



The Texas Prince Hall Freemason



Official Publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas
Volume 2- Issue 6 - Spring 2012



**3RD ANNUAL
PRINCE HALL MASONIC FAMILY
TOY DRIVE AND CHRISTMAS GIVE-AWAY**

“The Season for Giving”

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From the Editor



Greetings,

A new year has begun and as we reflect upon our accomplishments of 2011, let us not become complacent. There is still work to be done. I wish to think all the members of the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family for their support of keeping

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason alive and well. Without your contributions, there would be no story to tell. It is my hope and desire that this publication continues to provide wanted information to our PHamily and to the public regarding our activities. To quote Bro. Dr. Osiefield Anderson, "This is Masonry's hour. God is watching from a distance and 10 - 15 years from now little boys and girls are going to be reading in 9th and 10th grade civic classes, they should be able to say look what those Masons in Texas, Florida, Louisiana and Arkansas did. They ought to see something we have done."

Fraternally,

H.P.M. Burrell D. Parmer

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason accepts submissions of articles and photographs of general interest to Prince Hall Masons throughout the Lone Star State. *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason* is published quarterly in the months of November, February, May and August. Submissions of articles and photographs are to be forwarded to the publication's Editor via email. Articles and photographs become the property of the publication and the right is reserved to edit and use the articles and photographs as deemed necessary. Deadline for submissions is the 15th day of the preceding quarter. Articles are to be submitted using Microsoft Word (Arial 11) and photographs should be in JPEG format (150 - 300 dpi) and captioned (Times New Roman 11). Send all submissions to captparmer@hotmail.com. Permission to reprint original articles appearing in *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason* is granted to all recognized Masonic publications.

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason

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H.P.M. Burrell D. Parmer

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The Texas Prince Hall Freemason is an official publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas and Jurisdiction. It is published four times a year for the members of Texas Prince Hall Lodges, their families, and friends. Opinions expressed by the Editor and contributing writers do not necessarily reflect official positions of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas.

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Message from the Grand Master

Greetings,

I greet you in the name of The Grand Architect of the Universe, from whom all blessings flow. It is my prayer that you are receiving the bountiful blessings of joy and peace. Continue to spread the cement of Brotherly Love and Charity as you travel.

First, I ask that we all be on one accord and pray for all those who are less fortunate and experiencing economically difficult times. As Prince Hall Masons I know that you will assist where possible. Secondly, pray for President Obama, our leadership and our nation, that the leadership be on one accord and move our country in a positive direction. My message is twofold; status of the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family and some words of wisdom.

As we have moved into a new calendar year and the second half of our Masonic year, I am pleased to be able to say that things continue to look positive for the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family. Last year was filled with many accomplishments. We continued to place emphasis on our Charity work at both the local and grand level of all Masonic Houses. This was culminated by our 3rd Annual Christmas Gift Give-Away at the Grand Masonic Temple. We continued to place emphasis on supporting our youth at all levels through scholarship and education donations, youth conferences, leadership programs and youth camps. We continued our benevolence to our membership through our burial relief programs. We expanded our Masonic awareness by opening the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum.

The New Year started off in a positive direction with a successful and well attended Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter 5th Annual Luncheon in Houston on Jan. 14.

Over the next few months our Masonic Family will continue its state-wide activities. In February, the city of Dallas will host the annual York Rite Weekend. In March, we will continue with the Council of Deliberation and Council of Assemblies for the Scottish Rite Bodies in El Paso. Let us not forget to support our Sisters as they worship and celebrate Palm Sunday.

My message to you as your Grand Master is this: **“Just because you can do something, does not mean you should do it.”** The point being, as Freemasons, we are taught that we are to subdue our discordant passions and keep our actions within due bounds, and walk upright as men and Masons. Just because there are worldly things available, it does not mean that you should do it. I will give you some examples:

Just because your automobile has a speedometer of 160 mph, does not mean that you should drive 160 mph down city streets or highways. There are traffic laws that you are to obey that say 30 mph on the city streets, 20 mph in school zone, 55 to 75 mph and in rare cases 80 mph on the highways. Now if by chance you are a race car driver and you find yourself on a race track; driving 160 mph would be appropriate because it would be within due bounds of the situation.

Secondly, just because you can walk into an “All You Can Eat Buffet” restaurant, pay \$20, get you a plate, select anything from the buffet, and go back as many times as you would like, does not mean that you should sample every single item on the buffet, over eating and making yourself sick. Nor does it mean you should get a fork and knife, pull your chair up the buffet line and eat from the buffet line. It would not be healthy for you to over eat and would be wasteful to the restaurant.

Last but not least, just because you can access social networks, under the veil of anonymity, it does not mean that you should just write, copy, repeat and/or discuss anything that may be harmful to your own character and reputation and that of others. Social networking is a “telephone on steroids!” When used properly, it can be used to communicate vital and important information that can

be helpful. It can be entertaining and enjoyable. On the other hand, just like medications, it can be abused and cause addictions and even death. Social networking can be abused and damage one's character in several ways. One way is what one says and writes about oneself. Another is what one says and writes about others. A third is using "misinformation" as gospel. Whether you know it or not, the information put out on social networks is accessed by many and for all practical purposes, is permanent. In the "pre-cyberspace world" I would say, "A lie can run 5 miles before the truth can get his boots on!" Now with the World Wide Web and social networking, I could say "A lie can be transmitted around the world before the truth can double click the mouse!"

Be careful how you access social networking. Be mindful that what you write and access on social networking applications can be referenced as your "un-official resume" for employment, personal relationships and reference for investigations. Most importantly from a Masonic standpoint, don't use this media to replace your attendance and support for your local Lodge. Secondly, don't divulge information publically that should only be discussed in a tyled meeting setting. This includes discussions and pictures. Some things are sacred to the Order and should remain so. Thirdly, do your own research and get an understanding for yourself. My rule of thumb is to only believe information from a social networking blog that directs you to a reference to an established source. Even then double check your resource. There are clandestine and bogus Masons out there that are trying to obtain the wisdom that you have just so they can say they are the same as you.

In summary, "**what you could do**" limitations are set by the parameters of nature; better known as "possibility". "**What you should do**" is set by the parameters of morality and truth. The tools to be used to keep yourself within the due bounds of morality and truth are to first use the compasses to draw the circle that will be the boundary of your thoughts and passions. Call upon those four cardinal virtues; fortitude for steadfastness of mind, prudence for reasonableness, temperance for restraint of passion and justice for rendering every man his due. Then test your progress with the working tools; the square to square your actions; the level to test your equality and the plumb to make sure you are walking upright as a man and a Mason...

As I close, please remember the principles of which our Grand Old Order is founded upon; Faith, Hope and Charity. The greatest of these is Charity. We are to be living examples of upright men and women not only in our Lodges, Courts and Chapters but in our homes, communities, work places or where ever our travel takes us.

I remain...

Fraternally yours,

Wilbert M. Curtis

Grand Master's Calendar

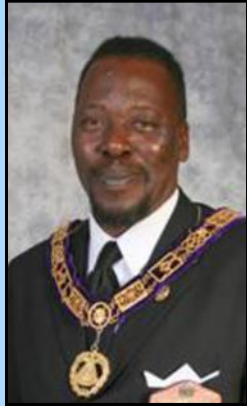
February - May 2012

Date	Location	Event
February 2012		
Thursday - Sunday, Feb. 2 - 5	Dallas	York Rite Weekend
Tuesday - Monday, Feb. 7 - 13	Cote d'Ivoire West Africa	Setup Roots U.D. Lodge
Friday - Sunday, Feb. 24 - 26	Pine Bluff, Ark.	Arkansas Grand Session
March 2012		
Wednesday - Thursday, Mar. 7 - 8	Jackson, Miss.	40th Phylaxis Annual Session
Friday - Sunday, Mar. 9 - 11	El Paso	Texas Council of Deliberation
Saturday, Mar. 24	Arlington	King of the Court
April 2012		
Saturday, April 7	Dallas	Queen of Sheba OES Banquet
Friday - Sunday, April 20 - 22	Fort Worth	Grand Lodge Board/Business Meeting
Friday - Sunday, April 20 - 22	Pine Bluff, Ark.	Arkansas Council of Deliberation
May 2012		
Wednesday - Monday, May 16 - 21	Phoenix	Conference of Grand Masters
Sunday - Wednesday, May 27 - 30	Denver	United Supreme Council, N.J.

Elected Grand Lodge Officers



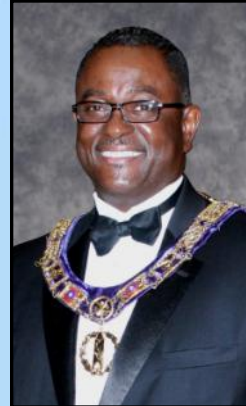
Past Grand Master
Hon. Edwin B. Cash



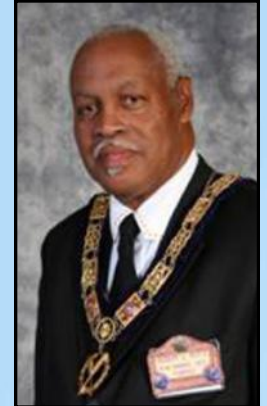
Deputy Grand Master
R.W. Michael T. Anderson



Grand Senior Warden
R.W. Bryce Hardin Sr.



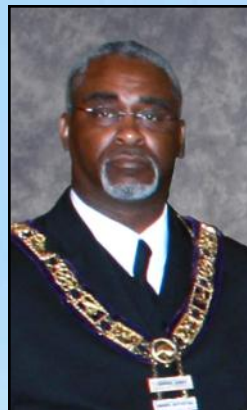
Grand Junior Warden
R.W. Frank D. Jackson



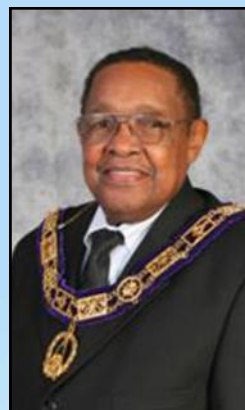
Grand Secretary
R.W. Hubert L. Reece Sr.



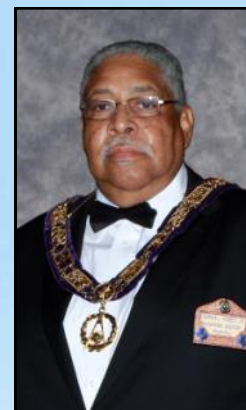
Grand Treasurer
R.W. Robert J. Datcher



Grand Tiler
R.W. Vernon J. James



Grand Auditor
R.W. Ernie Williams



Grand Auditor
R.W. Samuel Hobbs Jr.



Grand Auditor
R.W. Robert Hicks Sr.



M.W. PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE
F. & A. M.
STATE OF TEXAS
ORGANIZED AUGUST 20, 1875
STONE LEVELED JUNE 23, 1986
M. W. REUBEN C. WHITE GRAND MASTER
R. W. VOLNEY B. PHILLIPS GRAND SECRETARY/TREASURER



P.M. Benny A. Tucker
Chairman

From the Committee on Archives

As Chairman of the Archives Committee for The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and its Jurisdiction, I am grateful for the opportunity to have been entrusted on such an important undertaking. As Chairman, I am overseeing the development and implementation of our historical records into a protected system of archives. Most of these records will then be made available for public viewing. But in order to do so, we must make sure that all information is accurate and falls within a particular timeline. Our archives are of such importance, that just the slightest miss-information can tarnish all of our efforts. Every member of this committee is committed to providing the best possible outcome. The next generation of committee members should have the same mind-set as long as our history remains a vital part of this nation. The Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum (WMCTPHLM) archives are a collection of records including multimedia and artifacts that are ordered to be available for research and have historical value and interest. It also encompasses the non-current records of an institution or organization maintained because of their historical and enduring value. The archives fulfill the core requirements of the WMCTPHLM mission statement. Fundraising efforts are continuously underway to underwrite current expenses.

Prior to establishing the WMCTPHLM, our committee met with a number of library, history and archival experts. During those meetings, it was determined that our records are a well sought after collection. Any branch of the Grand Lodge, Appendant and Concordant Bodies, District and Local Lodges may need access in support of their routine business. Also, an outside researcher may want to consult the archives. Areas of interest include genealogy, local history, and Masonic research. Needless-to-say, we had some work to do.

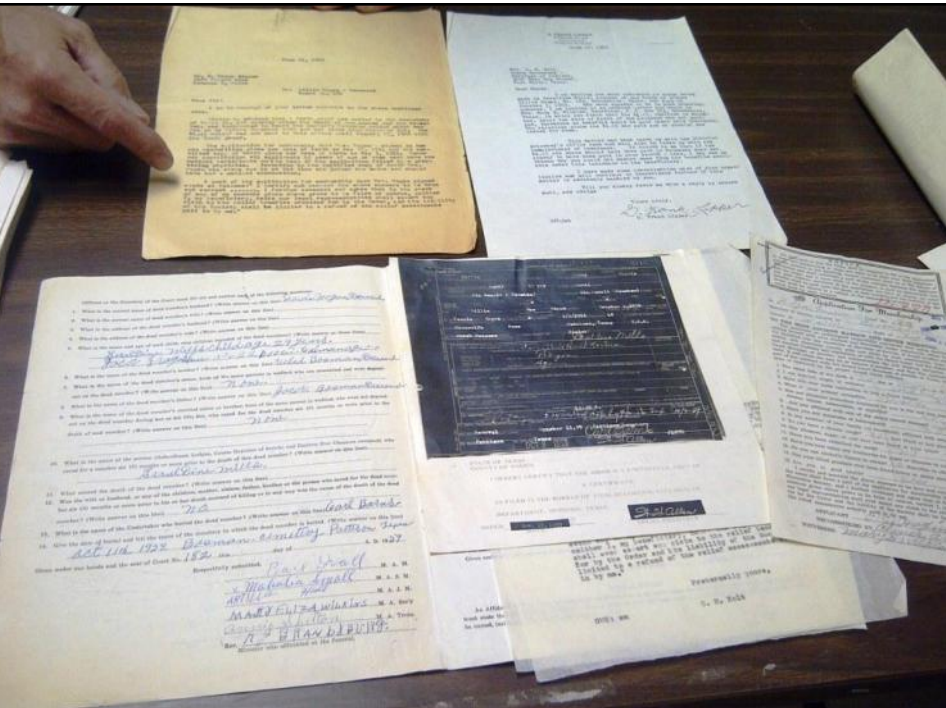
Having just enough information to be dangerous, we devised a course of action. This action plan would entail encouraging college interns from three local universities, Texas Christian University, University of Texas, at Arlington and University of North Texas with a background in Library Science. This course of action was not completed.



After talking to Dr. Marvin Dulaney, Ph.D. of African and American History at UTA, he felt our collection was too important to be turn over to new interns. He stated that our records were of such importance, that it could become one of the most sought after collection in the country. He said we needed a professional archivist to handle the task. A professional archivist is someone who is skilled enough to meet the objectives of the WMCTPHLM's mission and have the technical expertise necessary to implement them. His recommendation came in the form of Don Gross, Masters of Art in Public History who was currently working as an intern at the Fort Worth Stock Yards Museum and working closely with Fort Worth Independent School District. Dr. Dulaney provided Gross to us courtesy of UTA for two weeks in order to get acquainted with our collection of records.

Archivist Don Gross sorts through Death Proof Blanks at the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum.

The committee elected to move forward with hiring Gross who is trained in both theory and application of archives. His background in archives, archives management, and archives processing was part of his Masters in Public History degree at UTA. I asked Gross what was his expectation upon taking this job. He said, "The opportunity to develop and institute a new archive program presents not only a significant challenge but an opportunity to make a lasting impression on not just the history of Texas Prince Hall Masons but of Masons worldwide and future researchers." He further stated, "I have the opportunity to actually touch and feel a part of the cultural history of Texas Prince Hall Masons. Working with the membership applications, death claims, and operational records from more than one hundred years ago gives me a unique insight in the history of the Masons." He went on to say, "Developing and implementing the archives program for the newly established library affords me the opportunity to preserve a slice of African-American life in Texas that otherwise would be lost to memory."



Prior to Mid Winter Session, Gross had already stabilized and inventoried more than 100 linear feet of records, then permanently housed and protected them from further deterioration. Some of these records include not only Grand Lodge records that date back to 1887, but so far, 35 years of Heroines of Jericho records from 1953-1988. The HOJ records were acquired by the WMCTPHLM from a local historical group. They were found to be in extremely poor condition, but Gross did a great job of cleaning the majority of them, but the remaining records will be somewhat of a challenge.

Additionally, during Mid-Winter Session, Gross was present on Saturday to brief visitors on the archives and distributed excess copies of past Grand Lodge proceedings and publications. Unfortunately the research portion of the

Numerous historical documents can be found on current and past members of the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family in the Wilbert M. Curtis Prince Hall Library Museum.

WMCTPHLM is still not quite ready due to limited work hours and limited assistance from volunteers. We need volunteers to help out and learn the archival process during the Grand Lodge's work hours, Monday-Thursday 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 PM. Once the job of archiving and protecting the collection is complete, maintaining the archives will be an ongoing endeavor. New material will always have to be processed, catalogued, and preserved.

Currently Gross is developing a procedures manual. He continues to process incoming and inventoried records. Some of which should be transferred to archival quality storage (acid free). Seeking aid assistance need to be discussed and made available for the public. Older records currently stored in the Grand Secretary's office will need to be brought into the archival records. Once this happens, they can only be retrieved through certain policies and procedures.

Fraternally,

Benny A. Tucker

Report on the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation of Texas

The Prince Hall Charitable Foundation is the tool through which The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and Jurisdictions does its charitable work. If you are a member of the Grand Lodge then you are a member of the Charitable Foundation and this is what we have been doing since the Grand Lodge.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Grand Lodge awarded 10 scholarships during the Grand Session. Each of the winners are currently enrolled in college and we have paid the initial half of the scholarship. The second half will be paid upon registration for the spring semester. After many faithful years of service on the Scholarship Committee, Brother Kerven W. Carter has stepped down as Chairman of the Committee. The Grand Lodge and the Foundation thank Bro. Carter for his years of dedicated service, leadership and attention to every detail related to the scholarship program. Grand Master Curtis has appointed, on recommendation from Bro. Carter, Bro. Ronald Gerac to serve as the new Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. We look forward to continuing our scholarship efforts under his leadership.

ROBERT E. CONNOR, JR. YOUTH CAMP

The Robert E. Connor, Jr. Youth Camp held its 11th camp July 14-17, 2011 at the Cathedral Oaks Conference center in Oakland, Texas. The Camp was a great success. There were 56 youth participating and a number of brothers volunteering their time, talents and treasures. There were a number of presentations made from Masons and non-Masons, recreation activities and many mentoring opportunities. The camp is scheduled for its 12th year next July.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHAGORAS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Texas Order of Knights of Pythagoras, The Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council held its annual Youth Leadership Conference July 29 – 31, 2011 in Austin Texas at the Huston Tillotson University. The theme for this year's conference was The 7 Habits of Highly Successful Teens/The camp focused on ritualistic work, debate and oratorical contest, recreation and fun. A number of speakers appeared and the Conference was a great success.

PRINCE HALL FAMILY TOY GIVEAWAY

The 3rd Annual Prince Hall Family Toy Give away was held December 17, 2011 in Fort Worth, Texas at the Masonic Temple. Lodges, Courts, Chapters and individuals attended and contribute gifts and donations to support this effort and to make our presence felt in our headquarters city.

WILBERT M. CURTIS TEXAS PRINCE HALL LIBRARY MUSEUM

The Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum held its grand opening during the Grand Session on June 25, 2011. The grand opening was a great success. The Library Museum (LM) has exhibits from each of the Masonic houses along with pictures and documents from throughout our 136 year history are prominently displayed. While the LM is a great place to look at the evidence of our history, we have learned that our membership applications, death proof blanks and other documents provide a historical picture of African-American History in Texas that cannot be found in any other place. This information is significant to individuals who are doing historical research on African Americans in Texas. In addition to our own Masonic records and documents, the Charitable Foundation has received a donation from the Texas Historical Society of records from the Heroines of Jericho. Since the Grand Lodge Session we have gone through a process of gathering and organizing this information. Don Gross, a professional archivist, whose work was first donated to us through the University of Texas at Arlington and who we subsequently hired to perform some work for us. Individuals who now want to conduct research on African American history in Texas can come to our location and obtain information that is not available anywhere else in the world. We are not done!

What do we need from you?

1. First, we would like to thank you for your donations of artifacts and monies to the LM. We need more! We would like to change our exhibits at least once a year and later twice a year. We need more artifacts (documents, pictures, uniforms, furniture, etc.) Bring us your history, we will take care of it and share it with the world.
2. We would like to place the Fort Worth area school districts on notice that we are here and available for tours especially during Black History Month in February. We need your contacts at the districts to do so.
3. We need to increase our technology. We need a high speed scanner capable of copying documents up to 11x17 or larger so that we can put our documents in digital form and limit contact with our original documents. We need your donations!
4. We need to further improve our technology and website so that some documents and pictures can become available online for a fee. We need your donations or contacts for equipment.
5. We need to search out grants to obtain funding other than out of our own pockets. It takes funding to pay a grant writer to request funding and sometimes matching funds to get an award. If you are a grant writer or have knowledge about available grants we need your help!
6. We need individuals preferably in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex to become trained and available to conduct tours of the LM.

The list goes on and on. Can we count on you? I know that we can!

If you have questions about information in this report please feel free to contact me.

Fraternally,

Willie High Coleman, Jr.

Chairman

Prince Hall Masonic Family hosts 3rd Annual Christmas Toy Giveaway



Greetings,

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your participation and support for our 3rd Annual Christmas Gift Giveaway. This event was a great success because of you. As I stated on that Saturday, I really don't want to start naming names for fear that I may miss someone. But I do want to thank a few people because of their special contributions. First I want to thank Grand Master Curtis and the other Heads of the Prince Hall Masonic Family for assembling a committee from all over the Jurisdiction to execute the plans for this event. A special thanks to Worshipful Master Chris Randolph for acting as our Santa Claus this year.

Also special thanks go to our Overseas Masonic District for their contribution. Because of each of you almost one thousand children were blessed with gifts for Christmas which included 23 bicycles this year and four large boxes of toys were delivered to the Salvation Army Center of Fort Worth.

Again, thank you very much. May God continue to Bless each of you and your families. I pray that you had a very Merry Christmas and wish you a Happy and Successful New Year!

Thanks,

Robert B. Calloway Jr.

Grand Worthy Patron





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Prince Hall Freemasons hold Mid-Winter Session, 66 Raised to Sublime Degree of Master Mason





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Texas

Order of the Knights of Pythagoras

Sponsored by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and Jurisdiction, F&AM

“2012 YOUNG MEN WITH a PURPOSE” Youth Leadership Conference

Today's Youth focusing on their purpose, mission, and vision for the future.

JULY 19 – 22, 2012

Location to be determined

7 Powerful Youth Workshops

Presented by:

3 Facilitators

14 Instructors

Developing the Right Attitude

Decision Making

Leadership is within

Anger Management

Young Men with a:

Purpose

Mission Statement

Vision Statement

Staying in the Drivers Seat

Learning how to communicate effectively

WWW.TEXASKOP.NET



Competition

Debate Competition

Report Card

Statewide Basketball Tournament

Oratorical

Brain Bowl Competition

Election of State Youth Officers

EMAIL:

KOPTexas@YAHOO.COM



Mission Complete: VBC Lodge No. 653, Job Well Done!



Military Lodge No. 653 naming Bro. Ezell Tornes as its first Worshipful Master.

From June 2007 until the final meeting in December, 2011, VBC No. 653 garnered the respect of the Victory Base Complex military community, as well as the several Prince Hall Jurisdictional Lodges operating in Baghdad, while enabling Texas Prince Hall military members to “keep it Blue” through the continued practice of Ancient Craft Masonry while deployed in support of military operations in Baghdad, Iraq.

On Oct. 22, 2011, President Barack Obama announced the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The end of military operations in Iraq also meant the end of the Masonic work of our Brethren in Baghdad.

To our Brethren who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and to those who served in VBC No. 653 we salute you!

Lt. - Rt: W.M. Johnny Perez Jr., R.W.G.T. Vernon James, and M.W.G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis pose with the banner of Victory Base Complex Lodge No. 653 during the Prince Hall Grand Lodge's Mid-Winter Special Session, Nov. 12. The Lodge returned its Charter and donated their banner to the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum.

*By: Bro. Vernon J. James
R.W. Grand Tiler
Past District Deputy Grand Master 26A
DDGM At-large (Middle East)*

Vernon James and Special District Deputies Bro. Christopher Campbell and Bro. Keith McMurray.

During the Grand Lodge Session in June 2007 Grand Master Curtis issued a Charter under the name of Victory Base Complex (VBC)

FORT WORTH - Since the organization of our Grand Lodge on August 20, 1875, many of our members have received Masonic degrees (or have worked) in military Lodges.

In March 2007, Bro. Christopher Campbell petitioned Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis to operate a military Lodge in the Iraqi theater of operation during Operation Iraqi Freedom. A dispensation was issued to open and form a Texas Prince Hall Lodge under dispensation (UD) on Victory Base Complex in Baghdad, Iraq. Brothers Gerald Moore, Anderson Howard, Huey Nunn, Marcus Shade, Ezell Tornes, Robert Kiter were charged with administering the UD Lodge within District 26A under then District Deputy Grand Master Bro.



**TO: HONORABLE WILBERT M. CURTIS, GRAND MASTER
P O Box 1478**

FORT WORTH, TX 76101-1478

Through, R.W. Vernon James, District Deputy Grand Master At-large, District 26-A

Dear Grand Master Curtis,

I pray that this reaches you in great health and spirits and the Great Creator continuously preserves and blesses your divine wisdom. On behalf of Victory Base Complex Lodge No. 653 we thank you for the opportunity to practice Texas Prince Hall Masonry in Iraq. In a very challenging and unique environment Texas Prince Hall Masons have exemplified being upright men in and out the Lodge. Without a doubt there is a very distinguished standard kept by Texas Prince Hall Masons and that standard was exercised at clear volume by VBC Lodge No. 653 from the time the Dispensation was issued in 2006 during Operation Iraqi Freedom until its final and closing business meeting on October 19, 2011 as a Chartered Lodge with permission to operate under OPERATION NEW DAWN. During this time of operation and "good long run" as many Brothers have acclaimed, VBC Lodge No. 653 has been the positive impact not only to Texas Prince Hall Masonry but to the United States Government, the host nation of Iraq and all the several Prince Hall Masonic Jurisdictions that were fortunate enough to operate in Iraq.

The combat environment found all Masons with a shared challenge, to be Charitable in the most graceful ways without fundraising! It often seemed and was always witnessed that the several members of VBC Lodge No. 653 and fellow Texas Prince Hall Masons had mysteriously agreed that their keen Masonic knowledge, Masonic leadership and overall devotion to be blessings to mankind would serve as the indefinite foundation of their Charity. Whether it was the electrifying delivery of Special District Deputy Grand Master Keith McMurray giving the Charge to Entered Apprentices, the magnificent method of leadership Past Master Alphonso Ford displayed by keeping all area Brothers no matter what Jurisdiction on "square" terms at all times, the prestigious mentorship of S.D.D.G.M. Christopher N. Campbell who demonstrated a copious way of influencing Brothers from all Jurisdictions to work and study together, or whether it was the fellowship skills that were even further extended as our Brother SD Marcus Neal offered "a bite to eat" to Baghdad and Al Asad communities at large, for it must be known that this brother never excepted a dime but consistently gave his bread, meat and time!

VBC Lodge No. 653 was sure not to leave out the host nation from these Charities consisting of mental and spiritual growth; for VBC Lodge No. 653 accompanied by the members of Hawaii, Maryland, and Oklahoma Jurisdictions made participation in The Iraqi Boy & Girl Scouts Program a permanent entry on the agenda. Every Saturday noon to dawn our time was spent administering to the general learning and skill development of these beautiful children. After just a few weeks of the program launching we found ourselves meeting with Program Staff members each Tuesday and being key planners for the next weekend's events. On December 25, 2010 we made our unforgettable mark in the hearts of the Scouts, their parents and leaders when we spearheaded the first Christmas for most and the best yet for all, with the "*Papa Noel Christmas Celebration*".

All things must come to a point of leveling off and that was certain with the speech of our President Barack Obama on October 22, 2011 when he explained that all troops will be out of Iraq by December 31, 2011. This order was anticipated by the officers and members of the Lodge and proper instructions and future directions had already been prescribed by D.D.G.M. At-large R.W. Vernon James on how to proceed when and if this order was given. Without hesitation the remaining members began procedures and expedited the mailing of the Lodge furnishings back to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas on October 24, 2011. However, prior to these arrangements VBC Lodge No. 653, fellow Texas Prince Hall Masons and Brothers from other Jurisdictions consisting of Maryland, North Carolina, and Oklahoma once again had the opportunity to warm the "under arms" and host nation community with the "*5th Annual Prince Hall Americanism Day Celebration*". VBC Lodge No. 653's WM Channing L. Butler was nominated and served as the Chairman of the Prince Hall Americanism Day Committee that organized this Grand event, he served as the Master of Ceremonies of the event as well. It was a splendid turn out from the several capacities of US military men and women as well as contractor and civil servant employees. Many poems and speeches were given that grew boundless applause but the night was most rewarding for Texas Prince Hall Masonry when there was a standing ovation for S.D.D.G.M. Christopher N. Campbell as he was recognized for being the only

member present from the establishment of VBC No. 653 as well as being still present in its closing moments!

Finally, Victory Base Complex Lodge No. 653 requests that the Lodge banner be accepted as an addition to the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Museum Library as a memorial of its Masonic and American historical achievements. We further request that the remaining funds of the Lodge's accounts be equally donated into the J.T. Maxey Scholarship Fund and the Robert E. Connor, Jr. Masonic Youth Camp.

Fraternally yours,

Channing L. Butler

Channing L. Butler
Worshipful Master

Attested by: Alphonso Ford

Alphonso Ford
Secretary

Worshipful Masters of Victory Base Complex Lodge No. 653

P.M. Ezell Tornos - 2007, P.M. Marcus Shade - 2007, P.M. Johnny Perez Jr. - 2008,
P.M. Alphonso Ford - 2009, W.M. Channing Butler - 2011



World Summit of Mayors from Africa, Diaspora focuses on HIV in urban areas



Photo by: Logan Coles

Grand Junior Warden Frank Jackson (black suit) poses with others during the 2011 World Summit of Mayors Leadership Conference held in Dakar, Senegal, Africa, Dec. 15 - 19, 2011.

G.J.W. Frank Jackson, Mayor of Prairie View, Texas attends

www.unaids.org

More than 250 mayors from sub-Saharan Africa and of African descent from the United States, the Caribbean and Latin America focused on strengthening the AIDS response in urban areas during an historic conference held in Dakar, Senegal from 15-19 December.

The 2011 World Summit of Mayors Leadership Conference was hosted by Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade and co-organized by the US-based National Conference of Black Mayors (NCBM), the National Association of Senegalese Mayors, and UNAIDS.

At a plenary session chaired by the mayors of Dakar and Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, delegates engaged in a discussion on HIV risks, prevention strategies and the need to end stigma and discrimination.

"Today we can say with confidence that HIV prevention pro-

grammes are producing results. We can report today that 22 countries in Africa have lowered the rate of new HIV infections by 25% since 2001", said Djibril Diallo, UNAIDS Senior Advisor, in a statement on behalf of UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé.

Citing the challenges posed by the global financial crisis, Dr. Diallo urged municipal leaders to reinforce their efforts to find ways to take greater ownership of the AIDS response and promote shared responsibility. "This will bring the world closer to the UNAIDS vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths," he added.

The plenary session concluded with a proposal for pilot partnerships for HIV prevention between 10 cities and towns in sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas. The proposal was incorporated in the Summit's action plan. The municipalities will share information on their five most effective activities to re-

duce HIV infections and ways to increase budget allocations for HIV prevention as well as to improve prevention services. The organizers plan to enlist several large U.S. cities, such as Atlanta, Las Vegas and Washington, DC in the pilot initiative.

"The foundational belief of the Summit is that cooperation between municipalities on the development challenges facing cities on the global landscape, including the HIV epidemic, is essential to the improvement of the well-being of all citizens in urban areas," said Mayor Robert L. Bowser of East Orange, New Jersey, President of the NCBM, whose membership includes 682 mayors with a constituency of 55 million people across the U.S.

The World Summit of Mayors was convened within the framework of the UN International Year for People of African Descent 2011. Outside of sub-Saharan Africa, an estimated 200 million people in the Americas identify themselves as being of African descent, as do millions more in other parts of the world.



Photo by: Logan Coles

Mayor Robert Bowser (left), President of the National Conference of Black Mayors, and Dr. Djibril Diallo, UNAIDS Senior Advisor, at the World Summit of Mayors.

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Phoenix provides Toys, Meals for Needy Families



ily received a Turkey basket which consisted of a turkey, canned goods, flour, meal, and other items to complete a meal.

"The Brothers of the Lodge all get together this time of the year to ensure that families who are less fortunate gets assistance, and we try to bring Christmas to a group of people who probably wouldn't get Christmas otherwise if we didn't do this for them," said D.D.G.M. Brown.

"The Brothers saw this event as an excellent way to teach the importance of giving," said W.M. Morgan. "It's us just trying to set one example for the kids and when they get older they will do the same thing for someone else. It's all about giving."

"We want to make sure that the gift of giving is continued from generation to generation and that these young children know they are not forgotten and somebody out here does care about them," said W.M. Morgan. "We support them and show them love, especially during the holiday season."

Story by: Lodge Staff

RED OAK, Texas – One doesn't typically visualize a group of Mason's breaking out into a chorus of jolly "ho, ho, ho's," but Phoenix Lodge No. 648 of the 10th Masonic District has come through once again to assist needy families during the Lodge's 2nd Annual "Christmas Cheer" held at the Red Oak Lions Club, Dec, 21, 2011.

Through fundraising and Lodge member donations members, along with assistance from Arthur L. Banks Chapter No. 143 (H.R.A.M.), D.C. Collins Commandery No. 40 (K.T.), and Prince Hall Court No. 183 (H.O.J.), the event was a total success.

"Without the funds raised for this event, we wouldn't be able to have helped nearly as many children as we did," said Worshipful Master Karlous Morgan. "For the past year, this event has become our single heart touching event. If only you could see the smiles on the children faces."

The dinner, which included: baked chicken, dressing, macaroni & cheese, cranberry sauce, chicken pasta salad, and assorted desserts, was prepared by District Deputy Grand Master Jerry Brown, Sr. The Brothers of the Lodge served the meal to the guests and friends.

Afterwards the members ensured that each child received at least three toys and that each fam-



District 14 encourages Master Masons to dig Deeper



Photo by: Bro. Patrick Bonner

Lt - Rt: D.D.G.M. Rufus Phelps III, Contest Winner Bro. Ramon Allen, D.D.G.M.-E. Ronnie Jones, and S.D.D.G.M. Michael Whitted..

Story by:
S.D.D.G.M. Michael E. Whitted (21)

WACO – District Deputy Grand Master Rufus Phelps III implemented a District 14 Education/Knowledge Contest (This Little Light of Mine) to encourage members of the various Lodges to put on their thinking caps. The contest was held at a District meeting hosted by True Friend Lodge No. 145, Oct. 22, 2011 and its sole purpose was entice Brothers to learn their craft, encourage more studying, and to increase Masonic knowledge across the board for the Lodges within the District.

D.D.G.M.-Emeritus Ronnie Jones was asked to develop the questions with the assistance of the Past Masters and the final approval residing with D.D.G.M.



Photo by: D.D.G.M.-E. Ronnie Jones

Master Masons of District 14 participate in the District Knowledge Contest.

Phelps.

The participants could not be a sitting Worshipful Master nor a Past Master, each participant was given questions and had a limited amount of time to provide responses.

The winner of the contest was Bro. Ramon Allen of Wyatt Lodge No. 21, who was awarded \$250 donated by the District Deputies.

This was just another way to try and make an impact on the minds of the young Master Masons in the District while encouraging the older ones to share knowledge with the new generation.

It's about getting back to the basics and going beyond the ritualistic rhetoric. Continue to dig deeper.

Holloway Lodge delivers Meals to the Community



Kendrick Jones and Brandon Edwards for their contributions. "A job well done."



Members of Holloway Lodge No. 7 help distribute meals to families in the Waco Community, Nov. 19, 2011.

Story by: W.M. Charles Lilley
Photos by: Bro. Jarrett Haynes

the event. This was all made possible by Brothers Broderick James, Steven Vaughns, Jarrett Haynes,

WACO – For Prince Hall Masons in Texas it is customary for Lodges to reach out to the community during the holiday season and for members of Holloway Lodge No. 7, Nov. 19, 2011 marked an incredible accomplishment.

In the past, the Lodge had fallen on hard times. The membership primarily consisted of elderly members, who due to health reasons were unable to get out and affect the community. Times have changed and through the commitment and dedications of new members, Holloway Lodge was able to provide meals for 10 local families.

The Lodge was assisted in its efforts by K104.9, a local Radio station, who came out and performed a live remote from the Lodge Hall.

Radio Personality, Mr. Classic, did a wonderful job of broadcasting



K104.9's radio personality, Mr. Classic and W.M. Charles Lilley.

Wyatt Lodge No. 21 ends 2011 Strong, builds and strengthens Community Relationships



Photo by: Bro. Kevin Varnes

Members of Wyatt Lodge No. 21 supporting a Breast Cancer Motorcycle ride.

During the past quarter, Wyatt established another avenue to show support to the community with the acceptance of an invitation to support a Breast Cancer Motorcycle Ride Fundraiser. W.M. Martin realized that Breast Cancer can have an effect on every member of the Lodge in some form, whether it's a wife, widow, sister, mother, daughter, or friend that may have been affected by this unfortunate disease.

Fourteen members of the Lodge donated over eight hours of their time to help set up, prepare meals, and serve over 200 bikers of the local community. This event garnered over \$2000 in monetary donations to help raise the awareness of Breast Cancer.

Other notable community services were Wyatt Lodge's participation in the annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery which laid over 3300 wreaths, support of the Copperas Cove Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 8577 Holiday Meal Preparations that served over 200 local veterans, quarterly church visits, and the annual Diabetes Walk.

Wyatt Lodge continues to find ways to give back to the community with its charitable contributions with W.M. Martin at the helm.

Story by:
S.D.D.G.M. Michael E. Whitted, Sec.

WACO – Wyatt Lodge No. 21 has become a mainstay with the residents of the Lakeshore Village Healthcare Center.

During the Christmas Holidays, the staff of the center requested the assistance of Wyatt Lodge to donate Christmas gifts to residents without family members or friends. Worshipful Master Jerry L. Martin supported the request with donated gifts for 22 residents of the center that exceeded over \$400 in monetary value and \$450 of in-kind support, Dec. 21, 2011.

The occasion was earmarked with a Christmas party that had a makeshift sled that overflowed with gifts and presents for the residents. A total of 9 members of the Lodge were able to attend and assist with this festive occasion. The residents were overjoyed with the love

and support they received, and thank us with Christmas carol's sung by member of the Healthcare center. It was a great opportunity for the Lodge to give back to the community and remember those that have so often been forgotten by love ones and friends.

Another significant event which Wyatt Lodge has become a part of for the second year in a row was in support of the Meals-on-Wheels Program hosted by the Scottish Rite Body of Waco.

Every year on Thanksgiving, meals are prepared, packaged, delivered, and served to those less fortunate in the Waco community. This year, 16 members of the Lodge and four guests helped serve over 750 meals. This day was a prime example of the dedication and commitment of the members of the Lodge and their unselfishness to give back to the community.



Members of the Lakeshore Village Healthcare Center Choir preparing for Christmas Carols.

Union Seal Lodge spends Time with the Future



Story by:
Bro. Anthony T. Johnson (64)

WACO - This has been a very fulfilling quarter for Union Seal Lodge No. 64. This past summer, Union Seal adopted two elementary schools, West Elementary and J.H. Hines Elementary. The Lodge made an ambitious pledge that it would volunteer no less than 25 hours at each school per week. Members took on duties such as acting as hall monitors, tutoring, and mentoring. "There's nothing more satisfying than knowing you are having a positive impact on the hearts and minds of the children," said Brother Kevin Petty.

In October, J. H. Hines Elementary held a Fall Festival for students of the school. There was food, fun and games in safe environment and Bros. Kevin Petty, Karl Hilstock, Woodrow Wilson and Rudolph Carr entertained the kids with games and conducted meet and greets with the parents. Worshipful Master Demetrius Waples joined in on the festivities dressed as a clown and handed out candy.

In December, the Lodge bought and donated six bicycles to West Elementary to be use in a drawing. The only kids that will be able to

participate in the drawing were those who maintained a perfect attendance record. The bicycles were delivered the day of West Elementary Holiday Musical. This served as another opportunity for Union Seal Lodge to meet and greet with the parents and the community.

Members spent time also helping the children with the uniforms and costumes, while W.M. Waples acted as Santa Claus handing out

candy canes and participating in Christmas photos.

In addition to the Prince Hall Masons' participation, members of leadership from the York Rite Bodies were also in attendance to include Excellent High Priest Karl Hilstock of Alvin Gaston Chapter No. 54 (Holy Royal Arch Masonry) and Eminent Commander Anthony T. Johnson of Charles H. Anderson Commandery No. 41 (Knight Templar Masons).



Brethren of New Hope Lodge No. 400 donate Thanksgiving Baskets to Families in Need



Lt - Rt: W.M. Antonio McClinton, Tiler Artie Howlett, Sec. (acting) Rodrick Alexander, Artis B. Roode, E.A. Justin McCormick, S.D. Nolan Walker, and Chap. Mason Yarbrough.

*Story by: Lodge Staff
Photos by: Perry Jefferies*

PERRY, Texas – Prince Hall Masons of New Hope Lodge No. 400 took time out of their day to bring Thanksgiving happiness to needy families in the Perry and Riesel communities, Nov. 19, 2011.

The members included Past Master Charles Clayborne, Senior Deacon Nolan Walker, Chaplain Mason Yarbrough, Secretary (acting) Rodrick Alexander, Tiler Artie Howlett, Worshipful Master Antonio McClinton, and last but not least, Entered Apprentice Justin McCormick.

The Brethren met at the Lodge at 9 a.m. to prepare the donation boxes. The Brothers were enthusiastic and ready to do some good for our community, according to W.M. McClinton.

“I was very pleased with their fervency and zeal in wanting to get back to work again,” said W.M. Antonio V. McClinton. “I want to personally thank all of the New Hope members who donated to this endeavor. It was absolutely a great success!”

The Lodge assisted several families to include the Hazel Gorgas family, the Ruth Foster family, the Helen Jones family, the Della Sudas family, the Artis B. Roode family, and the Rev. W.M. Lott Sr. family.

“I am very excited about the work that this Lodge is destined to do,” said W.M. McClinton. “With Brothers like these, our efforts will increase abundantly and our community will benefit greatly.”

According to W.M. McClinton, the Brethren of New Hope Lodge No. 400 enjoyed a very special day

and his heart was filled with much joy knowing that the Lodge had made a difference in someone’s life.

“The work that we do is never done as Masons. We are in this for the long haul. Once a Mason, always a Mason! Square Work Brothers,” said W.M. McClinton. “I am proud to be associated with such a sincere and caring group of MEN. I want to encourage each of you to continue doing unto others as you wish they should do unto you.”



Prince Hall Masons of Jno G. Lewis Lodge No. 622 dispenses Charity during the Holiday Season



Members from the Copperas Cove Masonic Family met at the Lodge Hall to assemble Thanksgiving baskets for the community, Nov. 19, 2011.

Story by: P.M. Frederick Jones Jr.
 Photos by: P.M. Frederick Jones Jr.
 and Bro. Kenneth Smith

COPPERAS COVE, Texas – Prince Hall Masons of Jno G. Lewis Lodge No. 622 had a very busy holiday season of sharing and giving back to the Copperas Cove/Coryell County community.

On Nov. 19, 2011, several members of the Copperas Cove Masonic Family came together to share with the community. Members from Jno G. Lewis Lodge and Devine Glory Chapter No. 3 (O.E.S.) met at the Lodge Hall to assemble Thanksgiving baskets for the community. Thirty-five baskets were distributed to families that otherwise may not have had a traditional holiday meal.

Dispensing additional Charity, the Lodge brought holiday cheer and gifts to the residents of the

Wind Crest Nursing Home in which members of the Lodge walked the halls delivering gifts and bringing smiles to those in receipt.

In an effort to keep the minds of our young busy during the Christmas school break, the Lodge sponsored an essay contest at Bible Way Missionary Baptist Church. This contest was open to all school-age children in the categories of high school, middle school and elementary school.

The participants had to write essays based on their school level. Elementary-age children were to write a minimum of 100 words, middle school a minimum of 250 words, and high school a minimum of 500 words.

The winners were Kwami McNair (elementary) who won a \$50 gift card, William Thompson (middle school), the awardee of a

26-inch, twenty-speed bike and a tie between Angela and Jessica Lewis (high school), who both were the winners of Netbooks. Angela, who is senior, has been accepted into Baylor University and the Netbook will be useful.

The Lodge also found time to sponsor a family for Christmas. With the assistance of Nancy Spencer, director of the Copperas Cove ISD Communities in School, the Lodge was provided a wish list from a family of five and through donations from Lodge members, the family enjoyed a great Christmas, who otherwise may not have been able to enjoy the holiday season.



Angela and Jessica Lewis, winners of Netbooks.

Highland Heights Lodge demonstrates that Working Together Works



P.M. Porter Thomas, P.M. Rev. Devon Jackson, W.M. Costroma Willis, P.M. Byron Haynes and P.M. James Oliver (108). In the background are cars lined up to receive Thanksgiving Holiday donations.

Story by: P.M. Willie H. Coleman Jr.

HOUSTON - Highland Heights Lodge No. 200 under the leadership of Worshipful Master Costroma Willis III and New Jerusalem Baptist Church pastored by Past Master Rev. Davon Jackson, joined together over the Thanksgiving holiday to demonstrate that two can do more than one and that there is power in partnering. Together the Lodge and the Church provided 396 food baskets to the communities of Acres Home and Garden City.

According to W.M. Willis, the donations to the community are nothing new to Highland Heights Lodge, which has been making similar types of donations for more

than 20 years.

"Giving to the community in which we work and operate and sharing with those who don't have enough demonstrates the true meaning of Thanksgiving and gives us great joy," said W.M. Willis. "It also gives positive visibility to Prince Hall Masonry and answers the question of just what do those Masons do."

The Lodge and the Church were not alone in their efforts. Joining the effort by providing sponsorships and donations were Fred Hoya of Bayway Lincoln Mercury, James Davis of Gulfgate Dodge, Dave Edwards of United National Insurance, The Houston Food Bank, Mrs. Bairds Bread, Interfaith Ministries, Equipment Depot, Roderick Dow, CPA and Bates & Coleman Attorneys. Indeed, Working Together Works!

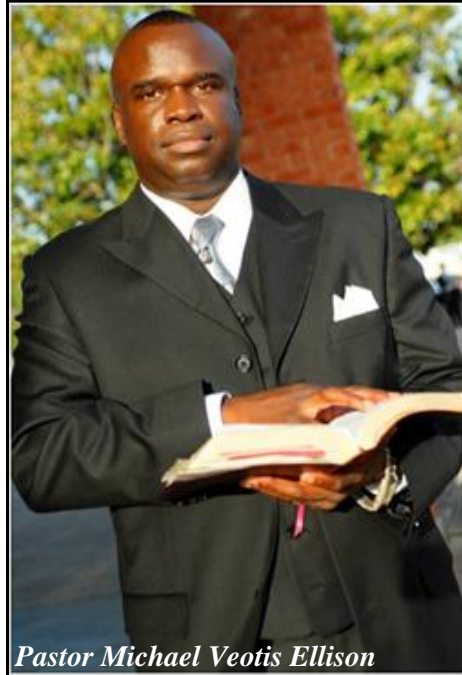


Members pass out donations to awaiting families.

Ever Ready Lodge hosts Annual Trailblazers Awards Banquet, assists Community with Donations



John W. Bland



Pastor Michael Veotis Ellison



Rep. Senfronia Thompson

PEARLAND, Texas – Prince Hall Masons of Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 hosted their 10th Annual Trailblazers Award Banquet held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Oct. 21, 2011.

The Trailblazers Award is given to nominated individuals who have demonstrated leadership and initiative in their chosen profession while making a commitment to meet the critical needs of individuals and groups in their communities.

Returning as Master of Ceremonies was Jose Grinan, Anchorman for FOX Channel 26 News. Special guest Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis was also in attendance. The invocation and blessing of the meal was given by Brother Marlon Heard, Assistant Pastor of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church and the keynote speaker was Congressman Al Green, representing the 9th Congressional District of Houston. Bro. Green spoke eloquently about duty and responsibility of supporting the leadership. He reminded

the guests of the need for Prairie View A&M University students to achieve their right to vote within that District. His topic for the evening also covered the importance supporting Black-owned business in order to amass and pass on wealth to future generations.

This year's Trailblazer Award winners were John W. Bland of the Progressive Youth Association, Pastor Michael Veotis Ellison of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church, and Rep. Senfronia Thompson of District 141.

This year's awards banquet was

a huge success due to the active participation of all the Trailblazers Banquet Committee members, everyone who purchased tables and business ads, and generous donation from Brother Roosevelt



Pastor Ellison stands with his uncle, Bro. Roy Ellison, after G.M. Curtis presented Bro. Ellison with a certification acknowledging 57 years of Masonic membership. Next to Bro. Ellison is W.M. John Johnson.



the years.

Recognition is given to Rick Pirooz, owner of Sweet Mesquite, Brother Kevin Patton and District Deputy Grand Master Clarence Douglas for organizing the breakfast.



Petry, Jr., President/CEO GP Industrial Contractors Inc. All of their support was very important for the Lodge to meet its monetary goal.

In November, 10 families were blessed by the donations of the combined efforts of the Lodge under the guidance of Senior Warden Franklin Meyers and Virtuous Stars Chapter No. 56 (O.E.S.) under the guidance of Worthy Matron Desiare Duplechan and Jeremiah Smith Chapter No. 74 (O.E.S.) under the leadership of W.M. Matron Evelyn Smith. The Lodge donated turkeys and the Sisters provided the dinner fixings.

In December, Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 donated \$1,000 to the Fort Bend County Women Center during a breakfast held at Sweet Mesquite Restaurant.

The Fort Bend County Women's Center assists survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children to achieve safety and self-sufficiency, while striving to prevent violence against women.

Vita Goodell, Executive Director of the Center, explained how not just monetary donations but the clothes, food, and furniture are welcomed and needed to continue

supporting the families that they help.

Goodell thanked the Lodge, O.E.S. Chapters Virtuous Stars No. 56 and Jeremiah Smith No. 74, Harris County Sherriff Department, Missouri City Police Department and Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosive (A.T.F.) officers for their continued support given to the Women Center and Shelter over



G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis journeys to San Antonio, attends Meetings, visits Historic Places



Star Tom Lodge No. 100, District Deputy Grand Master Grady Peavy, and Special Deputies of the 19th Masonic District. Visitors from outside the Jurisdiction included Past Master Willie M. Barnett of R.C. Cartwright Lodge No.129 (Maryland Jurisdiction) and Bro. Gary Reed of Peninsula Lodge No. 46, (California Jurisdiction).

A beautiful lecture was provided by Bro. Dr. Ron Kelley on Masonic terminology.

G.M. Curtis expressed his pleasure to be in the city and to share with the Brethren of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 and the 19th Masonic District.

“This year, I set a goal to visit more of the Lodges around the Jurisdiction and when I schedule trips around the state, I try to take advantage of every opportunity to visit Lodges when possible,” said G.M. Curtis. “Visitation is one of

S.D. Patrick Hunt escorts G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis to the East during a regular schedule Communication of San Antonio Lodge No. 1. G.M. Curtis to the opportunity to visit the first Prince Hall Lodge in Texas, Dec. 6, 2011.

Story by:

G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)

Photos by P.M. Edward Jones (1)

Masonic District attended the Communication and included visitors from J.T. Maxey Lodge No. 74,

SAN ANTONIO – Prince Hall Masons of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 were the recipients of a special honor during a regularly scheduled Communication held Dec. 6, 2011. The Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis, Grand Master of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas journeyed from Hewitt, Texas to visit the Brethren of the state’s first Prince Hall Lodge, Chartered on May 10, 1876.

The visit to the Masonic Temple was a second for G.M. Curtis who was received by Worshipful Master Curtis Davenport, who led the Lodge and its visitors in delivering grand honors to the Grand Master.

Numerous members of the 19th





G.M. Curtis poses with members of the 19th Masonic District after dinner at the "Home of Da Smoke" owned and operated by Bro. Robert Norman.

the rights of a Master Mason and is one of the duties of a Grand Master that is delegated to District Deputy Grand Masters."

G.M. Curtis said that presiding over a Lodge is one of the prerogatives of a Grand Master, if it be his will and pleasure.

"In most cases, I use the visitation to observe the working of the Lodge, provide constructive criticism and most importantly fellowship with those Brothers who for whatever the reason, do not attend the Grand Lodge Communication," said G.M. Curtis. "More times than not, I get a chance to visit with some of the older Brothers that stood on the Grand Lodge floor for years, transacting the business of the Grand Lodge but now due to their age and health reasons, no longer attend. I get a chance to shake their hands and thank them for their contribution to the Grand Lodge and let them know that they are missed. I receive encouragement and recommendations for moving the Grand Lodge in a positive direction as well."

Once the Lodge closed G.M. Curtis provided an opportunity for the Brothers in attendance to fellowship and ask questions.

Prior to the Communication, G.M. Curtis was treated to dinner at the famous Home of the Da Smoke, owned and operated by Bro. Robert Norman, the Lodge Marshal.

During G.M. Curtis' visit, he attended the meetings of Alamo Lodge No. 2142 of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows and St. Elmo Lodge No. 25 of the Knights of Pythias, two historic fraternal orders which have been closely connected with Freemasonry throughout history.

"When I scheduled the trip to San Antonio to attend the meetings of the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, and San Antonio Lodge No. 1, I also visited with the Brothers of J. T. Maxey Lodge No. 74 and toured their newly constructed Lodge Hall.

While in the San Antonio, Bro. Dr. Ron Kelley of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 provided the Grand

Master with a personal historical tour of the city which included the San Antonio Lodge No. 1 Cemetery and the Odd Fellows Cemetery, which houses the remains of our 4th Grand Master, P.G.M. Abraham Grant. Other sites included the San Antonio Scottish Rite Cathedral and the Alamo, which possesses a Masonic plaque at its entrance.

"My visit to San Antonio was one of my most enjoyable trips," said G.M. Curtis. "It will be remembered for several reasons; most importantly my fellowship with the Brothers of District 19 and knowing that they are practicing Freemasonry agreeable to the usages and constitution under the great leadership of District Deputy Grand Master Grady Peavy. I want to thank Bro. Kelley for coordinating the trip."

G.M. Curtis said that he looks forward to returning to San Antonio to Lay the Cornerstone and dedicate the J.T. Maxey Lodge No. 74's Lodge Hall.

For Pride of the South, the Gift is in the Giving



this story was seen in the faces of the Brothers of Pride of the South, especially that of Sec. Green (pictured with apron and the Lodge's eldest member), who has been visiting the homes of widows for many years.

The Lodge is convinced that the gift is in the giving.



Story by: S.W. Billy Adams (324)
Photos by: W.M. Bernard Brown (324)

FORT WORTH – Brothers from Pride of the South Lodge No. 324 continued an annual tradition of providing Thanksgiving dinners to the widows of former Lodge members, Nov. 23, 2011.

Members contributing to the effort were Worshipful Master Bernard Brown, Senior Warden Billy Adams, Secretary Linton Green, Treasurer Henry Gadsden, Brothers John Thomas, and Darrell Bell. Additionally, Cameron Brown, son of W.M. Brown participated; although he is not a Mason, he continues to support the Lodge and its numerous activities.

After meeting together to purchase the meals, a route was determined, a caravan formed and the journey began. Each visit told its own story. At many of the homes, not only were the Brothers met graciously by a widow, but were thanked and appreciated by

others that lived in the home.

There was a younger member of one household that had never seen members of her grandfather's Lodge deliver dinners before and suffice to say, once was a skeptic, there is now a friend. The look on the faces of a few would reveal that the Brethren were more than just visitors, they were family.

Then there was the lady who was so touched by the Lodge's visit that she cried, it touch each member's heart. The other part of



Key West No. 257 hosts Children's Christmas Party



Flannigan of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, who voiced the Christmas story and led children in Christmas carol sing-a-longs. Additional thanks go out to all the Brothers who helped coordinate the event and contributed toys for the children.

Each child in attendance received a toy gift bag, a fruit bag and tasty refreshments. The event served as a small token of gratitude from the Key West PHamily to make the day a happy one for the children.



Lt. -Rt: P.M. Brian Pindell, P.M. George Jeffers, S.D. Joel Edwards, W.M. Kerry Woodard, Bro. Eddie Johnson, S.W. Merari Jewsome, Bro. Thorney Taylor (Santa), W.P. Rafael Vazquez.

Story by: P.M. P. Brathwaite (257)

WICHITA FALLS, Texas – To bring joy to the children of the city, members of the Key West Prince Hall Masonic Family hosted its annual Children's Christmas Party at the Lodge Hall, Dec. 10, 2011.

The event caters to families of the local community and the Key West Masonic PHamily. The majority of the children invited to the event were from the school age mentorship program, sponsored by the Omicron Epsilon Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Sir Knights of Key West Commandery No. 15.

The PHamily has hosted the event for many years, and all the members look eagerly each year to help make the event a success.

The children were visited by a special guest, *ole grey beard* himself, Santa Claus, who was played

by Brother Thorney Taylor II. He received the children with bearded smiles and a hearty "Ho Ho Ho".

Special thanks go out to Rosie



Rosie Flannigan of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority tells the Christmas Story.

G.M. Curtis dedicates Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620's New Lodge Hall



W.M. Johnny A. Perez Jr. and H.P.M. Ernest Lovgren prepare to cut the ribbon as part of the Lodge Hall Dedication ceremony, Nov. 5.

Story by P.M. Kenneth Jones, Sec.

KILLEEN, Texas – To see the fruits of the labor of the Prince Hall Masons of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620, the Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis, Grand Master of Masons traveled to the city to dedicate the Lodge's new Lodge Hall, Nov. 5, 2011

The journey has been an arduous one for the Lodge as it has had held business in several locations over the past 40 years. Having owned a Lodge Hall previously has made the members more determined to own again.

According to G.M. Curtis, he is proud of the fact that the results of hard work and dedication over the past few years have finally paid off for the members of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620.

One of the Lodge members, Honorary Past Master Ernest Lovgren had once stated "I hope to be alive when my Lodge moves into a place we can call our own home again." H.P.M. Lovgren, 80, and the oldest member of the Lodge was beaming with pride as Worshipful Master Johnny Perez Jr. announced that the building was now under the ownership of the

Lodge, Oct. 28.

"Making this happen for our senior members was also very important so they could share in our legacy and accomplishments of the Lodge," said W.M. Perez.

At 9 a.m., the Lodge Hall dedication ceremony began. The program started outside the Lodge Hall with an opening prayer, recognition and acknowledgments. This was followed by a special ribbon cutting ceremony with W.M. Perez assisted by H.P.M. Lovgren.

All guests were invited inside, where G.M. Curtis was escorted by the Dedication Ceremony Team.



continue to do the much needed work in the Killeen community and surrounding areas.

If you are ever in the city of Killeen, stop by 410 North 8th Street and see what the Brothers in 620 are up to. The doors of the Lodge will be open.

"I wish to thank all of the members, past and present, for the hard work, dedication, and support that allowed this day to come," said W.M. Perez. "It could have not been done without the superior efforts and vision of the members of this beautiful Lodge. It really feels like home. Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you."

G.M. Curtis called for prayer for the Lodge and blessings on the new Lodge collars that he presented to the Officers of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620.

G.M. Curtis then proceeded with his first Lodge Dedication as Grand officers' collars and issued new collars for every place and station in the Lodge.

Near the conclusion of the dedication, all members and guests gave G.M. Curtis and the team a standing ovation for such a wonderful ceremony.

The Lodge history was read and the theme of which was, "You have to know from whence you came, in order to know where you are and where you plan to go."

With the assistance of G.M. Curtis, the Lodge officially retired its

To show the wives their appreciation, the Lodge presented each with long-stem red roses.

The ceremony ended with the awarding of certificates of appreciation and plaques to the Lodge's supporters, to include G.M. Curtis, and P.M. Roy Sampson closed out the program with prayer.

The future is bright for Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 and now they have a new Lodge Hall to con-



G.M. Curtis is flanked by a group of distinguished men and Masons who all reside in the Killeen area.

Pride of Killeen helps keep Avenue C Clean



this past one.

According to Keep Texas Beautiful (www.ktb.org), the city boasts several groups that take responsibility for a specified stretch of roadway. During 2010, those groups held 97 litter pickup events featuring approximately 2,350 participants. More than 300 miles of Texas road was cleaned, resulting in 17,680 pounds of debris.



Story by:
Bro. Robert D. Clark II (620)

KILLEEN, Texas – Prince Hall Masons of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620, family members, and friends joined together downtown to participate in the Lodge’s Quarterly Street Cleanup, Jan. 7.

More than 15 participants from the Lodge along with other volunteers helped keep the city streets clean by picking up trash and litter along Avenue C.

Always evoking the aid of Deity, the participants began their community service with prayer at the Lodge Hall.

After prayer, the route was briefed and safety items were distributed along with trash bags and gloves.

The contingent walked over to their “Adopt-A-Roadside” starting point, took pictures and went to work receiving plenty of exercise as they trekked a total of four miles, which was accomplished in an hour.

After a job well done, the participants returned to the Lodge Hall and were served breakfast prepared by Brother Tyrone Powell, courtesy of donations.

The fellowshiping of the Lodge’s membership, volunteers and visiting Brothers from abroad was truly a blessing in itself. The next quarterly street cleanup is scheduled for April 7, and will probably be in conjunction with the “Keep Texas Clean” event.

The street cleanup produced a great turnout. The Lodge wishes to thank all who participated and looks forward to making the next cleanup bigger and better than



Temple Masonic Family holds Annual Toy Drive & Gift Giveaway



Heroine Stephanie Phillips, W.M. Andrea Whitted, Bro. Bobby Ellis, W.M. Will Tower and M.A.M. Mary Hardeman pose for photos at the Temple Masonic Family's 3rd Annual Gift Giveaway held at Open Arms Ministry, Dec. 18.

Story by:

Heroine Stephanie L. Phillips (150)

TEMPLE, Texas – St. James Lodge No. 71, Rising Sun Court No. 150 (H.O.J.), Shiphrah Chapter No. 54 (O.E.S.) and Ed Blair Consistory No. 286 (A.A.S.R) joined together as the Temple Masonic Family and hosted their 3rd Annual Toy Drive & Gift Giveaway, Dec. 18, 2011.

Each of the organizations began advertising their participation in the toy drive in October, resulting in local businesses and community members fully supporting the drive. The drive yielded more than 150 new, unwrapped toys, the most toys collected since the toy drive began in 2009.

The Masonic Family also came together for an evening of fellowship, food and gift wrapping to prepare the toys for the toy giveaway. The occasion served as a great opportunity to unite and strengthen

the relationships across the Masonic organizations.

The toy giveaway was held at Open Arms Ministry, an organization that provides prescription drug assistance and food for families in need in the city.

Members of the Masonic Family served as Santa's honorary elves for the evening with Brother Bobby Ellis of St James Lodge No. 71 serving as Santa Claus.

Approximately 50 children and adults anxiously waited in line to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas. Each child received three gifts including goodie bags filled with fruit, nuts and candy.

The toy giveaway included special recognition for an act of kindness when 8-year-old DeQuavious Canady, who won a girl's bicycle from the 2010 event drawing, graciously donated his bike to a little girl who was attending that event. The joy on his and her faces was

an extraordinary sight to witness. For recognition of DeQuavious' compassion and generosity, the Masonic Family presented him with his own bike that included a warranty from Bros. Jeff Burton and Rick Phillips Sr. of St. James Lodge No. 71. The members will make all repairs as required when the bike needs them.

Each year in December the Open Arms Ministry of Temple provides food baskets to families in need. St. James Lodge No. 71 and the Temple Masonic Family have made a commitment to support the ministry's efforts by collecting and donating toys to the children of families who received a food basket.

The collaborating organizations have worked together the past three years for this annual event. They agree it is a worthwhile cause and any opportunity to bring joy to children and members of the community is a worthwhile endeavor. Plans and preparations for the 2012 toy drive have already begun.



Prince Hall Masons of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 give Thanks to the Widows and Family members, dispenses Food Baskets during the Holidays



Members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 serve widows and families during the Lodge's semiannual Family/Widows Pot Luck held in November 2011.

Nursing Home visit to Crestview Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation, where the members hosted a bingo tournament with the residents.



Story by: Lodge Staff

BELTON, Texas – During the month of November members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 honored the widows and families at their semiannual Family/Widows Pot Luck.

The purpose of the event is to thank the members' families and past members' widows for their support to their husbands/fathers who contributed to the Lodge and Masonry in general.

Additionally, during November the Lodge dispensed 17 Thanksgiving baskets to needy families within the Belton, Killeen, and Temple communities. The effort was supported by Mt. Zion United Methodist Church.

In December, the Lodge provided Christmas baskets to 17 families and conducted their annual



Prince Hall Masons of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 pose with residents, faculty and staff of Crestview Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation

District 26A and 26 (O.E.S.) participate in Drug Awareness Program, Wounded Warriors Project



Photo by: Sis. Christina Coomer

Members of District 26A and 26 (O.E.S.) at the annual Drug Awareness 5K Run.

*Story by:
W.M. Charles Cook Jr. (640)
W.M. Shamica Council (60)
Sis. Monique Young (60)*

GERMANY – Every year the Kaiserslautern Community holds an annual Drug Awareness Run to educate the community on the use of drugs and how to avoid the use of drugs by children. Members of District 26A and 26 (O.E.S.) participated in the 5K run, Oct. 9, 2011.

District Deputy Grand Master Odis D. Atkinson stated that this was the longest run he has participated in since his my retirement from the military. Additionally, he said he would do it again if would keep his community drug free.

Children need to know how a one-time experiment with drugs

can lead to a life-time of grief and that illegal drugs are just plain bad.

District Deputy Grand Matron Tefferra Atkinson stated that she cannot wait until next year to participate again. She said this run was important and wished the commanders of all military services in Germany would make the event a mandatory event of participation.

On Oct. 30, both Districts volunteered to serve the servicemembers who are medically evacuated from Iraq and Afghanistan to the U.S. Hospital in Germany for medical treatment. The program is part of the USO Wounded Warrior Project.

The project's goal is geared toward serving the military members in the Kaiserslautern community.

The Districts' event was coordinated by Sister Amanda Tiggs and



Photo by: Bro. Deremy Wilson



Photo by: W.M. Shamica Council

Brother Calvin McCray. Sis. Tiggs who works at the hospital sought out the opportunity to volunteer and stated that she saw so many soldiers coming through the hospital and through her conversation with them, the soldiers said the one thing they missed the most besides their family was a home cooked meal. Sis. Tiggs coordinated with Bro. McCray and decided to provide the soldiers with that meal.

D.D.G.M. Odis D. Atkinson stated this was an outstanding program being sponsored by the USO and he was pleased that the members of District 26A and 26 were able to participate in such a wonderful program. He stated that he had the opportunity to talk with soldiers and thanked them for their service, and if the Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis was personally here he would say the same.

D.D.G.M. Tefferra Atkinson stated that this is an opportunity that could not be passed up. She said if she could serve the service members everyday she would. She thanked them for their contributions that allow us to enjoy or freedom.

As the night went on there were give-a-ways to the servicemembers present. Both Districts have signed up to volunteer during the next quarter.

On Nov. 22, District 26A and 26 made their annual Thanks Giving donation to the Kinderschutzbund Center in Pirmasens. This has become an annual event since 2009 where the members donate food baskets to the orphanage which is able to feed the families of the children that attend the center.

In addition to the donation, the members of both Districts spon-

sored a Back-to-School BBQ for the children. The Brothers and Sisters purchased, cooked, and served the food that was prepared for the center. While the food was being prepared the members enjoyed an eventful day of playing games and having pure fun with the children. The members also were able to make the day even more special for a little girl name Angelina who was celebrating her birthday.



Heroines of Jericho provide Education and Joy during the Holiday Season



G.M.A.M. Jackie Livingston provides instruction during the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho Coastal Regional, Nov. 5, 2011.

Story by: Grand High Court Staff

BEAUMONT, Texas – To provide wholesome information and training for its newest members, the Heroines of Jericho held their Coastal Regional, Nov. 5, 2011.

The regional meetings are workshops where the Grand Most Ancient Matron of the State of Texas and the elected grand officers attend and provide updated information to local Courts.

On Dec. 17, the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho participated in the Texas Prince Hall Family's 3rd Annual Toy Give-away held at the Grand Masonic Temple in Fort Worth. After the event, members of the Grand High Court visited Past Grand Most Ancient Matron Margaret A. McDow, who is doing well and wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a Blessed New Year.

In the spirit of unity and collabo-

ration, Heroines of Rising Sun Court No. 150 participated in the 3rd Annual Temple Masonic Family Banquet alongside with St. James Lodge No. 71, Shiprah Chapter No. 54 (O.E.S.), Heart of Texas Guild No. 38, and Ed Blair Consistory No. 286. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis served as the keynote speaker and G.M.A.M. Jackie Livingston was also in attendance. It was an evening to remember. The theme of "Unity with the Community" was prevalent throughout the evening's activities.

Additionally, Rising Sun Court, in collaboration with the Temple Masonic Family, hosted the 3rd Annual Temple Masonic Family Toy Drive and Gift Giveaway, Dec, 18. The members collected enough toys for about 50 children to receive three gifts each. Members also came together for an evening of fellowship, food and gift wrapping to prepare the toys for the

giveaway.

Lastly, Fannie Lee Sterns Court No. 538 held its Community Christmas Give-a-way in December.



Visit with P.G.M.A.M. Margret A. McDow.



Raising Sun Court No. 150.



Members of Fannie Lee Sterns Court No. 538 at their Christmas Give-away.

HOJ, El Paso Sheriff Office, Friends of the Community provide Joy to Members of the El Paso Miracle League



Story by: M.A.M. R. Lucille Samuel
Special Deputy of the Western Region

others and not worrying about ourselves. Happy Holidays to all and thank you so much for your assistance Magnolia Court and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office.

EL PASO – Members of Magnolia Court No. 28, Heroines of Jericho (Western Region), along with members of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office and friends, hosted a Christmas Party for the El Paso Miracle League and their families, Dec. 15, 2011.

The El Paso Miracle League is an organization that sponsors mentally and physically disabled children and adults. They participate in sports and community events that boost their self esteem and allow them the same opportunities as ordinary people.

The children and adults, ages 14 to 70, received gift cards from Walmart and Christmas Stockings filled with joy. Additionally, the organization was provided a \$500 donation from members of the community to purchase sporting equipment.

This is how Christmas should always be celebrated by giving to



Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter hosts 5th Annual Luncheon, Mardi Gras Style



Members and guests of the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter attend the 5th Annual Luncheon held at Brady's Landing, Jan. 14.

*Story by: Sis. Gloria McGill (23)
Order of the Eastern Star*

HOUSTON – The Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter 5th Annual Grand Luncheon was held at Brady's Landing, Jan. 14. The event was appropriately titled, "An Elegant Affair," with a Mardi Gras theme.

The annual event was inaugurated in January 2008 as a scholarship fundraiser for youth in the state of Texas. There was standing room only, the largest attendance since the event's conception.

The master of ceremonies, Brother Willie High Coleman Jr., and mistress of ceremonies, Sister Eula W. Bell worked well as a team keeping the crowd attentive and excited with humorous jokes and skits.

Grand Worthy Patron Robert B. Calloway Jr., established protocol followed by Rev. Bro. F.D.

Sampson who gave the invocation along with Grand Assistant Patron Anthony Carr who offered the blessing. The welcome was delivered by Sis. Johnnie McMillan followed by a delightful poem eloquently recited by Sis. Emma Renfro.

Sis. Elizabeth English followed with highlights of the history of the Grand Chapter and Bro. Justin Oliver offered a solo song selection (a cappella). A lunch was served at the directions of Grand Chapter Hostess Committee, followed with a solo by Sis. Toye Williams and introduction of the fashion show commentator by Sis. Bell.

Entertainment for the luncheon was once again presented by, "40 Plus Models," featuring "Mardi Gras" attire and "Hats on Parade." The commentator, Shelia Coleman, introduced each outfit with great enthusiasm. The Mardi Gras Extravaganza was deemed the exciting highlight of the Grand Lunch-

eon. The "40 Plus Models were GREAT! They consisted of women and men who "strutted their stuff" to the delight of the audience.

To the pleasure of the models, the audience clapped, waved napkins in the air and rendered vocal approval of the fashion show. The models donned business, casual, church, and evening attire with every accessory.

The most delightful and special highlight of the luncheon was presented by Grand Worthy Matron Martha Wolridge.

Each year at the Grand Luncheon a special presentation is made to an organization that is assisting the community. This year's award was presented to the Fisher House at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston.

The Fisher House is a unique private-public partnership that sup-



Mistress and Master of Ceremonies, Sis. Eula Bell and Bro. Willie H. Coleman Jr.



Frank Kelley, manager of the Fisher House at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston accepted a \$500 donation from G.W.M. Martha Wolridge.

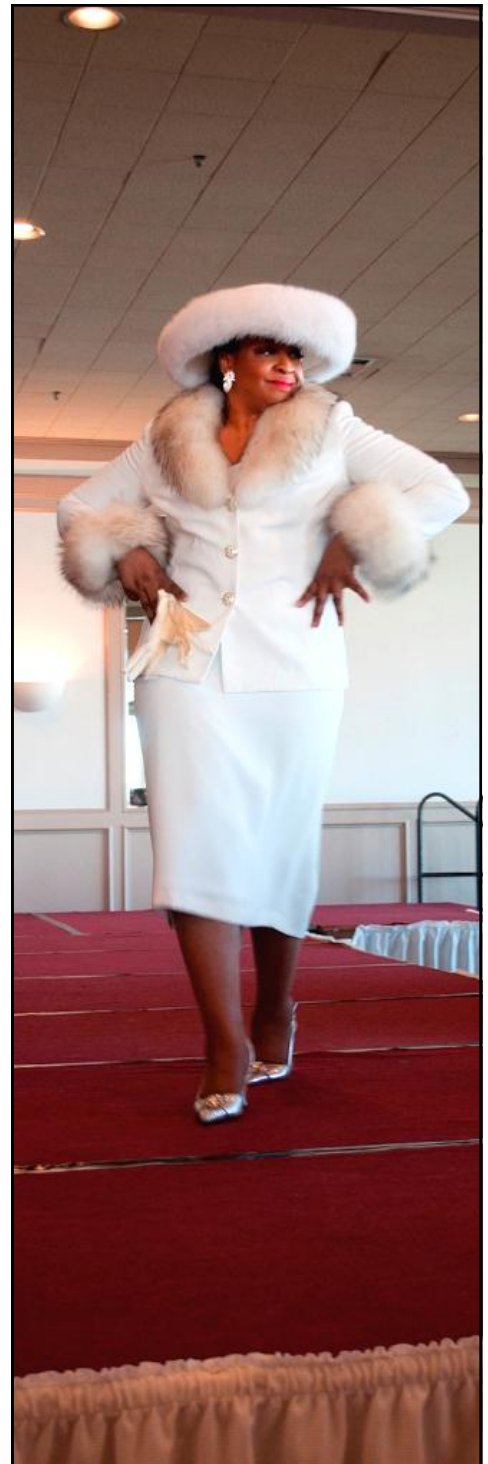
ports America's military in their time of need. These homes enable family members (at no cost) to be close to a loved one during their hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury. The award of \$500.00 was accepted by Frank Kelley, manager of the Fisher House.

Closing remarks were made by the following: G.W.M. Wolridge, G.W.M. Calloway and Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis. The closing

prayer was delivered by John Humphrey, Deputy Grand Joshua HOJ.

Everyone departed with words for safe travel, and best wishes for the New Year.

The Grand Chapter thanks everyone who attended and played a part in the terrific planning of the spectacular event. Congratulations to G.W.M. Wolridge for the Vision, and all entities that made the Vision possible.



Entertainment for the luncheon was once again presented by, "40 Plus Models," featuring "Mardi Gras" attire and "Hats on Parade." To the pleasure of the models, the audience clapped, waved napkins in the air and rendered vocal approval of the fashion show.



Dorcus Chapter No. 19 celebrates Family, honors W.P. Lee “Archie” Cooper



Story by:
Chapter Staff

DALLAS – For the past two years Dorcus Chapter No. 19 has celebrated family in the month of October; last year the Chapter fellowshiped and bowled. This year the Chapter wanted to do a lot more during the weekend of Oct. 29 - 30, 2011.

The weekend was in celebration of a great family and a great man. Some may even call him a father figure in our Chapter and in Freemasonry; Worthy Patron Lee “Archie” Cooper, a 33° Scottish Rite Mason; Past Grand/local Officer in most Masonic organizations; current Worthy Patron of Dorcus Chapter No. 19; and a dedicated and devoted member of St. Luke “Community” United Methodist Church and the community at large.

This past year has been a tough one for W.P. Cooper. He is battling daily with a condition that is all

too familiar to us in the African-American community. In June, W.P. Cooper, lost his mother, Mattie Bean Cooper, while the Order was in Grand Session. He managed to stay in contact with us and was very proud as the Chapter won several accolades for work in the District and State for the 2010-2011 Masonic Year. W.P. Cooper has always provided a firm foundation for the Chapter. There has not been a time in over a decade in which W.P. Cooper was not at the door to open up, protect us and stay until the very last work of Charity was completed.

On Saturday, the Chapter participated in the Juanita A. Craft: Diabetes Health and Wellness Institute’s Step to Stop Diabetes in honor of our very own W.P. Cooper. He was able to come out and be with us as we volunteered, ran and walked the 3-mile race. With the assistance of a Charity donation from the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter, we also donated

\$550 to aid in health and wellness programs for those affected by Diabetes in the South Dallas Community.

The Dorcus Family Weekend continued as Stanley R. Gibson Youth Fraternity and sponsors hosted their very first fundraiser! “Heaven or Hell? You Decide” Halloween Celebration. What a great turnout of youth and adults looking for some good clean fun. It was a great spin on the spooky Halloween Holiday.

On Sunday, members came together to join Worthy Matron Amye Thompson and Family at Central Pointe’ Church of Christ for morning worship.

Fellowship with family is something that most of us take for granted. It’s something that we may do for holidays, sometimes birthdays; but usually it’s when someone goes home to glory, that we stop and remember them. Very rarely do we stop and celebrate our family members while they can observe it. Dorcus Chapter No. 19 would like to congratulate and encourage W.P. Cooper for his Living Legacy to Freemasonry and the community at large. We love you and continue to thank you for your service.



Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 serve Dinners, provides Holiday Joy to those Less Fortunate



On Dec. 11, 2011, Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 visited the Bisbee Family and provided presents for Christmas. Each child received a coat, shoes, clothes, undergarments, and toys in time for the holiday season. Along with the presents, the family was given a Wal-Mart gift card along with a gift basket of bath and body products.

The Chapter's desire was not only to provide joy during the holiday season, but to celebrate and give thanks every day; making a difference while serving others.

Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 assisted in the set up and preparation of more than 475 meals at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church on Thanksgiving Day. The Chapter have been assisting Gloria Kinnard who has been preparing meals for the past 25 years.

*Story by: W.M. Tiffany Lee (38)
Order of the Eastern Star*

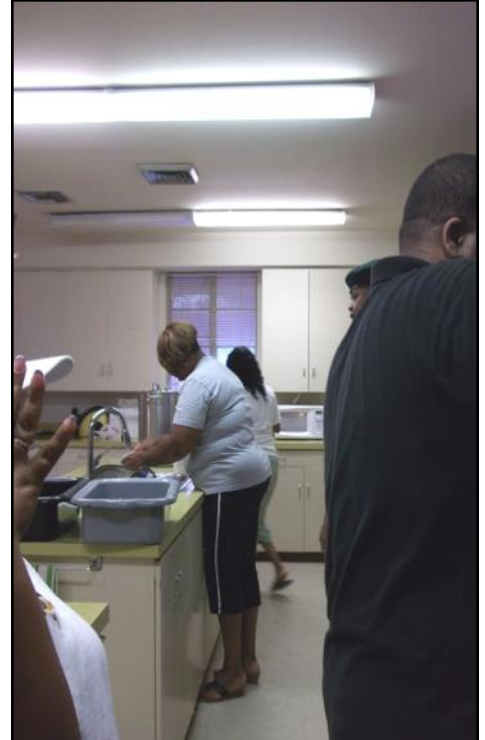
BRYAN, Texas – Members of Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 assisted Gloria Kinnard, a retired city resident, on Thanksgiving Day. The members assisted in the set up and helped served more than 475 meals to the local residents at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

For the past several years, Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 joined forces with Kinnard each Thanksgiving Day. Kinnard has been preparing Thanksgiving meals for over 25 years for the community.

Preparations for the dinner begin in early September and food donations were received from local businesses, church organizations and from Sisters of Agape.



Wesley Chapter No. 39, BLOM and Heights Presbyterian Church help feed the Homeless



Story by:
W.M. Kimberly Brown (39)
Order of the Easter Star

HOUSTON – During the month of October 2011, members of Wesley Chapter No. 39 and Heights Presbyterian Church provided more than 300 free meals to those less fortunate. Appreciation is given to each person who participated with

the feedings. Each month the Chapter and the Church are able to feed over 250 people. The recipients of the feedings say that the Chapter and the Church are the people that come out and serve them real good food. Wesley Chapter No. 39 and Heights Presbyterian Church will continue to make a difference in the community.



Covenant Sisters host Senior Prom for the Seniors



Story by:
W.M. DeOnna Washington (74)
Order of the Easter Star

DALLAS – Members of Covenant Sisters Chapter No. 74 hosted a Senior Prom at the Senior Care and Rehabilitation Center, Dec. 18. The purpose of the event was to express the Chapter's gratitude and appreciation to the residents of the center.

The members considered the residents' ages and the obstacles they may have encountered growing up and realized some of them probably never got the chance to experience a prom.

The Chapter also wanted to remind the seniors that they paved the way for this generation to be here today.

Providing this experience for the center was extremely rewarding for Covenant Sisters Chapter No. 74. It touched their hearts in a way that is hard to express in words. Crowning the King and Queen brought tears to many of the members' eyes.

The King was so excited that he cried tears of joy. Once crowned,

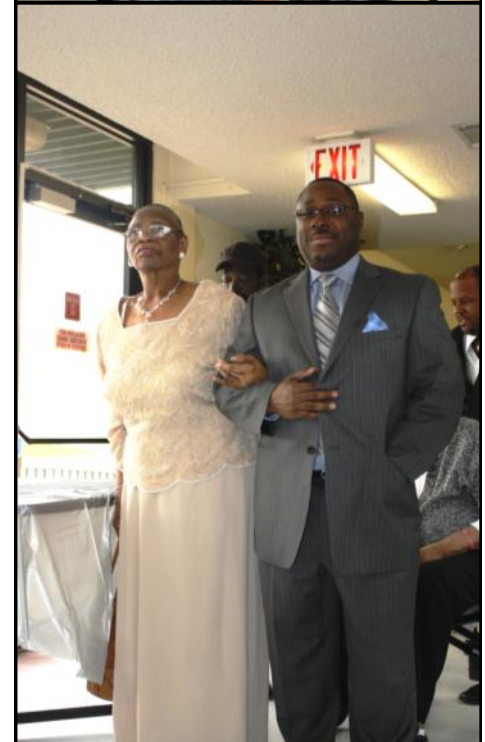
the Queen leaned over and kissed the King. It was BEAUTIFUL!

Several of the residents expressed how much they appreciated the Chapter for hosting this event. One resident in particular said "On behalf of all the residents of this center we would like to say thank you Covenant Sisters Chapter No. 74 for putting on this event for us. You don't really understand how much this means for you all to spend time with us. Again Thank You!"

The Senior Prom was a success with the support and participation from A. L. Jackson Court No. 483, Phoenix Lodge No. 648, Good Street Baptist Lodge No. 182, Paul Drayton Lodge No. 9, Mosier Valley Lodge No. 103, Pride of Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 135 and Dorcus Chapter No. 19.

The Chapter adopted the Senior Care and Rehab Center in September 2010. Since then the Chapter has held several game days (bingo), a football social, two socks drives, and donated Christmas stockings filled with socks, hair grease, comb, brush, toothpaste, toothbrush and candy.

The reason for adopting this center is to show how much the Chapter truly cares and appreciates the residents. The members invite everyone in the Masonic Family to join them at their next event in order to experience the joy that they have received from this endeavor.



Stanley R. Gibson Youth Fraternity hosts 2011 Prayer Breakfast



Fraternity presented an award to the Past Matron of Dorcus Chapter No. 19 for her role in providing support and guidance to the youth fraternity while she was Worthy Matron and even more so in the past two years. She was surprised but delighted to receive the accolade from the Fraternity.



The Fraternity's goal is to host a Prayer Breakfast at least every two years. With the continued support of Dorcus Chapter No. 19, the District, New Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and the community at large, that is surely an attainable objective.

Story by:
W.M. Amye L. Thompson (19)
Order of the Eastern Star

DALLAS – Members of Stanley R. Gibson Youth Fraternity hosted their first Prayer Breakfast held at New Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Dec. 3, 2011. The theme was "Counting Our Blessings."

The breakfast, supported by members of Districts No. 11 and 20, was attended by various community organizations.

Queen of Sheba Chapter No. 51, Imani Chapter No. 52, King Solomon's Temple Youth Fraternity, Good Street Baptist Lodge No. 182 and the host church were present. The guests were lead through the program by Damon Sayles, member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., whose wife, Sister Clarice Sayles, is a member of Dorcus Chapter No. 19.

The event featured members of Rejoice and Praise Community Fellowship's praise team, the MODD SQUAD, which stands for Ministry Of Divine Dance Spiritually

Qualified Under Anointed Direction. They showed up and showed out in purple and white praise cloth and magnified the Lord in dance.

Sister Sara Armstrong, member of Dorcus Chapter No. 19, danced under the direction of her Sister, Nicole Ellis who is the Chapter's Associate Matron.

What would a Prayer Breakfast be without a good, hot breakfast? A well-prepared and broad selection of food items were served by a local chef, Brady Powell, who provided the service at a fraction of the cost.

Sayles offered words of encouragement and uplift to the youth and attendees and reminded all to count their blessing as we move through the holiday season and into another year.

The Youth



R. Lucille Samuel
Grand Princess Captain
9922 Colette Street
El Paso, Texas 79924
Cell (915) 276-6650
Fax (915) 751-3252
rouchellion@yahoo.com

Lone Star Grand Guild of Texas
Heroines of the Templars Crusade
Prince Hall Affiliation

Prince Judie HPGPC
Grand Princess Secretary
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Ft Worth, Texas 76119
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To all Grand Officers of the Lone Star Grand Guild, Auxiliary of the Lone Star Grand Commandery, Past Grand Princess Captains, Special Deputies, All Princess Captains, Assistant Princess Captains, 1st and 2nd Lieutenants, Guild Officers Past and Present and Princesses,

Greetings,

By the authority vested in me as the Grand Princess Captain and pursuant to Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Lone Star Grand Guild of Texas and its Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliated, I do hereby proclaim the convening of the Lone Star Grand Guild into its 83rd Annual Grand Conclave in Dallas, Texas. I call and summon all Grand Elected, Appointed Officers and Princesses to the Crown Plaza Hotel located at 1015 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas, 75202 on February 3, 2012 for the ritualistic opening. We will convene for the purpose of transacting business, committee reports, training and election of all officers. This proclamation will be read in your next meeting in its **ENTIRETY!**

All Elected Grand Guild Officers, Grand Corresponding and Grand Assistant Corresponding Secretary, Grand Commissary and Grand Assistant Commissary, Grand Deputy and Grand Auditors must attend the Mandatory Executive Board Meeting on Friday, February 3, 2012 at 9:00 AM.

All members will be in proper regalia at all times. Please refer to Article VI, Section 1 of the Grand Guild Constitution for proper regalia. If you have been a member of the Guild for more than 90 days there will be no excuses. Fines will be imposed.

Please remember the proper Regalia also for the Memorial Service on Saturday morning which is long white blouse (with belt optional) and long black skirt to the top of your shoes (**NO SPLITS**), white hose, white gloves and black shoes. **THERE WILL BE FINES THIS YEAR!** No hats or collars are to be worn. No gold jewelry will be worn except for the wedding set and watch. Only white accessories are to be worn.

This year we will be having a silent auction to raise money for Charity and a Raffle. Grand Commissary Mitchell will be contacting all Special Deputies sometime next month with details.

If you are requesting the Past Princess Captain or Honorary Past Princess Captain Degree please remember the forms and fees must have been received by G.S. Judie **NLT January 16, 2012 so we can approve them and be prepared for February.**

Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly,

Witnessed under my hand and seal this 17th day of October 2011.

“BRING ONE TEACH TWO”

R. Lucille Samuel
Fraternally,
R. Lucille Samuel
Grand Princess Captain

Prince Judie
Attested by:
Prince Judie H.P.G.P.C.
Grand Secretary

Texas Council of Assemblies Order of the Golden Circle

"May the Peace of the Lord be always with you."



*Loyal Lady Shirley Henry Gideon
State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler
Texas Council of Assemblies
Order of the Golden Circle*

Setting Goals for 2012

Spiritually - daily devotion or prayer...fellowship with others in a bible-based church...become a member and participate in the activities...thank the Prince of Peace for allowing you to live another day.

Physically - move about if you are leading a sedentary life-style...take a walk alone or enlist a friend...jump rope or march at home...go to your doctor for illnesses, follow directions, and take your prescribed medication.

Financially - look for sales when purchasing items you just want...give to a street person without judging the person or telling someone what you have done...put all your coin change in a jar for a week and watch it grow.

Emotionally - keep company with people who have positive attitudes...surround yourself with at least two good friends...be a good friend and let conversations begin and end with you.

Measurable Goals

Save \$25.00 a month...read a chapter of the Bible each week...10 minutes of meditation a day.

Eat at least two veggies and two fruits per day...drink water in place of another carbonated/caffeine loaded fluid.

Reasonable Goals

Read the complete Bible in a year...lose 2-3 pounds a month rather than going for example 20 pounds this year...give someone a gift on your birthday.

Accountable Goals

Tell someone you love and trust your goals, thereby, being motivated and encouraged by a beloved. Intercessory prayer for someone who is not in your realm of friends...testify of His goodness. "God is the one who began this good work in you, and I am certain that he won't stop before it is complete on the day that Christ Jesus returns." Philippians 1:6

Peace and Unity!

Shirley Henry Gideon



**TEXAS COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION
65TH ANNUAL SESSION
AND
TEXAS COUNCIL OF ASSEMBLIES
48TH ANNUAL SESSION
MARCH 9-11, 2012**



Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Consistory Name & Number	Your Title

Assembly Name & Number	Your Title
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Prince/GIG/SGIG Registration	\$75.00	_____
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Consistory Registration	\$75.00	_____
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Loyal Lady Registration	\$75.00	_____
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On-Site Registration	\$85.00	_____
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The deadline for Pre-Registration is February 13, 2012. Please mail the registration form and check or money order to:

Texas Council of Deliberation
C/O GIG Leon Thornton
ILL Grand Secretary
PO Box 369
Lancaster, Texas 75146-0369

Please do not write below this line

Date received _____ Registration Number _____

Check/Money Order Number _____

Date Committee Notified _____ Initials _____

HISTORICAL CORNER

A Chronological History of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas



By:
G.J.W. Frank Jackson (85)
Grand Historian

(Editor's note: This is the fourth series of excerpts from G.J.W. Jackson's manuscript.)

V

National Grand Lodge

- 1847 The National Grand Lodge was authentically established on June 24, 1847 with John Hilton as the first Most Worshipful Grand Master. By the power and authority of the National Grand Lodge invested grand lodges and subordinate lodges were constituted by warrant in the following states (over a period of years): Prince Hall Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, California, Arkansas, Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Texas, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida. (Brock)
- Bro. Martin R. Delany – WM St. Cyprian Lodge, “played a significant role in initiating seven Masons from Cincinnati, who later were chartered as Corinthian Lodge No. 17 by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. This lodge became the cornerstone of the “Mother of Masonic Grand Lodges” the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio, as Corinthian Lodge No. 1 (Charles H. Wesley (Walkes)
- Bro. Delany was appointed District Deputy of the Western District at the organization of the National Grand Lodge or National Compact in 1847.

National Grand Masters

- 1847 – 1850 John T. Hilton
- 1850 – 1856 Enos A. Hall
- 1856 – 1859 William A. Darnes
- 1859 – 1862 William E. Riley
- 1862 – 1865 Paul Drayton
- 1865 – 1877 Richard H. Gleaves
- 1877 – 1886 George W. Levere
- 1886 – 1906 Captain William D. Matthews
- 1848 Grand Master John Hilton presented the African Grand Lodge of Boston with its state charter as the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, named after Prince Hall, the man who had since died in 1809.
- 1850 – Bro. Martin R. Delany admitted to Harvard Medical School, but later all Black Students were dismissed. (Wikipedia)
- 1851 First Lodge in Mexico.
- June 24, 1853 – Martin R. Delany delivers treatise on the “Origin & Objects of Ancient Freemasonry: Its Introduction into the U.S. and Legitimacy among Colored Men.” Delivered at St. Cyprian Lodge #13. This is the earliest printed work on Prince Hall Freemasonry. (Black Sq. & Compass, Walkes)
- 1854 William D. Matthews escaped from slavery in Eastern Shore Maryland and traveled to Kansas. Quantril's raid into Lawrence, Kansas, where he killed most of the male population of the city and then burned the town to the ground, was one of many such infamous raids into Kansas during this period.
- W.D. Matthews becomes and ordained African Methodist Episcopal minister.
- W.D. Matthews uses his grocery

store / restaurant / café at #65 (now 307) Shawnee Street, as a station on the underground rail road. It became the headquarters for many prominent abolitionists. W.D. Matthews and his wife Annie lived at 3171/2 Shawnee, not far from his store.

- 1855 Albert Pike began revision of Scottish Rite rituals.
- 1856 Grand Lodge of Kansas formed. (Anglo)
- 1856 Kansas was a Free State. William D. Matthews organizes a posse to arrest a slave owner that had traveled to Leavenworth to retrieve a runaway slave from his farm in Missouri.
- 1859 – Martin R. Delany visits Liberia with the aim of building a new Black nation. This is considered the foundation of Black Nationalism
- 1859 Norris Wright Cuney, along with his two brothers was sent by their father, to George B. Vashon's Wyle Street Public School for Negroes in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

VI

African Men Warriors for Freedom

- 1862 Black Troops were recruited into the Trans-Mississippi Civil War Theater as fighting men. In the East, many of the Black troops were used for labor details. The Black soldiers of the 1st Kansas Colored were the first African American Troops (they were lead by Black Officers), to see battle during the Civil War. On October 29, 1862, detachments of the 1st were attacked by Confederates troops at Island Mound, Missouri.

Captain W.D. Matthews was the principal Army recruiter for this group of African Troops. This battle established the fact that Black Men would fight. (Black, Buckskin, and Blue, pg. 106 by Art Burton).

- In 1890 Colonel J.M. Williams, Brevet Brigadier-General Volunteers wrote the Chairman of the Commission on War claims that in August 1862, being then a Captain in the 5th Kansas Volunteers, he was ordered to recruit, organize and equip a regiment of Infantry, to be composed of persons of African decent. Making his headquarters at Leavenworth, he began his recruiting drive, using various recruiting officers, one being William D. Matthews, a colored man of recognized ability and influence. Matthews was given the understanding that when the regiment was organized he would be mustered into the United States service as an Officer, provided he obtained a sufficient number of recruits to entitle him to that consideration under the recruiting regulations then in force in the United States Volunteer Service. Matthews applied himself diligently and faithfully to the duties assigned him, and within a short period of time had obtained a large number of recruits, much larger than was necessary to entitle him to be mustered as an officer under the regulations. On the August 4, The 5th Kansas vol. was organized to recruit Black soldiers.

- From August 11, 1862 through November 25, 1862 Lt. W.D. Matthews received no pay.

- On August 17, 1862 the 1st Kansas Colored Regiment organized.

- On October 28, 1862 the battle of Island Mound, Missouri became the 1st engagement involving Black Soldiers in the civil war. Lt. Minor commanded a Company during the skirmish at Island Mound, Missouri, against Confederate bushwhackers. Captain Matthews was on official business and recruiting in the Leavenworth, Kansas area at the time. (AfriGeneas Military Research Forum posted by Bennie, Tuesday, 8 July 2003.) Many of the troops were recruited by Lt. W.D. Matthews.

- On January 1, 1863 The Emancipa-

tion Proclamation was signed into law.

- On January 13, 1863 the 1st Kansas Vol. Colored Regiment was mustered into service. Out of those originally recruited, 37men were mustered in, that were recruited by W.D. Matthews. During the Civil War, 178,975 African American men enlisted in the Union Army. An unknown number was also enlisted in the Confederate Army. 111 Africans were Commissioned Officers; ninety served in combat units, many as Chaplains, & Surgeons. Most African troops were commanded by White Officers.

- May 2, 1863 the U.S. Army refused to muster W.D. Matthews in as an officer because he was of African decent.

- June 25, 1863, 800 African Soldiers of the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment set out from Fort Scott for Fort Gibson, Indian Territory (Oklahoma). The Confederate Colonel Stand Watie and 2000 Confederate Troops, decided to make a raid on the supply train at Cabin Creek. On July 2nd, the Troops of the 1st Kansas defeated Col. Stand Watie. Col. Stand Watie would later be commissioned a General, the only Indian General of the war and the last Confederate General to surrender. On July 16th the battle of Honey Springs, was fought by the 1st Kansas against the 1st & 2nd Cherokee Regiment; 1st & 2nd Creek Reg.; 20th Texas Calvary Regiment, 29th Texas Cavalry Regiment; 5th Texas Partisan Rangers; 1st Choctaw and Chickasaw Regiment, Captain Lee's battery & African Indians serving with the Confederate Indians. (Art. Burton, Black, Buckskin and Blue) The battle for Honey Springs was the Gettysburg of the civil war fought in the Indian Territory. It opened the way for the capture of Ft. Smith and much of Arkansas. After Honey Springs the Confederacy never again fought for control of the Indian Territory.

- In 1863 after Lincoln called for a Military draft, Martin R. Delany began recruiting Black men into the army. His efforts in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and later Cleveland and Ohio raised thousands of enlistees, many of whom joined the newly formed US Colored Troops. He also recruited for the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, which also

became the home of the 1st Prince Hall Military Lodge. He wrote Secretary of War E.M. Stanton, requesting to command these Black men, but was ignored.

- 1864 On July 2, 1864, Captain William D. Matthews, a Black man who had been appointed by the interracial Kansas Emancipation League as superintendent of contraband (escaped & freed former slaves) and Lt. Patrick H. Minor, began enlisting individuals to serve in a colored artillery battery based at Fort Leavenworth. The battery was not mustered into service until December 1865, but it saw action long before then. (Museum of the Kansas National Guard)

- October 1864, 1st Kansas Colored Battery entered combat. Kansas was about to be invaded by three divisions of cavalry under the command of Confederate Gen. Sterling Price. Price was making a grand raid north out of Arkansas, and, finding St. Louis too strongly defended to attack, he swung westward along the Missouri River. He was being pursued by a provisional cavalry division under the command of Major. Gen. Alfred Pleasanton. To his front, the Gov. of Kansas had called out thousands of militia... Maj. R.H. Hunt, Chief of Artillery for the federal forces in Kansas, summoned forward the Independent Kansas Colored Battery. (Museum of the Kansas National Guard)

- In 1865, Martin R. Delany was granted an audience with President Lincoln, who called him "a most extraordinary and intelligent man." Lincoln appointed Delany to the rank of Major, the 1st African American Army Major in U.S. history.

(Setting the Stage for Establishing Prince Hall Masonry in the Lone Star State will be featured in the Summer Edition of The Texas Prince Hall Freemason.)

I am Prince Hall Freemasonry



By:
P.M. Antonio Caffey
St. Mark's Lodge No. 7
M.W.P.H.G.L. of Ohio
(Original Author)

I am Prince Hall Freemasonry. I was born one evening on March 6, 1775 in Boston Massachusetts. See to understand me; you must understand the time period I was born in. You see, life for Blacks was rough during that time. We had few if any rights that whites had to respect; slavery and racial discrimination were the law of the land during the time in which I was born. I was originally composed of 15 strong individuals who initially asked, sought and knocked but were turned away from the doors of universal Freemasonry. We persevered and eventually became the first class of Prince Hall Masons. Prince Hall, Cryrus Jonbus, Buestop Slinger, Prince Rees, John Carter, Peter Freeman, Benjamin Tiler, Cuff Bufform, Thomas Sanderson, Prince Taylor, Cato Spears, Boston Smith, Peter Best, Forten Howard, Richard Tilly. I am Prince Hall Freemasonry.

I am ancient, I am honorable. I am over 230 years old. I am Prince Hall Freemasonry. I've helped in the Underground Railroad movement, the abolitionist movement and the civil rights movement. Where there was need for service, a need for help and a need for support, you found me there. I am not a religious organization, but I have always had a special relationship with the Black Church. God has definitely nurtured and guided me throughout my years. I am Prince Hall Freemasonry.

Many told me that I was illegiti-

mate, that I did not originate from the same source as my Caucasian Brothers. That I had no right to wear the square and compass and that I could not call myself a Freemason. I didn't let this deter me, and not for one minute did I believe what they said. My birth certificate proves my authenticity. It's so valuable that it resides in a bank in Boston Massachusetts, and is only shown every ten years. It's the only surviving one of its kind. I am Prince Hall Freemasonry.

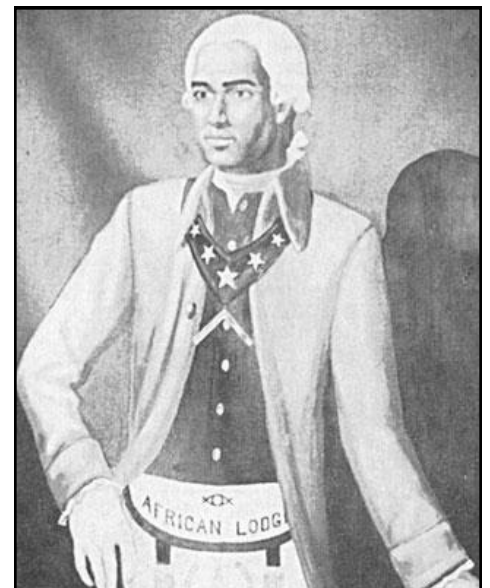
You may find me in different forms, I may appear as a Royal Arch Mason, a Royal and Select Master, a Knight Templar, a Sublime Prince or a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, or a Noble of the Mystic Shrine, but I am still Prince Hall Freemasonry. You may be familiar with my offspring, Sigma Pi Phi, Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, or Phi Beta Sigma. I am Prince Hall Freemasonry.

From sharecroppers to Congressmen, I am Prince Hall Freemasonry. I have attracted men of all faiths and backgrounds. I am Bro. Richard Pryor, Bro. Alex Haley, Bro. W.E.B. Dubois, Bro. Booker T. Washington, Bro. Nat King Cole, Bro. Duke Ellington, Bro. Matthew Henson, Bro. Thurgood Marshall, I am Prince Hall Freemasonry.

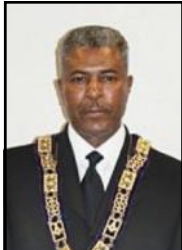
I am Brother to a Sister who is fairest among thousands, altogether lovely. We walk side by side through life assisting and supporting each other. The Order of the Eastern Star, she is my Wife, Mother, Sister, Daughter my past, present and future. I will protect her from harm, and help her when she is in need, I am Prince Hall Freemasonry.

I work behind the scenes to make sure things get done. I have never requested or wanted the general public to know all of the accomplishments that I have achieved. I am not recognized by my words, but by my deeds. I am humble. You must be humble to do God's work, and that's what I have been doing, God's work... I make sure that when a Brother's work is done on earth and he has made that transition to the after-life; that I tend to the needs of his widow and orphans. I perform a ceremony that comforts the family in their time of need. I am Prince Hall Freemasonry.

I have made good men better, and have tried to improve myself in Masonry. I have never sought anyone to join me; however thousands upon thousands of just and upright men have asked me, can they follow me. And I have told them yes, if and only if you are of a mature age, believe in a supreme being and are morally just, for those are the men who I seek. Now I ask you, are you a Prince Hall Freemason?



Are We enticing or soliciting Membership for the Right Reasons?



Story by:
W.M. Oliver Sewell, Sr.
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Lodge No. 29
M.W.P.H.G.L. of Ariz.

As I began to think about this question, I had to let my thoughts travel back to the beginning of my Masonic journey. Back then, when asked, where I was first prepared to be a Mason, my answer, with some coaching, ended up being, in my heart. For as Proverbs 4:23 states, "Above all else, guard your heart, because it is the wellspring of life." So I ask each of you to think back to when you first prepared to become a Mason. I bet for most of you it also began in your heart. However, I think now we need to make sure that we are continuing to prepare and entice members who are coming to us with their hearts in the same place as was ours and not because of some of the outside trappings that they may be presented with.

When profanes enter our Lodges, I ask myself, "Do they truly want to become Prince Hall Masons, or do they think of us as just another type of social club?" Some of you may ask, "Okay why is he saying this?" Well, my evidence is in the fact that too many of these Brothers only stay long enough to complete the degrees and then they disappear and are seldom seen at Lodge meetings. I say this because I have heard and feel that some of them come to us thinking that they will be more popular in life or in their communities. I say this because I see some of our Brothers driving around with a ton of emblems on their cars or briefcases.

Brothers are wearing emblems out in night clubs, drinking and carrying on inappropriately. I say this because we have Brothers who think that dancing, talking to pretty women and exhibiting showy ways will get them recognized in the community. Now don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with fellowship, but it has an appropriate place in our purpose and reason for being. Some of these comments may have hurt some Brothers' feelings, I am sorry about that but the truth needs to be told and discussed.

We bring our new members in and we forget them, leaving them with no further guidance or Masonic education. Where are we when they look for more light which in our ritual, we promise to give them.

I say that each and every one of us should look at the man in the mirror. Are these new Brothers learning from us or are they trying to copy our actions and conduct? Do we brag about who we know and how they will take care of things if we are in a bad situation of some kind? Are we putting all sorts of titles in our signatures on our emails trying to look more important than we really are? Are we bragging about being a Mason, just to get others to join? Have some of us become poor role models for the men we are attracting?

If any of this is true, then it is now time for us to recapture our hearts and go back to enticing and soliciting membership for the solid reasons that we became Prince Hall Masons. We were enticed by men who were good role models, good business men, active churchgoers, volunteers, good fathers and husbands, and solid community

leaders. We were enticed by men who were strong, brave and smart but also humble, confident and responsible. We were enticed by men who claimed the WORK of the organization as priority and important and needing all hands on deck to be successful.

The Plumb admonishes us to walk upright in our several stations before GOD and MAN, squaring our actions by the square of VIRTUE. We are to always act responsibly in our everyday lives and set an example wherever we are. Prince Hall Masons, we need to live by this now.

Yes, I believe we are in need of a revival of spirit and reason for existing. Brothers, it is time to stand up for our basic principles and help those along who have gone too far in the wrong direction. Let us allow true seekers to find us, or let's make sure we find them. It is said in Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be open to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Brothers, let's not bring in new members just to increase our General Fund account.

I am asking Prince Hall Masons to revive our basic reasons for being and demonstrate our principles and purposes through our Brotherly Actions and our Community Actions, not just our social actions.

"Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending."

Bridging the Gap



Story By:
W.M. Harry Weaver, III
Redeemer Lodge No. 53
M.W.P.H.G.L. of Mich.

I have been a member of Redeemer Lodge No. 53 for nine years. Since my initiation, I have had the pleasure of visiting with Brothers from the "mainstream" Lodges under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Michigan. During this time, I have made many, many great friends. One of these wonderful friends is Bro. Richard Mackie. He is the liaison from the Grand Lodge of Michigan to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Michigan. Bro. Mackie and I have remained in close contact throughout the years and he has attended many of Redeemer Lodge's functions and is an honorary member of the Lodge. When I was elected Junior Warden, Bro. Mackie informed me that he wanted to do something special when I become Worshipful Master. I didn't think much of it then because it seemed as if that would take an eternity. I was elected Worshipful Master in December of 2010 and Bro. Mackie kept his promise.

In September of 2011, Bro. Mackie called me and asked me if I was prepared to do something special. He proceeded to inform me that he had spoken with his Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Fred Kaiser, and that they wanted to visit Redeemer. Of course I agreed, not knowing what I was really getting myself into. After a series of emails and phone conversations between Bro. Mackie and I, we decided that the Grand Master would attend our Master Mason Degree on November 26, 2011. Bro. Mackie prom-



ised to get a guest list together and send it to me prior to the degree so that we could properly prepare. I really didn't know what kind of numbers to expect so I waited patiently. I received an email from Bro. Mackie a few days prior to the degree stating that he had 29 guests confirmed. I was elated with this and moved forward with planning the degree with the repast to follow.

On the evening of November 26, 2011, Redeemer Lodge made history. This day marks the first such occasion when a sitting Grand Master from the Grand Lodge of Michigan has ever sat in a tiled Lodge under the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Michigan. Amongst the visitors included the Grand Wardens along with several appointed Grand Lodge officers. While the 29 guests RSVP'd, we totaled approximately 60 Brothers from the Grand Lodge of Michigan and an additional 15 Brothers visiting from other Prince Hall Lodges in the jurisdiction to witness the raising of Bro. David Robinson and Bro. Tom Robinson to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

This was truly a momentous occasion and I could never have

imagined such an outcome. I am proud to have been the Worshipful Master for such an amazing event. The Lodge was nearly flawless with the ritual work, as always, but we were absolutely flawless in the spreading of Brotherly Love and affection in fellowshiping with ALL of our Brethren. The Brothers that were raised had an awesome experience that they will never forget. Their journey began with them knowing that we are ALL Brothers, regardless of our skin color, political and religious beliefs or any other matter. We met on the Level, acted by the Plumb and parted on the Square.



M.W. Bro. Fred Kaiser and W.M. Harry Weaver.

Your Vote Makes A Difference



By: Sis. Sharon DeJohn, D.D.G.M., District 7

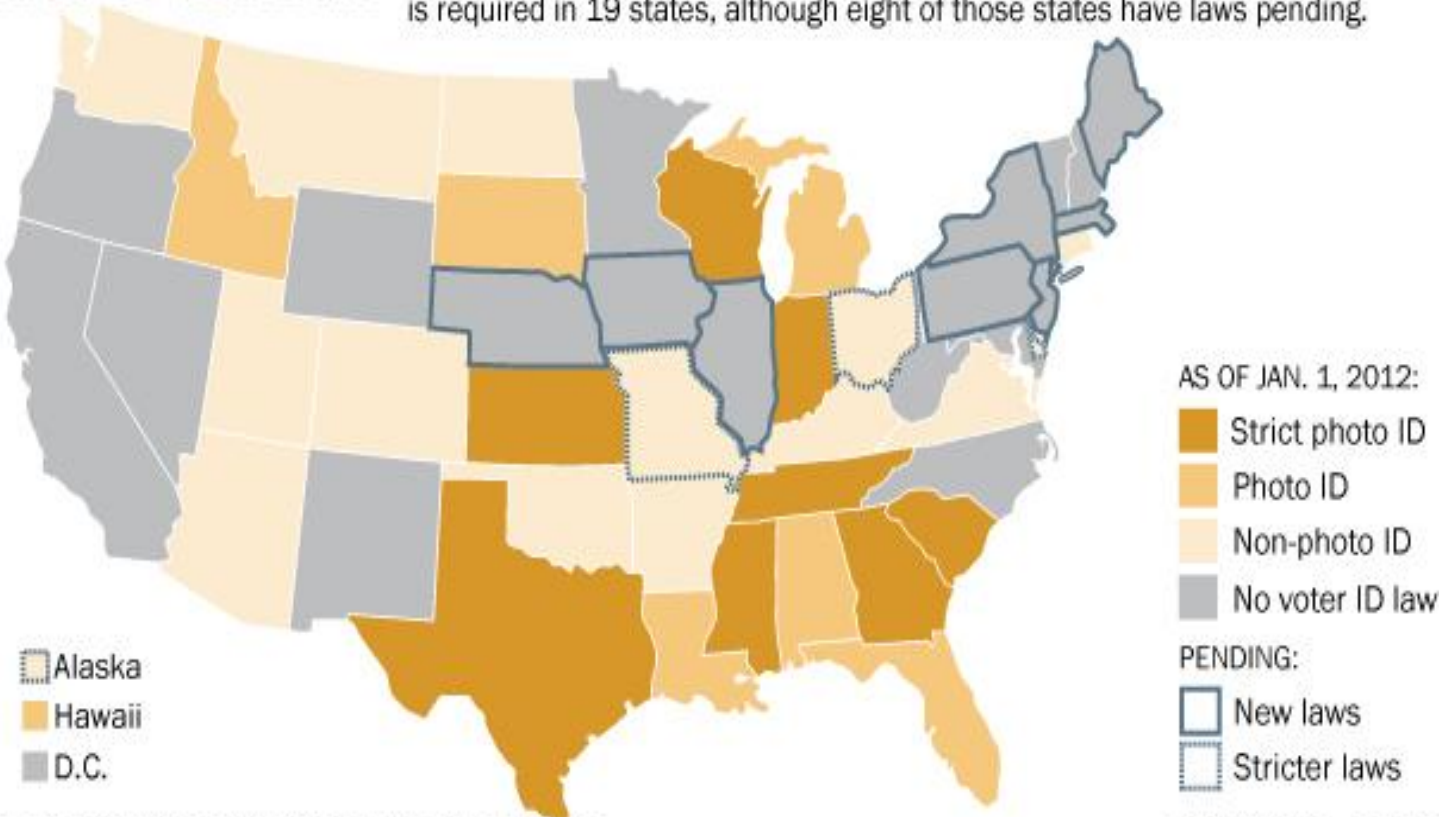
Another voting year will be arriving and are you ready and prepared to vote for your candidate? Have you listen to the debates to hear the issues and if these issues concern the working American people? Do not just sit back and say your vote will not count or they will put in who they want instead; make sure your voice is heard by voting.

We can't complain about high taxes, no jobs, and high utility bills and let's not forget the price of gas when you do not vote. Voting is a privilege especially for women and minorities. Remember after the U.S. Civil War the 13th Amendment abolished slavery but the 15th Amendment guaranteed the right to vote to citizens if they were male and age 21.

In the South minorities experienced Jim Crow laws that did not allow blacks and other races to vote. To enforce the "one race to vote" there were poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses to make sure these individuals did not vote.

Now, we are in the year of 2012 with a new election brewing but with an old problem with a new manipulation called photo identification. Now individuals that do not have the proper identification will not be allowed to vote; this includes students at colleges and universities. Our lovely state Texas rejects student ID's but allows those who have a license to carry a concealed handgun (Lewis, 2011). Here we are again readdressing the same grievances at the poll but in an era where things should be advance and moving forward instead we as a people are moving backwards. Your right to vote is at question but it will take you as an individual to use that right that was given in 1965, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, renewed in 1982 by President Ronald Regan and renewed again in 2007. Remember this is a right for the black race which now includes all races, so do not silence your voice, take responsibility and vote. Make your voice heard because it will make a difference.

LAW OF THE LAND Thirty-one states require voters to show photo identification at the polls. No ID is required in 19 states, although eight of those states have laws pending.



SOURCE: NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

KRISTEN LONG – POLITICO

Symbolic Masonry, the Confusion of the 3rd Degree



Story by:
P.M. Ezekiel M. Bey, FPS
Cornerstone Lodge No. 37
M.W.P.H.G.L. of New York

Throughout the years in Freemasonry, many have gotten the perception that many things in Freemasonry are to be taken literally. Freemasonry is a science that enables us to better understand the images conveyed by its symbols. Symbols can mean many things to many people, but some are basic in form so that they bluntly represent the fundamental aspects of truth. In the first degree, we are given an oath or what we consider an obligation. Accompanying that obligation is given to us a penalty should we intentionally fail our word, or fall victim purposely to the obligation we took. The symbology of that penalty is to set in the mind of the one taking it that it is a serious bond we make before God and Man of our honesty, our dedication, our devotion, and more importantly, a promise that we would never neglect nor betray our connection with our Brethren.

In everything, we must consider "Common Sense." Common sense, as my Father told me in my youth, is not often common. In the 1st degree we know by common sense that should a Brother fail in his obligation to the fraternity, we have no right legally nor morally to execute literally the words spoken in the penalty of that degree. Common sense tells us that if we should ever exercise the penalty on any Brother for failure to keep his word, criminal prosecution would be undertaken against a man who had committed such a horrendous act. The penalty in

that degree is symbolic, and very misunderstood.

In the second degree we are given another test or trial. We agree in taking a further obligation, which teaches us many things within the scope of that degree, that it also connects us more closely to the preceding degree. Again, we give another oath, or obligation, soon after which the penalty is explained and in which one would truly have to be a surgeon to actually exercise this procedure, should someone fail in keeping this obligation. Freemasonry teaches lessons in forms of strong symbolic suggestions that should a sick mind enter the portals of Freemasonry; we indeed will be faced with a serious dilemma, shaming our honorable ancient institution. In fact, consider the cost to the Order when either madmen or fools are admitted. This is why we must strongly explain to the young and old that Freemasonry teaches by symbols and allegories. The second-degree penalty is symbolic.

Reaching closer to my point, we are now faced with the last degree in Craft Masonry, which is the Third Degree. One of the most beautiful degrees in Freemasonry, it is full of symbols, allegories, teachings, symbolic legends and many esoteric sciences when one truly understands. This degree, so full of life, teaches us the reality of the ruffians and villains in our lower consciousness. It connects us to the first and second degree in Freemasonry by symbolically explaining what it's like to have no power over your passions. The ruffians in this degree legend attempted to accost our legendary and heroic image, the "Grand Master Hiram Abiff," the Widow's Son. In this legend many things

are explained. We have spoken of the penalties of the previous degrees so I am not going to venture into a discussion of the last penalty, as I believe my message has been understood. But I will bring to light other things within this last degree we should take into consideration.

If Freemasonry teaches us by symbols, and if we do not take the penalties of the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Degrees literally, why should we take a legend that never historically existed, such as our legend of Hiram Abiff, and assault our newly made Brethren in what we call the "Gates?" We tend to use the excuse of teaching "fortitude" to justify the brutality we commit against our Brothers, and clearly ignore the fact that our actions are "illegal" by all laws in the United States.

Hazing is an illegal act that has no place in Freemasonry. If we accept the fact that all other things within Freemasonry are symbolic, why is it we now use the excuse in the third degree that it is testing fortitude. The person, or rather Brother, you are attacking first came into the doors of Freemasonry because he was well recommended, duly and truly qualified, and a vote or ballot was taken for his acceptance into your Lodge upon which all agreed - and now you want to test his "Fortitude?" It is amazing to me, the ignorance that we have accepted throughout the years.

"Fortitude" is that noble and steadfast purpose of the mind whereby we are enable to undergo any pain, peril, or danger. This explanation of fortitude, although it is only the monitorial or rational explanation, and not the esoteric one, is still a reality; nonetheless, it does not mean that we should test our Brethren to see how much pain

they can take. This lesson was taught in the first degree to explain the ***** of the breast, which also is symbolic.

“This virtue is equally distant from rashness and cowardice, and should be deeply impressed upon the mind as a safeguard or security against any attempt that might be made by force or otherwise, to extort from you any of the secrets with which you have been solemnly entrusted.” This is also symbolic, as I know no man who has been taken and has had a gun or any weapon placed to his head to get any Masonic Secrets.

This is another form of symbolically teaching you to honor your “Word” as your word is the make up of your conscious and character, as well as alluding to more esoteric lessons. Should you fail at your word, you have failed in your character and make up, shaming your temple in all aspects and bringing your level of consciousness and your whole state of being to a lower state of existence. “This virtue was emblematically represented upon your first admission into the Lodge, when you were received on the point of a sharp instrument ***** your nkd lft brst.” So how did Brothers get the

idea of testing “Fortitude” in the third degree?

When we do not understand what is symbolic and what is literal, we destroy the beauty of Freemasonry as a whole because the concept is lost, as is the Word we seek, forever made void of the truth it is intended to teach us. Man must evolve in the light of knowledge and not continue to live what had been practiced thousands of years ago. Thousands of years ago, in several African and European cultures, they used the literal form of testing fortitude as initiations into the inner circles of their religions and faiths.

We are now in the 21st Century, and barbarianism should be placed aside. All things that have been good for the times of the past are not necessarily good for this era. Evolution is one of the primary keys to growth and so we cannot be stuck in time but use time to elevate our states of consciousness. We need to understand that what was a ritual in many cultures was the ritual for that time, and we must accept the fact that many things done today should complement the growth of Man, and not leave Man stuck in a time warp of the past. Symbolism, my Broth-

ers... Symbolism is the key to all understanding, if one uses the higher faculties of his inner self, and removes the immature spirit of childishness.

The third degree is an extremely important part of Freemasonry for no completion of the circle of Craft Masonry would ever be truly possible without it. So, we must seriously consider our actions in this glorious ceremony we confer on Brothers. There are many other things to take into consideration, and we must study our work. Is it to truly teach the candidates? Is it to feed our yearnings for enjoyment [entertainment?] in this rough play because of our childish and immature instabilities of our lower self? Or is it to take deep-seated angers and frustrations for conditions in our lives over which we feel powerless, and vent them on our Brothers while they cannot see who is violating them? There is one passion we should - *must* - subdue, and that is the passion of overly aggressive behavior to those we call “Brother”.

In final, my Brother, live in peace, and may the God of love and peace, delight to dwell with, and bless you.

The Flesh Dies Alone

Written By
Ezekiel M. Bey, FPS

As I sat by the window looking up on high
Trying to see the figures in the darken skies
My imagination creating forms of pleasure
As the clouds moved east, geometric measures

Now the clouds got thick, heavy they became
when the winds picked up, followed heavy rains
as the waters clashed against the window ledge
the leaves off the trees blew away the hedge

The scenery was furious like a hurricane
Throwing all its might like a cargo train
But in one quick second everything just stopped
Everything was calmer, not even one raindrop

From the skies above came the brighten SUN
The magnificent rays broke the clouds of heaven
I understood why darkness compliments the day
I understood why man was molded out of clay

And so I saw creation right before my eyes
How it all appeared, from within it lies
There're no shadows cast on an opened mind
The no-limit space where there is no time

I can just recall when I joined the Lodge
Holy Book on Altar, checkered floor mirage
Remember the window I looked out to see
It was not outside but inside of me

So as we shape the ashlar, that is made of stone
A long road is traveled, pass the borne unknown
You'll one day lay down- your flesh and your bones
Rejoicing souls ascend, the flesh dies alone.

Freemasonry: A Fraternal Business



Story by:
P.M. Kevin L. Scruggs
Thomas A. Simms Jr.
Lodge No. 170
M.W.P.H.G.L. of KY

At a particular point in your life, you decided you wanted to adventure off into a fraternal business and become a joint associate with the world's oldest fraternity. So you submitted your application with the required fee of \$25 [Jurisdiction dependant], and soon you were on your way. They started you off with the basic apprenticeship or as you know it, an Entered Apprentice. After about 90 days of training you were so well in advance of others, the title of overseer was bestowed upon you, or as you know it, a Master Mason.

At this point the fraternal business, handed you a few books and the basic instruction book on how to teach others to be just like you, or as you know it, a Masonic Ritual. Now you can put on your nice Black Suit and carry your briefcase and

make all meetings so your business can move forward and prosper. As a board member you attend your first business meeting, and you notice that a lot of information being put out wasn't in your Ritual. You also discover the chief executive officer (Worshipful Master) giving the vice president (Senior Warden) and assistant vice president (Junior Warden) instructions, with the record keeper taking precise notes, which you later find him to be the company secretary

(Lodge Secretary). Also a financial guy collecting money & writing checks, which you later find him to be the company treasurer (Lodge Treasurer).

As months go by you notice a few other board members in these meetings whispering among themselves, and you have even heard a few talk about a hostile fraternity takeover. But you have been asking important questions to these disgruntle members and discover most of them don't have a clue on how the company fraternal business is managed. At this point you are so confused and depressed that you don't know which direction is East. All you wanted is to see this fraternal company prosper. Later on that evening you attend a

company CEO for this fraternal business, they reminded you of those other books that you were given when you became an overseer, the protocol manual, company bylaws, and cooperate bylaws, things you need to have some knowledge of, and informed you to obtain copies of Robert Rules of Order, and Mackey's Jurisprudence. You were also told to gain a working knowledge of every position in this fraternity, from the door keeper to the CEO. Therefore you must learn what the secretary, treasurer, vice president and assistant vice president duties are. So if you ever become a CEO you want waste valuable time learning when you can use your time wisely and teach those following behind

you. Always remember if you ever get stuck in a situation, call on GOD for wisdom, then use your speed dial and call those past CEO's for knowledge on how to handle that situation.

In closing remember knowledge is power! Being the CEO isn't everyone's goal in life, but having a working knowledge on how the fraternal business is ran should be a goal. Don't

have the Treasurer doing the Secretary Job. Learn the rules and ask questions, this is your fraternity also, just don't sit back and let others dictate to you how they "think" the business is operated, know it for yourself. Be mindful of who you let into your fraternity, everyone in the fraternity is not for the fraternity. Don't let others tear down, what your fraternity forefathers have built for you. They left you a legacy to carry on for generations to come.



cooperate luncheon held by the cooperate CEO (Grand Master), and notice some older gentlemen sitting together. You take a seat at the table with them, because you were taught as a young lad to listen to the older people, you might learn something. You discover these are the past cooperate and company CEO's of this fraternal business.

In a short period of time they gave you the best information possible for you to become a future

Masonic Public Identity and Awareness



Story by:
G.E. Burrell Parmer

Excerpts from "It's About Time" courtesy of the Masonic Service Association of North America.

"Masons are not visible in the daily life of their communities. Their identity is frequently misunderstood and misrepresented in the press and by religious critics. There is little reserve of positive memories of Masonic activity remaining in our communities. Within eye and ear range of the public, Masons have failed to perform what they profess; consequently, they have lost their significance within the context of community." Special Task Force of the Masonic Information Center Steering Committee

For the past decade it seems that there has been an emphasis on the need for Masonic awareness in the public. It's no secret that membership is important to any Lodge or Grand Masonic Body, but also important is sustainability of that membership. "Where are we getting our membership from? The public.

In this opinion, I will reference "It's About Time, Moving Masonry into the 21st Century" published by the Masonic Information Center, a division of the Masonic Service Association.

"It's About Time" was first printed in 2005 and is a report completing a study undertaken by a Special Task Force of the Masonic Information Center Steering Committee.

The task at hand was to tackle the question of Masonic public identity.

I have read through several books of yesteryear and remember

seeing the numbers of Masons in Prince Hall Grand Lodges being in the tens of thousands. Even The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand of Texas enjoyed huge membership numbers in the mid - late 1900s.

My first attendance to the Grand Lodge's annual Communication was in June 2010 and it was reported that we possessed approximately 3,100 members, in which about 450 were suspended for nonpayment of dues and approximate another 100 lost due to death.

In a state as large as Texas one would believe that we would have that number of active members be 10-fold.

Why the decline in numbers? Some say that it is because many of the members have aged and passed on to that undiscovered country, or some just grew tired of the same routine, or some just were meant to be Masons.

The Task Force's report listed several reasons why there are declines in Masonic membership to include:

We are all so busy.

Busy lifestyles complicate time commitments. No question about it. Where one spouse used to be the major source of the family's income, now both spouses work. When they come home in the evening, they want time together rather than separate functions to attend, if indeed there is a desire to participate at all. This clearly means that any organization wishing to attract members must offer something of great interest to even be considered worthwhile.

Resisting and denying change

With few exceptions over the last several decades, we have been content to listen to excuses, avoiding examination of the complicated set of changes that has weakened Masonry's relevance to our contemporary lives. Even today, we want to think of "loss of membership" as our major problem. This report argues that membership loss is not the major problem. In fact, our study asks that we shift our thinking to consider our loss of membership as merely a symptom of the problem.

Additionally, there are many articles that talk about the great Masons of the past. Questions could be asked, "Where are the great Masons of today and are we just riding the coat tails of our Masonic ancestors?"

The study stated, "As Masons we have taken our fraternity's identity for granted, and we have allowed the general public to forget how important we are to the fabric of society. We forgot that what we DO for each other, our Lodges, and ourselves enriches the quality of life for our families and communities."

To mirror the study: Who are the Prince Hall Masons and how does the public know of us in their lives and communities?

The following perceptions were provided in the study:

- There is a slight movement toward wanting to educate the public about the Fraternity.
- There is recognition that traditional communications tools have failed to heighten public awareness.
- The inclusion of family members at Masonic events has produced mixed results.
- Masonry is no longer identified as an elite organization.

- There are disagreements regarding priorities of financial commitments to Masonic buildings and charitable obligations versus starting new programs.
- Current Masons do not understand the true meaning of our Fraternity.
- A reliance on historic heroes inhibits Masons from achieving contemporary significance.

Do any of the above perceptions have relevance in your Lodge, District, or Grand Lodge?

It is up to us in 2012 to blaze OUR trail into Masonic history. In 2032 or 2042, what will the public say about us? What are we not doing now what our past Brethren have done or have we not adapted with the changing times? Does any of this matter?

The study lists activities and suggestions that can be incorporated at every level from the Blue House to the Grand Lodge.

- Apply concepts of education and self-improvement to current print and non-print communications tools of individual Lodges, Grand Lodges, and national Masonic organizations and societies.
- Improve the environment of Lodge-based fellowship; refresh the look of the Lodge; welcome new members; improve presentation skills; provide mentoring to study degrees; and strengthen communications skills.
- Organize group activities based on education and self-improvement that can enrich Lodge-centered fellowship such as: welcoming committees, Lodge renovation and clean-up campaigns, leadership development conferences, mentor meetings, workshops on such things as Masonic ritual, history, symbolism, architectural works, arts and cultural works.
- Initiate workshops on personal growth topics. Learn more about

Masonry.

- Call on local educational faculty: expert lecturers on topics of unique interest to the Lodge members that enrich the body, mind, and spirit of the Brothers.
- Tap the talents of individual members and build a community of experts to help Masons to help themselves and their communities.
- Improve community accessibility to Masonry through public outreach and program hosting.
- Offer Masonic recognition and incentive programs for educational initiatives, visitor programs and Chambers of Commerce presentations.
- Honor the Mason within yourself.
- Share success stories with other lodges.

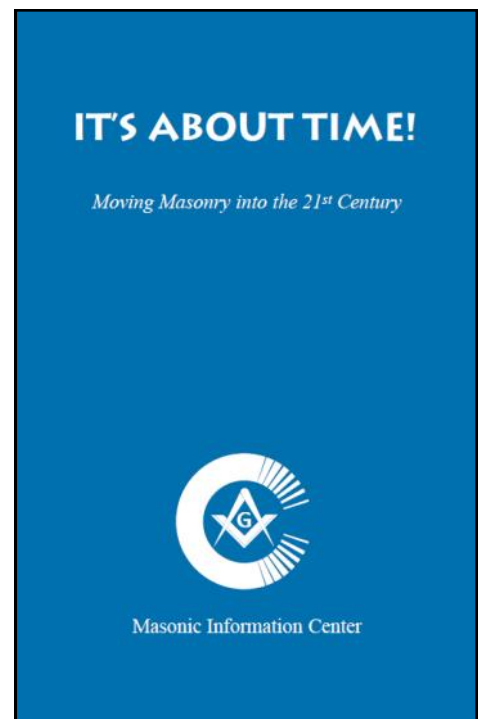
Currently we have a great communication tool, *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason*. It allows each Lodge and other Masonic organizations within Texas to share information. Not only can it be used for internal information, but also to educate and inform our publics of **who we are, what we stand for, and what we do.**

I'll end with a quote from Rev. Al Sharpton in a speech he delivered at the 2011 Alpha Phi Alpha Convention held in Chicago. He references the Black generation and Alphas, but the below also can be addressed to any group and to Prince Hall Masons as well.

"We have more money; we're more educated despite all our disparities than any other generations of Blacks before us. Question is, "What we will show for it?" No generation of Alphas has had as much money as you all. No generation of Alphas has had as much education as you all. Question is, "What will history say this generation did with it?" Do you understand that Thurgood Marshall changed American legal history and never knew what the Internet was? Dr. King

changed American History and never had a cell phone. They took rotary phones and changed the wealthiest nation in the world. You setting up here with Blackberries, two cell phones, laptops in your rooms, Internet hooked up to your house and office; 15 different ways to communicate and nothing is said. More things to work with, but not trying to work nothing. How could they take rotary phones and have a boycott for a year and we got all this technology and can't get five Negros together to get the drug man off the corner. We lost our will to organize because we've been seduced into temporary satisfaction. And as long as you are alright, you think it's alright. Then when something comes back at you, you want the whole world to stop and save you. We have to understand that we have to save all of us in order to save any of us."

"It's About Time, Moving Masonry into the 21st Century" can be viewed in its entirety at www.msana.com.



December brings Back Memories of Tom Wooten



Story by:
Bro. Dr. Bob Uzzel
(420)
Past Grand Historian
M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas

On Dec. 17, 2011, I attended a wonderful Christmas Program at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Whitney, Texas, sister church of Wayman Chapel in Ennis, where I currently serve as pastor. Being in Whitney on Dec. 17 brought back memories of Tom Wooten, a dear friend and brother who died in a tragic automobile accident on Dec. 17, 1980.

Thomas Aaron Wooten was born in Clifton on Nov. 16, 1945. He grew up in Whitney. His mother Minnie Wooten (1915-2003) taught school in Whitney for many years. Tom worked for Shannon Funeral Home in Fort Worth before beginning his employment at Wilkerson and Hatch Funeral Home in Waco in 1968.

I first met Tom at a Whitney Wildcats football game in 1972 during my pastorate at the Whitney Missionary Baptist Church. We discussed our mutual interest in Freemasonry. At the time, Tom was a member of Waco Lodge No. 92, Grand Lodge of Texas (where I had received my Entered Apprentice Degree only a few months earlier) and served as Senior Warden of Whitney Lodge No. 355. As always, we discussed my Masonic endeavors. A year later, when he was serving as Worshipful Master, he invited me to visit Whitney Lodge. I regret that I never got around to doing this.

On Sept. 29, 1973, as a member of Karem Shrine Temple's Director's Staff, he held my arm as I

"Crossed the Desert" to become a Noble of the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. During the next few years, I saw him at a number of Masonic functions.

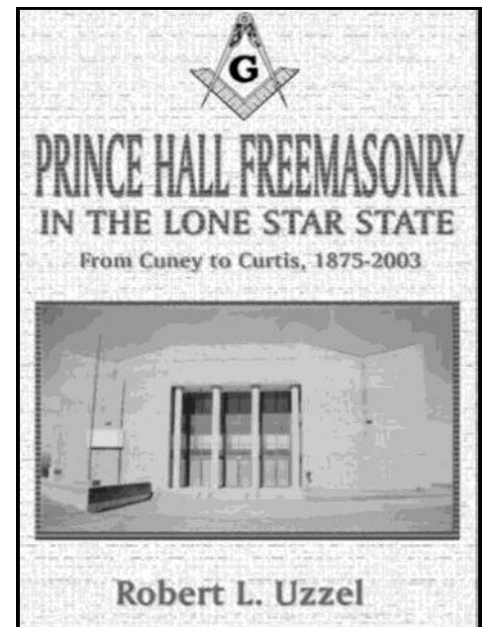
Tom was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on Nov. 18, 1968;



Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on December 23, 1968; and was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on Jan. 20, 1969. He affiliated with Whitney Lodge No. 355 on June 24, 1969. He served as Worshipful Master of Whitney Lodge during the 1973-74 Masonic Year. He held dual membership in the Waco and Whitney Lodges. Although he was suspended for non-payment of dues in 1979, he reinstated one year later. I last saw him on Oct. 13, 1980, when he rendered to me a valuable service by signing my petition for reinstatement in Waco Lodge No. 92.

Tom demonstrated much compassion and appreciation for all people, regardless of race or religion. While he died several years before the beginning of the movement for recognition of Prince Hall Freemasons by their Caucasian

counterparts, I have no doubt that, if he were alive today, he would support this movement. Thus, I dedicated my 2004 book *Prince Hall Freemasonry in the Lone Star State: From Cuney to Curtis, 1875-2003* (a copy of which is in the Lake Whitney Library) to the memory of Tom Wooten and Tom Routt (1930-1991), Past Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. On the dedication page, I paid tribute to "Two Toms—two outstanding Freemasons, one Caucasian and one Prince Hall" and declared that "The words of the 14th Degree of the Scottish Rite are quite relevant here—*virtus junxit, mos non separabit* (virtue has joined, death will not separate)."



Masons hosts First “Academic” Lodge in Virginia



Photo by: William J. Baumbach II

By Mason Spirit Contributor
August 30, 2011

George Mason University has become the site of the first “Academic” Freemason Lodge in Virginia. Formed last fall, the Patriot Lodge has already held meetings and participated in several campus events, according to the “Master” of the lodge, Brother Jon Shelton, BA Government and Politics and Russian Studies '94.

Freemasons are members of a fraternal organization that is formed into chapters called Lodges. Many people are familiar with the Shriners, a major branch of the Freemasons, which provides free care to children in 22 hospitals across North America.

Other examples of Academic Lodges are at Harvard University and George Washington University in the United States, and the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

Lodge members participated in Mason’s Homecoming parade and pre-game festivities, with historical re-enactor and lodge member Donald McAndrews portraying the statesman George Mason in the

parade. Members also walked in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life fundraiser held on campus in April.

The Patriot Lodge meets monthly at the Mason Inn, except for a summer break in July and August. At the monthly meetings, the business meeting is for members only, but the dinner, which features a guest speaker, is open to others.

Past speakers have included Ted Kinnaman, chair of the Department of Philosophy, which sponsors the lodge, and Patrick Mendis, an affiliate professor with the Department of Public and International Affairs who recently published a book titled “Commercial Providence.”

Shelton points out that in the 1970s, the Scottish Rite (another branch of Freemasons) established the Charles and Polly Webber American History Scholarship Endowment at the university, which continues to award \$1,000 annually. The Lodge is also in the process of establishing an award for graduate students pursuing a philosophy degree concentrating on ethics. The group hopes to award the first scholarship in summer

2012.

“Mason welcomes both the enthusiasm and the history of philanthropy typified by the Patriot Lodge,” says Tom Hennessey, Mason Chief of Staff. “It further exemplifies the depth and breadth of the diversity that is such an essential component of the university.”

The idea to do something Masonic on campus originated in 2009 from several underclassmen who were already Freemasons. Bro. Shelton and other local Masonic leaders then moved to form an Academic Lodge in order to celebrate their ties to the institution as well as to attract new members from across the Mason community. Although the Freemasons are the world’s oldest and largest fraternity, they do not recruit members; an individual who is interested in joining must approach a member of the group and request a petition. One must be at least 18 years old, be of good moral character and, in the case of the Patriot Lodge, be affiliated with Mason (alumni, student, faculty, or staff).

Some traditional activities for Freemason Lodges are holding blood drives and child ID programs with the help of local law enforcement, Shelton says, adding that the Patriot Lodge hopes to team up with other Greek fraternities on campus on these types of events. He points out that most of the college fraternities and many other similar community service organizations were either started by Freemasons or based on their model.

Those who would like more information on joining the Patriot Lodge should contact the lodge secretary at PatriotLodgeSecy@aol.com. General information is available on their: www.thepatriotlodge.org.

CALL FOR PAPERS

SYMPOSIUM ON AMERICAN FREEMASONRY AND FRATERNALISM

National Heritage Museum, Lexington, Massachusetts
Perspectives on American Freemasonry and Fraternalism

Saturday, April 28, 2012

The National Heritage Museum announces a call for papers for its biannual symposium, "Perspectives on American Freemasonry and Fraternalism," to be held on Saturday, April 28, 2012, at the Museum in Lexington, Massachusetts.

The National Heritage Museum is an American history museum founded and supported by Scottish Rite Freemasons in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States. As the repository of one of the largest collections of American Masonic and fraternal objects, books and manuscripts in the United States, the Museum aims to foster new research on American fraternalism and to encourage the use of its scholarly resources.



Masonic Emblematic Chart, 1840-1850, probably New York, National Heritage Museum, Special Acquisitions Fund, 90.20. Photo by David Bohl.

The symposium seeks to present the newest research on American fraternal groups from the past through the present day. By 1900, over 250 American fraternal groups existed, numbering six million members. The study of their activities and influence in the United States, past and present, offers the potential for new interpretations of American society and culture. Diverse perspectives on this topic are sought; proposals are invited from a broad range of research areas, including history, material and visual culture, anthropology, sociology, literary studies and criticism, gender studies, political science, African American studies, art history, economics, or any combination of disciplines. Perspectives on and interpretations of all time periods are welcome.

Possible topics include:

- Comparative studies of American fraternalism and European or other international forms of fraternalism
- Prince Hall Freemasonry and other African-American fraternal groups
- Ethnically- and religiously-based fraternal groups
- Fraternal groups for women or teens
- Role of fraternal groups in social movements
- The material culture of Freemasonry and fraternalism
- Anti-Masonry and anti-fraternal movements, issues and groups
- Fraternal symbolism and ritual
- The expression of Freemasonry and fraternalism through art, music, and literature
- Approaches to Freemasonry – from disciplinary, interdisciplinary, or transnational perspectives; the historiography and methodology of the study of American fraternalism

Proposals should be for 30 minute research papers; the day's schedule will allow for audience questions and feedback.

Proposal Format: Submit an abstract of 400 words or less with a resume or c.v. that is no more than two pages.

Be sure to include full contact information (name, address, email, phone, affiliation).

Send proposals to: Aimee E. Newell, Ph.D., Director of Collections, National Heritage Museum, by email at anewell@monh.org or by mail to 33 Marrett Road, Lexington, MA 02421.

Deadline for proposals to be received is January 2, 2012.

For more information about the National Heritage Museum, see www.nationalheritagemuseum.org.

For questions, contact Aimee E. Newell as above, or call 781-457-4144.

Called to the Celestial Lodge

The Great Architect of the Universe has called the following Brethren Home.



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Lakeland Long.....	<i>Pride of the West No. 53</i>
Jesse Powell Sr.....	<i>True Square No. 108</i>
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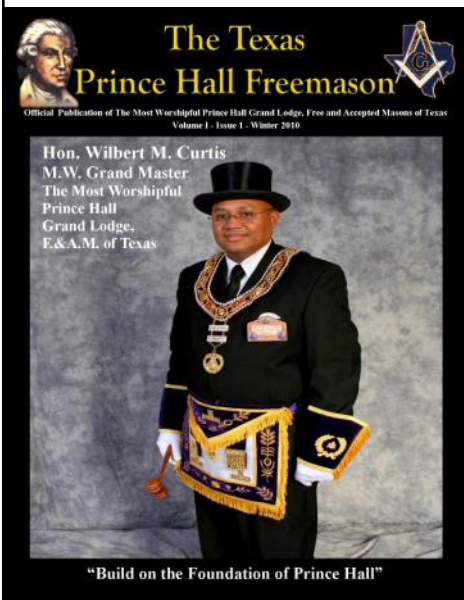


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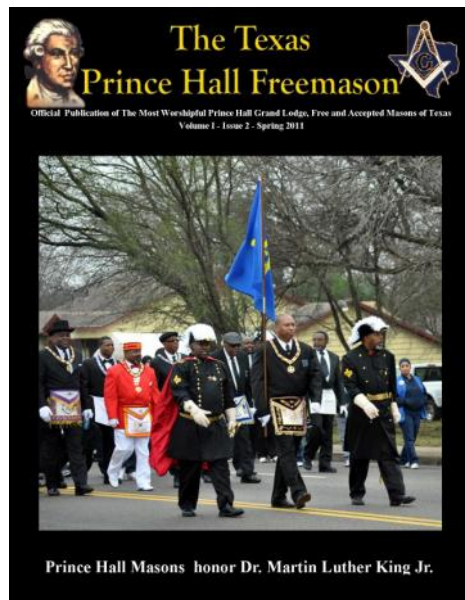
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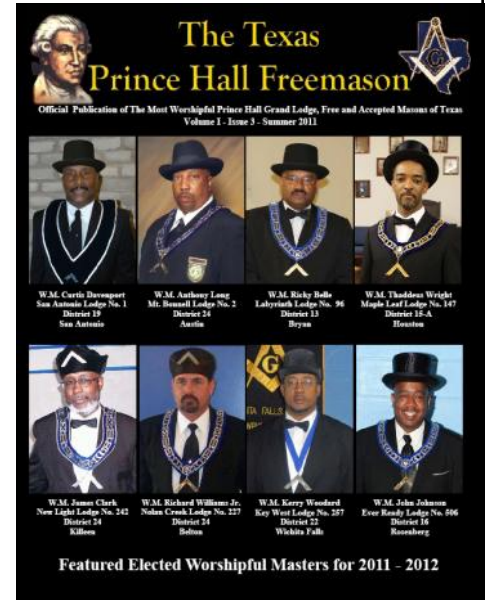
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