



The Texas Prince Hall Freemason



Official Publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas
Volume 2 - Issue 7 - Summer 2012



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District 19
San Antonio



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St. James Lodge No. 71
District 24
Temple



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W.M. Anthony McCargo
New Hope Lodge No. 400
District 14
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Lodge No. 620
District 24
Killeen



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Nero Prince Military Lodge
No. 634
District 26-A
Germany



W.M. Calvin McCray
Cyrus Forbes Military Lodge
No. 640
District 26-A
Germany

Featured Elected Worshipful Masters for 2012 - 2013

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From the Editor



Greetings,

We have entered into a new Masonic Year. There are many of our Brothers and Sisters who shall not share this new year with us. Brothers such as W.M. Rev. Bernard Brown, our Grand Lodge Photographer, whose photos have adorned each issue of *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason* and Sisters such as Grand Treasurer of the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter, Sister Emma Renfro and Past Grand Princess Captain Burnell Van Slyke of the Lone Star Grand Guild. Again it is an honor and pleasure to bring to you the seventh edition of *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason*. Please continue to send in your submissions in the proper format. Additionally, the publication is available for advertisement. If you know of organizations who would like to advertise in the publication, please provide them with my email address in order to correspond.

Fraternally,

W.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 parmermasonic-traveler@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

Publisher

M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis

Editor

W.M. Burrell D. Parmer

Publications Committee

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Layout & Design, **P.M. Edward S. Jones**

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R.W. Hubert L. Reece Sr.

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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.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Texas

3433 Martin Luther King Freeway

Ft. Worth, Texas 76101

Office: (817) 534-4612

Fax: (817) 534-9289

Email: pha@flash.net



Message from the Grand Master

I greet you in the name of the Grand Architect of the Universe, Our Heavenly Father, and I pray that you are experiencing His bountiful blessings. First, I want to thank you all for another successful Masonic Year of 2011-2012. I thank you for your hard and dedicated work. Secondly, I want to congratulate the newly elected and appointed officers of the Lodges. It is important for you officers to realize that you are selected by your peers to lead and serve your lodge to the best of your ability. Brethren, hopefully you realized as you cast your vote for your officers, that you selected them based on their qualifications and not because they are your friends. Hopefully you did not withhold your vote for the best qualified officers because of personal differences. It should all be about the Fraternity.

Up and coming Grand Communication:

M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis

I solicit each and every brother to attend the 137th Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge. This is where the transaction of the business of your Grand Lodge is performed. It affects the Grand Lodge, the Subordinate Lodges, officers and the members. In addition to business, there is fellowship among Brothers and instruction. This year there will be a special treat. The Occasional Lodge will be opened by our newest Lodge under Dispensation; Roots Lodge U.D. of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa. The brothers of that Lodge are excited for the opportunity to work in the Grand Lodge and receive their Charter. The Grand Session will be held from June 21 - 24, 2012. Brothers are asked to be present for the Occasional Lodge opening and workshops on Thursday and to stay through the Installation of Officers Ceremony on Sunday.

Access to Blue Lodge membership roster information:

Worshipful Masters, you have received my directive on the access to Lodge membership rosters and membership information. The Lodge's membership roster is to be accessed only by the Secretary and Worshipful Master for the Lodge's use but may be accessed by the District Deputy Grand Masters or designee for inspection and auditing purposes. Secondly, Lodge meetings are for transacting business of the Lodge and not for recruitment for other organizations. Take due notice thereof and govern yourself accordingly.

Membership Increase and Retention:

One of the reasons why the Grand Lodge needs a dues increase is because the membership for the Jurisdiction of Texas has remained constant with no measureable increase during the last nine years. We must do a better job of maintaining our membership and be active in promoting Freemasonry and adding to our membership rolls.

Worshipful Masters, I am requesting that you conduct a review of your Lodge membership rolls for the last three years. I need you to personally contact by phone, visit or letter, every member that has been dropped from the rolls and not maintained their membership. Talk to the Brother and find out the reason why they have not been active and financial. Encourage them to become active and financial. Each Master shall make a report to their District Deputy on or before July 1, 2012 of how many contacts were made, who the Brothers are, why they have not been active and financial and whether or not they are being returned to the membership rolls. District Deputies shall be responsible for forwarding this information to me at the Grand Lodge on or before July 15, 2012.

I believe that brothers are more likely to maintain their membership and be attracted to joining Freemasonry if we are active in our communities and if there are activities for the brothers to be involved in, work for the brothers to be involved in and training and learning opportunities at the Lodge hall.

What is going on at your Lodge? Are you involved in health fairs, parades, feeding the hungry, blood drives, voter registration, picnics, fellowships, church visitations, fun raisers and fund raisers, meeting the needs of members, having regular lectures, and any others that support the initiatives on your trestle board?

What are you doing as an individual to support the tenets of Freemasonry in Texas? Are you going to meetings regularly, supporting the activities of the Lodge, bringing new ideas for success for the Lodge and being an example of what a Mason should be?

If we are to continue to exist and be relevant in society and to our members and be all that we can and should be, WE (collectively and individually) must assume responsibility for our present and our future.

CAN THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF TEXAS AND JURISDICTION and I COUNT ON YOU?

I believe I can.

Fraternally yours,

Wilbert M. Curtis

Grand Master's Calendar

May - July 2012

Date	Location	Event
May 2012		
Saturday, May 12	Waco	Meeting with Grand Lodge of Texas (A.F.&A.M) Fraternal Relations Committee
Wednesday - Monday, May 16 - 21	Phoenix, Ariz.	Conference of Grand Masters Annual Conference
Sunday - Wednesday, May 27 - 30	Detroit, MI	United Supreme Council, N.J.
June 2012		
Friday, June 1	San Antonio	W.M. Burrell Parmer Retirement Ceremony
Saturday, June 2	San Antonio	Lone Star Consistory No. 113 Banquet
Monday - Tuesday, June 4 - 5	Tulsa, Okla.	M.W.P.H.G.L. of Oklahoma Grand Session
Thursday - Friday, June 7 - 8	Baton Rouge, LA	M.W.P.H.G.L. of Louisiana Grand Session
Thursday - Sunday, June 21- 24	Fort Worth	137th Grand Session
Wednesday - Friday, June 27 - 29	West Lake, OH	Grand Encampment
July 2012		
Sunday - Monday, June 30 - July 2	West Lake, OH	General Grand Conference Holy Royal Arch Masons
Thursday - Sunday, July 5 - 8	Oakland	Robert E. Connor, Jr. Masonic Youth Camp
Thursday - Saturday, July 19 - 21	Fort Worth	Knights of Pythagoras Youth Leadership Conference

Proclamation

To: All Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Honorary Past Grand Masters, Past Masters, Honorary Past Masters, Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Subordinate Lodge Officers and Master Masons

From: Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis, M. W. Grand Master

Date: March 15, 2012

Subject: 137th Annual Grand Communication

By the authority vested in the office of the Most Worshipful Grand Master and in accordance with the constitution of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Texas, I, Wilbert M. Curtis, am hereby calling the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Texas and its Jurisdiction into its 137th Annual Grand Communication for official business beginning, June 21, 2012, and ending June 24, 2012, at the Grand Masonic Temple located at 3433 MLK Freeway, Fort Worth, Texas. The headquarters hotel will be the Radisson Fort Worth North, 2540 Meacham Blvd, Fort Worth, Texas, 76106.

On Thursday, June 21, 2012, the Master Mason Workshop will start at 9:00 a.m. at the Grand Masonic Temple. All Master Masons are here by summoned to attend. There will be instruction along with a Question and Answer Session.

The Past Master Degree will be given on Thursday, June 21, 2012. The ceremony will promptly start at 2:00 p.m. All Master Masons receiving the degree must meet with the Grand Lecturer at 1:30 p.m. and be Masonically dressed. Master Masons receiving the degree must register with the Grand Lodge Office, prior to June 1, 2012.

All District Deputy Grand Masters and Special District Deputy Grand Masters are hereby summoned to attend the District Deputy Meeting on Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 10:50 a.m. There are matters of importance that will be addressed.

On Friday, June 22, 2012, the 137th Annual Grand Communication will officially convene at 8:30 a.m. at the Grand Masonic Temple. Masonic dress is required.

The Saints John Day and Memorial Service will be held on Friday, June 22, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at the Hotel. A Lodge of Sorrow ceremony will be performed. Masonic Dress with white aprons is the appropriate attire. The High Twelve Club will sponsor a dance at the Grand Masonic Temple after the Memorial Service.

On Saturday, June 23, 2012, the Awards Luncheon will be held at the Hotel, beginning at 12:00 noon. In addition to the Awards Ceremony, the Scholarship Winners will be announced.

On Saturday evening, the Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Banquet will be held at the Hotel beginning at 7:00 p.m. The attire is white dinner jacket and shirt, black slacks and tie. The Masonic collar is optional.

On Sunday June 24, 2012, all Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers are required to attend the Annual Joint Installation Ceremony. It will be conducted by Past Grand Master, Edwin B. Cash or appointee, at the Hotel immediately following the Devotional Service starting at 9:00 a.m. All Master Masons are encouraged to attend.

Worshipful Masters, have this Proclamation read in three stated lodge meetings prior to the Grand Communication.

Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Wilbert M. Curtis

Wilbert M. Curtis
M. W. Grand Master

Attested by:

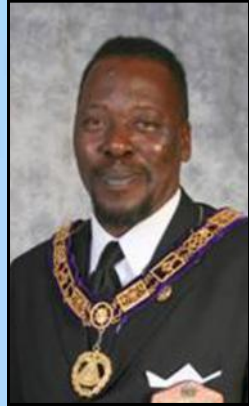
Hubert L. Reece

Hubert L. Reece
R. W. Grand Secretary

Elected Grand Lodge Officers



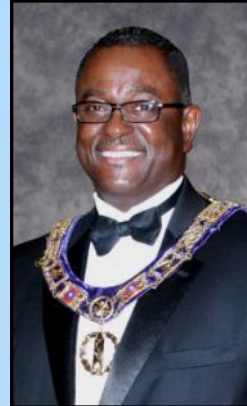
Past Grand Master
Hon. Edwin B. Cash



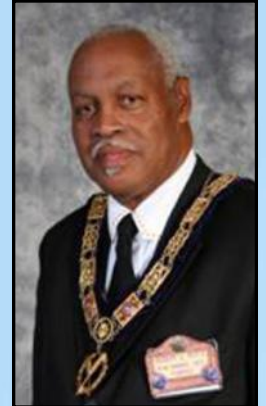
Deputy Grand Master
R.W. Michael T. Anderson



Grand Senior Warden
R.W. Bryce Hardin Sr.



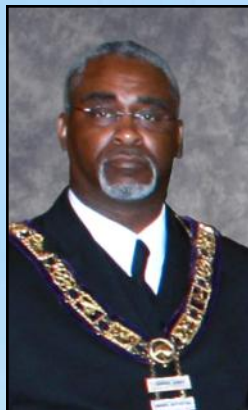
Grand Junior Warden
R.W. Frank D. Jackson



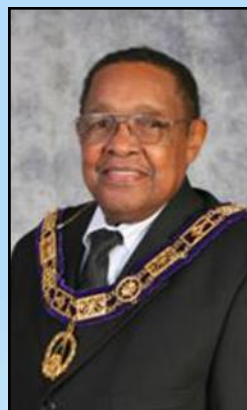
Grand Secretary
R.W. Hubert L. Reece Sr.



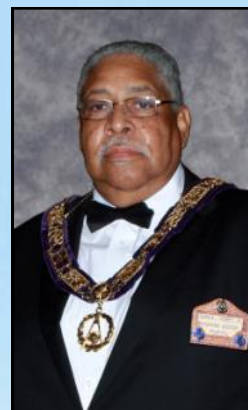
Grand Treasurer
R.W. Robert J. Datcher



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 G. WHITE GRAND MASTER
R. W. VOLNEY B. PHILLIPS GRAND SECRETARY-TREASURER

In the Mean Time



*D.D.G.M.
Rev. Norris Jackson*

Several issues ago I wrote a piece titled “A Place Called There” and it was mentioned that we all have that “Place Called There” in our Life where God is trying to get our attention, to remind us that He is still in control of your lives. It has been said that we are either getting ready to go There, are already in the midst of There or we have just come through There.

Regardless of our situation, we are always dealing with or getting ready to deal with what to do while we are there. This phase of your life I want to refer to as “In the Mean Time.” Since the Lord has placed us here, what are we going to do, how will we manage this situation? May I suggest what we do “In the Mean Time” directly impacts how we go through something. The outcome of most of our situations are actually decided or influenced by what we do “In the Mean Time.” We are not in control so “In the Mean Time” I suggest to you to have a little talk with Jesus who is able to give guidance and make everything alright.

My mind travels back in time to Psalm 137 when the Children of Israel were now back in captivity and complaining because their captors requested of them to sing the Lord’s song for them. They instead chose to weep and mourn “In the Mean of Time” of their situation. Some of us do the same thing when our situation changes because we do not know what to do “In the Mean Time.” Just like God had an answer for the Children of Israel on how to handle their Mean Time, He has one for you also. Just like He did for Elijah when He placed him in that “Place Call There,” He will do the same for you and provide for your every need “In the Mean Time.”

It should be noted that sometime people will give you false information while you are in your Mean Time. You are struggling trying to figure out how much longer will the Lord leave you there before He moves you from this place. Someone is saying right now Reverend I have been in the same place since the last articles and nothing has changed is there any help on the way? The answer is yes, help is on the way but it may not be immediate; let’s see what the Word of God has to say. In the book of Jeremiah 29 Chapter instructions is given to the captives on how to handle the Mean Time.

The first instruction that is given is that we Face Reality.

He wanted them to know a few things about the situation they were in. The gist of what he told them is that even though you don’t want it to be here, and even though you would wish it to be entirely different, the reality of it is that you’re in a situation that is not going to be resolved overnight. Jeremiah wasn’t putting band-aids on the mirror. He was telling them to face the reality of things. The reason you are here in this place was because it was a part of the judgment of God, and it was not something that was going to end very soon. The reason we are where we are is because it’s the will of the Lord and we need to face that reality.

The second instruction that is given is that we Don’t Give Up.

Let’s look at verse five of the same chapter and it reads, Build houses and settle down. God was telling them that it was not time yet to go home, and that they needed to maintain the normal routines of their lives. They needed to understand that it was not an accident that they were in Babylon, but God was in control of the situation. He knew what He was doing, and it was important that the people not give up. It was vitally important that they keep trusting Him, and not give up. The same is offered to us, that while we are in our Mean time that we Don’t Give Up!

The final instruction that I would like to share with you while you are in your Mean Time is to Remember God’s Promises. This is what the Lord says to the captives: “When 70 years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

While you are in that “Place called There” and in your Mean Time, I want you to remember God’s promised to be with you always even to the end of the world.

Humbly Submitted,

Norris D. Jackson

Prostate Cancer



*Bro. Martin Conner III
Asst. G.M.A.*

Thank the Lord for all that He has done. Thank the Lord for waking you in your right mind. Thank the Lord for putting food on your table. Thank the Lord for health and strength. In all things, we thank the Lord.

Again I bring you greetings from Honorary Past Grand Master Dr. Ulysses Watkins, Grand Medical Advisor and myself.

This edition's topic is prostate cancer. The prostate gland is a small walnut-size structure that makes up part of the male reproductive system. It wraps around the urethra, the tube that carries urine and semen from the body.

Prostate cancer is the most common cause of death in men over the age of 75 but is rarely seen in men younger than age 40.

People who are at higher risk include African-American men, men older than 60, men with a family history of prostate cancer, men who use too much alcohol, and men who eat a diet high in fat, especially animal fat. It has also been found that vegetarians have a lower rate of prostate cancer.

Some symptoms seen, usually in the late stage of prostate cancer, are delayed or slowed urinary stream, dribbling or leakage of urine after urinating, slow urinary stream and straining when urinating or not being able to empty the bladder.

Testing for prostate cancer include a digital rectal exam, that is your doctor inserting a gloved finger into your rectum to feel for an enlarged or rough prostate gland and the prostate specific antigen (P.S.A.) blood test. Normal range for this test is 4-10 nanograms per milliliter of blood. Anything higher and your doctor may recommend a prostate biopsy.

Treatment for prostate cancer will depend on many things to include your scores and your overall health. Surgery, radiation and chemotherapy are some of the options and will depend on your doctor's recommendations. If you are older, he may also choose to monitor the cancer with P.S.A. testing and biopsies.

As in all matters concerning your health, regular checkups, knowing your numbers, and having a good relationship with your doctor is key to a long and healthy life.

Brother in Christ and in Masonry,

Fraternally submitted,

Martin Conner III

G.M. Curtis, Delegation travel to West Africa, Consecrates Roots Lodge U.D.



Prince Hall Grand Lodge Delegation with Roots Lodge U.D.

Story by:

G.J.W. Frank Jackson

Photos by: *G.S.W. "Big" Bryce Hardin*

COTE D'IVOIRE, West Africa – On Feb. 7, Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis led a delegation comprised of Deputy Grand Master Michael T. Anderson, Grand Senior Warden "Big" Brice A. Hardin, Grand Junior Warden Frank D. Jackson, Grand Tiler Vernon J. James, Grand Lecturer Ivory Johnson and Grand Legal Advisor Willie H. Coleman, Jr., on a mission to establish and consecrate a new Lodge in Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa. This new Lodge, under Dispensation, will be known as Roots Lodge U.D. and is the first Lodge established on the African Continent under the jurisdiction of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and

Accepted Masons of Texas.

Cote d'Ivoire is a West African country with a surface area of 322,462 km, bordered on the northern part by Mali and Burkina, on the west by Liberia and Guinea, neighbored to the east by Ghana and on the south by the Atlantic Ocean. The population of Cote d'Ivoire is estimated at 21,058,798 inhabitants in 2011. The political and administrative capital of Cote d'Ivoire is Yamoussoukro (the economic capital is Abidjan), the official language is French and the currency is the franc CFA. The country is also a member of the Economic Community of West African States (E.C.O.W.A.S.).

Cote d'Ivoire was a French protectorate in 1843, became a French colony in 1893 and finally it

gained its independence in 1960 under the leadership of Felix Houphouet-Boigny, the first Ivorian President. The economy is primarily based on coffee and cocoa production which expanded extraordinarily during the first two decades, making Cote d'Ivoire the leading



Prince Hall Grand Lodge Delegation conducts initial meeting with Brothers of Roots Lodge U.D.

country in West Africa.

An invitation to establish a Lodge in Cote d'Ivoire within the jurisdiction of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge was extended to G.M. Curtis by a very worthy group of Master Masons under the leadership of Brother Louis Metan.

The Brothers of Cote d'Ivoire chose the name Roots Lodge to symbolize the indomitable connectivity between Africans on the continent and Africans in the Diaspora.

Bro. Metan said, "The name "Roots," is taken from Alex Haley's famous book," and is representative of men of African descent all over the world. Roots is a rallying name in which they all recognize themselves. Its powerful symbolism is sacred and spans time and space in answer to the distant call from our forefathers, who used similar symbolism with the adoption of the name "African Lodge." The adoption of the name, African Lodge, in that time, was a call to Mother Africa from where they expected blessings to flow for the success of their ambitions. Likewise, the Brothers of Roots Lodge U.D. believe that the bond of union is established from now on between Africans worldwide and across centuries, provided that they use the Square and the Compass and are righteous."

"This name also reflects the beginning of our Work, its roots. We pray that the originators and those that follow increase in the wisdom of the Sacred Law. The roots are also symbolic of a very strong African tree, the Iroko, under which we, like our ancestors pray for so many spiritual intercessions. On the banner the Iroko is white, to express the ingenuousness of our ambition and its capacity to progress forward in a perpetual cycle of accomplishment that never stops. The Master Mason's work never stops. The Iroko tree, superimposed against the sun repre-

sents the dawn of a new day and more light. So this is how one must read our banner: the wisdom resides at our work, supported by Strength and adorned in Beauty. May we always express the fact of this boundless dream," said Bro. Metan.

The worthy Master Masons of



Roots Lodge U.D. were excellent hosts from start to finish extending every courtesy and executing every Masonic and social protocol with deft precision and class.

Upon arrival in Cote d'Ivoire, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge Delegation was granted an audience with the United States Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, the Hon. Phillip Carter III, who extended to G.M. Curtis and his delegation a most cordial welcome. Additionally, top level meetings were held with other head political and diplomatic authorities. These series of high-level meetings were topped off with a special dinner held in honor of G.M. Curtis with the Grand Masters of other Grand Lodges of Cote

d'Ivoire present as invited guests.

On Feb.10, the Brothers of Roots Lodge U.D. and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge Delegation traveled to the Capital City of Yamoussoukro which is located 150 miles north of Abidjan. The journey to Yamoussoukro was a great opportunity for the Prince Hall Grand Lodge Delegation to travel through the heartland of the country, which proved to be very scenic and educational, providing a beautiful glimpse into rich cultural life of the diverse ethnic (tribal) groups native to the country. These include the following great ethnic groups: the Akan, the Krou, the Senoufo and the Mandé.

During the Prince Hall Grand Lodge Delegation time in Cote d'Ivoire, they enjoyed a special tour of the capital city which consisted of several of the iconic attractions located in Yamoussoukro to include "Our Lady of Peace Basilica, (which is larger than St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy); the Presidential Palace (which was surrounded by beautiful moat full of large variety of alligators and crocodiles);



Our Lady of Peace Basilica.





Dinner and fellowship held at Past District Governor Jean Konan Banny's residence.

and the F. Houphouet-Boigny Burial Vault.

That evening, a state dinner was hosted by the past Governor of the District, Minister Jean Konan Banny, at his well appointed and spacious residence. Minister Banny delighted the Prince Hall Grand Lodge Delegation by explaining the traditional African cultural ways of welcoming guests and extending hospitality and best wishes for a safe return home.

G.M. Curtis shared words of thanks for the Minister's gracious hospitality and offered special tokens of friendship to the Minister, which he graciously accepted. Minister Banny further delighted his guests by indicating that he will become a member of Roots Lodge U.D., pledging his full support to its success.

The ceremony granting the Dispensation to Roots Lodge U.D. was held on Feb. 11, at the stately Parliamentarians Hotel – Yamousoukro in accordance with Masonic customs and traditions in due and ancient form.

Bro. Metan was also duly installed as Worshipful Master of Roots Lodge U.D. The moving and

well executed formal Masonic ceremonies were followed that evening by a wonderful cultural reception which showcased the music, dances and costumes from many of the tribal group's native to Cote d'Ivoire. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge Delegation was presented with beautiful tokens of apprecia-

tion and had a chance to meet the families of the Brothers of Roots Lodge U.D. The fellowship was excellent and very memorable.

Back in Abidjan, on Monday, Feb. 13, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge Delegation was welcomed to the Masonic opening ceremonies of Roots Lodge U.D., which was masterfully conducted in French. G.M. Curtis and the Grand Lodge Officers conducted a Cornerstone Laying Ceremony for the Prince Hall Cote d'Ivoire Temple. W.M. Metan and his lovely wife hosted a grand reception at his home that was enjoyed by all. G.M. Curtis extended an invitation to W.M. Metan and the Brothers of Roots Lodge U.D. to the 137 Grand Communication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas scheduled for June 21- 24, in Ft. Worth, Texas where they will open the Occasional Lodge on June 21. This invitation was graciously accepted.



G.M. Curtis presents the Dispensation and books of importance to W.M. Metan.

Panther City Lodge 159 crowned King of the Court



G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis with the 2012 Kings of the Court winner, Panther Lodge No. 159.

Story by:
P.M. Marcus Thomas (647)

ARLINGTON, Texas – The Prince Hall Masonic Family of Texas’ “King of The Court” Basketball Tournament is an exciting and distinctive community based charitable event, comprised of several Lodges within the Dallas and Ft. Worth Metroplex, designed to increase Brotherly Love with dedication and goodwill.

The tournament, held at The Maverick Activities Center, began at 9:00am and concluded at 3:00pm, March 24.

This year, Lodges from The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, along with constituent Chapters from Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter, collaborated to make the 6th Annual King of the Court a success.

Outstanding active participants included: Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 135, King David Lodge No. 151,

Panther City Lodge No. 159, Goodstreet Lodge No. 182, Rescue Lodge No. 20, and Grand Temple Lodge No. 75, encompassing Districts 10, 11 and 20, all seeking the thrill of becoming “King of the Court”.

This charitable event focused on giving back to the community. In doing so, The One Church One Child organization, Texas Knights of Pythagoras, along with the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation of Texas will be the recipient of all donations.

A cover charge for spectators was taken at the door as well as monetary donations that were collected via pledge sheets. The pledge sheets were extended to all participating Lodges and Chapters.

During the course of the tournament a concession stand, manned by several Chapters from the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter

was made available to anyone who desired refreshments. The proceeds from the refreshments were allocated to the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter.

In attendance was Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis and Grand Senior Warden “Big” Bryce Hardin.

Upon conclusion of the tournament, and witnessed by all, the “King of the Court” crown was presented to Panther City Lodge No. 159 as they defeated second place King David Lodge No. 151 in a close thriller.

Congratulations to all who assisted to make the event a success and a special thanks to the Lone Star Grand Guild and Grand Princess Captain R. Lucille Samuel for providing a much appreciated donation. We look forward to crowning a new “King of the Court” in 2013.



King David Lodge No. 151.



W.M. Julius Roberson, (ctr) poses with Offensive MVP, Bro. Julius Roberson (rt) and Defensive MVP, Bro. Trice Williams.

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MASONIC APPAREL

Robert E. Connor Jr.

Masonic Youth Camp of Texas

Cathedral Oaks Retreat Center

Bro. Charles E. Dewitt

Grand Youth Director

July 5 - 8, 2012

The 12th Annually Robert E. Connor Jr. Masonic Youth Camp will be held at the Cathedral Oaks Retreat Center located approximately 10 miles south of Weimar, Texas. The Camp will begin on Thursday, July 5, 2012 at 3 p.m. and conclude on Sunday, July 8, 2011 at 12 noon. The Theme of this year's Youth Camp is "Preventing a Lost Generation."

Youth will participate in seminars, sports activities, swimming, and religious programs. Participants will be exposed to officials of the various Masonic organizations and speakers from throughout the Lone Star State. Additionally, they will receive lectures and information on preparing for the job market, coping with daily community problems and preparing for their futures.

Each youth will receive a Camp T-shirt, cap and the Holy Bible in addition to making new friends. They will have an opportunity to fish, play sports and attend church services each night of the Camp.

Registration fee for each youth is \$100. The fee covers housing, food and all activities of the Camp. The Camp is limited to the first 50 youths. Registration deadline is June 1, 2012.

Rules of Attendees

- Youth must be a male and a reside of Texas.
- Youth must be between the ages of 9 and 17 before July 5, 2012.
- Youth must possess a school G.P.A. of 2.0 or a C average.
- Youth must bring required medications to the Camp
- Youth must furnish their own hygiene items.
- Youth with a felony record cannot register for Camp.
- Youth must possess good moral character.
- Youth must adhere to the rules and regulations set forth by the Camp Staff.
- Parent(s) of youth must submit a release of liability form.

Visit The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas' website: www.mwphglotx.org to download an application and view Camp Policy or contact you local District Deputy Grand Master. Those sponsoring youth to attend the Camp are responsible for transportation of the youth to and from Camp.

Texas K.O.P. prepares for its: “2012 Young Men with a Purpose” Youth Leadership Conference

On Thursday, July 19 - 22, 2012 the Texas Order of the Knights of Pythagoras (K.O.P.), Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council will be hosting their “2012 Young Men with a Purpose Youth Leadership Conference” at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. This conference will focus on nine powerful workshops which will empower and educate our young men. The workshops consist of:

Anger Management
Leadership is within
Staying in the Driver’s Seat
Developing the Right Attitude
Decision Making
Young Men with a Purpose, Mission, & Vision
Learning how to communicate effectively
Interviewing for a Job
The Youth of Today

Additionally at the conference, the Youth Knights will also team up with other youth programs such as the K.O.P. programs from the Jurisdictions of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Arizona, and Nevada to host the 1st Annual Midwest/Southwest Youth Leadership Summit.

For additional information please visit our website at www.texaskop.net or contact us at sdtexaskop@aol.com or state.recorder@texaskop.net. Please support the youth council in your area and the Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council.

K.O.P. and Youth Camp adopts Abuse Prevention System (A.P.S.) training

Story by: State Director Michael Simms, Sr.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge is currently working on adopting a certification program that will certify members in our organization who work with youth across the state. Our children are being abused at an alarming rate. One out of three girls is sexually abused before age 18 and one out of five boys is sexually abused before 18.

The Abuse Prevention Systems (A.P.S.) is a program that helps reduce the risk of child sexual abuse through its program and awareness training. In the State of Texas this training is required for Youth Camps by the Youth Camp Act, and Abuse Prevention Systems is a state-approved provider of the training.

This Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Training will also help the Grand Lodge to continue to enrich children’s lives while providing and ensuring for their safety. The abuse prevention awareness training itself consists of video presentation and testing. Upon completion and passing of the exam the individual will receive a certificate and will be certified in the Abuse Prevention program. The Grand Lodge will have additional information to come as they finalize the implementation of this program.

Brothers of Social Tie Lodge No. 56 visit Brother in Hospice Care



Lt - Rt: J.D. Patrick Pierce, W.M. Freddie Hunter, Bro. Curtis Taylor, Sr. (In bed), J.W. George Bell, S.D. Raymond Johnson, and Sec. Robert Nelson.

Story by: W.M. Freddie Hunter

BRYAN, Texas – Checking in on one of their own, the Brothers of Social Tie Lodge No. 56 in Bryan Texas took the time out of their day to visit the most eldest member, Bro. Curtis Taylor Sr., at Joseph Regional Hospital, Jan. 15.

Bro. Taylor has been a very active member of Social Tie Lodge

No. 56 until his health began to fail a few years ago. He is always anxious to know what is going on around the Lodge, even though he is not able to attend the monthly meetings.

The Lodge prays that the Grand Architect of the Universe continues to bless Bro Taylor, and restore his strength so that the can re-join his

Brethren in the fellowship of Brotherly Love.

On March 6, Bro. Taylor reached the age of 81 years old.

Holloway Lodge No. 7 assists Local Church with Easter



Children prepared to search for Easter Eggs during Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church Annual Easter Egg Hunt, April 7. Brothers of Holloway Lodge No. 7 assisted the church by donating colored eggs and Easter baskets.

Story by: W.M. Charles Lilley
Photos by Bro. Derek McCullough

DOWNSVILLE, Texas – For many of us Easter means time to reflect on the death and resurrection of Christ. For the youth it simply means colored eggs and Easter baskets. It was no different for the kids at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church.

On April 7, the Brethren of Holloway Lodge No. 7 assisted the Mt. Olive Family by donating colored eggs and Easter baskets.

The Lodge was excited about playing an important role in Mt. Olive's annual event as it provided

the Lodge an opportunity to renew community ties.

There was a special feeling of accomplishment by the members of the Lodge and the smiles of the youth were simply priceless. The hospitality of the church members was absolutely awesome.

Holloway Lodge No. 7 looks forward to continuing its involvement with Mt. Olive and the community. This is just a small step in the Lodge's "new beginning" and its commitment to making a difference.



District 15-A provides Opportunity for School Bands to showcase their talent in Houston



The Drumline of B.C. Elmore Middle School perform. The line one 1st Place prize in the 5th Annual Bayou City Drumline Challenge held at Westbury High School in Huston, Jan. 21.

Story and Photos by:
W.M. Samuel T. Albert (108)

HOUSTON - District 15-A kicked off its 5th Annual Bayou City Drumline Challenge at Westbury High School, Jan. 21.

The competition allowed bands in the Houston area and surrounding regions, ranging from elementary school through high school to strut their stuff.

Each drumline has an allotted amount of time to go on stage and show off their musical and entertainment skills in hopes of winning trophies and prize money.

The Drumline Challenge continues to have a huge following with parents, students and friends being its largest supporters. Once again Lodges, Chapters and other Masonic houses within the District

stepped up and supported the event by volunteering their time and operating vendor booths for food and drinks.

Proceeds from the Drumline Challenge will fund the District 15-A Scholarship Contest, from which the 1st place winner will receive a \$500 stipend and go forward to represent the District at the J.T. Maxey Scholarship Contest held during the The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas' Annual Grand Session in Fort Worth in June. Every contestant at the district level receives some type of prize for participating in the contest.

The over-all winners of the competition were B.C. Elmore Middle School, who won a \$500 prize for 1st place (Middle School Division),

Park Crest Middle School from Pflugerville, who clinched 2nd place winning \$250 (Middle School Division), and Shadydale Elementary School who took the number one spot in their division winning \$150 (Elementary Division).

The Bayou City Drumline Challenge was a huge success thanks to all the bands that participated, all the volunteer efforts and most of all the support of all the parents, family members, and Masonic bodies that help make it happen. Appreciation is rendered to District Deputy Grand Master Ronald Gerac and to the Drumline Challenge Committee for a successful event.



B.C. Elmore Middle School.



Park Crest Middle School

True Square Lodge sponsors Kid's Day Out

Story and Photos by:
W.M. Samuel T. Albert (108)

HOUSTON – One of the most important things that any organization can participate in is the mentoring and development of our youth. The Prince Hall Masons of True Square Lodge No. 108 sponsored a Kid's Day Out event and treated the young men of the Kipp Polaris Academy to a day at the movies to view the block buster movie "Red Tails" at Tinseltown Theater, Jan. 28.

True Square Lodge No. 108 made good on their mission statement "to mentor and educate our youth" by taking the boys to a movie that tells the story about the Tuskegee Airmen, who were the first black Aerial Combat Unit during World War II. The Kid's Day Out event was extremely successful because the young men were allowed the opportunity to learn about an important part of American history that depicted Black Airmen playing pivotal roles in winning the war. The movie provided another opportunity for the youth to view African-American



heroes. When the movie concluded, the kids walked out of the theater with excitement and pride while naming themselves the leading characters that were depicted in the film.

True Square Lodge No. 108 hosts this important event annually with inner city youth from different schools

and youth that are sponsored to attend the Robert E. Conner Youth Camp. In the effort to continuing their mentoring program the Brothers of True Square Lodge No. 108 will continue to develop community based strategies addressing the needs of the city's youth.

Heights-Ionic Pride Lodge feeds, clothes the Homeless

Story and Photos by Lodge Staff

HOUSTON – There are approximately 10,000 homeless in the city. Many of the causes are poverty, debt, and mental illnesses with staggering amounts affecting people under the age of 30. Houston is one of nine communities recently identified by Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D.) as being a high priority for addressing homelessness. The Brothers of Heights-Ionic Pride Lodge No. 280 located on McGowen Street, Third ward area banded together to try to ease the burden of the homeless community. The Brothers handed out fresh clothes and sandwich meals to numerous needy individuals

"Just seeing the gratitude that is expressed from the people just warms my heart," said Senior Warden Rae-ford Watts. "You just don't really know so many are in need."



Members of Heights-Ionic Pride Lodge No. 280 prepare to help the unfortunate of Downtown Houston. Feb. 2.

The Lodge, along with three trucks, one with women, a second with men and a third with water, sandwiches and chips, went diligently to work in order

to raise the spirits of the less fortunate.

"This will not be our last time out here," said Worshipful Master Robert Warren.

Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 holds Annual Breakfast



Story and Photos by: Lodge Staff

PEARLAND, Texas – Prince Hall Masons of Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 held their annual Breakfast at Hilton Garden Inn Pearland, March 24. The Breakfast provided an opportunity for members to pay their dues and for the potential Brothers to meet the Lodge members and officers.

Two local law enforcement officers and Brothers, Pastor Michael Ellison of the Harris County Sherriff Department and Henry Mosley of the Department of Justice, spoke to the members in attendance.

During the event, Worshipful Master John Johnson presented 25 or more Years of Membership certificates, issued by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, to Honorary Past Grand Master Herman Gabriel (35), H.P.G.M. Ulysses Watkins (25), H.P.M. Harrison Gregg (30), Brothers Roy Ellison (50), Robert Rogers (35), Robert Muse (25), and Ernest Thomas (50).

One of the speakers at the

Breakfast was Congressman H.P.M. Al Green, who passionately spoke on the importance of voting and voter registration. He also spoke of the death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, a Florida high school student who was shot and killed by a member of the neighborhood watch.

Congressman Green, who attended Florida A&M University, said the incident has become a national issue and he, along with thousands of protestors, gathered for a rally in Florida. Some protestors wore hoodies with the hood up and held Skittles and iced tea – imitating what Martin wore and carried when he was shot. The rally's purpose was to raise awareness to the lack of action that had been taken on the investigation so far.

Congressman Green also spoke of his arrest, along with actor and movie star George Clooney and his journalist father Nick Clooney, outside the Sudanese Embassy in Washington D.C. while protesting a

humanitarian crisis. They stood in opposition to Sudanese leaders threatening starvation and the genocide of thousands of their own people.

Bro. Ruben Davis of Fort Bend County Constable Precinct 2 had words of encouragement and support for all the efforts shown to the Trayvon Martin family. He stressed the importance of getting out to vote, so the people that support you in your community are put in office to continue their works.

He spoke of his long career of law enforcement with the Houston Police Department and Fort Bend County Constable Precinct 2. He has trained many of the prominent Law Enforcement Officers in Houston and surrounding areas. He thanked the Brothers of Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 for their support of his many community events he sponsored and spear headed through out the years.

Dawning of a New Day in Victoria

Story by:

D.D.G.M. Rev. Norris Jackson

VICTORIA, Texas – On Jan. 28, the gavel was sounded in the East at Western Star Lodge No. 11, and a new era began.

The Lodge was open in due form by District Deputy Grand Master Rev. Norris D. Jackson and members from District 18. Special guest was the Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis, Grand Master of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, who was received with Grand Honors and handed the gavel of authority.

G.M. Curtis greeted the Craft and proceeded to conduct the business of the day which was to bring new life into Western Star Lodge No. 11 by healing seven Master Masons and raising two Fellow Craft to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Western Star Lodge No. 11 was in dire need of these new members due to decline in membership.

G.M. Curtis called for a special election where Bro. Brian Whalon was elected Worshipful Master to lead the Western Star Lodge in a



Members of Western Star Lodge No. 11 along with G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis, D.D.G.M. Rev. Norris Jackson, and others.

positive and productive year.

After conclusion of the meeting, the Brethren met at Mumphord's Bar-B-Que for fellowship.

Special thanks to G.M. Curtis for his presence, W.M. Calvin Thomas of New Day Masonic Lodge U.D. for his assistance in making this a

reality, thanks to W.M. Darryl Whitehead of Gulf Coast Lodge No. 361, and W.M. Elliot Grant of Coastal Bend Lodge No. 497 for their participation.



Western Star Lodge No. 11 Lodge Hall.

Listed are the Elected and Appointed officers of Western Star Lodge No. 11 for the Masonic year 2012 - 2013.

Worshipful Master
Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Senior Deacon
Junior Deacon
Secretary
Treasurer
Senior Steward
Junior Steward
Tiler

Brian Whalon
Melvin Tolbert
Dedrick Porter
Zyron Williams
Chris Marvels
Jaime Solis Jr.
Henry Johnson
Christian Garcia
Teddy Garcia
Anthony Buckner

San Antonio Lodge host Public Installations of Officers Ceremony, Luncheon



H.P.G.M. William Woods duly installs W.M. Burrell Parmer of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 during a Public Installations Ceremony. Beside W.M. Parmer is P.M. C.W. Bankston who served as the Installation Marshal.

superbly.

According to H.P.G.M. Woods, he believe that Public Installations have only occurred within the 19th Masonic District maybe once or twice before.



P.M. Burnell White Jr. (MC) delivers the welcome to the members of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 and their guests during the Public Installations Ceremony.

Story by:

W.M. Burrell D. Parmer

SAN ANTONIO – On April 3, Brethren of San Antonio Lodge No. 1, the first Prince Hall Lodge chartered in Texas (May 10, 1876), conducted Elections of Officers for the 2012 - 2013 Masonic Year. In addition to elections, the Lodge held a Public Installations of Officers Ceremony and Luncheon at the Continental Café and Event Center, April 7.

The event was attended by over 40 members and their guests. For many of the guests it was their first time witnessing such a ceremony.

The Installation Team, whom consisted of Honorary Past Grand Master William Woods and Past Master C.W. Bankston performed



D.D.G.M. Grady Peavy gives remarks at the conclusion of the Public Installations Ceremony.

Bro. Adrian Foster of Sunset Lodge No. 76 selected as an Army Congressional Fellow



Capt. Adrian Foster hands out toys to local kids during a Police Transition Team dismounted patrol near the Khark local police directorate in Baghdad in March 2006.

Story by:

Amanda Glenn, 1st Army Division East

FORT MEADE, Md. - U.S. Army Capt. Adrian Foster founded his military career on the concept of being part of something important. When he graduated high school, he wasn't sure what that was, but he wasn't content to wait and find out. He actively sought and embraced each new twist in his path.

Today, that path leads to Congress.

In late December 2011, Capt. Foster, the operations officer at 3rd Battalion, 312th Regiment, 174th Infantry Brigade, received confirmation he'd been selected as an Army Congressional Fellow.

Capt. Foster, who lives in Brooklyn Park, Md., completed the rigorous nomination process before being selected to participate in the three-year program. In April, he will begin a master's degree in legislative affairs at George Washington University. After that, he'll serve a year on a member of Congress's staff and then be assigned to duty on the Army or Joint Staff in a legislative liaison position at the Pentagon.

"This is a coveted experience," Capt. Foster said. And while he admits it was an honor to be chosen, he's concerned with what comes next.

"It's more about what you do with it. At the end of the day, a sol-

dier has to execute missions based on policy, and I want to impact that in a positive way."

Joining the military seemed a natural career path when Capt. Foster, an Air Force brat, graduated high school. He enjoyed being a Soldier and taking each step in his career, but he admits that after a few years he hit a crossroads.

"I could stay enlisted and become a drill sergeant or go back to school," he said. "A very wise platoon sergeant told me to go get my education and that's what I did."

He enrolled in Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Ariz., on an ROTC scholarship and graduated in December 2003. From there, Capt. Foster completed the Military Police Officer Basic Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and reported to Fort Bliss, Texas. There, his leadership skills were put to the test with multiple deployments to Iraq, first as platoon leader and later as a company commander. Each experience reinforced his desire to be a better leader and take care of his Soldiers.

As a congressional fellow, Capt. Foster hopes to gain insight and influence what goes on behind the scenes.

"I'll be able to communicate ground truth to members of Congress," he said. "That's important, since they directly impact our livelihood. It's important to have someone who can give congressional members that ground truth viewpoint."



Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter
Texas and Jurisdictions
P. O. Box 202135
San Antonio, Texas 78220



Proclamation

April 16, 2012

To: All Grand Chapter Officers, Past Grand Chapter Officers,
Present and Past Worthy Matron and Worthy Patrons,
Subordinate Chapter Officers and All Members

Greetings:

By the power vested in us, Martha Wolridge, Grand Worthy Matron and Robert B. Calloway, Jr., Grand Worthy Patron of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter Texas and Jurisdictions, do hereby call and summon all members of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter to convene for its sixteenth Annual Grand Session.

The Session will convene at the Radisson Forth Worth North Hotel, 2540 Meacham Blvd. at I-35, beginning June 21, 2012, and ending June 23, 2012. The Ritualistic Opening on Friday June 22, 2012 will mark the official opening of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter Session.

ADMINISTRATIVE DEGREE – PAST MATRONS & PATRONS DEGREE

All new Matrons and Patrons attending the Grand Session will be given the Administrative Degree on Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

The Past Matrons and Past Patrons Degree will also be given on Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 4:30 p.m., the location will be announced.

Please take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Fraternally,

Martha Wolridge
Grand Worthy Matron

Robert B. Calloway, Jr.
Grand Worthy Patron

Attested by: *Tracy Gardner*
Grand Secretary





Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 adopts a Highway, Naomi Chapter conducts Voter Registration

Story and Photos by: Chapter Staff

BRYAN, Texas – Earlier this year, Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 ponder ways to bring community awareness while making a difference. After some brainstorming, the Chapter decided to adopt a highway. On Feb. 25, over 25 bags of trash were collected by the Chapter within a seven hour period. The 2-mile stretch of roadway is located off FM 2818 and displays a sign at each end that reads Sisters of Agape No. 38 O.E.S. P.H.A. The Chapter plans to include participation from youth organizations in future roadside clean-ups.

In April, Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 hosted its Palm Sunday Picnic in the Park. A lunch of chili cheese dogs and nachos was served to

more than 60 guests. The Chapter also provided approximately 250 candy-filled eggs for its annual Easter Egg Hunt.

On April 10, Naomi Chapter No. 26, Port Arthur Chapter of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter held a Voters Registration Drive at Memorial High School. The turn out was very good in spite of the lack of publicity.



PORT ARTHUR, Texas – On April 10, 2012, Naomi Chapter No. 26 held a Voters registration drive at Memorial High School. The turn out was very good in spite of the lack of publicity.

Matrons, Patrons Members Council hosts 5th Annual Black History Extravaganza



Bro. Dr. Ron Kelley speaks to guests during the Matrons, Patrons Members Council's 5th Annual Black History Extravaganza held at the Navajo Civic Center, Feb. 19.

Story and Photos by: W.M. Burrell Parmer

SAN ANTONIO – To provide education and awareness during Black History Month, Brothers and Sisters of the 19th Masonic District's Matrons, Patrons Members Council held its 5th Annual Black History Extravaganza at the Navajo Civic Center, Feb. 19.

The event began with everyone singing Lift Every Voice and Sing, and prayer by Bro. Rev. Reginald Steadman. Additional songs were delivered by Steadman Family Ministries and spoken word by Lainey Starr.



Steadman Family Ministries

The guest speaker of the event was Bro. Dr. Ron Kelley, who spoke on educating our youth not only academically, but also culturally.

The Council thanks the committee members of Christopher Delight Chapter No. 1, Stars of Texas Chapter No. 2, and Cubie Horton Chapter No. 14 for another successful Black History Extravaganza.

Prince Hall York Rite Bodies of Texas Allocutions

Allocution Excerpt from M.E. Grand High Priest Willie J. Tate

Greetings,

It is again a great honor and pleasure to extend to each of you the warmest welcome to this 131st Annual Grand Convocation of Holy Royal Arch Masons of Texas and Jurisdiction Prince Hall Affiliation. We have a great fraternal relationship with all Masonic bodies throughout the country. We still have much more work to do.

In keeping with our motto "Train to Sustain", the lesson I want us to consider is the significance of the number 3. Let's think about its prominence in general. In life there are three periods – birth, life, and death. The human body is made up of flesh, bones, and blood. In time, there are three periods – past, present, and future. In a day – there are three parts morning, noon, night. In motion there are three speeds – slow, moderate, and fast. In water there are three states – steam, liquid, and ice. There were three great feasts in the calendar of Israel: Unleavened Bread, Weeks, and Tabernacle. Jesus summoned up the writings of the Old Testament under three divisions – the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms. The river Jordan was three times miraculously divided. And let us not forget there was a three-day search for Elijah.

Consider these names as they appear in triplet: Saul, David, and Solomon...Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego...Peter, James and John.

Let's think about the significance of the number 3 in the Royal Arch Masons:

Consider how it appears again and again:

High Priest, King, and Scribe – Shem, Ham and Japheth – Moses, Aholiab, and Bezaleel – Joshua, Zerubbabel, and Haggai.

There are: Three principal officers, three Grand Masters of the Veils, the True Royal Arch altar is triangular, three Most Excellent Masters, three Equilateral Triangles, three Weary Sojourners, the Triple Tau Sign, after three days of labor, a discovery was made, Three discoveries are made, peace, love, and unity. Three items are in the Ark – the Tablets of the Law, Aaron's rod, and the golden pot of manna, there are three who agree.

The most prominent words of this degree contain three syllables. The number three, in craft Masonry, pointed to God; here in the Royal Arch degree another meaning emerges. The Royal Arch is salient, spiritual degree of Freemasonry. Here is the cry, "Holiness to the Lord"; here, Divinity is beheld. The same three that symbolized God in the symbolic lodge here symbolizes man's coming into a relationship with God – his body, soul, and spirit. Let's look a little closer, we know of the importance of the keystone in Capitulars Masonry. The proper proportion of a keystone is an angle of 30 degrees. A stone of 30 degrees will be one-twelfth part of a circle. The triangle has always been a symbol of God. An individual is said to be born under a sign of the zodiac. Thirty degrees, astrologically, is symbolic of a rebirth or as Jesus expressed it "born again". The keystone of 30 degrees is a symbol of that new birth. The Master Mason witnessed a death and resurrection in the symbolic Lodge that symbolized that which made possible the new birth that we all witnessed as Royal Arch Masons.

State of the Organization

Let us continue to give thanks to God for our Companions who have traveled this way before us. Charting the pathway were, W. H. Edward, T. C. Davenport, J. W. Cane, J. F. Cooper, J. J. Bennett, and many others, for on July 18, 1882, God granted them the vision and wisdom to have organized a Grand Chapter of Colored Royal Arch Masons for The State of Texas. The articles of incorporation was filed some 29 years later in 1911 and issued July 9, 1915--- Please read about our History, embrace it, share it with those being found worthy.



It is important and vital to our being. In celebration of Black History, let us have moments of silence to reflect on the leaders who have passed on before us.

Remember; always do things decently and orderly throughout our Jurisdiction. *“Train to Sustain”* requires commitment, determination, and a desire to achieve. I would like first to concentrate on **commitment**. This starts with the leadership educating each other about our organization. Commitment is one of the building blocks of educating our leaders regarding respect, morality, and self-discipline. In our organization we pledge to learn about our past history and our future responsibility. This commitment we must move forward with a change in attitude as to how we view women and others in our organization. We must re-commit to bearing the standards that Royal Arch Masonry was built upon; keeping service in the forefront. We must recommit to being a gentleman, a true gentleman; knowing that every help we extend to a lady or sister doesn't require her repayment or never ending gratitude, do what you know is right because it is the right thing to do not because of self gratification. We must also re-commit to scholarship; study to show yourself approved, put away narcissistic tendencies and be sure you know what you are saying and that it is factual when you converse with others.

Second, our **determination** is to treat one another with respect. We want to demonstrate a positive relationship of father-to-son in an upward, disciplinary way to becoming a man. A recent visit with a 92-year-old member, who is determined to be more active, continues to participate and attend meetings regularly when transportation is provided, stated “what keeps me going is seeing young people doing positive things”. His determination inspired me to lead by example, to encourage our youth to become as actively involved in our organization as he is. His respect for the organization, each member, and others is the character that our Masonic order represents. As for the women of our auxiliary, they should be shown the same respect you show to your mother, sister, or daughter. At present we need to be diligent about the work, be determined about our mission.

Third, the **desire** is to uphold the traditions of Royal Arch Masons. We must face the reality that the organization is changing. We will change in a positive way as we further go. I ask that we stop talking negatively one to another and about one another. Leaders, it starts with us! Let's evaluate each issue in order to prevent stagnation and confront the negative elements that paralyze our organization. This indeed is a leadership challenge but it must start today. Working together with civility yields positive results.

Allocution Excerpt from R.E. Grand Commander Ronald D. Gerac

Greetings,

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 14 of the Constitution of the Lone Star Grand Commandery of Texas, Order of the Knights Templar, it is now incumbent upon me, serving in the most responsible office of the Order, to render unto this Body, the Annual Allocution of the Right Eminent Grand Commander.

I remember my immediate predecessor once said to me prior to my assumption of these duties, that the job will make your hair turn gray. I don't think I am quite there yet. But serving as your Right Eminent Grand Commander this past Templar Year has been a rewarding experience for me. I thank you all for your prayers, thoughts, well-wishes, and overall support to help make my vision for this Order a reality.

I have had the fortunate opportunity while at the Pelican Grand Commandery Session to meet Right Eminent Grand Commander Sir Dion Porter, T.C. Almore Grand Commandery of Mississippi, and Right Eminent Grand Commander Sir Albert Smiley, III, Horace J. Evans, Sr. Grand Commandery of Arkansas. It has proven beneficial to have an open dialogue with each other to share ideas, offer and receive advice, and give support in any way possible. Thanks to R.E. Sir Jeffrey “Beez” Beasley, Grand Commander of Louisiana, for getting this nucleus off of the ground and running, and thanks to my friends of the Pelican Grand Commandery for bestowing upon me the honor of Honorary Past Grand Commander of that Jurisdiction.



State of the Organization

Peace and harmony prevails in the Lone Star Grand Commandery. Now if I am mistaken and peace and harmony do not exist within the Order, I would direct that Sir Knight or Knights to the Book of Matthew, Chapter 18, verses 15-17 of the New International Version Bible: "If your Brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your Brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector." How can I help make things right between the two of us if you don't even do what verse 15 says, "go and show him his fault...?" STOP formulating opinions about those of whom you despise and yet have NO REASON to despise them! You are not helping the situation get better...you are NOT helping. Go to your Brother and share your concerns with him; and if you have classified him as unapproachable, then pray for his heart to not be so hard so that he may be better able to feel his error. PRAY FOR HIM. We are "supposed" to be the defenders of innocent maidens, helpless orphans, and the Christian Religion. Sir Knights, open your ears...our religion is under attack!

In closing, I would be remiss to not render thanks to Grand Master Curtis for his support of this organization. Words have yet to be invented to show you how thankful we all are to you...simply being who you are to us. Thank you to Past Grand Commanders Reece, Gabriel, Scott, and Moore for being there as advisors for me. You four have been to the mountaintop, and you have seen the promised land, and your continued support will guide me there also. Thank you, Right Eminent Grand Commander Beasley. You often say that you don't need the recognition, but it is I who is in possession of the microphone now, and I truly thank you for your wisdom, guidance, and most of all, your friendship. Grand Princess Captain, you be the yin, and I be the yang. Thank you for your undeviating support throughout my premier year as Grand Commander. To my Staff, thank you for helping me drive this awesome machine that is our Grand Commandery. Sir Knights and Princesses all, it is my prayer that the blessings of the Holy Spirit will heal your hurt, bring peace to your troubled situations, remove anything hindering you from being your best, and bring you help in areas where you are experiencing lack. Thank you for supporting last year's theme for Crusade 2011: If a task is once begun, never leave it till it's done. Be the task large or small, do it well...or not at all.

Allocution Excerpt from Grand Princess Captain R. Lucille Samuel



Greetings,

Romans 1:21: Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

It is my esteemed honor and pleasure to bring you greetings from the Lone Star Grand Guild, Heroines of the Templars Crusade of Texas, PHA.

As I stand here before you I can reflect back to many memories of family members, close friends and colleagues that did not make it to 2012. Those of us here today are truly blessed and fortunate that we have watched yet another year of history begin. Our Heroes and Heroines have made all this possible and we are left to carry their legacies. Many storms have come and gone but with the glory of our Omnipotent One we have remained steady and steadfast in our endeavors. Many have gone on but they are definitely not forgotten.

As I stated last year change is coming whether we are ready or not. There are two things that can happen we may stand still and allow life to pass us by, or we can get on Board and transform from a Yard into a Garden. We may have to alter our attitude but it is worth the risk for our Organization.

Job 36:19: Would your wealth or even all your mighty efforts sustain you so you would not be in distress?

We have a very important question to ask ourselves. WILL OUR ORGANIZATIONS SUSTAIN and if so for how long? At the present time we are walking on a very unstable foundation. The infrastructure of our organizations is slowly weakening. In order to remain strong and present a united front we have to work as ONE. The statement I use quite often is "If You Don't Stand For Something You Will Fall For Anything"! At this time we are not standing we are sitting and allowing our organizations to slowly crumble around us. We are so busy placing blame on each other instead of taking the time to SUSTAIN our organizations.

A lot of times leaders feel that if they have the financial security then the organization will remain strong and invincible. This is only a short term fix to a long term problem. You may have a brand new roof on your home but what good is it if the foundation is shaky! If you want your organization to remain strong you have to employ the membership to SUSTAIN the foundation!

So what do we need to do to SUSTAIN our organizations? We need to create programs that appeal to the interest of our membership. We need to attract members that have a genuine interest in our mission. Our focus needs to be on the Community and future of our youth.

Instead of the competitive struggles of each other we need to concentrate on the issues at hand. We are losing our membership because we have lost our focus on the main objective. These organizations were created to assist with charity, community service, educational assistance and support of our youth and elderly. As leaders we are here to educate and train others to prepare to replace us in the future. The problem is we have stopped teaching because we are too busy in competition with each other. It should not matter who gives the most donations or raises the most money in fundraisers. You may be educated by academics but you display ignorance in people skills. Many of our leaders spend too much time worrying about losing their positions instead of researching why our membership is dwindling. If you are losing more members than you are recruiting there should be a RED FLAG! Talking down to others, rude attitudes or ignoring your officers and advisors is a sign of insecurity. The last time I checked these are Non-Profit Organizations and we pay to become members. Remember nothing on earth is permanent. We all have a voice and a vote. The same way you are voted in you can be voted out!

We are all here for a common purpose. There should be no animosity toward another leader because their organization is excelling beyond the others. The membership should not have to endure the pettiness of their leadership. We need to TEACH what we PREACH!

It is very frustrating to watch what our pioneers shed blood and tears for slowly fade away. We need to reflect back on our traditional values and goals. In order to SUSTAIN our organizations we need to engage in two way communication. It seems that we are not able to TALK to each other but we can TALK about each other. There is so much work that needs to be accomplished that there is no room for envy or back biting. If we spent as much time working together as we spend working apart this Jurisdiction could ROCK the Universe!

Remember the story of Cain and Abel and how jealousy consumed Cain? In order to SUSTAIN our organizations we have to realize that this is not a contest but it is all about the mission that brought us here. Some of us panic at the thought of someone else learning our jobs. We are afraid to share knowledge or experience in fear of replacement. We stress out or make up untruths about others because we want them to feel inferior or incompetent. We coerce or persuade members to vote against each other because of our insecurities.

I challenge all leaders to forget about what we used to do and start focusing on what WE NEED TO DO! Working against each other will never SUSTAIN our organizations. If we don't start now by supporting each other and working as ONE Jurisdiction there will be no future for the Masonic Family. This is not a PROMISE this is a FACT!

Exodus 14:31: And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

State of the Organization

The Lone Star Grand Guild continues to grow by leaps and bounds. I travelled around Texas this year with the help of my favorite Airlines. I attended all Grand Functions and many local Guild Activities.

The Grand Guild membership was again honored to receive their Cyrene Degrees. Thank you Most Royal Grand Commandress Amelia Clark and your staff, for affording us this opportunity once again. The members of Pelican Grand Court were also given their Guild Degrees in San Antonio last year. We also want you and Right Eminent Grand Commander Beasley to know that we feel at home at your Annual Session and we hope you feel the same here in Texas. We are looking forward to being with you in Baton Rouge this year.

Again Louisiana we applaud you for a very successful International Grand Encampment in Baton Rouge last year. The hospitality was second to none!

We have implemented Regional Trainings and this has been very successful. Great training and excellent sisterhood! It allows members who were not able to attend the Grand Conclave or Training Conference to take part in learning as well. We have to reach out to those that are willing to participate but not able to travel.

The tradition continued with our Annual Casino Trip Fundraiser to Oklahoma on Friday preceding our Grand Guild Training Conference. We always have a great time getting to know each other. The tradition will continue this year. Our Grand Guild Training Conference was held at the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge. The training was phenomenal and we look forward to returning this year. It was our sincere pleasure to bestow the title of Honorary Past Grand Princess Captain to Princess Claudine Forbes. Well deserved.

At our Annual Black and White Banquet we were able to give a donation to the North Haven Nursing Center in Ft Worth. We were very fortunate to be able to present a \$1,000 scholarship to Mr. Brandon Gould of Ft Worth. I recommended Mr. Gould and submitted his application. This is the first time Texas has received funds from the International Grand Court of Cyrene's, Verge E. Cary Student Aid Fund. It is my desire to bring back many more. Also Many thanks to our Own Very Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Ivory Johnson for his inspiring message at our Banquet. We are looking forward to Our First Joint Training Conference this year with the REGC Ronald Gerac and the Lone Star Grand Commandery. This Family Works Together!

The implementation of the Degrees of Past Princess Captain and Honorary Past Princess Captain, have been a success. Our leaders are being rewarded for their dedication and service.

The Grand Guild has amended the Ritual and Grand Constitution to include the many changes that we have incurred. With growth comes change.

Of course with the good news comes the bad and we have dealt with disciplinary problems as well. These are tools that make us stronger and the organization as well. I issued 15 Dispensations.

Again we led the pack with the Prince Hall Family Toy Giveaway at the Grand Lodge of Texas. Thank you to all members of the Lone Star Grand Guild for your generous donations and time in making the Toy Drive again a huge success. Thank you, Princess Captain Farley and your committee for organizing the Toy Drive for the Grand Guild. We challenge all organizations again this December. It is not about us but about the children.

Grand Secretary, Prince Judie and Grand Corresponding Secretary Joyce Toney there are no words for the service that you give to this great Order. Your staff is top notch. AGPC Peggy Nuttroy and Grand Deputy Irma Cothron there is no body without the arms. You are my right and left arms.

All Grand Officers Elected and Appointed I love you fall for SUSTAINING this organization. No vehicle moves without the wheels. I am truly blessed to have a support team such as yourself.

Don't Mess with Texas and its Guild Drill Teams

Story by:
Comp. Frederic Milliken

AUSTIN – Such was a tiny micro example of the precision marching of the Lone Star Guild Drill Teams that I witnessed at Prince Hall Texas' recent York Rite Conclave. Now I know of men's Knight Templar drill teams but I have never heard of or seen women within Freemasonry performing within drill teams. Then again I haven't been a York Rite member or a Prince Hall Mason for a long time either.

I don't know for sure but I'm going to bet that my Mainstream Brethren have never heard of this. But it does go to show what a Masonic family is all about. In Prince Hall's it means meeting with the female Bodies in the same building at the same time and coming together for some common functions and some good times. Luncheons, banquets, social mixers, yearly allocutions, awards ceremonies and installations are gender mixed. This builds a strong bond between the men's side and the women's side. And it provides strong cross support going both ways.

The Lone Star Guild Drill Teams Performances was one more thing that brought the Prince Hall Family together. And it was a real morale booster. I left feeling really inspired and confident that my fraternity was going to do great things in the future. This sense of solidarity is a vital component of a healthy, growing, motivational Freemasonry and one that should be emulated elsewhere.

Grand Princess Captain R. Lucille Samuel was responsible for the creation of the Texas Guild's drill teams and she will further educate us on how they came about and what they do.

"In February of 2006 I was elected as the Grand Princess Captain of the Lone Star Grand Guild of Texas. It was not until 2008 when I travelled to Charlotte, North Carolina that I came up with an idea. At the Annual International Grand Encampment and International Grand Court of Cyrene Crusaders Session I saw men and women Drill Team competitions. At the time the Right Eminent Grand Commander of Texas, Tony M. Moore



had a men's drill team. There were only two members at this time but they stole the show.

Being a Retired Army Veteran I thought this could be a piece of cake as well as so much fun for the Guilds to compete in Texas. Little did I know we would go on to the International Session and bring home 1st Place two years continuously.

When I returned to Texas, I sent out an email with the Drill Guidelines to all the Princess Captains and Special Deputies. Each Guild Drill Team was to perform at the 2009 Grand Conclave in Killeen, Texas. The Drill Team that competed was South Central Guild No. 39 of Killeen, Texas. We were the host for the International Grand Encampment that year in Ft Worth, Texas. South Central Guild placed first and became the 2009 International Grand Champions.

In 2010, we had two more Drill Teams to emerge at the Texas Grand Conclave in Houston giving us a total of 3. They were Heart of Texas No. 38 of Temple Texas, South Central Guild No. 39 of Killeen, Texas, R. Lucille Samuel Guild No. 41 of Waxahachie, Texas. At the International Session in Memphis, Tennessee all three Guilds placed. Fourth Place R. Lucille Guild No. 41, 3rd Place South Central Guild No. 39 of Killeen, Texas and the 2010 International Grand Drill Team Champions Heart of Texas Guild No. 38!

In 2011, because there were no Teams Registered for competition in Baton Rouge, Heart of Texas Guild No. 38 remain the reigning International Grand Champions.

In February 2012, these three Drill Teams met again at our Texas Annual Grand Conclave in Dallas. South Central Guild No. 39 (Valiant Ladies) are the Texas State Champs once again!

As you can see each Drill Team is unique in their own uniforms and styles of Drill and Entertainment. It takes a lot of hard work, practice and dedication to ensure each member of the Drill Team is on the same step and beat as the others. The Drill Teams have been watched and evaluated by myself and other Veterans or Sir Knights. It is a competition but the most important thing is that they perform together as "ONE".

The Drill Team Competition not only brings notoriety throughout the State and Nation but it gives these ladies a sense of pride and builds their self-esteem to compete in public. It builds camaraderie among the Guild members and hopefully will encourage other members to form Drill Teams for their Guilds. We have 12 Guilds in the state of Texas. I am very proud of each and every member. It is my dream that one day each Guild will have their own Drill Team. Don't Mess with Texas!"

El Paso H.R.A.M. Chapter feeds Troops, receives Award, celebrates Zerubbabel Day



Story by:
P.H.P. Duwan M. Mason, Sr. (Sec)

CHAPARRAL, N.M. – On Sunday, April 1, El Paso Holy Royal Arch Masons Chapter No. 90 along with our Prince Hall Masonic Family and friends journeyed to McGregor Range to feed military personnel who are being deployed overseas. The Chapter thanks everyone for their support. Special thanks are given to Immigration and Customs Enforcement for their support and M.E. Grand High Priest Willie J. Tate, who traveled from Killeen to be part of the community service.

On April 2, the Chapter received an award from the Youth Texas Longhorns Baseball Team for its continued sponsorship.

On April 15, the Chapter celebrated Zerubbabel Day at Fellowship of Love Christian Center



D.C. Collins Commandery No. 40, R. Lucille Samuel Guild No. 41 perform Community Service



Story by: Commandery Staff

RED OAKS, Texas – Now that the dust has settled and York Rite Weekend 2012 is behind us, “The Dynasty” D.C. Collins Commandery No. 40 is once again hard at work. Led by Eminent Commander Devincent Martin, along with Princess Captain Demetria Jackson and members of R. Lucille Samuel Guild No. 41, the two York Rite organizations completed the first of many community service projects this year.

“Besides the warm feeling you get inside when you do something nice for another person, supporting a charity allows you to make a

difference in the world. Too often people complain about the “bad” news instead of trying to do something to help,” said P.E.C. Jerry Brown of D.C. Collins Commandery No. 40. “Supporting a charity doesn’t always mean just giving money. Many charities accept household goods and clothing, or a helping hand when it comes time to campaign, fundraise or directly participate in their work.”

Keeping with the Commandery’s efforts “...to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bind up the wounds of the afflicted...” the members donated items to the North Ellis County Outreach Center. Items

included, but not limited to, can goods, non-perishable items and toiletry items.

The North Ellis County Outreach Center is a “Christ-centered community supported ministry that is changing lives, instilling hope and providing encouragement as a means of promoting self-sufficiency”. Furthermore, their vision is to; incorporate the community in a Christian ministry to eliminate poverty and social deficiencies.

Douglas Burrell Consistory No. 56 donates Bikes to Local High School

Story by: C.I.C. Charles Gray, 33°

HOUSTON – Fraters of Douglas Burrell Consistory No. 56 donated eight bicycles to Westbury High School's Ninth Grade Academy, Dec. 8, 2011. As part of an effort to get back into the community of the Valley of Houston, Commander-in-Chief Charles Gray asked the Fraters to donate bikes from their own pockets.

With exuberance, the Fraters stepped forward and gave willingly. Westbury High School is a 5A (approximately 2,300+ students), comprehensive, urban high school located on the Southwest side of Houston. The immediate surrounding areas of the school are mainly low income to middle class families. Many of the households are single parent households or students supporting themselves.

African Americans comprise approximately 51 percent of the student population, along with about 45 percent Hispanic. Ninth Grade Academy Principal Tiffany Guillory was very appreciative of the donation of bikes from Consistory.

“On behalf of the Westbury High School faculty, staff, and students, I want to extend a huge thank you. We truly appreciate your donation of bicycles for our tutorial students,” said Guillory. “Many of our students have never received their own brand new bicycle and it is truly a joy watching their expressions of excitement. Your generosity will never be forgotten.”



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*

"Gentle Spirit, fill me again with Your quiet confidence and strength. Thank You for the assurance of my place in Your family."

March 2012, Council of Deliberation and Council of Assemblies was a joyous, harmonious, and eventful conference. We were treated to a fine and welcome occasion in El Paso.

Council of Assemblies had added many new Loyal Ladies to the roll and participation of more Assemblies. During the year 2012, Douglass Burrell Assembly No. 56 with Loyal Lady Ruler Effie Williams initiated 11 Ladies and received a certificate for their outstanding work. Additionally, Dalworth Golden Assembly No. 31 with Loyal Lady Ruler Tippi Cole received a certificate for submitting all reports and following all instructions prior to the deadline dates. We did not have any Loyal Ladies pass, but a beautiful Memorial Service was hosted by Loyal Lady Ruler Maureen Simmons and the Loyal Ladies of Rio Grande Assembly No. 24.

We were blessed to have donated \$500.00 to the Sickle Cell Anemia Fund to a mother who lost her spouse and young daughter to this malady. We have chosen this particular illness more than others because of the limited resources and research done on their behalf. Many children are hospitalized with the incorrect diagnosis.

We honored Loyal Lady Frances Smith of Dalworth Golden Assembly No. 31. L.L. Smith attends yearly United Supreme Council and Council of Assemblies Conferences. She is one of our senior members and she rode the bus to Memphis last year to attend United Supreme Council. She is now an Honorary Past Loyal Lady Ruler and will wear the crown with the one inch gold band and is to be extended all the amenities of a Past Loyal Lady Ruler.

To all Loyal Lady Rulers, when you take the oath of leadership, it is your duty to always inform your Assembly Ladies of any and all involvement of the local Assembly. You may have to do this with a telephone committee, but it is your responsibility. We like to do three church visits per year, but Easter is the visit we do with the local Consistory. If the Commander-in-Chief does not contact you, please contact him and govern yourself accordingly. We are the Ladies of the highest level of Masons in the Prince Hall Affiliation. Under the United Supreme Council, our national level.

Deputy of the Orient Rev. Dr. John Butler encourages all Loyal Ladies and Assemblies to submit an ad in the United Supreme Council souvenir journal this year. Please send your ad and check to:

United Supreme Council
Attn: Souvenir Journal Committee
8555 16th Street Suite 204
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910-2802

On a more personal note, I extend very grateful and heartfelt thanks to the Ladies for allowing me to serve for another year and for the most beautiful and useful gifts. Some are already being used and others will be used at the appropriate occasion. Thank you.

Peace and Unity!

Shirley Henry Gideon

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 first in a series of excerpts from G.J.W. Jackson's manuscript.)

Setting the Stage for Establishing Prince Hall Masonry in the Lone Star State

Prince Hall Masons and their role in the infusion of the Ideas of Freedom, Liberty, Equality into the African American and the Southern Culture of Texas

In order to better explain the central role played by Prince Hall Masons in the infusion of the ideas of Liberty, Freedom and Equality into the culture of African Texans, a review of the resistance of the larger southern White culture to defining these ideas to mean the same for Blacks as it does for them is necessary.

The landed White southern aristocracy had established a plantation culture built on the ideas of White supremacy and Black inferiority that was firmly instituted through laws and other public policies. To paraphrase Dr. W.E.B. Dubois, who in "Souls of Black Folk" shared the perspective that "the Older South believed that somewhere between man and cattle, God created this "tertium quid", (this intermediate thing) and called it a Negro; a clownish simple creature, yet loveable within its limitations...but perhaps by favoring chance some of them may become men, so out of pure self defense,

we dare not let them. We must build around them a wall so high and place between them and any light, a veil so thick, that they dare not think of breaking through."

Since the arrival of Stephen F. Austin into Texas to claim his land grant from the Mexican government and his offer to his original 300 settlers of 80 additional acres of land for each Negro slave brought with them, Texas has been a slave state. African slaves were considered a necessary evil "in order to wrestle the bounty from the earth and make Texas a productive enterprise." A thriving agriculture based economy and an aristocratic class of planters, dominated by White males, was built up on the institution of African slavery.

The Africans' own native cultures, which included their religions, languages, traditions, political organization, social organization and economic organization had to be destroyed and brutally replaced with the ideas of western culture rooted in the central idea of White supremacy.

With the phase of the civil war calling for the confrontation between armies over, the plantation culture of the south had to find its place in the new order, because the agriculture economy based on African slavery was being replaced with one that was deemed appropriate by the northern capitalist. This new place would have to provide them again with political and economic dominance, but it must recognize not only the rights of African American males to vote and compete with them for public office but also the necessity of wage

earners rather than slaves, in the new industrial economy. These political, economic and social transmutations generated by the cultural change brought on by emancipation, set the stage for new battle fronts in the struggle for social control and, once initiated, continues to the present time.

While many reconstruction era African Texans leaders were familiar with the ideas of equality, liberty and freedom, it would be the actions initiated by United States Army Troops on June 19, 1865 that would set these ideas in motion and it would be Prince Hall Masons that moved these ideas from abstract thoughts to manifested realities by rising to positions of political leadership and engaging the legislative fight to pass laws that would help reshape the cultural history of Texas. A history that demonstrates the newly freedmen and women's great desire to educate their children and to acquire land on which to build farm and other business enterprises. The actions as free men set them in direct competition with southern whites and their former White slave masters. As long as African Texans had the protection of the Union army, they had a chance, but once White southern males were restored to power and the Union Army withdrawn, African Texans would experience a long bitter period of legal, institutionalized racial discrimination.

Prince Hall Masons were intricately involved in this national struggle in various positions of leadership both public and private. Prince Hall Masons struggled

among themselves and among their White Masonic Brothers. But through it all, men of goodwill held high the principles of masonry believing that the day would come when all masons would stand together as one composite in service to humanity and the G.A.O.T.U.

Surrender of Confederate Armies and Southern State Governments Defiance from a Region that became away of life

Slavery and the plantation economy shaped the culture of the south before the war and abolishing slavery and granting citizenship to African Americans helped shape the culture after the rebellion. A chronological review of the events at the end of the open conflict gives a flavor of how attitudes were developed by all concerned.

When word of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's surrender of his military command at Appomattox on April 9, 1865, reached Texas, then Texas Governor Pendleton Murrah and most of the state officials fled into Mexico, in an effort to avoid federal arrest and imprisonment for war crimes.

The Governor, as well as other leaders of the Confederate States of America (C.S.A.) was witness to a chain of surrenders beginning with II Corp and Anderson's Corp's surrender on April 6, 1865 at Saylor's Creek, a battle considered by many to be the "death knell of the Confederate Army." "General Robert E. Lee, upon seeing the survivors streaming along the road exclaimed "My God, has the army dissolved." Like a chain of dominoes they would eventually receive word that Fort Blakely surrendered on April 9, 1865; that Mosby's Confederacy, surrendered on April 12, 1865; that The Army of Tennessee surrendered on April 26, 1865; that the Department of Alabama, Mis-

issippi and East Louisiana surrendered on May 4, 1865; that the Confederate District of the Gulf surrendered May 5, 1865; that Georgia State and Militia Troops surrendered on May 7, 1865; The Department of South Georgia and Florida surrendered on May 10, 1865; Thompson's Brigade surrendered May 11, 1865; that the Confederate Forces of North Georgia surrendered on Friday, May 12, 1865; that the Trans Mississippi Department, Commanded by LT. General Edmund Kirby Smith, surrendered on May 26, 1865 and the articles of surrender were signed June 2, 1865; and at long last they would come to know that the last C.S.A. Troops to leave the field of battle would be the Confederate Indians, commanded by Brigadier General Stand Watie who surrendered on Friday, June 23, 1865. "General Stand Watie rode into Doaksville, near Ft. Towson in Indian Territory and surrendered his Battalion of Creek, Seminole, Cherokee and Osage Indians. It should be noted that the C.S.A. were never formally surrendered. While the States, Armies, forts and some of the warships of the Confederacy surrendered over a period of time, and the president of the Confederate States was captured and made a prisoner of war, at no time was the Confederacy surrendered."

(The Confederate Armies Surrender <http://home.freeuk.net/gazkhan/surrenders.htm>) Governor Pendleton Murrah would never return alive to Texas, but would die in Mexico.

Even before learning of General Lee's and the chain of surrenders that followed, morale was low on the home front in Texas among the Confederates, both military and civilians. Refugees from other southern states flocked into Texas and brought their enslaved African men, women and children. The African Slave population of the state

more than doubled from the census of 1860 to over 400,000 by 1865 as many slave owners sent their slaves to Texas for "safekeeping." It appears to have been a general consensus that Texas would somehow, some way, hold the line and was the last great hope for preserving southern culture and its peculiar institution.

As it eventually turned out, "the last battle of the Civil War was fought at Palmetto Ranch near Brownsville, Texas on May 11, 1865. After the Confederate unit's victory, they learned of the South's defeat." (Texas Almanac 2002-2003 page 47) "It is ironic, therefore, that the last battle of the Civil War resulted in a Confederate victory. This last battle involved the 62nd Colored Infantry Regiment and thus, the last man wounded in a Civil War land battle was an Afro-American sergeant named Crockett." (The Surrender, American Civil War Round Table of Australia, (NSW Chapter) 2006 Conference Papers.

www.americancivilwar.asn.au)

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

Remembering Whitney's other Masonic Lodge, New Hope Lodge No. 133



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

Whitney Lodge No. 355 in Whitney, Texas, which was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, on June 15, 1872, is a well-known Whitney institution. Members of this Lodge helped me to achieve proficiency in the memory work required for the Entered Apprentice Degree and also participated in the conferral of the Fellow Craft Degree upon me at Waco Lodge No. 92 on Dec. 18, 1972. At the time, I was serving as pastor of the Whitney Missionary Baptist Church. Few people are aware of the fact that, for a period of 73 years, Whitney was the home of two Masonic Lodges. New Hope Lodge No. 133 was organized in 1903 and chartered by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, Free and Accepted Masons, in June 1904. It was last listed in the Grand Lodge Proceedings in 1976.

Prince Hall Freemasonry began on March 6, 1775, with the initiation of Prince Hall and 14 other African Americans by Military Lodge No. 41, Irish Constitution, which accompanied the 38th Regiment of Foot, British Army, posted at Castle William (now Fort Independence), Boston Harbour. Brother Hall became the first Worshipful Master of African Lodge No. 1, composed of the men who had been initiated by the Military Lodge No. 41. The Lodge was then renamed African Lodge No. 459 after being chartered by the Grand Lodge of England on Sept. 29, 1784.

Over the years, many state Grand Lodges, all composed primarily of African Americans and tracing their lineage to African Lodge No. 459, were organized.

On Aug. 19, 1875, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas was organized at Saint John African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in Brenham. At this meeting, Norris Wright Cuney of Galveston was elected as the first Grand Master. A total of 21 men have held

this office. The current Grand Master is Wilbert Curtis of Hewitt.

Throughout American History, Prince Hall Freemasons, as individuals and as Lodge members, have played major roles in the movement to abolish slavery, the civil rights movement, and other efforts for the uplift of fallen humanity. For more information on this important fraternal order, my book *Prince Hall Freemasonry in the Lone Star State: From Cuney to Curtis, 1875-2003* can be ordered at www.eakinpress.com or checked out at the Lake Whitney Library.

A review of the Grand Lodge Proceedings (which are not complete) revealed that the following men served as Worshipful Master of New Hope Lodge No. 133 for the following approximate years: Gregg Cannon (1903-05, 1930-36, 1938-42), W. M. Miller (1905-08), York Williams (1908-09, 1929-30), N. H. Hicks (1909-10), C. C. Durham (1910-12), J. A. Lowe (1912-13, 1914-15, 1918-20, 1928-29), F.B. Moss (1913-14, 1915-18), B. D. Lowe (1920-26), Green Moss (1926-28), A. B. Beasey (1936-38), Eardie Wilson (1942-44), J. H. McFarland (1944-56), P. D. Daniels (1956-58), Henry J. Moss (1958-61), Irene Williams (1961-70), and Ivy Gene Anderson (1970-76).

The following men were listed on the New Hope Lodge's roll at various times during the its 73-year history: Isiah Adams, H. C. T. Barnes, Green Bix, A. B. Bosey, C. Brown, W. M. Bruce, B. D. Burkes, Thurman Cagle, C. W. Clark, Sucey Clayton, S. E. Cokley, Paul Craver, Sam Craver, Jim Crimer, Richard Criner, J. D. Daniel, P. D. Daniels, Roy Daniels, Willie Lee Daniels, Lennel Davenport, Robert Grant, Jim Griffin, Leake Hamilton, Rance Hamilton, Seab Hamilton, Jackson Henry, Green Hicks, Alex Holt, G. W. Jones, Peter Jordan, George King, O. B. Lowe, H. W. Marsh, Sammie Marsh, Squire Marsh, Rev. P. H. Moore, Felix Moss, H. J. Moss, P. O. Moss, Sam Moss, L. Owen, G. W. Owens, Mose Phillips, Abe Polk, Edward Polk, Parmer Proctor, Clyde Rayford, Otho Rayford, Calvin Reed, Rob Sadberry, Ennis Noll Shaw, Pines Shel-

ton, J. R. Starks, Phil Terrell, V. H. Thomas, Jack Watson, Turner Weaver, Richard Williams, and J. S. Willis.

Bro. Ivy Gene Anderson, the last Worshipful Master of New Hope Lodge No. 133, appears to be the only living former member. He still resides in the Whitney area, having retired after 35 years as a self-employed bulldozer operator. He recalls that the Lodge once had its own hall near the Whitney City Park. This hall has razed when the lake came through. During his time in office, the Lodge met at Payne Chapel A.M.E. Church, which was named for Right Rev. Daniel Alexander Payne, the sixth Bishop of the A.M.E. Church. This church operated in Whitney from 1960 to 1987. Past Master Henry J. Moss (who died in 1981) was a long-time member of Payne Chapel. P.M. Anderson recalled that the Lodge laid cornerstones and performed graveside services. He stated that, by 1976, many members had died and there were not enough new members to fill the stations. Thus, the Lodge demised.

After writing this article, it dawned on me that Whitney is again the home to two Masonic Lodges. Anadahko Lodge No. 176, which originally met at Fort Graham, was chartered on Jan. 23, 1856 but demised the following year. The charter was restored on Nov. 26, 2004 and the first meeting was held on Jan. 28, 2005. This Lodge demised long before the founding of New Hope Lodge No. 133 and was restored long after the demise of the latter.

As I was leaving the offices of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas in Fort Worth after completing my research for this article, Grand Secretary Hubert Reece asked me if I was just writing the history of the Lodge or did I hope to restore it. At present, writing the history will suffice. However, in the future, if there is enough interest in reviving the Lodge, I will gladly help in this project. I have no doubt that New Hope Lodge No. 133, like other Prince Hall lodges, had a positive impact on individuals and on the community it served. I have no doubt that it could do so again.

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FORUM

Reclaiming Our Prince Hall Masonic Identity



Story by:
Bro. Brian C. Sanchez
Central Lodge No. 1,
M.W.P.H.G.L. of
Indiana

(Reprint from The Phylaxis)

The year is 2012, and we as Free and Accepted Prince Hall Masons have arrived at a crossroads. Since the day Prince Hall took his solemn obligation of Master Mason in March of 1775, the fraternity known the world over as Prince Hall Masonry has faced many challenges, has risen above countless obstacles, and has overcome much adversity. It has taken 228 years for us to get the universal recognition we have rightly earned in the face of Freemasonry at large, and yet there are still a handful of states that have yet to break off the rough corners of their ashlar, meet us on the level, and embrace us as the Brothers we inherently are. But that is not of our concern, for we know what is true in our hearts, and we know what is true in the hearts of the overwhelming majority who do properly recognize us as Brothers and as equals. While the struggle for recognition was the resounding theme for the 20th Century, a new set of challenges face us as we shake off the dust and debris of old struggles from our suits and aprons and continue to traverse into the new millennium.

As we usher into the 21st century, Prince Hall Masonry has now entered a critical stage in its existence. From our rightfully-earned recognition came a certain pride, and out of that pride came complacency. From this complacency, a void has appeared over the horizon. For with every inch of Ma-

sonic recognition we gained, an inch was lost in identity. For as long as we have strived to walk and act as Freemasons before God and man, we have forgotten to value and nurture what is exclusively ours—our identity as Prince Hall Masons.

Our non-Prince Hall-affiliated contemporaries have spent centuries cultivating their identity as we followed one step behind and gleaned from what remained of their harvest. This was no fault of ours, however, for the birth of our institution was but a product of circumstances beyond our control. Yet, if it were not for the sins of our nation's past, we would not be present at this very moment as upright men and Masons. It is from these lessons of our past that we can begin to rediscover an identity that is truly ours, one that all men of virtue and determination—regardless of race, creed, or color—can relate to, and one that we as Prince Hall Masons can be proud of.

The age of recognition has passed, and today we are invited to embrace this new age for Prince Hall Masonry—the age of identity. An identity rediscovered, rekindled, and renewed. An identity forged from what began when 15 African-American men believed that Light in Masonry was as much theirs to seek and rightfully attain as any other man. An identity affirmed in 1784 with the issuing of a warrant for a charter. An identity intertwined with a tradition dating back farther than what recorded history can even tell us, yet unique and extraordinary in the experiences, hardships, lessons, and achievements that we all share with our forebears, and seemingly have in common with each other.

And so the question I pose to

you all is this: Why should a man want to become a Prince Hall Mason? Why should any man want to be a Prince Hall Mason if it is so much easier to seek out the more commonly accepted, so-called “mainstream” brand of Freemasonry? What can I gain from Prince Hall Masonry that I cannot gain from our non-Prince Hall Affiliated institutions? Brothers, we have the answer. We are the answer. From our successful food drives to our Christmas toy drives, we are the answer. From our street cleanings to our caring for the less fortunate, we are the answer. From the Brotherly Love and Relief that we eagerly offer to those who may not even recognize us as Brothers, to our renowned practice and strict observance of Masonic tradition and ritual that put our other Brothers to shame, we are the answer. We exemplify a Masonic tradition and culture so rich, so pure, and so unadulterated that it would make even Bro. George Washington stand up and take notice. But it is Prince Hall whom we call our patron and founder, and it is from him that our identity as Prince Hall Masons originates.

What sets us apart is a narrative that is exclusively ours, yet it is one that can resonate with all men who aspire to greatness. Ours is a story of Prince Hall; a story only we can share, for it is our story to tell. Ours is more than a tradition passed down from the stone masons of China and Ancient Egypt; more than what was passed down from the Dionysian Artificers to the Comacine Masters of old. We are more than the tradition passed down from free to accepted, from operative to speculative in the Old World, across the Atlantic and into

the New World. We are all this and much more, for interwoven within these age old traditions is an unbreakable and unyielding thread—a history, a narrative, a spirit, and a soul—that has endured and achieved on its own. This is what Prince Hall Masonry is. This is what it means to be a Prince Hall Mason. This is why one chooses to become a Prince Hall Mason over any other. This is why I chose to become a Prince Hall Mason. Let this be our legacy. Let this be our identity. Let this be our message. And let no one take this away from us.

Indeed, this is the age of our reclaimed identity; however, this realization has come at a point where we have reached a crossroads in our evolution. Certain challenges over the horizon must be faced in order to cross over and partake in the fruits of our endeavors. Challenges that, if not duly acknowledged and seriously dealt with, will certainly lead to our breakdown and ultimate demise.

While the decades have allowed our established brethren to grow in wisdom, refining one's self ever so closer to becoming a Perfect Ashlar, the world outside of our well-guarded Lodge doors have fared less than favorably. What we have gained as Free and Accepted Prince Hall Masons from within, the outside world has all but lost. To say that the breakdown of modern society has no profound impact on the future of our fraternity's existence is to be blind and out of touch with reality. What's worse is that Freemasonry as an institution that exists to make good men better has failed not only to address this, but has failed to properly address itself as a solution to society's ills. Children today are lost with no real role-models other than what the media manufactures for them to aspire to, and what their environ-

ment forces them to accept. Fatherless homes. Gang violence. Delinquency. Apathy. Loss of direction. Overall membership into Freemasonry has already been in steady decline, and it has fared far worse for Prince Hall Masonry. If these children are to become the future Prince Hall Masons of tomorrow, then all hope is lost for our humble Craft. And yet within the walls of our Lodges are responsible fathers, dutiful Brothers, dedicated leaders, and inspirational men who already are role-models by the very fact that they are Masons. So what are we waiting for? One brother alone can only do so much. Imagine 100 brothers. Now imagine every single Prince Hall Mason.

Yes, this can be possible. This can be achieved. But not in the current state that Prince Hall Masonry is today. We are a foundation without a stable, reliable infrastructure. Our Lodges may be well intact, but the means through which one can find out about our Lodges are far from what they can be. Do a Google search on "Freemasonry" and we'll be lucky if a Prince Hall Lodge website shows up on the first page of results, if at all! This has to change. If a man is interested in Prince Hall Masonry, he is introduced to a website that looks inadequately-designed, unrefined, incomplete, or abandoned—and that's if the website is working at all! If our web presence in this technological age is intended to be a reflection of our proud, stable fraternity, then to say that we are doing ourselves a major disservice is an understatement. This has to change. If a man interested in Prince Hall Masonry can't even find a working telephone number or e-mail address to express his interest in becoming a Mason, then how are we to expect any new members to come knocking on our doors? This has to change. If the informa-

tion men are receiving about Prince Hall Masonry is not coming from Free and Accepted Prince Hall Affiliated Masons, then it is no wonder why we are to this day misjudged, mislabeled, and misrepresented. This has to change. And sadly, if a man knows nothing about Prince Hall or Prince Hall Masonry, chances are he will never. This certainly has to change.

Change begins with a belief that Prince Hall Masonry is indeed relevant in these most desperate times. From there, we must be ready to offer something only we can give. But this cannot be done without a healthy, vibrant fraternity. The vitality of Prince Hall Masonry depends on, among other things, its ability to access services and resources necessary to sustain it. Without these services and resources, our fraternity will cease to function optimally, and eventually cease to be relevant. While we may not have access to unlimited funds to pay for such services from outside our Lodge doors, we do have these services and resources at our disposal from within. All it takes is for some talented, dedicated, creative, and proactive brothers to stand up, make themselves known, and take on the role of better serving Prince Hall Masonry, so that Prince Hall Masonry may be better able serve society at large. The time is now to stop talking about change and to actually be the change Prince Hall Masonry needs. The future of our organization depends on it.

(Bro. Sanchez is the Phylaxis Society Council Representative for Indiana and Associate Editor for The Phylaxis. He is also the president and co-founder of Prince Hall United Services Association (PHUSA.org).

Identity Theft - Detect, Deter, Defend



Story by:
Grand Legal Advisor
Willie H. Coleman, Jr.

The following information was found on the website of the Federal Trade Commission (F.T.C.) and is provided to update you on one of the most serious activities facing consumers today.

Identity theft is a serious crime. It occurs when your personal information is stolen and used without your knowledge to commit fraud or other crimes.

What is identity theft?

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personally identifying information, like your name, Social Security number, or credit card number, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes.

The F.T.C. estimates that as many as 9 million Americans have their identities stolen each year. In fact, you or someone you know may have experienced some form of identity theft. The crime takes many forms. Identity thieves may rent an apartment, obtain a credit card, or establish a telephone account in your name. You may not find out about the theft until you review your credit report or a credit card statement and notice charges you didn't make—or until you're contacted by a debt collector.

Identity theft is serious. While some identity theft victims can resolve their problems quickly, others spend hundreds of dollars and many days repairing damage to their good name and credit record. Some consumers victimized by identity theft may lose out on job opportunities, or be denied loans for education, housing or cars because of negative information on their credit reports. In rare cases, they may even be arrested for crimes they did not com-

mit.

How do thieves steal an identity?

Identity theft starts with the misuse of your personally identifying information such as your name and Social Security number, credit card numbers, or other financial account information. For identity thieves, this information is as good as gold.

Skilled identity thieves may use a variety of methods to get hold of your information, including:

Dumpster Diving. They rummage through trash looking for bills or other paper with your personal information on it.

Skimming. They steal credit/debit card numbers by using a special storage device when processing your card.

Phishing. They pretend to be financial institutions or companies and send spam or pop-up messages to get you to reveal your personal information.

Changing Your Address. They divert your billing statements to another location by completing a change of address form.

Old-Fashioned Stealing. They steal wallets and purses; mail, including bank and credit card statements; pre-approved credit offers; and new checks or tax information. They steal personnel records, or bribe employees who have access.

Pretexting. They use false pretenses to obtain your personal information from financial institutions, telephone companies, and other sources.

What do thieves do with a stolen identity?

Once they have your personal information, identity thieves use it in a variety of ways.

Credit card fraud: They may open new credit card accounts in your name. When they use the cards and

don't pay the bills, the delinquent accounts appear on your credit report.

They may change the billing address on your credit card so that you no longer receive bills, and then run up charges on your account. Because your bills are now sent to a different address, it may be some time before you realize there's a problem.

Phone or utilities fraud: They may open a new phone or wireless account in your name, or run up charges on your existing account.

They may use your name to get utility services like electricity, heating, or cable TV.

Bank/finance fraud: They may create counterfeit checks using your name or account number.

They may open a bank account in your name and write bad checks.

They may clone your ATM or debit card and make electronic withdrawals your name, draining your accounts.

They may take out a loan in your name.

Government documents fraud: They may get a driver's license or official ID card issued in your name but with their picture.

They may use your name and Social Security number to get government benefits.

They may file a fraudulent tax return using your information.

Other fraud: They may get a job using your Social Security number.

They may rent a house or get medical services using your name.

They may give your personal information to police during an arrest. If they don't show up for their court date, a warrant for arrest is issued in your name.

How can you find out if your identity was stolen?

The best way to find out is to monitor your accounts and bank

statements each month, and check your credit report on a regular basis. If you check your credit report regularly, you may be able to limit the damage caused by identity theft.

Unfortunately, many consumers learn that their identity has been stolen after some damage has been done.

You may find out when bill collection agencies contact you for overdue debts you never incurred. You may find out when you apply for a mortgage or car loan and learn that problems with your credit history are holding up the loan. You may find out when you get something in the mail about an apartment you never rented, a house you never bought, or a job you never held.

What should you do if your identity is stolen?

Filing a police report, checking your credit reports, notifying creditors, and disputing any unauthorized transactions are some of the

steps you must take immediately to restore your good name

How long can the effects of identity theft last?

It's difficult to predict how long the effects of identity theft may linger. That's because it depends on many factors including the type of theft, whether the thief sold or passed your information on to other thieves, whether the thief is caught, and problems related to correcting your credit report.

Victims of identity theft should monitor financial records for several months after they discover the crime. Victims should review their credit reports once every three months in the first year of the theft, and once a year thereafter. Stay alert for other signs of identity theft.

Don't delay in correcting your records and contacting all companies that opened fraudulent accounts. Make the initial contact by phone, even though you will normally need to follow up in writing. The longer the inaccurate in-

formation goes uncorrected, the longer it will take to resolve the problem.

What can you do to help fight identity theft?

A great deal. Awareness is an effective weapon against many forms of identity theft. Be aware of how information is stolen and what you can do to protect yours, monitor your personal information to uncover any problems quickly, and know what to do when you suspect your identity has been stolen.

Armed with the knowledge of how to protect yourself and take action, you can make identity thieves' jobs much more difficult. You can also help fight identity theft by educating your friends, family, and members of your community. The FTC has prepared a collection of easy-to-use materials to enable anyone regardless of existing knowledge about identity theft to inform others about this serious crime.

What Come You Here To Do?

*Story by: Bro. Beloved Allah
St. Mark's Lodge No. 7
M.W.P.H.G.L. of Ohio*

Yes, I'm talking to you. When you joined the brotherhood were your intentions all good or were you just trying to pull the wool over our eyes, so we may allow you inside?

Come, come now just out of curiosity what are your motives and personal views? Are you a cowan or eavesdropper looking to rob us of all our secrets, tools and jewels?

As I said before, what come you here to do? Do you no longer do what's wrong, yet strive to do what's right? Will you be there for your Brothers anytime of the day or night? I ask you, what come you here to do?

Have you come to fully understand the true meaning of our sym-

bols and our beloved Craft?

Never forgetting your oath to always uphold the trust on which we firmly stand, teaching the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God!

Are you willing to travel across the burning sands, or forever willing to aid a Brother before he returns to that house not made with hands?

Are you too much of a man to help comfort that Brother's widow and orphans?

Know that a true Mason stays in the company of upright men; were you stand now others have stood before waiting to be allowed to walk through that door. Are you sure you have what it takes to fill their shoes?

As I said before, what come you

here to do? Do you seek to just wear our beloved Compass and Square, yet not be tried and tried again?

Have you learned to subdue your passions and make improvements in your heart? Do you solemnly promise and swear to do all within your power to help bring others out the dark in to the light, who are desecrated of receiving a part in the rights and benefits of this worshipful Lodge so help you God?

I said it before and I shall say it again, what come you here to do?

Prince Hall, We're Still Here!

By P.G.M. Howard L. Woods,
M.W.P.H.G.L. of Ark.

(The article was written over 20 years ago and was approved for editing and reprint by M.W.G.M. Cleveland Wilson, M.W.P.H.G.L. of Ark.)

It may seem strange to some because of the fierce determination for the astute, Mason of darker persuasion to be identified, not just as a Mason, but as a Prince Hall Mason. There is a difference in "Masons." Because of the trials and tribulations that we, as Prince Hall Masons have endured, it is with a great sense of pride to be privileged to wear the name. It is mute and vocal testimony to the fact that, "Prince Hall, we're still here!"

A lot of things are not appreciated in life, sometimes because the method used in gaining the honor, the privilege, or the tangible product, is not one where it called for a sacrifice of some sort. Not so with Prince Hall Masons, for we have, "been up the creek, and down the river."

The Prince Hall Mason can truly say, "I have often been tried, but never denied..." The background, the legacies, the involvement of Prince Hall Masons in the growth of the meaningful things that were gained in the Black Experience and the Black Church, speak louder than the negative reports that sometimes seep into our midst. Prince Hall Masons have many things to be proud of, because of the sacrifices made by those Brothers and Sisters in by-gone years. I for one do appreciate the many years of their sacrificial efforts.

Because of its beautiful history, Prince Hall Masons have come under attack, by word and deed. There have been court

cases, negative media coverage, and by and large, an exclusion from the pages of history found in libraries or in private collections, sorry to say. However, little by little, the story is being told of the many worthwhile things that have been done in the name of human endeavors by those Brethren of the Craft. Because of its beautiful history, Prince Hall Masons have had to endure many groups professing to be "Masons." Some even carry the name, "Prince Hall Mason," but the result is not the same. It is said that "Imitation is the highest form of flattery" or something to that order. However, when the term, "Mason" is used, everyone should be aware that it does not always mean, "Prince Hall Mason" and there is a difference.

When one considers Prince Hall Masonry, one can readily understand why there would be attempts at duplicating the fraternity that bears his name. It is a proud name, one that can stand up to the criticisms that may come from opponents; one that can, because of the many Brothers and Sisters that wear the name, withstand the court cases and innuendoes of smaller minds. Prince Hall was a man that American History can be proud of, even though some today may feel threatened by the love some members have for their Order. In spite of the duplications, in spite of the overlooking, Prince Hall, "We're still here!"

September 12 has been accepted by all Grand Lodges of the Prince Hall Masonic Family, even though the year is still debatable. It is understandable though, because many times, Blacks' births were not recorded, for we sometimes were counted as cattle, not as humans. Even today, there are

many Blacks walking around with questionable records or no records of birth. Therefore, the debate on Prince Hall's year of birth will probably be going on 100 years from now. But, on September 12, 1988, and every September 12 afterwards, or a Sunday closest to it, Prince Hall Masons around the world, should pause and thank God, for the man and the name. A church would be the proper setting, but whatever or wherever, the name is worth remembering. Prince Hall, "We're still here!"

Prince Hall left a legacy that will live as long as there is at least one Prince Hall Mason that adheres to the principles of Freemasonry, by walking upright before God and man; acting on the square, and traveling on a level of time. As long as that happens, Prince Hall Masonry will survive, no matter the losses of membership in tedious times, for like all calamities that are man-made, "This too will pass." The legacy is one of freedom-loving; it is one of industry, one of caring and sharing, through hard times, through weal and woe.

Prince Hall left a distinct connection between the Lodge and the Church, two entities that are interwoven in the Black Experience, and will continue to exist as long as the Prince Hall Mason believes in God, the Grand Architect of the Universe. The legacy will exist as long as a Prince Hall Mason treats his fellowman the way he wants to be treated. It will exist as long as Prince Hall Masons around the world will remember the Prince Hall they read of or heard about. It will exist as long as there are those that know the stories, the legends, the allegories of this great man.

Prince Hall will be remembered

because of his forthrightness and tenacity in wanting and receiving the Masonic degrees. To him, it must have been more of a vision rather than a dream. To him, this system seemed tried and true, and he would have some of it, or know the reason why. Because of his forthrightness, because of his tenacity, there are some 265,000 Masons around the world bearing his name. Because of him, there are some 110,000 women that wear the name Prince Hall Affiliation proudly as appending orders of Prince Hall Masons. Because of him, many Masons will contribute funds for scholarships, for medical research, for the enlightenment of mankind.

Prince Hall will be remembered in several instances. Like circulating petitions against slavery in New England, against randomly picking up Free Blacks and calling them runaway slaves from the slaveholding states. He was a hero, because of his understanding of Hosea 4:6, and started a school for Black children. Prince Hall, "We're still here!"

Prince Hall may not have foreseen the results of his endeavor way back in 1775 when he and 14 other Blacks were initiated into the Masonic Order. He may not have foreseen the many hundreds of thousands of members world-wide that we see today. But Prince Hall did believe in a God that "sits high" and looks low." That belief was fostered down through many generations of African Americans, and now includes members of all racial persuasions. It's a dream come true for anyone that dared to dream in 1775. We cannot say that those members did not dream in 1775, but I am sure that the same God that blessed their endeavors back then is still in the blessing business, for we are the recipients of His grace and goodness. Our very

survival and presence bear witness to that. Prince Hall, "We're still here!"

It was not in man's cards that we are here, for the Mason of old had to "be tried, sometimes denied, but stood ready to be tried again." Those days of physical opposition are gone now. The days of being in court, defending your right to be called Prince Hall Masons, are now history. The blood that was shed for the right that was taken for granted by all other Americans, shall not be in vain, and we revere our dead members, we celebrate the birth of our founder and benefactor, Prince Hall. Prince Hall, "We're still here!"

We're still here, because of first, God's goodness then we're here because all of mankind was not opposed to Prince Hall Masonry, as there was some of other racial persuasion that countenanced the cause of Prince Hall. There are some today, in the name of Freemasonry that will not bend to the yokes of racial discrimination and segregation. There are some that believe that a Prince Hall Mason is inferior. There are some that are Masons, and not just members. We're still here because of the perseverance of those Prince Hall Masons that went the length of their cable tow, and there are those that supported through other means, touched by the Spirit of

God and Brotherly Love. We are here, and we will stay here, as long as there are men and women, boys and girls that believe in themselves and Almighty God. Prince Hall, "We're still here!"

The Prince Hall Masonic Family, except in a few instances, is getting smaller; it's also getting smarter. Jurisdiction after jurisdiction, after losing some of its members to other pursuits, like, apathy, non-involvement, VCR's, tele's (phones and visions), and many other various and sundry things. Yet, through it all, there remains a hard core of dedicated men, women and children, who will make all of us proud to say, "Prince Hall, we're still here!"

Book Review: Black Freemasons, White America

Prince Hall's 225 year fight for equality

Review by: Tony Pope

True to his stated belief that it takes but one Mason to make a significant change in Freemasonry (*Harashim* No. 46, 'How many Masons . . . ?'), Jack Buta gathered a few Brethren from far and wide, and founded the on-line **F r e e m a s o n A c a d e m y** www.freemasonacademy.com, (see *Harashim* No. 50). The courses available include one on the history of Prince Hall Freemasonry, and the curriculum of this course forms the basis of his book, *Black Freemasons, White America*.

As this straight-shooting Arizona Mason says in his preface:

This is not polite discussion about Masonic doctrine or the so called 'American' Masonic principle of exclusive territorial jurisdiction. . . This is the story of a struggle against brutality and racism that has gone on for over 225 years.

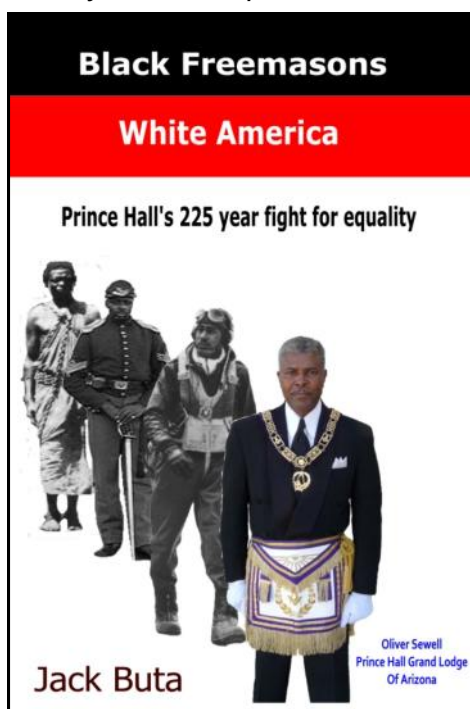
The book, like the curriculum, covers primarily the period 1775 to 1990, but with a brief update to the beginning of 2009, as indicated in the preface:

It is a sad fact that in 2009 in a country which just elected its first African-American president, 50 percent of Black Freemasons cannot sit in a mainstream Lodge with their White Brethren.

This is a useful book, outlining the development of Prince Hall Freemasonry, its main internal battle of Prince Hall Affiliated (P.H.A.) versus Prince Hall Origin (P.H.O.), and its external struggle against bigotry and indifference to gain recognition from mainstream Grand Lodges. It generally follows the modern P.H.A. writers, but the book is enlivened by additional ma-

terial from sources not usually referred to.

For example, chapter two includes a biographical note on Haitian soldier-statesman and Freemason Jean Pierre Boyer, who is commemorated by Boyer Lodge (1812) and Boyer Grand Lodge (1845) in New York, and it also provides information on the ancestry of the rival Grand Lodges in Pennsylvania, as recorded in volume 1 of Scharf & Westcott's *The History of Philadelphia 1604–1884*.



The chapter concludes with an account of the formation of the National Grand Lodge (N.G.L.) and subsequent disputes as to its regularity. The author cites material from both sides, including an article by Cedric Lewis from the N.G.L. website, and Roundtree & Bessel's *Out of the Shadows* (reviewed in *Harashim* No. 40), but comes down in favour of the P.H.A. version of Joseph Walkes and his disciple,

Ralph McNeal. Of course, Bro. Buta had not had the opportunity to study the evidence in Alton Roundtree's monumental *The National Grand Lodge and Prince Hall Freemasonry—the untold story*, and it would be interesting to learn if this book causes him to change his mind—and the syllabus.

Subsequent chapters would endear themselves to Bro. Bob James (*They call each other Brother*, reviewed in *Harashim* No.51) and others who espouse the belief that Freemasonry should be recorded and interpreted in the context of social history. The appropriate chapters include background material on events prior to, during, and after the American Civil War, and general biographical notes on some prominent African-American Freemasons.

But perhaps the strongest reason for students of Prince Hall Masonry to add this book to their collection is to be found in chapters nine and ten. Here we find a description of the push-me-pull you events in Wisconsin from 1972 – 1990, and a fully documented, step by step, account of the landmark exchange of recognition in Connecticut in 1989. These are given in greater detail than is generally found elsewhere, including first-hand accounts by participants.

All in all, this book is a must for all sizeable Masonic libraries and for every serious student of Prince Hall Freemasonry.

WEOFM.ORG

Story by: Bro. Mike Poyser

What or who is WEOFM.ORG? "Masonic Awareness at the Speed of Light." Simply put, it is Masonic education presented and made available to the Craft of the world through the most widely used communication media in the world, that being the world wide web.

WEOFM (The Worldwide Exemplification of Freemasonry) was conceived by Bro. Al McClelland nearly four years ago. Bro. McClelland knew that his son, Matt, would be the Master of their Craft Lodge in 2011 and wanted his son to be a part of the most adventure-some Masonic education project conceived in at least a generation.

Bro. McClelland realized that the potential of the World Wide Web had not been exploited by the Craft to educate the Brethren on a world wide scale. Living in a rural area of Indiana, and not possessing the means to be a world traveler, Bro. McClelland said to himself, "How can I satisfy my intense desire for Masonic education? How can I pursue my interests here in the backwater of northeastern Indiana?" He said to himself, "I know how, by turning on my computer, connecting to the internet, and see as well as hear the finest Masonic lecturers available to the Craft of the World, wherever situated!"

So with the tenacity of a bulldog, he set out to fulfill his own personal desires and in doing so has hopefully fulfilled the desires of hundreds of thousands of our Brothers around the world in like circumstance. Bro. McClelland has been

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nent scholars is another story that needs to be told, but we'll forego that for now.

These lectures are submitted to WEOFM via DVD, loaded to our server, and while we have had some fits and starts, as well as some delays in receiving some of the presentations, new presentations have been uploaded throughout 2011.

Our "Intenders" (presenters) have given them to us, and the Craft of the World, without cost.

through the contacts listed on our web site. As of mid-November 2011, we have had over 827,000 viewings in 150 countries and we're looking for our first million real soon. Enjoy!

SPOTLIGHT

Bro. John N. Humphrey is a native of Houston. He is the son of Rena Withers Humphrey and the late Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Humphrey.

He was educated in the public schools of Port Arthur and La Marque, and is a 1984 graduate of La Marque High School. After graduation he attended Lamar University, Beaumont, and then attended Commonwealth College of Funeral Service in Houston graduating in 1987. After his apprenticeship, he was Licensed as a Funeral Director and Embalmer in the State of Texas. At the age of 10, Bro. Humphrey began working at Moody-Harris Funeral Home, Port Arthur. After moving to La Marque, he began working at Mainland Funeral Home in June 1980, and has consecutively worked for 32 years, presently serving as Manager. He is also a member Epsilon Nu Delta Mortuary Fraternity.

The late Bro. Benton Tyson, Sr. of Lakeshore Lodge, Port Arthur, was the first inspiration of Prince Hall Masonry to Bro. Humphrey. Bro. Tyson impressed him by always being on time with his white apron (starched and ironed), and always having a pleasant personality. Bro. Humphrey told Bro. Tyson that he wanted to be a Master Mason. His response was, when you grow up you can become a Mason. At the graveside service of Bro. Tyson in the late 1970's, another Prince Hall great, Bro. A.D. Harris of Galveston performed the Masonic Burial Service. Bro. Harris looked through his book, folded it up and put it in his pocket and did the service from memory, another great inspiration to Bro. Humphrey.

In Aug. 11, 1984, Bro. Humphrey was raised a Master Mason in La Marque Lodge No. 373 in Texas City by W.M. Willie B. Maxey. Bro. Humphrey has served as Secretary of the Lodge under Bro. Maxey and four other Masters. With a desire to learn more about Prince Hall Masonry, he traveled with the late Grand Master Reuben G. White across the State of Texas. Other Masonic affiliations include: J. H. Burch Chapter No. 2 Holy Royal Arch Masonry; Sanderson Com-



*Bro. John N. Humphrey
La Marque Lodge No. 373
District 15-B
La Marque, Texas*

mandery No. 2, Knights of Templar; Winn Consistory No. 234, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, S.J.; Worshipful Joshua of Lakeview Court No. 262, Heroines of Jericho; and Worthy Patron of Rutha M. Hicks Chapter No. 29 Order of the Eastern Star.

He also works with the children of Sadie Mayes Palace No. 350 H.O.J. and Arthur L. Banks Council No. 2 Knights of Pythagoras.

In April 2012, he served as Chairperson of District 15-B Masonic Family Banquet which honored District Deputy Emeritus Willie B. Maxey along with 81 members of the Masonic Family who have held membership in our Grand Old Order for 50 or more years.

Bro. Humphrey began his work with the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho under the leadership of Past Grand Most Ancient Matron Susie Julius, serving as Grand "Father Joshua" of the Palace and then as Grand Court Director also under the leadership of G.M.A.M.'s Clara B. Gates, Margaret A. McDow and Jackie Levingston. After the death of Grand Joshua, Rev. Mellie Arps, Bro. Humphrey was appointed by G.M. Wilbert

M. Curtis, as Grand Deputy Joshua H.O.J. He has also been appointed General Conference Grand Chaplain for 2011-2013 under the leadership of G.C.G.M.A.M. Bettye S. Spencer. He is also a member of El Katif Temple No. 85 (Prince Hall Shriners).


Bro. Humphrey is a member of Greater St. Matthews Baptist Church (Hitchcock) under the leadership of Pastor W. L. Randall, Jr., where he is past President of the Usher Board; member, Pastor's Aide; past Chairperson for the Church Anniversary & Pastor's Anniversary. He is an active member of Southwest Central Missionary Baptist District Association where he serves as President of the Ushers & Nurses Ministry; District Publicity Chairperson; Co-Chairperson of the Allen Memorial Banquet; and co-chairperson of the Rev. H. T. Moore Scholarship Committee. Bro. Humphrey is also a loyal La Marque Cougar and an active member of his 1984 Reunion Committee and class events.

On March 8, 2008, Bro. Humphrey married the love of his life, Samantha, who holds membership in the Heroines of Jericho and Order of Eastern Star. They have one son, Kobie, who is the next generation of Prince Hall Masonry. Bro. Humphrey lives by the words, "If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living shall not be in vain."



Called to the Celestial Lodge

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

Horace L. Bradford.....		<i>LaMarque No. 373</i>
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Clarence Culberson.....		<i>Joseph D. Sayers No. 235</i>
Augustine Culpepper.....		<i>Paul Drayton No. 9</i>
Felley L. Donaldson.....		<i>Key West No. 257</i>
Robert J. Gray.....		<i>Center Point No. 208</i>
Harvey Humphrey.....		<i>Hopeful No. 78</i>
Dennis Mitchell, Sr.....		<i>Pride of Mt. Pisgah No. 135</i>
Staymon Pinson.....		<i>Lyons Jr. No. 290</i>
Earvin L. Rollins.....		<i>LaMarque No. 373</i>
Willie J. Smiley.....		<i>Holloway No. 7</i>

BRING YOUR LODGE BANNERS TO THE GRAND SESSION

The Lodge Banner has long been an identification symbol for a Lodge or Grand Lodge. The banner is usually colorful and informative stating the name of the Lodge, the year of establishment, the location of the Lodge and the symbol of freemasonry. The Lodge banners are usually placed inside of the Lodge and on special occasions such as parades and banquets are displayed to the public.

This year the Grand Lodge is starting a new tradition of inviting local Lodges and Districts to bring their Lodge banners to the Grand Session for display around the rails in the second floor foyer. In order to participate the banners must arrive at the Grand Temple before 12:00 noon on Thursday, June 21, 2012. The banners will be displayed on a first come, first served basis until all of the available space is occupied. The banners must be available to remain to be displayed until after the close of business on Saturday, June 23, 2012. The banners must be in condition such that it is capable of being hung from the rails. Upon arrival at the Temple, the banners will be checked in on the second floor and the Lodge will be given a receipt for the banner and must retrieve the banner with that same receipt. The location where the banner will be displayed will be determined by the committee handling this activity. For further information concerning this activity contact G.L.A. Willie High Coleman, Jr., D.D.G.M. Tracy Williams or P.D.D.G.M. Jerry Brown.

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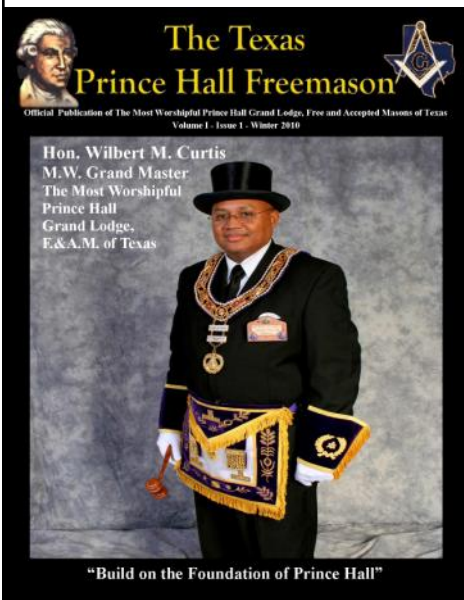


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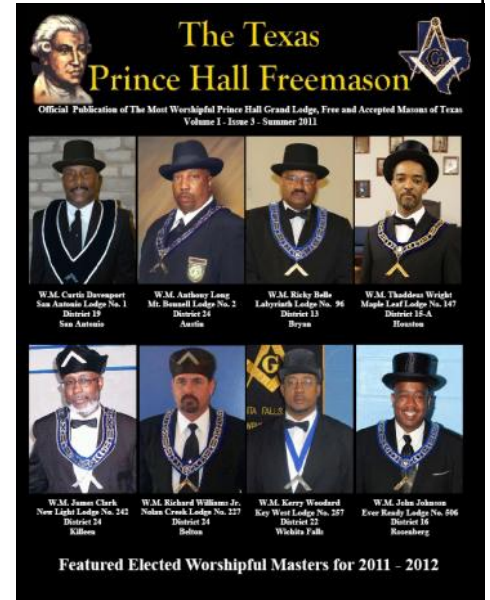
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