

ISLAMITE

Vol. MMXXII - I

January / February 2022

The Islamite - The official publication of Islam Grotto of Pittsburgh, Pa. is published Bi-Monthly.

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Officers

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| | | |
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Appointed Officers 2022:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Jeramey Wieloch PM----- | Marshal | Conrad Wieloch Jr. PM----- | Sentinel |
| George W. Dering ----- | Captain of the Guard | Richard Phillips----- | Steward |
| David G. Rasch PM----- | Chaplain | All Past Monarchs----- | Advisors |

Trustees

Purple Tassels

William Woods PM 2022
David Rasch PM 2023
Robert Lorenz Jr. PM 2024

Red Tassels

Theodore Bergfelt 2022
Richard Phillips 2023

Trustee Emeritus

Trustee Emeritus: Theodore Colcombe PM

Committees 2022:

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Membership ----- | Michael Tomascin PM | Enchanted Lantern ---- | Conrad Wieloch Jr. PM |
| Suspension ----- | Conrad Wieloch III PM | Dr. of Smiles ----- | Robert Lorenz Jr., PM |
| Special Olympics ----- | Robert Lorenz Jr., PM | Director Ceremonial Crew ---- | |
| Rep to MFS ----- | George Gittins PM | Alt Rep to MFS----- | Conrad Wieloch III PM |
| Islam Grotto Historian ----- | David G. Rasch PM | | |

Monarch Message – Conrad Wieloch III PM

Prophets,

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to you!

I hope everyone has had a great holiday and is ready for the new year!!

I want to say thank you all so much for the year we have had. I appreciate all the support all of you have given. It had been a blessing and an honor to sever as the Monarch for 2021. I look forward to seeing you all soon

Sincerely,

Conrad J. Wieloch III – Monarch 2021

Monarch Elect – Thomas W. Newland

Hello everyone.

Hope you all had a pleasant Holiday Season, and May we all prosper in the New Year!

Congratulations to Past Monarch Conrad Wieloch III PM for a great year. While we faced some difficult challenges, he stepped up to the task and performed an excellent job. Thank you.

I also wish to thank the Ladies for all the work they have done in the past. Without the Ladies Support, our organization would not be as great as it is.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for offering me the opportunity to guide the Grotto though 2022. It truly is an honor to serve the Realm. With the leadership experience gained within other organizations, and the support of my fellow officers, I promise to strive to strengthen our organization and continue to work towards the future.

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming “Fish Fries” this year. This is a very important event for the Grotto, not only as a fund raiser, but as an opportunity to work together and have some fun. Hopefully we will be at full capacity and be able to serve sit down dinners. Regardless, as we have proven in the past, we will make the best of whatever the situation may be.

I have several ideas for 2022, so it should be an exciting year. I am always open to ideas and suggestions. Let’s all work together to make 2022 a great year.

Thomas W Newland

Living Past Monarchs of Islam Grotto

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>1977 Richard Hoff</i> | <i>2007 Michael Tomascin</i> |
| <i>1979 Arthur Smaltz</i> | <i>2009 William Woods</i> |
| <i>1985 Tommy Lee **</i> | <i>2010 Ron Davidson</i> |
| <i>1995 Ray Rietzel</i> | <i>2012 Ron Troy</i> |
| <i>1996 Ted Colcombe</i> | <i>2013/2014 David Rasch</i> |
| <i>1999 Eugene Martucci</i> | <i>2015 George Gittins</i> |
| <i>2000 Robert Metsger *</i> | <i>2016 Robert Lorenz III</i> |
| <i>2001 James Metsger *</i> | <i>2017 Jeramey Wieloch</i> |
| <i>2002 Richard Roell</i> | <i>2018 Conrad Wieloch Jr.</i> |
| <i>2003 Edward Foster</i> | <i>2019 Michael Karkalla</i> |
| <i>2004 Max Pokorski</i> | <i>2020 Scott Allen</i> |
| <i>2005 Robert Lorenz Jr.</i> | <i>2021 Conrad Wieloch III</i> |
| <i>2006 Lenny Kolodziek</i> | |
| <i>Suspended *</i> | <i>Demitted **</i> |

***** Stated Meeting for January and February 2022 *****

Stated Meetings of Islam Grotto will be held at the Islam Grotto Room at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh Pa. 15237

Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 7:30 PM

Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 7:30 PM

Dinner will be served before the stated meeting at 6:15pm.

Mark Your Calendars:

See the calendar for a schedule of events.

Secretary's Message:

Congratulations go out to the newly elected officers for 2022. I want to thank everyone for letting me serve you as your secretary. With the additional responsibilities as Grand Monarch on July 9, 2022 in Cincinnati I cannot devote my time as I should. Congratulations to our outgoing Monarch Conrad Wieloch III. It was a pleasure serving you and the officers during your year.

Tammy and I continue our travels. We never forget about our own Grotto.

The 2022 dues statements have been sent out. Please pay in a timely manner. If you have already paid Thank You.

Still Missing Prophets: If you know of a new address for the following Prophets, please let me know Edward Switalski Jr., Robert Balent, Paul Bartek, Fred Lowstetter, Richard Trimble and Barry Walnoha

Safe travels and a Healthy and Happy New Year to all

Michael J. Tomascini PM – Secretary and Deputy Grand Monarch

Secretary's Elect Message:

Prophets:

Looking forward to serving you and our Grotto for 2022. Please feel free to reach out to me via email, phone or text with any needs.

Sean Tomasic – Secretary Elect

David G. Rasch PM – Islam Grotto Historian Message:

The early days of Islam Grotto had its birth in Allegheny City (now known as the Northside of Pittsburgh). In the 19th Century Allegheny City was a "hotbed" and the birthplace for many Blue Lodges, so it is not surprising the Islam Grotto had its beginnings in that part of Pittsburgh. On June 12, 1910, a group of Master Masons met to discuss the formation of an organization in the Allegheny City with the sole purpose of the promotion of "good fellowship" among Master Masons. Perhaps, like the original founders of the "Fairchild Deviltry Committee," now known as the Mystic Order Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm, they were looking to step out of the more serious aspects of life and Masonry and just have some fun. At the completion of this initial meeting, it was decided in true Masonic form, by motion ordered that Jesse Seright, the temporary chairman, write to the Grand Secretary of the MOVPER to inquire about the requirements for constituting a local Grotto and apply for a dispensation. It appears that this set in motion actions and the original founders wasted no time in recruiting (25) Master Masons to sign petitions to join this new organization as prescribed by the original dispensation granted by the Supreme Council of the MOVPER. The names of these candidates were selected and approved to receive the order. On January 21, 1911, a meeting was held at the German Masonic Hall at Washington St and Madison Ave for the purpose of initiating the first (25) members under the Supreme Council dispensation.

Bob Lorenz Jr. PM Grand Venerable Prophet Message:

Greetings Prophets,

Lady Theresa and I hope you and your families had a blessed Christmas season and a very Happy New Year and were able to spend time with friends. Hopefully this year will be better than the last one for all of us.

Congratulation to Past Monarch (soon to be) Conrad and his line officer for a good year. Thank You.

Congratulations to the (soon to be) new Monarch Tom Newland and his new line officers for the year 2022. Have a Good Year!

December travels took Lady Theresa and I to the dual installation of Monarch Jay Laser of Ubar Grotto and Monarch Ralph Baconpoppy of BeerSheba Grotto. Always good fellowship and fun with them.

If winter weather holds off we will be traveling to Erepa Grotto and Lalla Rookh Grotto for their installations. We will be attending Islam's installation, home Grotto first.

Children's Christmas party was fun. Thank you to the Prophets and Ladies for all your work on this event.

If any Prophets would like to travel with us please let me know. As the saying goes...The more the merrier. The more you travel the more Grotto fun, fellowship and everlasting friendships you make. Have a blessed and safe year. Let's Grotto on.

Yours in Good Fellowship,

Bob Lorenz, Jr PM - Grand Venerable Prophet

Schedule of Events for 2022

January

- 14 - *Rehearsal for Installation*
- 15 - *Installation of Officers*
- 20 - *Association Meeting 6:45pm*
- 20 - *Stated Meeting 7:30pm-*
Cooking Rich Hopkins
- 28 - *Prophets Noght -*
Cooking Tom Newland

February

- 17 - *Association Meeting 6:45pm*
- 17 - *Stated Meeting 7:30pm-*
Cooking Soup Cookoff
- 25 - *Prophets Night -*
cooking Conrad Wieloch Jr. PM

March

- 04 - *Fish Fry Banquet Room, Kitchen and Grotto Room 5Pm -7pm*
- 09 - *Grotto Program at Perry-Ionic Lodge*
- 11 - *Fish Fry Banquet Room, Kitchen and Grotto Room 5Pm -7pm*
- 17 - *Association Meeting 6:45pm*
- 17 - *Stated Meeting 7:30pm-*
Cooking Ed Hanke
- 18 - *Fish Fry Banquet Room, Kitchen and Grotto Room 5Pm -7pm*
- 19 - *Spring Ceremonial 12pm Grotto Room and Auditorium*
- 25 - *Fish Fry Kitchen and Grotto Room 5Pm -7pm*

April

- 01 - *Fish Fry - Kitchen / Ball Room*
- 02 - *Children's Easter Party - Ballroom*
- 08 - *Fish Fry - Kitchen / Grotto Room*
- 15 - *Fish Fry - Kitchen / Ball Room*
- 21 - *Association Meeting 6:45pm*
- 21 - *Stated Meeting 7:30pm-*
Cooking Sean Tomasic
- 22-24 - *PGA in Pittsburgh*
- 29 - *Prophets Night -*
Cooking Red Tassels

May

- 07 - *Mothers Day*
- 19 - *Association Meeting 6:45pm*
- 19 - *Stated Meeting 7:30pm-*
Cooking Conrad Wieloch III PM
- 27 - *Prophets Night -*
Cooking Purple Tassels

June

- 16 - *Association Meeting 6:45pm*
- 16 - *Stated Meeting 7:30pm-*
Cooking Kyle Golik
- 24 - *Prophets Night -*
Cooking Michael Karkalla PM

July

- 02-10 - *Supreme Council Cincinnati*
- 03 - *Independence Day Picnic*
- 29 - *Prophets Night - Hoagie Night*