

# Marvin Master Memorial Blood Drive

by Susan Master  
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One of the most important pillars of Pythianism is community service, which is right on par with its devotion to brotherhood. A wonderful example of the power of the Knights of Pythias is the blood drive that I arranged through Maimonides Hospital, in memory of my father, Marvin Master.

My dad was a proud Pythian for about 20 years before his death in 2009. His home lodge was Genesis Lodge, and he had been a dual member of several other lodges, including Excelsior, now Majestic; Good Fellowship; and FDR. He was also a Pythian sister, along with my mother, Helene, and me, in Excelsior Temple, now Neptune Temple. I've learned from his example of community involvement, philanthropy, and genuine concern for others, all Pythian ideals. When I was given the opportunity to host a blood drive, I embraced it full throttle and was honored to be able to name it in memory of my father.

The blood drive was held on February 28, 2016 at my synagogue in Brooklyn, Temple Sholom, and was cosponsored by Temple Sholom and Hatzolah of Mill Basin volunteer ambulance corps. I reached out to my father's extended Pythian family to publicize the event, and the results were outstanding. Lodge brothers and friends were interested in the event; some offered to mention it in their lodge's bulletin and to announce it at meetings; some asked about volunteering; and some actually came to the blood drive and donated the gift of life.



Special thanks to PACDGC/Grand Tribune Corey Bearak and ACDGC/Executive Secretary Lowell Goldberg who made sincere efforts to widely publicize the blood drive. At the event, a friend whom I had invited told me that she had forgotten the location, and when she looked it up on the internet, she saw it mentioned on the Knights of Pythias website. At that moment, I was speechless, because a lightbulb clicked on in my head, and all I could say was, "WOW!" The support and involvement of the Knights of Pythias had just been shown to have paid off in a real, tangible manner. Thank you, I genuinely appreciate it!!



It is said that to save a life is like saving the world, because the potential of each individual is limitless. The Maimonides Hospital blood bank staff informed me that one unit of blood can be used to save one adult or three children. The last time they conducted a blood drive in my neighborhood, two years ago, they collected 25 units of blood. Due to the personal connections, the local newspaper publicity, and the help of the Knights of Pythias, 60 people came to donate blood at the Marvin Master Memorial blood drive. After a few were disqualified, 53 units of blood were collected and will be put to immediate use in saving, prolonging, and improving people's lives. The event was an overwhelming success and there is talk about making it an annual event. Thank you for assisting in such a worthwhile endeavor!