose Council #2384 hosted a Christmas Party where members brought new gifts for hospitalized children. Many beautiful presents were contributed for children, ranging in age

from newborn to teen. The members enjoyed their holiday gathering and were happy to be Santa's helpers in making the holiday merrier for the young patients.

TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT MONEY

One reason parents give children allowances is to help them learn how to manage money. For it to be a truly effective teaching tool, though, parents should spell out what the allowance will cover, how it can be spent, the consequences of overspending, and how much should be saved or given to charity.

Here are some guidelines:

- **Encourage planning.** When deciding how much the allowance should be, consider giving enough to encourage saving or charitable giving. Be careful not to give too much, though. If the kids can buy anything they want, the allowance fails to teach them how to prioritize and set goals.



- **Set up a payday.** Try choosing a day early in the week to encourage kids to plan ahead for weekend expenses.
- **Set limitations and guidelines.** If you don't want them to buy things you don't want them to have, require that they consult you before making purchases over a specific amount, like \$10.
- **Expect mistakes.** Children will probably overspend at first. Don't get angry. Help the child correct his or her mistakes and learn from them.
- **Don't link the allowance to chores.** If allowance is "payment" for chores, children can too easily decide to skip their chores and accept not getting any allowance, which defeats the purpose.

INTEGRITY COUNCIL

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



**Sitting Past
PA Grand
Regent Jay R.
Newlin**

Under the leadership of committee chair, Lillie Mae Panichelli, Integrity Council members enjoyed a delightful dinner party with a special emphasis this year, namely the honoring of Sitting Past Grand Regent of Pennsylvania, Jay R. Newlin, for a most successful term as the Grand Regent.

Those attending gathered at the Popi's Italian Restaurant on Monday evening, December 11,

2017 for a full-course holiday dinner, including filet mignon and crab cakes. The menu was arranged by Joe Tedesco. Integrity Regent Antoinette Malone welcomed members and guests in attendance, and shortly into the dinner Past Supreme Regent Herb Snyder introduced the entertainment for the evening, Adam Haines on the piano and Josh Glassman as tenor vocalist. Everyone enjoyed the Christmas music and carol sing.

Lillie Mae Panichelli invited Jay Newlin to come forward, read of his many accomplishments in the Royal Arcanum, thanked Jay for his continuing service and presented him with a pair of gold and silver cuff links. Jay's mother, brother, and sister-in-law were present for the memorable and happy occasion. The party concluded with a \$25.00 gift exchange among those participating led by Paul D'Emilio.



**Pianist Adam Haines
and Soloist Joshua
Glassman**



Integrity Gang Enjoying Dinner



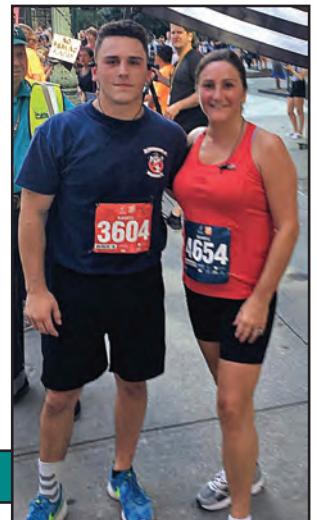
Herb Snyder, Jay Newlin and the Newlin family

TUNNEL TO TOWERS 5K RUN

Teresa Troglio of Versatility Council #2501 and her son, Michael Troglio of Bayonne Council #695 participated in the September 24, 2017 Tunnel to Towers 5K Run in New York. The annual event is held to honor the memory of firefighter Stephen Siller who lost his life while trying to save others during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and to pay homage to the firefighters, law enforcement officers and civilians who died

that day. The 5K Run and Walk traces Siller's final footsteps from Brooklyn's Battery Tunnel to the Twin Towers; a journey he made while carrying 60 pounds of gear, and concludes at the Freedom Tower. This year's event raised funds for those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Michael and Teresa Troglio trained for the 5K Run and were proud to participate in the New York event.



CAROLINAS WELCOME THE SUPREME REGENT

On November 11, 2017 the Grand Council of the Carolinas welcomed Supreme Regent Joe and Errica Conforto and Supreme Vice Regent Debbie and Morgan Young to Asheville for the presentation of Sister Errica's **TEAM WORK** campaign. An enthusiastic group of Arcanian brothers and sisters attended the

dinner meeting arranged by Deputy Supreme Regent B. Joe Merrill. The members were happy to learn more about the new products and programs being offered by the Royal Arcanum and the many opportunities available to councils for conducting fraternal and charitable activities in the subordinate and grand councils.



Attendance prize winners B. Joe Merrill and Jane Merrill with Supreme Regent Errica Conforto and Supreme Vice Regent Debbie Young.



The Arcanians of North Carolina welcomed the Supreme Council visiting officers.

GRINS AND GIGGLES: WHO'S THERE?

A man answered a knock at his door and found a giant cockroach standing on his porch holding a pie. "Can I help you?" The man asked.

The roach threw the pie in the man's face and ran away.

The next day, the man encountered the same roach on his porch. Before he could say anything, the roach slapped the man in the face and ran off.

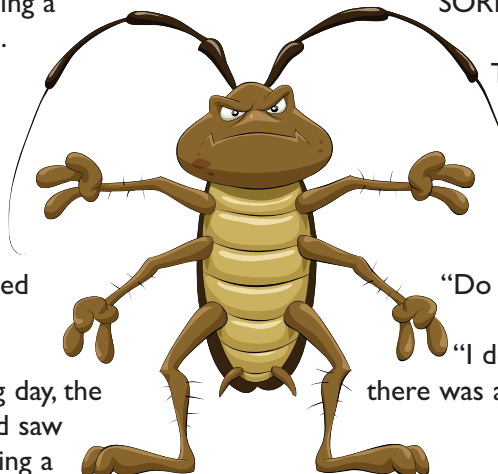
When the doorbell rang the following day, the man looked through the peephole and saw the roach standing on the porch holding a

bouquet of flowers and an index card with the word "SORRY" scrawled on it.

The man cautiously opened the door. The roach lunged at him, bit him on the arm and ran off laughing.

Worried about the bite the man called his doctor and told him what happened. "Do you think I'll be OK?" he asked.

"I don't know," his doctor replied, "I'd heard there was a nasty bug going around."



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATED IN NEW YORK



The Grand Council of New York and Claremont Council #1655 hosted their annual Junior and Adult Christmas Parties on December 3rd and 10th, respectively, at Juliano's Caterers in New Rochelle.

Supreme Regent Errica Conforto and Grand Regent Maria DiBartolo were delighted to welcome one and all to the festivities. The Juniors were thrilled with the games, entertainment and gifts arranged especially for them. A gala Broadway Show which featured Maria DiBartolo, Diana Chiechi and Sal DiFranco saw the stars shining brightly as they were cheered on by a captive audience. Santa was happy to bring a sleighful of goodies for everyone and share his "Thanks" for the Arcanian **TEAM WORK** spirit and all the wonderful projects conducted this past year.



The Juniors await Santa's arrival.



New Jersey and New York Officers enjoyed ringing in the holidays together.

NEW YORK'S THANKSGIVING TEAM PROJECT

Members of the New York Grand Council and Claremont Council #1655 conducted their annual charitable gifting project for the Thanksgiving holiday by providing turkeys and all the fixings to help make the holiday happier for families in need. Led by Supreme Regent Errica Conforto and Grand Regent Maria DiBartolo, members packed cars filled with turkeys, stuffing mix, gravy, soup, canned and fresh fruits and vegetables, pasta and sauce, coffee and tea, plus dessert mixes and other kitchen staples; all thoughtfully donated by the councils and members for this **TEAM WORK** volunteer project.



TEAM WORK New York volunteers with staff at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in the Bronx.

Left to right: Sr. Edna Loquias, Carmine Campo, Errica Conforto, Rev. Israel Boadi, Gary DeLeo, Maria DiBartolo, Frances Magnotta, Augie Magnotta, and Joe Conforto.

The Thanksgiving dinner items were donated to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in the Bronx for distribution to families in time for the nation's holiday. In addition, a vast supply of winter clothing items, bedding and other household gifts were contributed to assist the church's mission in servicing the poor

in the community and neighboring areas.

Reverend Israel Boadi, Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel accepted the many gifts and expressed the deep gratitude of parish staff for the Royal Arcanum's generosity and inspiring charitable spirit for helping others.

LJD AWARD PRESENTED

As the 2017 recipient of the Royal Arcanum's Lorraine J. D'Emilio Legacy of Hope Award, Bayonne, New Jersey members were pleased to present the Supreme Council's \$1,000 donation in Lorraine's memory to the Felician School for Exceptional Children in Lodi. Sister Rose Marie Smiglewski, CSSF, expressed heartfelt appreciation for the continued and generous support of the Arcanian members and councils to the Felician School.



Bayonne and Versatility Council members Richard Macon, Gen Macon, Joseph Macon and Evelyn Magarban were happy to present the LJD Award donation to Sister Rose Marie Smiglewski, CSSF, Director of the Felician School for Exceptional Children.

Since its founding in 1971 by Sister Mary Ramona Borkowski and the Felician Sisters, the school's diverse curriculums, programs and activities focus on the ability and not the disability of children with special needs. The school's mission of understanding that all persons have a special gift to share is rooted in the good work being done by the Felician Sisters, teachers, professional staff and volunteers for providing a quality education to prepare

every student for their own journey of learning within a climate of acceptance and respect.

The Supreme Council's award program was named in honor of Sister Lorraine D'Emilio of Integrity Council, Pennsylvania. A Royal Arcanum Fraternalist of the Year, Lorraine's selflessness and charitable work for furthering the cause of international fraternalism inspired countless members throughout the United States and Canada to volunteer and share their talents for a charitable cause. Each year, councils are invited to organize a project with the focus of

providing hope through volunteerism and participate in the Legacy of Hope program.

Congratulations are extended to the members of Bayonne Council #695 for Roy Al's International **TEAM WORK** Celebration dedicated for the Felician School.

HOME OFFICE HOLIDAY DINNER



The Home Office held their annual holiday dinner at Legal Seafoods in Cambridge.

This annual get together is always a lot of fun and a great way to kick off the season.





FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETIES MASSACHUSETTS

FRATERNAL IMPACT DURING 2016 IN MASSACHUSETTS



Fraternal benefit
society members:
79,824



Contributions to the
community by
members and
chapters: **\$4,545,638**



Total chapters: **461**



Total volunteer
hours: **806,868**



Estimated value of
volunteer hours*:
\$19,009,810

* Independent Sector 2016 estimated value of volunteer
time = \$24.14/hr

MORE THAN A CENTURY OF SERVICE

Fraternal benefit societies are 501(c)(8) not-for-profit financial services and community service organizations. For more than 100 years, fraternal members have played a unique role in communities across the United States. Fraternal members are a different kind of life insurance provider, securing members' futures through reliable financial service offerings, and giving back to their local communities through meaningful volunteer and charitable activities.

DEDICATED TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

"When fraternal members gather together to help others, volunteer to improve the lives of children and families, or carry out any of their myriad activities, they generate social capital that benefits both individuals and communities as a whole."

Swagel: Economic Contributions of Fraternal Benefit Societies: A Five Year Perspective, Phillip Swagel, Professor at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy. (2014).



BAYONNE SUPPORTS LIBERTY HUMANE SOCIETY

The members of Bayonne Council #695 in New Jersey conducted their 2017 International Fraternal Service Project with a \$1,000 donation to Liberty Humane Society in Jersey City, New Jersey. Additionally, Arcanian members and friends helped the cause by contributing a vast supply of puppy and dog food for the canines in the organization's care. The donations were gratefully accepted by David Ramirez, Development Manager who expressed sincere appreciation for the Royal Arcanum members' friendship and generous spirit.

The only non-profit 501 (c) (3) animal shelter in Hudson County, Liberty Humane strives to foster a community of compassion and respect and provides animals in need with a chance at a lifelong, loving home. Programs



conducted by the organization's volunteers also benefit children, seniors, the disabled, and those with special needs.

Liberty Humane Society cares for, treats, and finds homes for thousands of animals every year. Finding forever homes for animals who have nowhere else to go is one of the most urgent aspects of the organization's mission, but its long-term goal is to build a

community in which those services are no longer needed.



The human-animal bond transcends cultural and socio-economic boundaries. Pets are an essential component of many families, and Liberty Humane endeavors to help the community access affordable, accessible resources so their pets can stay happy and healthy.



David Ramirez, Development Manager at Liberty Humane Society gratefully accepted Bayonne's IFS donation which was presented by Evelyn Magarban, Grand Regent Richard Macon, John Baranowski and Bob Galdon.

Through low-cost public wellness clinics, a humane education program, and surrender prevention services, Liberty Humane's goal is to reduce the number of animals who enter the shelter and provide a higher quality of care for those who stay in their homes. The organization has dedicated efforts to empower the community to take ownership for the way animals are treated, both in and

out of the shelter system, by giving them the tools they need to make positive choices and provide independent care. This approach creates lasting change for animals in need.

Royal Arcanum Councils in New Jersey have been proud to recognize the ongoing work of staff and volunteers at Liberty Humane Society and look forward to continuing their fraternal support in the future.



SAN JOSE HELPS TEXANS IN NEED

San Jose Council members brought their gently used purses and totes to their meeting and filled each of them with essential supplies, including healthcare/hygiene items, socks and snacks. The bags were then carted by Jim O'Neill and Joanie Francis to the UPS Store. They were boxed for delivery to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Houston, Texas for a program in which people in need receive a purse or bag for their overnight stay in a shelter. The members did a fantastic job in coordinating the council effort for this cause.



San Jose Council members display their donations.



Jim O'Neill and Joanie Francis dropped off the bags for shipment to UPS.



Council members prepared bags for shipment to Texas.

WHAT MAKES OLD FAITHFUL SO FAITHFUL?

Yellowstone Park's Old Faithful geyser erupts every 90 minutes, sending water and steam high into the air to the delight of spectators. According to the Science Magazine website, geophysicists have identified the origin of all that water. Listening to natural vibrations (instead of relying on seismic waves produced



by explosives that would damage the park's environment), the scientists discovered a region of porous rock 200 meters across and 50 meters deep slightly to the west of the geyser. The underground tank contains hundreds of millions of liters of water heated by magma, so there's no chance of Old Faithful running dry soon.

CARMELITE MONASTERY RECEIVES DONATIONS

On December 19th, San Jose Council bought and delivered food and other goodies to the Carmelite Monastery in Santa Clara. This has been a yearly project of the council for the past 55 years. The sisters were thrilled to receive this donation and food for their two pups who protect them on the property.



Jim O'Neill, Ed and Judy Enfantino shopped for the Carmelites. Joanie Francis snapped the photo.

Submitted by
Jim O'Neill

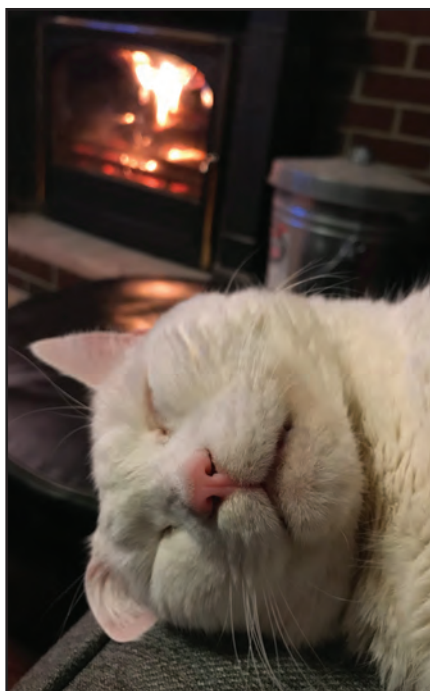


Left to Right: Sister John Mary, Jim O'Neill, Judy Enfantino, Ed Enfantino and Joanie Francis

EVEN CATS GET THE BLUES

If the cold weather, lack of sunshine, and short days of February have you feeling out of sorts, imagine the havoc it's playing on the lives of our animal companions. Confined indoors and longing to feel the earth beneath their paws and a gentle breeze ruffling their fur, our pets can get depressed and a bit stir crazy this time of year.

Talk to your vet if you notice changes in your pet's eating, activity, and sleeping habits to rule out the possibility of an illness. Be on the lookout for an increase in destructive behaviors such as



chewing and scratching that can be an indication of boredom or anxiety. The same holds true for repetitive behaviors such as excessive meowing or barking.

If your pets are otherwise healthy, a little extra attention may help to alleviate their winter doldrums. Introduce a new toy into the mix or add a few extra minutes of playtime to their daily routine to help them stay stimulated and active. Consider baking up a batch of natural dog biscuits or growing a patch of cat grass to give pets a treat that will show them that you're thinking of their well-being.

WELCOME CENTRE SHELTER FOR WOMEN

Coronation Council 2224 presented a donation to the Welcome Centre Shelter in Windsor, Ontario. This centre exists to reduce the devastating impact of homelessness and poverty by providing safe emergency shelter and transitional support to women and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

This winter has been extremely bitter and with the help of the shelter, many women and their families

took comfort knowing they have somewhere to turn. The donation of \$1000 will go a long way in helping give them a place to lay their heads and have a hot meal.

In addition to the council's donation, Gloria Donaldson and Sharon Bayliss, shown below, left, donated their very own hand made warm and cozy hats, scarves and clothing.

Submitted by Elly McMillan



Coronation Council 2224 Members Gloria Donaldson, Derrick Bayliss, and Sharon Bayliss presented a cheque for \$1000 to Executive Director Lady Laforet.

HELP SOMEBODY

While he was serving in the Navy during World War II, an unfortunate accident resulted in the death of several of Thomas Cannon's shipmates. Because Cannon's life was spared, he felt a duty and purpose to be in the service of others.

Over 33 years, Cannon gave away over \$150,000. He made donations to people in his hometown of Richmond, Virginia; most of them had been profiled in the local newspaper. He'd often mail \$1,000 checks to the staff of the paper with instructions about who should receive the money. His charity helped support a local group that volunteered in the elementary school, a woman who started a youth center in her low-income neighborhood, and an



orphaned teen who was active in his community. Cannon never owned a fancy house or drove a flashy car. His \$20,000-a-year salary as a postal worker allowed him to provide the necessities for his wife and sons, while his generous spirit inspired him to help others who were not as fortunate.

Though his benevolence garnered him a certain amount of accolades, Cannon made it clear that he didn't want the bureaucracy of a foundation to carry on his work, nor to have his name commemorated in any way once he was no longer living. Cannon suggested the best way to honor his memory would be for others to just "Help somebody."

SAN JOSE BRINGS JOY TO REST HOME RESIDENTS



Colorfully wrapped Christmas gifts were donated by San Jose Council #2384 for elderly men and women who reside in rest homes. The packages were delivered to St. Martin of Tours Parish for distribution to the elders. The staff members at St. Martin's are forever grateful for the council's support of their mission in caring for the aged.

Left to Right: Joanie Francis, Jennifer Tavares and Jim O'Neill.

VISITING SANTA CLARA VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER

Joanie Francis and Jim O'Neill visited the children, nurses and doctors at the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and Pediatric Rehabilitation and Trauma Unit at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. They delivered many beautiful new toys for the kids and teens for Christmas. It was a rewarding **TEAM WORK** holiday project and the youngsters were surprised to receive such wonderful gifts.



Jessica Singleton from the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center was thrilled to receive gifts from Joanie Francis.



THANKSGIVING DINNER

On November 2, 2017 San Jose Council #2384 members got together for a hearty Thanksgiving luncheon of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy and all the fixings, and to express love and gratitude during the season of thanks and giving.

In reflecting upon their blessings, the members assembled fifty bags of goodies for the homeless on the streets in California. With a rising number of homeless people in the area and in the entire state, the fraternalists volunteered as a **TEAM** to provide essentials to help keep the people in need warm, especially since the cold weather had set in and

temperatures were dipping. The members and council also made several donations of blankets, tents, underwear, socks, shirts and jackets to aid the homeless in Gilroy, California.



Submitted by Joanie Francis, Grand Regent of California

SHARING FRIENDSHIP

Versatility Council's fraternal **TEAM** joined the Friends of St. Francis Organization in Bayonne to support the good works of the St. Francis Friends of the Poor Foundation in New York City. Embodying a longstanding tradition of working with the poor, the Franciscan friars created three residences in Manhattan that provide basics such as food, clothing, healthcare and a place to call home for those in need; many of whom suffer from mental illness. Additionally, over 400 lunches are distributed daily to the homeless who seek help. Fr. Stephen Mimnaugh, O.F.M., Executive Director, conveyed the appreciation of the Franciscans for the generosity extended to their mission. Inspired by the friars' example of compassion and community spirit, the Arcanian members hope to continue their support of this worthy charitable organization and its service to the poor.



Fr. Stephen Mimnaugh, O.F.M. accepted the donation from Past Regent Evelyn Magarban. St. Francis volunteers Dorothy and Sr. Rita were happy to participate.

CORONATION COUNCIL 2224

Annual Sparky's Toy Drive

Fire Station 2 was delighted to receive a donation once again from the members of Coronation Council 2224.



goals this year and Coronation Council was glad that their donation helped contribute to this great cause.

Every year, the local Windsor fire departments go out of their way to make sure local needy families have toys for their kids. Donations go towards preparing bags of new toys for kids up to the age of 14.



Sparky's Toy Drive lives by the motto of "Giving back to our community ...One family to another..." Very much like Royal Arcanum, we believe in families and giving back to our community.

The generosity of the community exceeded their

*Submitted by
Elly McMillan*



Coronation Council members Gloria Donaldson and Sharon Bayliss presented a donation to Fire Station 2 representatives.

ANNUITIES

Members Guaranteed 3.5% and Non-Members Guaranteed 3% first year interest* with a 2% guarantee for the life of the contract

**6-Year Declining
Surrender Charge**

\$500 Minimum Deposit

**10% Penalty Free Annual
Withdrawal Available****

No Service Charges

**Tax-Deferred
Until Withdrawal**



For complete information on annuities, please contact the Home Office at 1-888-ARCANUM (272-2686).
Discover the value of a member-based fraternal benefit society.

*Rate subject to change without notice. Canadian rates may differ from US rates. We will never go lower than 2%.

**Please contact a tax professional prior to taking any withdrawals for potential tax liabilities.

SUPREME REGENT VISITS QUEBEC

Supreme Regent Errica and Joe Conforto were joined by Supreme Vice Regent Debbie and Morgan Young in Montreal for the presentation of the **TEAM WORK** campaign to the members of the jurisdiction of Quebec on November 2, 2017. The Grand Council program was organized by Grand Regent

Jacqueline Bedard who greeted the visiting officers and extended a warm Montreal welcome on behalf of the Canadian brothers and sisters. The members were excited to listen to Sister Errica's presentation and learn more about the Royal Arcanum's insurance line, junior opportunities and fraternal programs.



Supreme Regent Errica Conforto presented attendance prizes to Claudia Talbot and Gerard Pelletier.



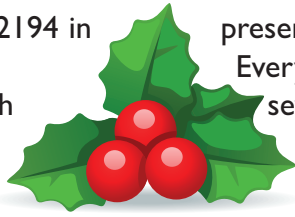
Grand Regent Jacqueline Bedard introduced Gerard Pelletier who wood-crafted a unique gift for Supreme Regent Errica Conforto.



Members of the Grand Council of Quebec with Supreme Regent Errica Conforto and visiting officers.

YORKTOWNE COUNCIL'S HOLIDAY PARTY

The members of Yorktowne Council #2194 in Pennsylvania hosted their annual family Christmas Party at the Mt. Zion Church Hall. The Arcanian group of 33 adults and Juniors enjoyed a delicious luncheon and entertainment. While singing Christmas carols, Santa Claus arrived to



present gifts and take photos with the children. Everyone enjoyed the activities and games and several lucky participants won door prizes. One and all had a holly, jolly good time!

Submitted by Herb Chronister

DEALING WITH FAMILY CONFLICT

To foster an atmosphere of harmony at your next family event, try these tactics ...

Let's face it, conflict is a part of our lives, and dealing with it in an effective manner can be challenging. If you host large family gatherings, you're well aware of this, as well as the possibility your opinionated Uncle Jerry is going to create strife within minutes of his arrival. To foster an atmosphere of harmony at your next family event, try these tactics:

- **Establish rules.** No one wants to hear a debate about politics or religion at Nana's 98th birthday party. To ensure everyone is on their best behavior, keep them focused on the purpose of the event and the importance of their presence for that purpose. Let everyone know what topics are off-limits, even if that means pulling Uncle Jerry aside for a one-on-one before he hangs up his coat.
- **Use strategic interruptions.** If you spy contorted facial expressions and raised eyebrows coming from guests huddled in conversation in the corner, jump in and break it up. Volunteer members

of this group to assist with random tasks. If your party is well attended, there will always be something that needs to be tidied up, moved, or thrown out.

- **Create a diversion.** If you need to disrupt several small groups or take control back from a larger one, offer up some form of distraction. Announce the start of a game of charades, serve dessert, or pass out lyrics to familiar tunes for a family sing-a-long. The point is to have an activity planned that will engage your guests and elevate their moods.
- **Listen and moderate.** Sometimes things held inside for too long have a way of revealing themselves. Don't aggravate tensions with a debate. Defuse the situation with compassionate listening. Allow everyone the opportunity to be heard with the objective of gaining understanding.

Remember: Your mission is maintaining the peace and ensuring that everyone has a good time. Let your actions be influenced by kindness and grace. Extend to others the courtesy and respect that you expect from them.



CORONATION COUNCIL 2224

Diaper Bags Donation to the Welcome Centre Shelter for Women



Coronation Council 2224 helped make it easier to have on hand some necessities for young mothers who are being helped by the Welcome Centre Shelter for Women in Windsor, Ontario.

Many of the women are young mothers in need of items such as diapers, wipes, bottles, baby food, washcloths, blankets and so much more. Coronation Council 2224 presented the Centre's Director with Royal Arcanum bags filled with many of these items, including some cuddly toys for the kids.

Submitted by Elly McMillan



Virginia Lauzon, Margaret Cameron, Lady Laforet, Executive Director of the Welcome Centre, Debbie Young, Derrick Bayliss, Gloria Donaldson, Sharon Bayliss, Carol Zavitz, Renee Boufford. (Present but not in photo were Jim Boufford, Morgan Young and Scott Cameron)

Hiatus House Shelter for Women

A very much needed donation was made to the local women's shelter, Hiatus House in Windsor, Ontario.

2017 was a very difficult year for the shelter as the need continues to grow for emergency shelter for women and their children. The shelter has been at capacity and the community has been answering the call for more support. Coronation Council 2224 was glad that they could help with providing some relief to help with expenses towards providing food, everyday essentials and peace of mind for those using the shelter.

Submitted by Elly McMillan



Coronation Council members Derrick Bayliss, Gloria Donaldson and Sharon Bayliss presented a cheque to the Director of the shelter.

VERSATILITY COUNCIL SHARES HOLIDAY CHEER

Members of Versatility Council's Community Service Committee were happy to deliver Mrs. Claus' sweet treats to several community and charity organizations in New Jersey. The **TEAM WORK** spirit of the fraternalists helped ring in the holidays throughout the Garden State and share the joy of the season with others.



Gen Macon and Evelyn Magarban delivered confectionery parcels to veterans in Bayonne.



Anthony Bellov and Dayle Vander Sande of Sons of Poland Council, "Santa" Dave Magarban of Bayonne Council, and Evelyn Magarban, Versatility's Community Service Committee Chairperson, provided the "Up on the Rooftop" carols for the holiday festivities.



Gen Macon, Evelyn Magarban and Marie Baranowski were Santa's helpers at Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch. Roy Al was glad to join the TEAM, too.



Marie Baranowski, Mary Ann Decha, Stella Rakowski, Christine Piscitelli, Evelyn Magarban and Gen Macon were out and about in the month of December to deliver cookies and candies for several community causes.

SIMPLIFIED ISSUE PLAN



PROGRAM BENEFITS

- * No increase of premium * No decrease of death benefit
- * Only 7 medical questions * Full underwriting not required
- * Cash accumulation values and more....

Issue Ages

No Medical Exam - 20-85**

Minimum Face Amount
Age 20-85** \$2,500

Maximum Amount
Age 20-69** \$50,000
Age 70-85** \$25,000

*Not Available in all States

** Maximum issue age for Washington is 65

RHODE ISLAND GRAND COUNCIL MEETING

Rhode Island's Royal Arcanum members held their Autumn Grand Council meeting on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at Chelo's Restaurant in East Providence, R.I.

Grand Regent Lynn Kolek opened the meeting by welcoming

everyone and then asked all to stand for the American and Canadian national anthems. Grand Chaplain John Ball gave the invocation. After a buffet luncheon, Sister Lynn asked Supreme Secretary Emeritus, Ken Kolek, to discuss the fraternal benefits, insurance and annuity products offered by Royal Arcanum. Ken placed special emphasis on scholarships, grants and loans offered to college bound and current students. Ken asked the members if any family members had taken advantage of these benefits. Surprisingly, within the last 10 years, at least eight students from Rhode Island have received one of these benefits. This year Zachary Gauvin received Royal Arcanum's highest Scholarship award of \$10,000 and Zach is currently a student at Georgia Tech University.



Officers and members of the Grand Council of Rhode Island at their autumn meeting.

Ken also spoke about annuities and told members and guests that presently our Society offers members an annuity rate of 3.5% for the first year and a guaranteed rate of not less than 2% thereafter. There are no annual charges and 10% free

withdrawals are allowed annually. A couple who believes in the values of Royal Arcanum decided our annuity rate was better than their bank rates, purchased two annuities.

This time of year our members donate food and non-perishable items to help those less fortunate in our community. Two large baskets of food were collected and donated to the Pawtucket Soup Kitchen.

Two members won Stop & Shop gift card door prizes. All received our Rhode Island promotional item. Sister Lynn thanked everyone for the food they had generously donated to the needy.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

San Jose council made a \$250 donation to the Second Harvest Food Bank. This organization provides food to the needy and homeless of Santa Clara Valley.

Submitted by
Joanie Francis



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Imagine the excitement when the first Polaroid camera went on sale in 1948! Seventy years have passed since Edwin Land created the device that would produce “instant results” and eliminate processes and wait time for getting the first look of those treasured memories! Although the mechanics of photography have continually been perfected (now within seconds of snapping a photo it can be seen worldwide), the pleasure of taking pictures and sharing them with family and friends is as familiar today as when the first working camera was invented. Just think of all the photos you’ve taken on holidays, special occasions and vacations; preserved in frames, albums, and even ‘saved’ on your computer. I’m sure every now and then you glance over those faces and places to recall those memorable times.



Now let’s take a look at the ‘big picture’ of the Royal Arcanum. Although times and events have changed over the years, the Society has evolved to best serve our members and communities with its superb line of insurance products and social and charitable endeavors on all council levels. Service with a smile is the focus for fraternalism in action by the Royal Arcanum. It’s never been blurred and in 140 years, the Society has provided quality life protection for families, great educational programs for youth, the opportunity to participate in inspiring projects and the chance to volunteer with fellow members in promoting the good work of the organization. Just like treasured photographs, the results are worth sharing!



This issue of the Bulletin highlights several jurisdictional charitable activities where **Team Work** prevailed to shine a ray of happiness upon many grateful recipients. The International Fraternal Service, LJD Legacy of Hope, Fraternalism in Action, and Lend a Hand-Lift a Heart programs are available throughout the year for councils to demonstrate support for Supreme Regent Errica Conforto’s campaign and produce lasting imprints. You’ll

be amazed how **Team Work** initiatives can incredibly develop the same way that first instant print turned out all those years ago! Don’t forget to invite your family and friends to enroll as members of the RA so that they, too, can be a part of the team, share their special talents, and engage



in council programs. It’s great to see our fraternal family album growing with new members and new ambitions for future success.

Nearly 100 percent of the jurisdictions accepted the challenge and completed an IFS project last year. There are a few remaining weeks for councils to be credited on

the 140th anniversary **Team Work** roster. All councils are encouraged to share their news highlights and photos for the Bulletin, website and Facebook page. Have the camera ready and zoom in on the smiles as your fraternal and charitable projects are presented.

Fraternal Events Committee volunteers for our summer gifting project and fraternal activities at the Supreme Council Session this July in Orlando, Florida are welcome. Contact the Fraternal Director if you wish to join the team.

With a few weeks of wintery weather mix still in the forecast for many of us, we’re setting our sights for spring’s arrival. When it does, we’ll be ready to say, “Cheese!” as we greet the sunshine and garden blossoms. I’m certain that with the new season, we’ll aim to make even more good things ‘develop’ together in our councils and communities.

In friendship,

Cindy Macon
Fraternal-Communications Director

PAWTUCKET MEMBERS VISIT NURSING HOME

Royal Arcanum members from Pawtucket Council #537 made their annual visit to the Summit Commons Nursing Home in Providence, RI, on Sunday, October 22, 2017. Junior members had painted pumpkins the previous week and were anxious to show their work to the elderly residents. Each Junior was dressed in a colorful Halloween costume. As they walked around in their costumes, it seemed that everyone they met enjoyed seeing them and were especially grateful for receiving a decorated pumpkin. Jackie Wudkiewicz took pictures and returned later in the week to give residents a personalized picture of themselves as a remembrance of this special day.



MEMBER RECEIVES SCOUTING'S HIGHEST AWARD

David Coderre, a member of Pawtucket Council #537, recently became an Eagle Scout, scouting's highest award. He received his Eagle Scout Badge from the Scoutmaster of Pawtucket's Troop 28, Joseph White. This special event was held on Sunday, November 12, at St. Teresa Church Hall in Pawtucket. The Mayor of Pawtucket, Donald Grebien and US Representative, David Cicilline also were present and offered congratulations. David also received citations from other state leaders. Pawtucket Council is proud of David and his accomplishments.



DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS CORNER

2017 was a year that brought many new members to our Society! The insurance operation had a successful year with increased life insurance production enrolled from a number of states, just one result of new agreements we established with brokerages across the country. In addition to the increased production, we witnessed an increase of 101% in new Junior members, as compared to the 2016 year. We hope these younger members will become involved in the Royal Arcanum and establish themselves as members for life. We did experience some challenges based on new regulatory requirements, which is part of the Insurance industry. Many of these requirements are positives and are put in place to ensure that insurance providers are prepared to meet all financial situations that could arise. This included the establishment of a corporate governance plan for the Society.

I think it's safe to say the Tax reform that was approved recently has and will have an effect on all members across the country, whether positively or negatively. I'm pleased the fraternal tax exemption was not mentioned in the tax reform and had no impact on our Society. Both fraternal tax exemption bills (in the House: HCR-10 and Senate: SCR-7) are active and we continue striving to gain as much support in the House and Senate for them that we can.



Throughout the past year I was able to witness many wonderful acts of kindness and see true fraternalism in action; a perk for me being in the Boston Home Office. It's my hope that in 2018 we promote and share these wonderful good deeds and advocate the work done through Royal Arcanum. I know many members truly enjoy helping others, but don't want

any recognition for such good deeds. It's important to promote these works and show what it means to be a Royal Arcanum member.

It's also time to start planning your trip to the Supreme Session, July 22nd-26th in Orlando, Florida. As a reminder, all reports are required by June 30th to ensure eligibility to attend as an officer or representative.



Please take some time to review our Website, www.royalarcanum.com for overall information about our Society to share with friends and family who may be interested in becoming involved. Please also consider reviewing our Facebook page and "Like Us" if you're on Facebook!

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

- Thomas A. Edison

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Nicholas G. Benoit.

Nicholas G. Benoit
Director of Operations
nbenoit@royalarcanum.com

CORONATION COUNCIL

Salvation Army Donation

Once again, Coronation Council 2224 was pleased to present a cheque to the local Salvation Army. The donation went towards their annual Red Kettle holiday campaign. The money gives hope today for those in our community. Always there with a helping hand, the Salvation Army goes a long way in helping those in need. Coronation Council 2224 was glad to be there to help them achieve their goal.

Royal Members Gloria Donaldson, Sharon Bayliss and Derrick Bayliss, with the Salvation Army representative.



The Stone Soup Kitchen



Coronation Council paid for Street Help's new "The Stone Soup Kitchen" sign and members and Renee Boufford, and Morgan and Debbie Young delivered turkeys, sleeping bags, winter coats and toiletries for the less fortunate.



JUNIORS AT CHRISTMAS

Coronation Council Juniors enjoyed receiving their Christmas gifts.



WINTER JUNIOR DEPARTMENT NEWS AND VIEWS

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our Junior Department's latest program which ended on December 31st. By introducing 16 great reasons to sign up a Junior insurance policy, councils and community benefit much. Many of our members exceeded my highest expectations. I would like to congratulate Claremont Council, NY, Coronation Council, ON, and Medora Council, IL for their "**Team Work**" and for exceeding our goals. These councils will each receive a \$1,600.00 award and are examples of how much can be accomplished when we work together and everyone does a little part.

I hope the Juniors enjoyed their Christmas gift from the Junior Department. This year we had blue plush elephants with a blanket for the little ones, and back packs and cell phone power banks for the older kids, which were available for all councils to order from the Home Office.

Valentine cards were sent to our younger Juniors in February, so if you didn't receive one and you are 6 years old or younger, get in touch with me so I will know to have this corrected.

If you are a Royal Arcanum College Student and haven't sent in your name and the address where you will be living, this is your last call to do so. Phone Lisette at the Home Office and give her that information today so we can send out a little something special to help with your studies.

I hope all our High School Seniors have applied for our Royal Arcanum Scholarships and Grants. Last year alone we awarded over \$68,000.00 in Scholarships and Grants and would like to do the same this year, so good luck to all who applied.

The Royal Arcanum is offering reimbursement of up to \$50.00 to any Junior taking a workshop, course or tutoring to assist them with improving their SAT, ACT, PSAT and LSAT. The receipts should be sent to the Royal Arcanum Home Office. Our Society is very committed to helping with our Juniors' education.

Students also have access to two premier sites for college assistance; these are shown on our website and are FREE to all qualified members. These services are 'Choices

Explorer' and 'Choices Planner'. Choices Explorer deals primarily for middle school students preparing for high school and Choices Planner is for all students. To enter these sites you need the Site ID which is "0090138" and the Password which is "sunshine". Here you will find information on colleges, majors, careers, scholarships and career aptitude. The information provided should assist you in making sound decisions about your future. There are also links on our website to the Department of Education and access to private lenders. If you should



**Junior Department
Director
Deborah Young**

have any questions regarding any of the above benefits, contact our College Funding Representative, Donald Ferry Jr. at the Home Office, toll free 1-888-272-2686 ext. 125. Donald looks forward to assisting you towards attaining your goals in college and beyond.

Come with your parents to our 104th Supreme Council Session in Orlando, Florida this coming July for a fun family vacation. We will have lots of fun activities planned.

Don't forget to send in your coloring page or puzzle in order to receive your \$10.00 Amazon card. You can mail this to the office or scan and email to info@royalarcanum.com.

"Surround yourself with the dreamers and the doers, the believers and thinkers, but most of all, surround yourself with those who see the greatness within you, even when you don't see it yourself". - Edmund Lee

Fraternally yours in V.M.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah L. Young". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Deborah Young
Junior Director

JUNIOR PUZZLES

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!



GREEN
STPATRICK
EMERALD
MARCH
IRISH
GOLD
BLARNEY
TRADITION
RAINBOW
LUCK
POT
SHAMROCK
LEPRECHAUN
PARADE
CLOVER
COINS



M	S	Z	H	X	M	S	I	Y	F	W	T	F	P	F	N	L	D	P	F
A	H	C	X	A	H	N	J	Z	J	W	R	D	B	B	J	E	R	O	O
R	A	F	X	U	K	K	M	A	L	W	A	B	I	O	Y	P	A	T	C
C	M	C	S	I	S	N	B	L	Z	D	T	B	U	Z	R	Q	W	N	
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S	O	X	R	W	B	N	Z	R	U	N	T	V	W	Q	T	C	S	M	P
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E	K	E	V	U	L	G	R	E	E	N	G	J	S	T	O	V	W	U	K
S	Z	M	Z	D	D	H	K	V	I	D	U	W	W	D	Z	V	L	T	T
L	X	D	W	H	L	E	U	L	B	L	A	R	N	E	Y	N	B	X	G

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL GAMES AND COLORING. IF YOU HAVE ANY RIDDLES, GAMES, OR ARTICLES YOU WOULD LIKE PUBLISHED ON OUR WEBSITE, PLEASE EMAIL THEM TO: PFITZGERALD@ROYALARCANUM.COM

JUNIOR CONTEST RULES

Our rules provide that a Junior can win only one prize per issue of the Bulletin. Members from the same family can submit answers to same puzzles in order to win. Puzzle entrants are restricted to Juniors no older than 17 years 11 months. All entries must be received prior to distribution of the next Bulletin.

All Junior entrants can earn a \$10.00 gift certificate award from Amazon.com!



Junior Must Submit:

Name

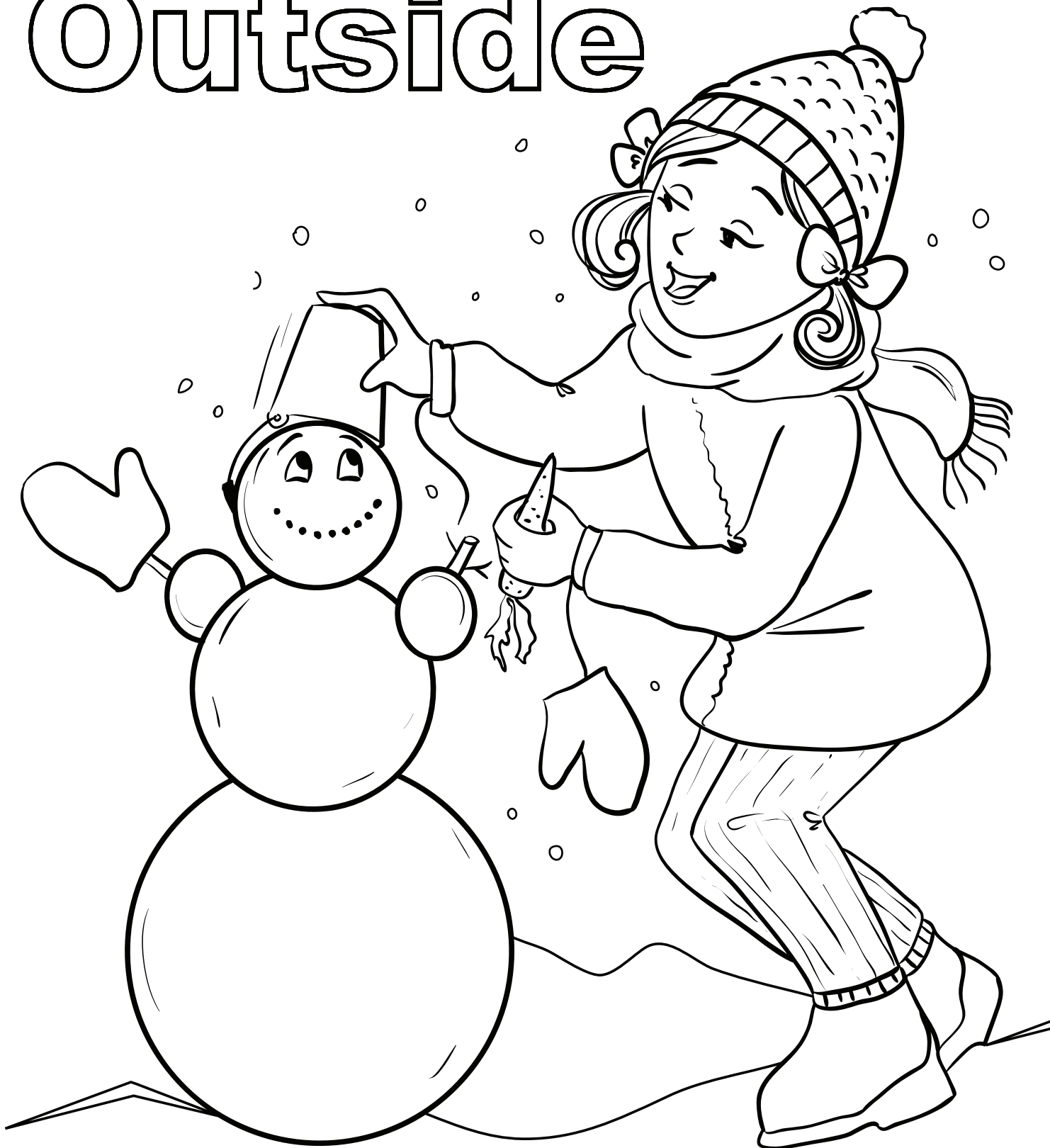
Age

Council

Email Address

**PLEASE SEND ALL ANSWERS TO:
JUNIOR DEPARTMENT, ROYAL ARCANUM,
61 BATTERYMARCH ST., BOSTON, MA 02110-3208**

Baby It's Cold Outside



ROYAL ARCANUM 104TH SUPREME COUNCIL SESSION



CARIBE ROYALE ALL-SUITE HOTEL - ORLANDO, FLORIDA - JULY 22 - 26, 2018

<u>Cost Per Person</u> <u>U.S. / Canadian</u>	<u>Occupancy</u>	<u>Points for Free Trip</u> <u>U.S. / Canadian</u>
\$540.00 / \$720.00	Double	771 / 1,029
\$465.00 / \$620.00	Triple	664 / 886
\$850.00 / \$1,133.00	Single	1,214 / 1,619

Please enter my reservation for the 104th Supreme Council Session at the Caribe Royale All-Suite Hotel, 8101 World Center Drive, Orlando, Florida 32821. (Phone: 407-238-8000)

My party will consist of the following persons: (type or print only)

M _____ Council No. _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

Spouse (please enter first name) _____

Children (enter names & ages) _____

Room Type (circle): Queen Double King Standard

Have you earned a prize trip? Yes No No. of trips _____

Package includes: Sunday Welcome Dinner, Tuesday Hospitality-Banquet & Dance, Wednesday Dinner Buffet - Farewell Theme Party and Dance, Daily Breakfast Buffet at the Tropicale Restaurant. Guest rooms furnished with flat screen television, mini refrigerator, microwave, coffeemaker, iron, ironing board, climate control, and full bath amenities. In room Wi-Fi standard service, two device package.

Arrangements for members who wish to extend their hotel stay at the Caribe Royale Orlando (**if rooms are available**) can be made for an additional charge.

Arrival date _____ Departure Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

IMPORTANT: Home address of individuals with different names must be supplied. Guest rooms will be available after 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 22, 2018. Departures will be on Thursday, July 26, 2018.

A Deposit of \$200.00 per Adult and \$50.00 per Junior is required with each reservation.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ROYAL ARCANUM

Mail to: ROYAL ARCANUM
Supreme Treasurer John Crisanti
61 Batterymarch Street
Boston, MA 02110
Phone: 1-888-272-2686

RESERVATIONS WITH DEPOSITS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 15, 2018

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members in the US and Canada a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. This year begins the 141st of the Royal Arcanum, a tribute to our membership and the values on which our Society was founded: Virtue, Mercy and Charity.

As I sit here writing this article, the East Coast of the US has just suffered through a Bomb/ Cyclone weather event. I'm not sure exactly what this means, I know that we have had snow, blizzard like conditions and wind chill readings up to minus 25 degrees. Sub-freezing temperatures have gone on for almost two weeks. Like most of us, I am looking forward to Spring.

Whatever your position on climate change or global warming, natural occurrence or man made, I think we can all agree that as stewards of this planet we all have the responsibility to do our part in protecting our environment. I did some research using the NASA website regarding Global Climate Change. The information was both fascinating and frightening. Some of the data presented under the evidence section is as follows: the Earth's climate has changed throughout history. In the last 650,000 years there have been seven cycles of glacial advance and retreat, with the abrupt end of the last ice age about 7000 years ago marking the beginning of the modern climate era and of human civilization. Most of these climate changes are attributed to very small variations in Earth's orbit that change the amount of solar energy our planet receives.

The current warming trend is of particular significance because most of it is extremely likely (greater than 95% probability) to be the result of human activity since mid-20th century and proceeding at a rate that is unprecedented over decades to millennia.

Earth orbiting satellites and other technological advances have enabled scientists to see the big picture, collecting many different types of information about our planet and its climate on a global scale. This body of data, collected over many years, reveals the signals of a changing climate.



The planet's average surface temperature has risen about 2.0 degrees Fahrenheit (1.1 degrees Celsius) since the late 19th century, a change driven largely by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions into the atmosphere. Most of the warming has occurred in the past 35 years, with 16 of the 17 warmest years on record occurring since 2001. Not only was 2016 the warmest year on record, but eight of 12 months that make up the year – from January through September, with the exception of June – were the warmest on record for those months.

The data that I listed just scratches the surface of the info on climate change that appears on the NASA website regarding this subject. In addition to evidence it lists causes, effects, scientific consensus and vital signs. As a footnote, while I was writing this article, I came across a related article in our local paper reporting that weather related disasters cost the US \$306 billion (yes billion) in 2017. The NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration) listed 16 disasters exceeding a billion dollars each, the most expensive being hurricanes Harvey (Texas) \$125 billion, Maria (Puerto Rico) \$90 billion, and Irma (Florida) \$50 billion. Western wildfires added \$18 billion to the total. The agency also reported that 2017 was the third hottest year in US records for the lower 48 states with an annual temperature of 54.6 degrees – 2.6 degrees warmer than the 20th century average.



I believe the evidence suggests that climate change is factual. The website lists some simple steps that we can all take to lessen the impact of climate change. I would suggest taking a look at the website and come to your own conclusions. Stay warm.

Yours in V. M. C.

Yours in V. M. C.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Peter D. Ferrara".

Pete Ferrara
Supreme Secretary

Come join us at the *Caribe Royale* in
ORLANDO



FLORIDA

for the

104th Supreme Council Session



Sunday, July 22 through Thursday, July 26, 2018

Downtown Orlando from Lake Eola Park at Night