



The Texas Prince Hall Freemason



Official Publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas
Volume 3 - Issue 10 - Spring 2013



Leaders of the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family pose with toys donated by their members at the conclusion of Mid-Winter Session at the Grand Masonic Temple in Ft. Worth, Nov. 10, 2012. The Toy Drive was in support of the 4th Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Gift Giveaway which was held Dec. 15, 2012.

**“Brotherly and Sisterly Love”
“Charity and Benevolence”**

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From the Editor



Greetings,

The year 2013 has arrived, and the "World did not End." The question is, "What is going to be special about this new year in reference to Prince Hall Freemasonry?" What can you do to improve upon yourself and others

with the Working Tools provided by our Order? Mark Well! Again it is an honor and pleasure to bring to you the tenth 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.

Cover photo by G.E. Burrell Parmer

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason

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M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis

Editor

W.M. Burrell D. Parmer

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2012 - 2013

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R.W. Robert Hicks Sr.

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

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Message from the Grand Master

Greetings,

I greet you in the name of the Grand Architect of the Universe, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray that you are experiencing His bountiful blessings. I wish you a Happy New Year for 2013. I heard it said that when one references the year as 2013, one is acknowledging the life of Jesus Christ because the Gregorian and Julian calendars are based on the year of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Anno Domini (A.D.) counts the years after the start of this epoch (point in time) and B.C. denotes years Before Christ. The term Anno Domini is Medieval Latin, translated as "In the year of the Lord". So when one uses the calendar year such as 2013, it is a testimony of the 2,013th year after the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. No matter one's belief or religion, whether it's Christianity, Muslim, Buddhism and even atheism, they all recognize the birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis

As we look back over 2012 and the first half of this Masonic Year, we can only say that as a Masonic Family, we have been blessed. Many things have been accomplished but we still have much work on the Trestle Board. Once again, we had a most successful year with Charity work in our communities thru food drives, clothe drives, back-to-school initiatives and participating in many medical support initiatives. This was all culminated with the Prince Hall Masonic Family 3rd Annual Christmas Gift Give-Away. Most importantly I commend the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family for taking part in the initiative of voter registration, education and participation. You were part of the Prince Hall Masons, throughout the country, who took the Charge serious which states, "you are to be a quiet and peaceable citizen, true to your government and just to your country." You exhibited this by your vote.

As we move forward into 2013, I ask that you as men and Masons review the purpose and mission of our Grand Old Order of Texas Prince Hall Freemasonry. Search yourself; reassess the purpose and reason why you chose to become a Mason. Then evaluate whether your reason for becoming a Mason is in line with the purpose and mission of Texas Prince Hall Freemasonry. If the two are in line with each other, you are a true Prince Hall Freemason. If not, you need to determine if the organization is right for you. The precepts and teaching of Morality, Charity and Brotherly Love will not change. At one point, you were asked what did you come to do? Your answer was to subdue your passions and improve yourself. So uphold your commitment of self-improvement and influence others to do the same.

Brothers, you should be aware that there will be an increase in the dues structure of the Grand Lodge. Worshipful Masters, be sure and inform your Craft of the change in initiation fee, relief and reinstatement fees. There is actually a reduction in relief for you brothers that are 65 and older if the Grand Lodge has proof of your age. Your date of birth must be on record at the Grand Lodge, otherwise the regular dues will be required. The change also limits the amount that a local lodge may charge a member to reinstate. Please review the changes made at the 137th Grand Communication. The information was included in my letter to Worshipful Masters in July 2012.

Finally, as we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy, I pray that you adhere to his teachings of togetherness, optimism, and persistence. These lessons learned will make you better men, Masons, leaders and citizens. We look forward to another successful Masonic Year.

I remain...

Fraternally yours,

Wilbert M. Curtis

Grand Master's Calendar

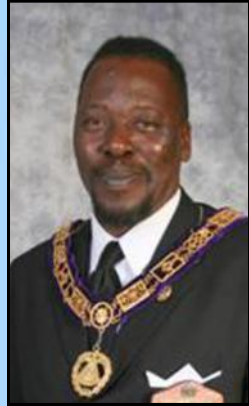
February - April 2013

Date	Location	Event
February 2013		
Friday - Sunday, Jan. 31 - Feb. 2	Houston	Texas York Rite Weekend
Thursday - Sunday, Feb. 21 - 24	Pine Bluff, Ark.	M.W.P.H.G.L. of Arkansas Grand Communication
March 2013		
Wednesday - Sunday, March 6 - 10	Atlanta	Annual Phylaxis Society Convention
Friday - Saturday, March 8 - 9	Fort Worth	Texas Council of Deliberations
Tuesday, March 19	TBD	Conference of Grand Masters' Conference Call
Saturday, March 23	Belton, Texas	Nolan Creek Lodge No. 277 Worshipful Master's Banquet
Thursday, March 28	TBD	Maundry Thursday Service
Saturday, March 30	Arlington, Texas	King of the Court Basketball Tournament
Sunday, March 31	TBD	Easter Sunday Service
April 2013		
Saturday, April 6	Dallas	Queen of Sheba O.E.S. Chapter Annual Banquet
Friday - Sunday, April 12 - 14	Jacksonville, Fla.	M.W.U.G.L. of Florida Grand Session
Friday - Saturday, April 24	TBD	District 24 Meeting

Elected Grand Lodge Officers



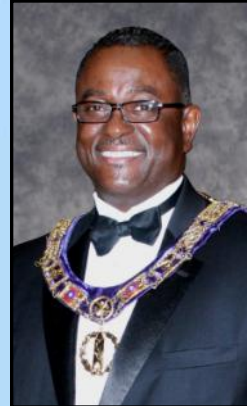
Past Grand Master
Hon. Edwin B. Cash



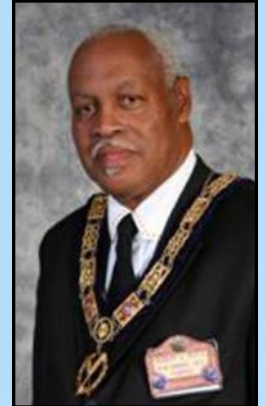
Deputy Grand Master
R.W. Michael T. Anderson



Grand Senior Warden
R.W. Bryce Hardin Sr.



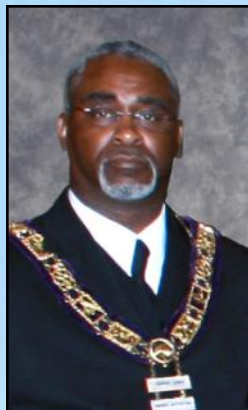
Grand Junior Warden
R.W. Frank D. Jackson



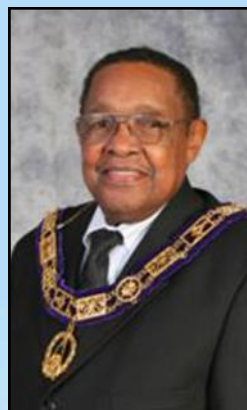
Grand Secretary
R.W. Hubert L. Reece Sr.



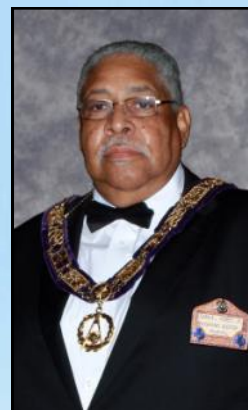
Grand Treasurer
R.W. Robert J. Datcher



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. T. WOLNEY B. PHILLIPS GRAND SECRETARY-TREASURER



Decision Time 2012, The Choice was Yours: Joshua 24:15

Greetings,

I want to begin today by telling you that we live in a society that allows us to choose what path we can take. We live in a world where information is at our finger tips and we can make instant or delayed decisions based on the information gathered. We were in the middle of an election year and we chose the person we believe had the best vision for our nation.

The bible declares, where there is no vision, the people perish. So we are fact checking and checking fact checkers to ensure the information spoken by the candidates was correct. It has been said it was the most important election of our time. If you were going to choose someone to do this important job, what would be your criteria? Would they have to have the finest educational background, be a picture of vigor and health, and charisma, or would they simply have to be able to do the job, and possess character and integrity to perform that job honestly? Many times over, life choices are made by looking at the physical body rather than the intellectual mind.

In 2012, our nation was faced with making a tough decision. You had to make a choice. You had to make that decision. Now, some people did not make the decision until the 11th hour, but I am going to make it easy on you, by saying the choice was yours.

Some may have felt that they are part of the 47 percent, in which one candidate said was dependent on the government to take care of them; therefore they do not matter. Some will feel they have been let down because the housing and job market are not where they thought it would be four years later. You had to make that Choice. A very important choice it was, but can I express there are more important choices that you will make in your lifetime.

One such choice was expressed in our text, when Joshua had led Israel to conquer the Promised Land and they were on the verge of slipping back into that world of darkness, Joshua made a famous statement, "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then CHOOSE for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Joshua knew the people, and where they had come from, their struggles, their disappointments, their heart aches and pains, he knew because he was there with them through it all. He also knew who had brought them through it all and because of that he (Joshua) was determined to serve the Lord.

Look at the text, Joshua offers them alternatives, they could choose to go backward and wipe out the progress already made, they could try the same old ways of their forefathers, or they could keep Egypt on their minds and never get to enjoy goodness of the LORD in the promise land. Joshua offered them a choice as to whom they will serve. We are faced with the same situation of going back four years to a near depression or moving forward to a brighter future. Joshua made plain in the later part of the text when he made known his choice for him and his household. He states, "For me and my household we will serve the LORD". I must agree with Joshua, because the LORD has been too good to me for me not to serve Him. Besides, I made a promise that I would serve Him until He calls me home to be with Him in that land of No More. Faced with your past and knowing your past are you better off now, since you are serving the LORD, then you were back then.

The choice is yours, but you must Choose. I like choices because it's your choice and you can do what you want with it.

Fraternally submitted,

Norris D. Jackson



Texas Prince Hall University

To M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis and members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodged of Texas. The Texas Prince Hall University has proven to be an educational and challenging program designed to provide and enhance "Further Light in Masonry." If you know of anyone that wants to enroll, please see the program overview and information below.

Program Overview

Objective: Conduct a two-year study program to educate the Master Mason in various areas of the Craft with training that can be used to establish local educational programs and knowledge development.

Bro. Ivory Johnson Jr.
Grand Lecturer

Classes will be conducted 100% online. All courses will be six weeks. The composition of the program is three levels: Level I is composed of three classes; Level II has five; and Level III has seven.

Level I will focus on the fundamentals of Ancient Craft Masonry. The first class will cover the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, Entered Apprentice (EA) section one, two, and three of the Narzidini ritual; Masonic encyclopedia definitions, and bible verses that apply to EAs.

An intermission of at least one week is scheduled between each class. The next two Entered Apprentice (EA) classes will be the intermediate and advanced classes. Upon completion of each EA course the students will receive a certificate of completion. An additional certificate will be awarded upon the completion of level one and level two. Classes must be taken in numerical sequence as each are a prerequisite for the next.

Enrollment, in this program, is only for financially square members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. Sojourners from other Masonic Jurisdictions may be allowed in the future. When, and if, members from foreign jurisdictions are allowed to attend the program, the individual's standing with their Jurisdiction has to be verified.

Tuition

Total tuition cost is \$150. All costs will be considered donations non-refundable to the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation. If the student decides he is unwilling or unable to complete the course he forfeits all money as a donation.

Registration

Program registration will be announced at each annual and Mid-Winter Session as well as at the end of each class. Pre-course study material will be given for each class prior to the start of the class.

Program and Course Enrollment

To enroll: e-mail: TPHU@yahoo.com and request to be enrolled. Include your full name, Lodge name and number. If one knows their member number, include it. Once students are verified they will receive a reply email along with a student number. Students will need a Face book account and must request Ivory Johnson as a friend for the Threaded discussion portion of the class.

For more information about T.P.H.U., e-mail the Grand Lecturer Department at TPHU@yahoo.com.

Fraternally submitted,

Ivory Johnson Jr.

MLK March 2013 Photos



**Districts 9, 10 and 11
Fort Worth**



**Districts 15-A and 16
Hempstead**



**District 18
Corpus Christi**

MLK March 2013 Photos



**Districts 19 and 23
San Antonio**



**District 24
Killeen**

“We must all learn to live together as Brothers or we will all perish as fools. We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. And you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the way God’s universe is made; this is the way it is structured.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

4th Annual PHamily Christmas Gift Giveaway, Once Again, a Huge Success

Story by G.W.P. Robert Calloway
Photos by G.P. Bryan Thompson

FORT WORTH - First, I want to thank God for giving me the strength and patience to carry out this task another year. I owe a special thanks to Grand Master Wilbert Curtis and all Heads of Houses for assembling a great committee who helped plan and make this another successful event. Masonic Family members from all over the state contributed to this annual Gift Giveaway. I am afraid to try naming names for fear of missing someone but I do want to recognize Worshipful Master Alvin Curtis (445), who served as Santa Claus this year. We gave away over 800 gifts. Children and parents left with big smiles. Nine large boxes of toys were donated to the Forth Worth Salvation Army Life Center and were well received.

We had Sherry Allen and Jazz Robinson, representatives from Walmart with us during our Gift Giveaway. Shannon J. of KHVN Radio was present and Grand Master Curtis gave an on air interview to promote our organization. Med Star provided medical support again this year. The Knights of Pythagoras, Heroines of Jericho and Norris Wright Cuney Youth Fraternities were very helpful.

This event proves again that when the Prince Hall Masonic Family comes together for a common goal there is nothing we can not accomplish. Working Together Truly Works.

Words can never express my sincere gratitude to each of you for your support. I will be thanking you for many days to come. May God Continue to Bless each of you and your families.



Prince Hall Freemasons of Texas hold 2012 Mid-Winter Session, Raise 82 New Brethren



G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis speaks to his Worshipful Masters at a Masters Workshop held during the 2012 Mid-Winter Session, Nov. 10, 2012.

Story by: G.E. Burrell Parmer
Photos by G.P. Bryan Thompson and
G.E. Burrell Parmer

FORT WORTH – By the Order of M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis, Prince Hall Freemasons within the Jurisdiction of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons

of Texas journeyed to the Grand Masonic Temple to attend the 2012 Grand Lodge Mid-Winter Session held Nov. 9 – 11, 2012.

On Nov. 9, an Occasional Lodge was opened for the purpose of degree work which was conducted by District 24, where 82 Fellow Crafts were Raised to the Sublime De-

gree of Master Mason.

Beautiful work was conducted and each member of the Degree Team performed superbly.

After degree work, the new Master Masons heard from R.W. Grand Junior Warden Frank Jackson, who impressed upon their minds the history of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas.

After call-off of the Occasional Lodge, the new members were given a tour of the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum by the Library Museum Committee.

On Nov. 10, the Grand Lodge officers were received and took their respective stations and places and the Grand Lodge received G.M. Curtis. The Proclamation was read and G.M. Curtis set the Rules and Agenda for the 2012 Mid-Winter Session.

During the Special Session, reports were delivered by various committees which included: J.T. Maxey Scholarship Committee, Prince Hall Charitable Foundation, Grand Lodge Treasurer, Tribunal Committee, Warrants Committee, Library Museum Committee,





G.Chap. Dr. Rev. John Butler, Deputy of the Orient (A.A.S.R.) delivers a \$2,000 donation to G.Y.D. Charles DeWitt in support of the Robert E. Conner Jr. Youth Camp, Nov. 10.

Robert Conner Masonic Youth Camp, and Thomas Routt Grand Council Knights of Pythagoras.

After the reports were motioned and accepted, dignitaries were given the gavel and monetary do-

nations were made by Dep. Rev. Butler of the Council of Deliberation (\$2,000), Lodge of Research (\$500), Texas Prince Hall University (\$1,000) and \$500 in proceeds from Ever Ready Trail Blazer Ban-



G.Lec. Tracy Williams delivers completion certifications to students of the Texas Prince Hall University.

quet.

G.M. Curtis gave a brief address, which included the following recommendations: reactivation of the Charter of J. Washington Lodge No. 191 in Cibolo, no change in status for Roots Lodge and an Under Dispensation Lodge both in Africa, and ratifying recognition with the Grand Lodge of Ireland. All were approved.

G.M. Curtis then called off the meeting for the purpose of conducting workshops which included a Secretary/Treasurer Workshop, Wardens Workshop, Masters Workshop, and Master Masons Workshop. Additionally, a presentation was given by the Grand Lecturer Department on the new Texas Prince Hall University.

G.M. Curtis led the instruction during the Masters Workshop. One of the key items he delivered was the need for a Master to have served as Junior and Senior Warden of a Lodge, for if he does not, how can he effectively rule and govern his Lodge.

At the conclusion of the workshops, the Brothers joined the Sisters in for a joint luncheon. After the Luncheon, the Mid-Winter Session resumed and remarks were made by Grand High Priest Tate, who stated "be careful who you let into your house." Other remarks were given and G.M. Curtis thanked all for attending the Mid-Winter Session. He also mentioned that he wishes to have 100 Fellow Crafts attend the next Mid-Winter to be Raised. G.M. Curtis then proceeded to close the Mid-Winter Session.

After the closing, the leadership of the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family gathered for a photo opportunity with a sample of the toys donated for the 4th Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Christmas Toy Giveaway, which was held on Dec. 15.

Gulf Coast Region K.O.P. Councils assist with Toys for Kids Program



Story and photos by K.O.P. Staff

HOUSTON - The Gulf Coast Region Knights of Pythagoras Councils, Arthur L. Banks Council No. 2 (District 15-A) and Woody Robinson Council No. 15 (District 16) participated in Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's Annual Toys for Kids Christmas program held at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Dec. 18, 2012

The K.O.P. program was joined by Masonic Lodges in the area to assist with the event that serve children from various schools in the area.

Special thanks to Special District Deputy Grand Master/Assistant State Director Rahsaan Cook who served as coordinator for the event. A.S.D. Cook also worked with the convention planners who allowed the Lodges and K.O.P.

Councils to escort Congresswoman Lee into the event.

In 2012, the K.O.P. programs across the state assisted with their Harvest of Hope Project which involves feeding the hungry during the month of November and Op-

eration Christmas providing clothing and toys for families during the Christmas season.

The officers for this area are Deputy Assistant State Director Fred Walker and the Senior Advisor is Byron Porter.



Gulf Coast Region K.O.P. helps out at the Houston Food Bank



Story and photos by K.O.P. Staff

HOUSTON - Arthur L. Banks Council No. 2 (Masonic District 15-A) and Woody Robinson Council No. 15 (Masonic District 16), Order of the Knights of Pythagoras joined other youth organizations (a special thanks to OES Houston Dynasty) to offer a helping hand to the Houston Food Bank, Dec. 1, 2012.

November serves as the Texas K.O.P.'s "Harvest of Hope" community service project where the Knights focused on how to help feed the hungry.

The Gulf Coast Region K.O.P. found their best way to complete this project was to help out at their local area food bank.

The Knights worked very hard at preparing food bags which are used to feed the hungry in the area.

Special thanks to Senior Advisor Byron Porter, Assistant Senior Advisor Corey Stanley, Deputy Assis-

tant State Director Fred Walker, and other Sir Knights from both Councils who participated as well.

For additional information or if you have a son or know of a young man in the Houston area wanting to join the K.O.P. please contact D.A.S.D. Fred Walker.



Order of the Knights of Pythagoras

Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council

Sponsored by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, PHA

www.Texaskop.net

Celebrating 14 years of service to the youth of Texas



2013
Tri City



HOUSTON * DALLAS * KILLEEN

**Informational Session, Workshop,
& Youth Business Meeting**

HOUSTON AREA

February 23, 2013
Time: 9:00am

Point of Contact:
DASD Fred Walker

DALLAS AREA

March 2, 2013
Time: 9:00am

Point of Contact:
DASD Phelix Houston

KILLEEN AREA

April 6, 2013
Time: 9:00am

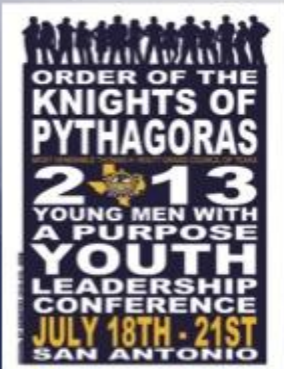
Point of Contact:
DASD Herb Loring

This Special Invitation is for:

Any parents, youth, and master masons
interested in knowing more about the Texas KOP Youth Program.

Any lodge or district wanting to start their own KOP program.

**Please contact the DASD in that area for location or Email us at
sdtexaskop@aol.com**



ALSO

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR:

2013 Young Men with a Purpose
Youth Leadership Conference

"BOOT CAMP FOR YOUNG LEADERS"

San Antonio, TX. July 18 – 21, 2013



Location: TBD

Training the next generation of leaders

The Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum "Telling Our Own Story"

Dedicated June 25, 2011

**Purchase Memorabilia Packages to support the
Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum**



Front

Back



Package A: \$50 (shipping and handling included)

- **T-Shirt (XL - 5XL)**
* Smaller sizes available for order
- **Medallion**
- **Grand Opening Program**
- **Library Museum Pamphlet**

Package B: \$25 (shipping and handling included)

- **T-Shirt (XL - 5XL)**
* Smaller sizes available for order
- **Library Museum Pamphlet**

The Library Museum serves as the institutional memory for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and its jurisdiction. It maintains a collection of records including multimedia and artifacts that are ordered to be available for research and have historical value and interest. The Library Museum also maintains the non-current records of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and its jurisdiction that have historical or enduring value.

Contact Burrell Parmer @ (210) 863-1118, parmermasonictraveler@hotmail.com to place an order. Payment can be made via PayPal, check or money order.

District 3

D.D.G.M. Malichi Dews Jr.

Headlight Lodge No. 124 delivers Thanksgiving Baskets, Toys for Christmas



District 7

D.D.G.M. Jack Turner

Pride of Beaumont Family, Golden Triangle Council K.O.P. join Forces to feed Elderly



Capstone Lodge U.D. restocks the Shelves at the North Ellis County Outreach Center



Story and photo by: District Staff

CEDAR HILL, Texas - The mission of Capstone Lodge UD of Cedar Hill is to provide community service and increase awareness of Prince Hall Masonry in the community, as well as, throughout Ellis County.

Worshipful Master Julius Wright remarked, "Supporting the principals of 'Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth' is a core goal of Capstone Lodge U.D."

According to W.M. Wright, many organizations donated during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons but there was also a dire need for services after the shelves are empty and the season is over.

Capstone Lodge strategically worked to fill this void to provide seamless services during months where

donations and services to the community decrease.

On Jan. 5, 2013, Capstone Lodge U.D. had a fellowship breakfast after which the Brethren assisted in donating over 100 nonperishable products and canned goods to the North Ellis County Outreach Center.

Upon meeting with the leadership of the North Ellis County Outreach Center, the Lodge discussed a possibility of sponsoring a shelf of canned goods, personal hygiene products, and clothing items per quarter. The center's leadership also provided a brief overview of other services to the elderly that are provided which the Lodge will make endeavors to assist in as well. To witness the occasion was District Deputy Grand Master Karlous R. Morgan Sr.

Capstone Lodge U.D. has successfully completed its first community service project and is making strides in the implementation of two additional community service projects in the spring of 2013.

After receiving a Dispensation in September 2012, Capstone Lodge has completed three vital events within four months. The Lodge strives to be the "crowning achievement" (Capstone) in the legacy of Prince Hall Masonry in North Ellis County.

Phoenix Lodge No. 648, Progressive Lodge No. 432 lend Hand during Annual Susan G. Komen Walk



North Park Mall, Sat. 20, 2012.

This is the third consecutive year that Phoenix Lodge has been involved supporting the event. Brethren sported their Masonic polo's and pink wigs while spreading great enthusiasm and cheer to the cancer survivors arriving for the annual race.

One survivor was stricken by tears of joy to see the Brothers who greeted surviving walkers with smiles and heartfelt encouragement.

The Phoenix Lodge's primary duty was to assist in directing parking in the special survivors parking area. The Lodge has already committed to volunteer for the 2013 event.

Story by: District Staff

DALLAS - Brothers of Progressive Lodge No. 432 joined efforts with Phoenix Lodge No. 648 under the

leadership of Worshipful Master Maurice Murray (Phoenix Lodge No. 648) to participate as volunteers at the annual Susan G. Komen "Race for the Cure" at

Phoenix Lodge No. 648 gives the Gift of Love to a Family during the Holiday Season



Story and photo by: District Staff

RED OAK, Texas - Things can get hard during the holiday season, especially when a mother of seven suffers from a sudden illness right before Thanksgiving.

With thoughts of making children happy during the holiday season, the Brothers of Phoenix Lodge No. 648 adopted the family and provided \$200 worth of groceries for a Thanksgiving meal.

On Dec. 23, 2012, Phoenix Men of Distinction provided some Christmas Cheer with another \$200 for food and a truckload of gifts for all of the kids.

"Nothing beats the gift of giving, and tonight was truly heartwarming," said Worshipful Master Maurice Murray.

Goodwill Lodge No. 313 continues its Goodwill with their Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway



Story and Photos by: District Staff

tinues to be well represented in the city.

FERRIS, Texas - Goodwill Lodge No. 313, assisted by the Heroines of Brick City Court No. 407, continued with its annual tradition of providing turkeys to families in the community.

Worshipful Master Maurice Jefferson and the Brothers of the Lodge take pride in their community service especially this initiative. Every year the Lodge strives to give more to the community and feed more families during the holiday season. This past year the Brothers were able to provide 120 turkeys, with can goods, which were provided by the Heroines of Brick City and Trinity Elks Lodge No. 480. Prince Hall Masonry con-



Prince Hall Masons of District 10 recruit Mentors



(lt-rt) Ditty Slim-owner of Barbershop and member of Phoenix Lodge 648; Stephen Mason-City Councilman for Cedar Hill; Clara McGinnis – President of C.H.A.T.; Julius Wright–W.M. Capstone Lodge U.D.; Roderick Mile Jr.- Big Brother & African-American Partnership Manager; Jerry Brown Sr., P.D.D.G.M. 10th Masonic District.

ter's African-American Partnership program which promotes positive values and goals; Clara McGinnis – president of the Cedar Hill Action Team (goal is to provide something positive for the youth of Cedar Hill) who welcomed the collaboration of all the organizations since we share one common goal, the "Youth"; Worshipful Master Julius Wright of Capstone Lodge Under Dispensation; and Past District Deputy Grand Master Jerry Brown Sr., who stated that the main focus of the event was to attract Black Men because there are so few available to pair with the large number of black boys waiting for mentors.

According to Big Brothers Big Sisters' research, only 10 percent of the organization's volunteers are Black Men, while 37 percent of youths awaiting volunteers are black boys.

Story and Photos by: District Staff

CEDAR HILL, Texas - Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and the 10th Masonic District conducted its annual recruitment for mentors by reaching out to men at a familiar gathering place — the barbershop.

As part of the effort, the District and Big Brothers Big Sisters attempted to persuade 100 Black Men to join the ranks of mentors for area African-American boys.

The "Grooming Men of the Future" recruiting event took place from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Ditty Slim Barber Shop located in the Cedar Hill Mall, Jan. 26.

Others in attendance were Stephen Mason – city councilman and an active member in the community; Roderick Miles Jr., who manages the Big Brothers Big Sis-



District 11 creates Masonic Food Bank



can goods to the C.A.W. Clark Food Pantry (Good Street Baptist Church).

Our future goal is to service the community directly. Paul Drayton Lodge No. 9 has provided the District space within their building to store the can goods donated to the District Food Bank.

Through our combined efforts, we will be able to make a greater impact in our respective communities.

In this season of giving, the District also supported our Easter Star Sisters with their annual Blanket Drive. This program provides the homeless with blankets, new and lightly used cloths, coats, shoes, etc. These donations are not only made to the homeless in local shelters but also to even the less fortunate, those still on the streets.

It's events like this and those we read about in the Texas Prince Hall Freemason that should make us proud to be a part of the Masonic Order, more especially the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Order.

Story by: D.D.G.M. Marcus Walker Sr.

DALLAS - This year, the Motto for the District is "Well done is better than well said" – everyone has the talking part down, it's the doing part where we typically fall short. As Master Masons, if we are to receive our wages then the words "Well Done" are what we hope to hear.

Each year at Thanksgiving, each Lodge in the District has a program in which they donate food baskets to needy families or support the programs that provide meals to the Homeless on Thanksgiving morning.

This year the suggestion was made to find something we could do for the community as a District. This was to be in addition to what was being done by each of the Lodges. The idea was adopted to start a District 11 Prince Hall Masonic Family Food Bank.

Our first task was to donate 1,000 can goods to one or several of the existing food banks. The

challenge was issued and the Lodges responded. Not only did the Lodges donate but the Sisters having learned of our efforts volunteered to aide in those efforts.

Through our efforts, we were able to donate 500 can goods to Methodism Breadbasket (St. Luke United Methodist Church) and 500



Prince Hall Masons of District 14 make Moves to assist Voters in the 2012 Election



The District also supported the National Get out to Vote Campaign by placing calls as far away as the battleground state of Florida.

Through the efforts of D.D.G.M. Clayborne and District 14, the District donated approximately \$1280 of In-Kind support during the historic event. The nation has made history once again and District 14 is proud to have been a part of that effort.

Story by: Ronnie Jones, D.D.G.M.-E.

MCLENNAN COUNTY, Texas - In response to the call sent out by Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis to support the 2012 election effort, District 14 went into action.

On Oct. 20, 2012, Kathy McDonald, director of the McLennan County Democratic Party was invited to meet with the District and expressed the need and the urgency for support for this election.

During the early voting campaign, District Deputy Grand Master Charles Clayborne and other members of the District made phone calls that reached approximately 225 potential voters and drove over 30 voters from their homes to the polls and back home again.



“Circle of Friends” puts in Work at Food Bank



the food bank staff, the C.O.F. split into work groups and began their assignments. One group sorted through the tons of packaged items, ensuring everything was up to standards. Afterwards they carefully made care packages for the needy families.

The other groups handled the shipping process, using hand trucks and heavy boxes to the loading docks for distribution across Texas. Despite many hours of standing and the continuous heavy lifting, the C.O.F. stood tall to provide a helping hand, the Prince Hall way, with love and care to those in need.

Story by: W.M. Mike Tatum (3)

HOUSTON - The Houston Food Bank is the nation's largest size Feeding America food bank and source of food for hunger relief charities in 18 southeast Texas counties.

Over 137,000 people are fed each week because of the efforts of many volunteers. “The Circle of Friends” which consists of Magnolia Lodge No. 3, Purple Heart Lodge No. 205, Star of the East Chapter No. 11, Sisters of Destiny Chapter No. 68, Hosanna Faith Chapter No. 63 joined forces again to ensure the Houston Food Bank was able to meet it's weekly goals, Oct. 27, 2012.

After receiving their briefing from



“Circle of Friends” spreads Thanksgiving Blessings



Story by: *W.M. Michael Tatum (3)*

HOUSTON - As part of a community service project, District 15-A's "Circle of Friends" (Magnolia Lodge No. 3, Purple Heart Lodge No. 205, Star of the East Chapter No. 11, Sisters of Destiny Chapter No. 68, Hosanna Faith Chapter No. 63 and Hearts and Arms Chapter U.D.) decided to step up their game by accepting the task of providing meals to feed at least 200 people at the Marcie L. Keys Center, Nov. 17, 2012.

Sister Jeannie Lee, a member of Sisters of Destiny who spearheaded the event said, "The participation of the C.O.F. for the 2012 Thanksgiving Luncheon was beyond amazing.

According to Sis. Lee, the C.O.F. provided the requested items and helped the Marcie Keys Center serve the food for their annual community luncheon with enthusiasm and humility.

"We were able to accommodate the facility's needs before their requested deadline. By doing so they had plenty of time to prepare

the Thanksgiving meals that feed those that would not otherwise have had a meal. The center and community were truly thankful for our assistance; as we were equally thankful to be of service," Sis. Lee. Thanksgiving efforts didn't end at the Marcie L. Keys Center, Past Master Costroma Willis of Highland Heights No. 200 notified the C.O.F that the City of Houston was looking for assistance for a Thanksgiv-

ing basket for Ms. Jessie Mae Hobbs, an 82-years-old of the third ward area. The task was given to the newest members of the PHAmily, Logos Lodge U.D. and the Sisters of Hadassah U.D.

The U.D. Lodge (Worshipful Master Troy Cousins) and Chapter (Worthy Matron Lana Barton) ensured that Hobbs would be able to enjoy a good Thanksgiving dinner.



“Circle of Friends” assists the Homeless with a Blanket Drive



together for a worthy cause. We had over 40 participants and hope to increase our numbers next year."

The C.O.F. surpassed their goal of 100 blankets and plans to do more next year.



Story by:
Con. DeEdra Bond-Hodrick (68)

HOUSTON - On Jan. 4, the "Circle of Friends" (Magnolia Lodge No. 3, Purple Heart No. 205, Sisters of Destiny Chapter No. 68, Star of the East Chapter No. 11, Hosanna Faith Chapter No. 63 and Hadasah Chapter U.D.) had their annual blanket drive.

Brothers and Sisters donated over 200 blankets, gloves, hats and socks and distributed the items to the homeless individuals in downtown Houston.

January has been one of the coldest months the city has endured. That day the temperature

dropped to 30 degrees and left many of the citizens trying to stay warm. Despite the temperature, the Circle of Friends endured the weather with smiles and lots of laughter, which gave comfort to women, men and children alike.

Bro. Scotty Rayme of Magnolia Lodge stated, "It was such a blessing seeing the looks on all the faces of the homeless and needy as we, the Prince Hall Family, gave out basic everyday items to folks that would have otherwise gone without."

Worthy Matron Sherry Gasaway-Phillips of Sisters of Destiny Chapter, said "It was nice to see so many brothers and sisters come

A “New” Lodge making its Presence Known in Texas Prince Hall Freemasonry



Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

HOUSTON - On Sept. 22, 2012, M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis, Grand Master of Texas, issued a Dispensation to set a Lodge to work in the city. Since then, Logos Lodge Under Dispensation (U.D.) has blazed every trail they have traveled.

The Brethren have participated in every District and Grand Lodge event, and they have supported their Sisters of the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter.

Brother Troy Cousin, Worshipful Master, continues to provide exemplary leadership to this exceptional group of men.



Thanksgiving Adopt-a-Family

The Lodge is on a course set for success, and these men are looking forward to that historic day in June where they hope to experience the auspicious occasion of receiving their official Charter.

Logos Lodge U.D. makes the 12th Lodge situated in District 15-A.



W.M. Cousin and members of the Lodge volunteer at the 4th Annual PHamily Christmas Gift Give-Away.

19th District joins local organizations in honoring Martin Luther King Jr.



Story and photos by: District Staff

SAN ANTONIO - The 19th Masonic District joined local businesses and community organizations to lay wreaths to honor the life, struggles and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., at M.L.K. Plaza, Jan. 20.

The guest speaker was Christopher Herring, co-owner of New Horizons School and the national recipient of the prestigious N.A.A.C.P. Roy Wilkins Renowned Service Award. Musical entertainment was provided by renowned musical group, The Island Brothers.

The event was attended by approximately 100 guests to include City Officials (Councilwoman Ivy Taylor) and Bishop Davis Copeland and his wife from New Creation Baptist Church among others.

"It was a great event," said Worshipful Burrell Parmer of San Antonio Lodge No. 1, who served as the District's spokesperson during the ceremony. "For so many local leaders and the public to participate annually in this event shows just how much Dr. King and his work meant to us."



Prince Hall Masons assist with Claude W. Black, S.A. Fighting Back's Gift Giveaway



Photo by Bro. Graddie Robinson

Story by: P.M. Edward S. Jones (1)

SAN ANTONIO – Members of the 19th Masonic District of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas assisted the Claude W. Black Community Center and its partners by donating toys and volunteering during the center's 33rd Annual Holiday Event, Dec. 18.

Not only did the children receive a Christmas toy, they also received books and refreshments.

Worshipful Master Burrell Parmer of San Antonio No. 1 served as Santa Clause bringing joy to approximately 800 children. When asked about the event, W.M. Parmer said, "It was moving to see the faces of the kids when I arrived, their little faces beamed with joy."

In addition to the gifts donated by the Masons, charitable donations were received from the

Claude W. Black Advisory Board, HEB, Megabus, Amerigroup, Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union, and others.

Larry Tucker, advisory board president, was thankful to all who were able to contribute and share in such a special event. Tucker was impressed and thankful for the Mason's assistance with not only the donation, but also helping to inform the community of the event.

When asked about his participation of the day's event, Senior Warden Gregory Williams of Beacon Light Lodge No. 50 stated, "This type of event is something our District should consider participating in annually and anything associated with the betterment of

San Antonio's youth should be one of our highest priorities."

A staple on the city's East Side, the center provides services to San Antonio and surrounding areas which include daily healthy meals for seniors, emergency utility assistance, and family services.

The center's namesake was a Prince Hall Freemason and member of San Antonio Lodge No. 1.



District 19 holds Holiday Social, District Raffle



Story and photos by:
W.M. Burrell Parmer (1)

SAN ANTONIO - The Masonic Family of District 19 gathered at the Masonic Temple to fellowship and hold its District Raffle, Dec. 19, 2012.

All participants enjoyed good food and good conversations.

Towards the conclusion of the Social, the Raffle for prizes begin. The first place winner was Ray Tate (\$500), second place was Moses Trinidad (\$250), and third place was Leon Gaskin (\$100).

The District thanks Past Master Cliff Massey and the District Ways and Means Committee for a superb job.



A young lady retrieves one of the winning tickets during the District Raffle, held during the 19th District Holiday Social, Dec. 19.

San Antonio Lodge No. 1 dispenses Charity, holds Annual Social, Raffle



(lt-rt) Brothers Demetrius Booth, Ron Turner, Ronald McKinney Jr., Bro. Hunt, Mr. Gregory Jason, and Bro. Larry Smith Jr. volunteered to prepare meals at the Wilford Hall Fisher Hall, Nov. 1, 2012.

Story by: Lodge Staff

SAN ANTONIO - San Antonio Lodge No. 1, the first chartered Prince Hall Lodge in Texas, continues to service their community by dispensing Charity to families and organizations in need. On Nov. 1, 2012, members of the Lodge prepared meals for residents of the Wilford Hall Fisher House. The House is a home-away-from-home for the families of seriously ill or injured patients receiving treatment at Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at San Antonio Military Medical Center on Lackland Air Force Base.



To assist families during the Thanksgiving Holiday, the Lodge donated Turkey Baskets to local families and to the San Antonio Food Bank. And to support the 19th District in its toy drive, the Lodge donated new toys for gift giveaways at the Claude W. Black and S.A. Fight Back's Holiday event, where Worshipful Master Parmer served as the event's Santa Claus in December.

That evening, members of the Lodge, family and friends gathered at the Lodge Hall to fellowship during the Lodge's annual social. During the social, a raffle was held. The winners were Senior Warden Robert Norman (2-night stay at a River Walk Hotel), Bro. Michael Coats (\$100 restaurant gift card), and W.M. Parmer (1-hour spa gift certificate).

Additionally, in December the Lodge made a monetary donation to a Mary Kay Unit in support of Adopt-a-Grandparent. The unit adopts local elderly residents and provides them with a gift for Christmas.

To begin the 2013 Year, members of the Lodge conducted a visitation to Newt Covenant Baptist Church. And to support the church's charitable endeavors, the Lodge donated more than \$300 worth of new children tennis shoes for the Soles for Children Program.

Lastly, the Lodge welcomes their newest members, Brothers Michael Coats and Joshua Irizarry Jr.



Beacon Light Lodge No. 50 conducts Cornerstone Laying at Gardendale Community Baptist Church



A New but Old Lodge in Texas: J. Washington Lodge No. 191 Reactivated



W.M. Eddy Broadway receives the Charter of J. Washington Lodge No. 191 from G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis during Mid-Winter Session, Nov. 10, 2012. The Lodge originally located in Seguin, Texas will now call Cibolo its home.

Story by J.W. Kevin Lindqist

CIBOLO, Texas - J. Washington Lodge No. 191 was recently reactivated during Mid-Winter Session 2012. The Lodge, originally chartered on July 26, 1921, was located in Seguin, Texas.

To bring Prince Hall Masonry to the local community, Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis delivered the Lodge's Charter to Worshipful Master Eddie Broadway, thereby officially reactivating J.W. Washington Lodge No. 191 and its relocation to Cibolo to serve as a Masonic Beacon within Guadalupe

County.

On Jan. 22, the Brethren of J. Washington Lodge honorably represented their Lodge by participating in the 2013 San Antonio Martin Luther King Jr. March.

The Brethren volunteered as Marshals for the 14th section of the March, which attendance was estimated to be over 100,000 people.

By supporting this historic event, the Lodge celebrated a man who fought and died for the freedom of equality and justice for all to share.

"Children of our modern time will never fully understand the pain and suffrage of our beloved Dr. Martin

Luther King. However, by viewing the selfless service of our Black, White, Latino, and other nationalities, the Brothers in Freemasonry come together in one event; joining in unity and fighting for one cause," said W.M. Broadway. "This teaches the people of the world that Brotherly Love and a dream of one man can spark a chain reaction of hope for a better future for all. In the end, our gift to M.L.K. on that beautiful sunny day was walking in his stride, embracing the cause, and holding the eternal band of equality in our heart."

Masons support Family, Community with Christmas Dinner, Bicycle Giveaway



The Lodge is proud of their community and will continue efforts to improve on this event and make it better to serve the communities families and children that are less fortunate.

“It was an inspiring event to see the outpour of the Brethren and the community as a whole come out and support to ensure we had enough food and bicycles,” said W.M. Ford. “It was a tremendous turn out; at the end of the evening we had accomplished our mission and had served our community well. We will continue to support our community especially during the Holiday season.”

Story by: Bro. Michael Acierno (242)

KILLEEN, Texas - New Light Lodge No. 242 continues to be involved in various community service and related programs which included a Christmas Dinner and Bicycle Give-Away for Children in the community held at the Killeen Texas National Guard Armory, Dec. 19, 2012.

This was the Lodge's 5th Christmas Dinner and Bicycle Giveaway that has continued to grow and has provided meals for numerous families and over 350 bicycles within the past 5 years of which the Lodge donated 80 bicycles for the 2012 event.

The event was organized by Worshipful Master Alphonso Ford and committee members Past Masters Christopher Campbell, James Clark, Brothers Albert Parker and LaMarcus Sims.

Again this year was truly a successful event. New Light Lodge

was encouraged to participate in this event along with their family members and friends, the more participation, the more effectively the Lodge will be more visible within the community and the more people will benefit from it.



Brethren of Nolan Creek Lodge end, start New Year with Charity, Honor MLK



more than 18 years.

To start out 2013, the Lodge participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. March hosted by the Killeen Branch of the N.A.A.C.P, Jan. 21.



Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

BELTON, Texas - On Oct. 14, 2012, Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 conducted their Quarterly Church visitation as the Brethren worshiped and fellowshiped with Magnolia Baptist Church. Also in attendance were members of Sam T. Robinson Knights of Pythagoras Council No. 10.

During the month of November, Nolan Creek Lodge donated 30 Thanksgiving baskets to needy families within the Belton, Killeen, and Temple communities. This effort was supported by Mt. Zion United Methodist Church.

During the month of December, the Brethren provided Christmas baskets to 11 families. Additionally, the Lodge conducted their annual Nursing Home visit to Crestview Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation where the Lodge hosted a bingo tournament for the patients.

After bingo, the Lodge conducted room visits and visited the widow of Past Master Robert Evan, a member of Nolan Creek Lodge, who served as Master for



St. James Lodge No. 71 donates School Supplies



campuses began to run out of the supplies donated at the beginning of each school year.

The project was well received and appreciated by the staff and students who received the donations.

“It’s a small gesture that seems to have made a huge impact on the staff and students who received the donations,” said Stephanie Phillips, Most Ancient Matron of Rising Sun Court No. 50. “Plans to repeat the project in the next school year have already begun.”

Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

TEMPLE, Texas - Worshipful Master Rick Phillips and the Brethren of St. James Lodge No. 71 collaborated with the Heroines of Rising Sun Court No.150 to identify Temple Independent School District school campuses which had a need for additional school supplies half way through the school year.

The schools selected to receive the supplies consisted of Wheatley, Dickson, Bethune and Hector P. Garcia.

Each campus principal was contacted and asked to provide school supplies wish lists. They submitted their lists and the Brothers and Sisters worked with local businesses and community members to donate the supplies and/or provide monetary contributions to purchase supplies.

Once the supplies were collected/purchased they were sorted and delivered to each school.

School officials and students were thrilled to receive the sup-

plies. They were especially excited to receive (hard to find) items such as Velcro and dry-erase boards.

The School Supply Donation Project was initiated to provide school staff and students with supplies during a time when many



Temple Masonic Family holds 4th Annual Toy Drive, Gift Giveaway



proximately 150 kids and adults anxiously waited in line to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas.

This year the event included a bicycle drawing and each child present received a drawing ticket for a chance to win. There were a total of 27 bikes donated for children ages 3 to 12 years old. Each child also received one or more hard-cover books and a stuffed animal just for attending the event.

Each year in December, the Open Arms Ministry of Temple gives out food baskets to families in need. St. James Lodge No. 71 and the Temple Masonic Family have made a commitment to support Open Arms' efforts by collecting/donating toys to the children of families who receive a food basket. The organizations have worked together the last four years for the annual event because they agree it is a worthwhile cause and any opportunity to bring joy to children and members of our community is something they want to be associated with. Plans and preparations for the 2013 toy drive have already begun.

Story by: *W.M. Rick Phillips Sr. (71)*

TEMPLE, Texas - St. James Lodge No. 71, Ed Blair Consistory No. 286, Rising Sun Court No. 150 (Heroines of Jericho), Shiphrah Chapter No. 54 (Order of the Eastern Star) and Heart of Texas Guild No. 38 came together as the Temple Masonic Family to host their 4th Annual Toy Drive and Gift Giveaway at the Open Arms Ministry, an organization that provides prescription drug assistance and food for families in need in the city.

Each of the organizations began advertising their participation in the toy drive in October 2012. The Temple community fully supported the drive and it collected over 200 new, unwrapped toys and 27 bicycles. It is the most toys collected since the toy drive began in 2009.

In preparation for the gift giveaway, committee members hosted a gift-wrapping/bicycle assembly party. Event supporters came together for an evening of celebration, fellowship, gift wrapping and bike assembly.

Members arrived with refreshments, gift wrapping supplies, tools, toys and more bicycles.

This was a great opportunity to unite and strengthen the relationships across the participating organizations and complete final preparations for the giveaway event.

The PHamily were Santa's honorary elves for the evening. Brother Bobby Ellis of St. James Lodge No. 71 served as Santa Claus for the giveaway event. Ap-



New Light Lodge No. 242 educates Brothers on Prostate Cancer

Story by: W.M. Alfonso Ford (242)

I would like to dedicate this article to all those affected by Prostate Cancer. I ask you to ask the Brothers around you, talk to them. We always talk about Diabetes and how it affects our lives, especially in African American men.

Please take the time to read this information: The PSA blood test is commonly used to check for signs of prostate cancer or other prostate problems. When a PSA level comes back high, the next step is often a biopsy. But a new study suggests another course of action: Another PSA test done more than a month later. That's because PSA levels can fluctuate up and down -- so a man with a high PSA level may not actually have any prostate problems at all. In fact, after studying nearly 1,000 men, researchers found that about half of those whose PSA levels were initially high had a normal result in a sub-sequent test.

The bottom line is that the recommendation for a biopsy should not be based on a single elevated test result, and a second test shouldn't be given too soon after the first,

In fact, even after a second test produced elevated PSA levels, biopsy detected prostate cancer in only one of four of study participants, according to Eastham's findings, published in the May 28 issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association.

Controversial Test

The PSA blood test, first introduced in the U.S. in 1986, is still a controversial test for prostate cancer. Even though a PSA test is likely to detect prostate cancer at an earlier stage, there is no evi-

dence that the test saves lives. This is because prostate cancer is generally slow-growing and typically strikes men at an older age, when they are more likely to die from other causes. Thus, treating prostate cancer in some men, the argument goes, may cause more harm than benefit.

"Men don't realize the downside to a PSA test," Evelyn C. Y. Chan, MD, of the University of Texas-Houston Medical School, tells WebMD. There are false positives associated with this test, and there are false negatives. And it has never been established that the PSA test is going to reduce deaths caused by prostate cancer.

A high PSA level indicates some abnormality in the prostate -- possibly cancer, but also any type of prostate infection or prostate enlargement, which occurs in most men after age 50. Even ejaculation within two days of having a PSA test may result in artificially high levels suggesting a "false positive."

"My suggestion for men considering the test is that they ask their doctor whether or not a PSA is the right test for them -- and then ask their doctors why," Chan tells WebMD. "Don't feel that this is a test that everyone agrees upon and recommends."

The American Urological Association, the American Cancer Society, and the American College of Physicians recommend that doctors discuss PSA and other screening tests each year with men older than age 50, high-risk men, black men, or those with a family history of prostate cancer, should talk to their doctor at age 40.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the National Cancer Institute are opposed

to routine PSA screening, believing the risks of follow-up tests and the side effects of treatment may outweigh the possible benefits for many men.

"I believe the PSA test saves lives," Eastham tells WebMD. "But there are many factors that influence PSA levels, so the test needs to be used with confirming evidence before undue worry or undue procedures."

What are some other causes of an elevated PSA?

Thousands of men each year are told that they have a high PSA level after undergoing a routine screening test. The most important and most concerning cause of an elevated PSA is prostate cancer. However, prostate cancer is only one of many potential causes of an elevated PSA. Really anything that irritates the prostate will cause the PSA to rise, at least temporarily.



Members of New Light Lodge 242 were commissioned 2nd Lieutenants in the U.S. Army on Dec. 15, 2012. Both Brothers will serve in the Quartermaster Corps. Bro. Steven Drayton (lt.) will be assigned as a reserve officer, and Bro. Christopher McDonald (rt.) will be active Army, and be assigned to Ft. Hood, Texas.

Jackson Lodge keeps an Eye on Their Seniors

Story and Photos by: Lodge Staff

SAN ANGELO, Texas - The Brothers of Jackson Lodge No. 15 were busy supporting the community with food baskets during the past holiday season, as well as, making time to visit their elderly Brothers. The Lodge has taken on the role to support their senior members by having each member adopt a senior and ensure that their Grand Lodge Relief is continuously squared.

Part of the Lodge's mission is to ensure that those who have paved the way always have a voice in their Lodge. The Lodge possesses several members who have earned their 50 Year Membership Certificate. According to the Lodge's Worshipful Master, to be a leader, you must show your Love by supporting those that left behind a proud legacy.



Pride of the West Lodge No. 53 delivers Christmas Assistance to Widows

Story by: Lodge Staff

EL PASO - During the Holidays, the Brethren of Pride of the West Lodge No. 53 delivered Christmas Baskets to seven Widows.

The Baskets consisted of a turkey or ham, stuffing, vegetables, yams, apples, oranges, mixed nuts, sweet potato pie, Christmas candy and a Christmas card.

For the past three months, the Lodge has donated numerous food items to individual families in need. The Brethren have paid for groceries at stores for those in need and donated clothing.

Brothers of the Lodge will continue to stay in close contact with

their widows and their sick and shut in members.

The Lodge strives to help a Good Man become a Better Man, and in doing so, all these things and much more are necessary. Without Service to God and all Mankind, one cannot make it into the Kingdom of Heaven.



Brethren of Sunset Lodge No. 76 holds Feast for Local Community

Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

EL PASO - This past year of our Lord and Savior 2012 was filled with a multitude of Blessings from on high, and Sunset Lodge No. 76, along with the Masonic bodies of District 25, has and will continue to share those Blessings with the Beloved Community we live in and cherish so dearly.

The final Quarter of 2012 was sent off in a festive fashion to bring in the Thanksgiving Feast and Christmas Community Dinner that was provided to the community of El Paso.

There were turkey carvings and turkey deep frying by seasoned chefs to include sweet glazed hams for tasting and a wide selection of healthy vegetable items for those who were counting those calories. Additionally, there was an

abundant amount of sweet treats to cap-off the meal, all accompanied along with a smorgasbord of different items to fill the stomachs of the community of over 100-150 plus attendees of the feast/dinner.

The Joy that was seen on the faces of so many throughout the events was over-whelming. The children where as overly excited with the presence of Santa Clause (Worshipful Master Felix Beard Sr.) and Santa's Helper (Past Master Duwan Mason), who provided joyous moments of pleasure with the giving of toys to each and every child present

The support for these events was massive from each Masonic house (Concordant and Appendant) throughout the El Paso region.

Throughout November and December 2012, the members of

Sunset Lodge provided cheer and joy in the form of visitations, season greetings cards and Christmas gifts to two Brothers who are currently in the V.A. Home located in El Paso.

"We served our Brothers' widows with visitations to insure their well-being in this time of the year with season greeting cards and Christmas gifts," said W.M. Beard. "The Craft also made our annual visitation to William Beaumont Army Medical Center where we distributed season greetings cards along with peppermint candies throughout the 7th-9th floor and the Emergency Room of the hospital which was occupied with bedridden patients that were not able to spend the Holidays at home with Love ones."

Sunset Lodge assists in keeping Community Clean

Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

EL PASO - Brothers of Sunset Lodge No. 76 supported the city by cleaning a stretch of Highway 54. The city designated a 2-mile stretch of the highway to Sunset Lodge in support of the Adopt-a-Highway Program, which the Brethren under the leadership of Worshipful Master Felix Beard. The Lodge's Junior Warden coordinated the quarterly clean up with the city's Transportation Department.



Western Star Lodge No. 83 visits Central West Lodge No. 431

Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

MIDLAND, Texas - On Jan. 5, Western Star Lodge No. 83 visited Central West Lodge No. 431, a recently re-charted Lodge in Odessa. During the visit, Western Star Lodge donated their Square and Compasses to Central West Lodge as a show of support, fraternal love, fidelity, and friendship. Both Lodges plan to share in future events together to promote Prince Hall Freemasonry within the Permian Basin.

As the Permian Basin prepared for new leadership in Odessa, Worshipful Master Calvin G. Knighten of Central West Lodge No. 431 was welcomed as the newest member of the city's Chamber of Commerce. Calvin G. Knighten, Inc. is one of the newest contractors joined one of the largest courier companies in the world, FedEx Ground. Congratulations to W.M.



W.M. Calvin Knighten and Odell Crawford.

Knighten from all of the members of District 25.



**The Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge of Texas, P.H.A.**

The Lodges & Chapters
of the 10th, 11th, & 20th
Masonic Districts
presents
**7TH ANNUAL
KING OF THE COURT
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

WHEN: March 30, 2013
WHERE: MAC - Maverick Activities Center 500
W. Nedderman Dr., Arlington, TX 76013
TIME: 9:00am
ADMISSION: \$3

For more Info:
Marcus Thomas
(817) 201-1862

Created by:
Jerry Brown, Sr.

Masons, Eastern Stars continue to support the Kinderschutzbund



Story by: Bro. Seldon Williams (640)
Photos by: W.M. Calvin McCray (640)

PARMESANS, Germany - The Brethren and Sisters of Districts 26-A and 26 (O.E.S.) made their annual toy donation to the Kinderschutzbund. The Masonic family in Germany is doing their part to emulate the programs of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter. This annual toy drive for the Kinderschutzbund is in its third year, and the families always look forward to this time of year.

Worshipful Master Calvin McCray of Cyrus Forbes Lodge No. 640 said this is an opportunity for the members to see their good works, and he stated that as long as he is able he will attend each and every year.

District Deputy Grand Master Odis D. Atkinson stated it is always good to give back to the children,

but this time of year is very special. He said there's nothing like seeing the smiles on the children faces when they open the toys.

D.D.G.M. Tefferra M. Atkinson said she was overjoyed with cheer and wished Christmas was every day just so she could see the children laugh and play.

This is what our organization is all about stated Bro. David Grant.

"This is the reason I joined the Masonic Order," said Bro. Grant. "I'm really proud of the work we are doing for the community."

Sis. Dani Gehrke of Lone Star Chapter No. 60 said it is always a pleasure to attend the visits at the Kinderschutzbund. "Every time I come to the Kinderschutzbund, I'm always anticipating the next visit."

Sis. Tamiko Brown, also of Lone Star Chapter No. 60 made her first visit and said she was very impressed with what she saw. She

stated her heart was filled with all kinds of joy.

The members of District 26-A and 26 (O.E.S) are planning an event that involves the help from the children of the Kinderschutzbund which is to feed a thousand people in the city of Parmesans.

D.D.G.M. Odis D. Atkinson said this will be the key to the city...in terms of community service for Texas Masonry.



SPOTLIGHT

Sublime Prince Dr. Richard L. Williams was born in Anderson, S.C. in 1968 and graduated from the Citadel in 1990 with a Degree in Biology Administration. He was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in January 1990 at Iva Lodge No. 408 of Iva, S.C.

A member of Lone Star Consistory No. 113 in San Antonio, he was inducted as a Fellow of both the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists, at their annual convocations in San Francisco, Oct. 18 and 19, 2012.

The American and International Colleges are honorary organizations which recognize dental professionals who have exemplified excellence through meritorious service, outstanding leadership, and exceptional contributions to dentistry and society.

The American College of Dentists is the oldest major honorary organization for dentists. It was founded Aug. 20, 1920, with the goals to elevate the standards of dentistry, encourage graduate study, and grant Fellowship to those who have done meritorious work.

The American College of Dentists is nonprofit and apolitical, and has long been regarded as the "conscience of dentistry." Membership includes the top 3.5% of dentists in the country, and the nomination and selection process is confidential. The International College of Dentists, established in 1928, is the largest international honorary dental organization, with over 12,000 members around the globe. Fellowship is extended by invitation only, following a rigorous evaluation of all candidates' qualifications and achievements by a series of credential committees.

S.P. Williams is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Dental



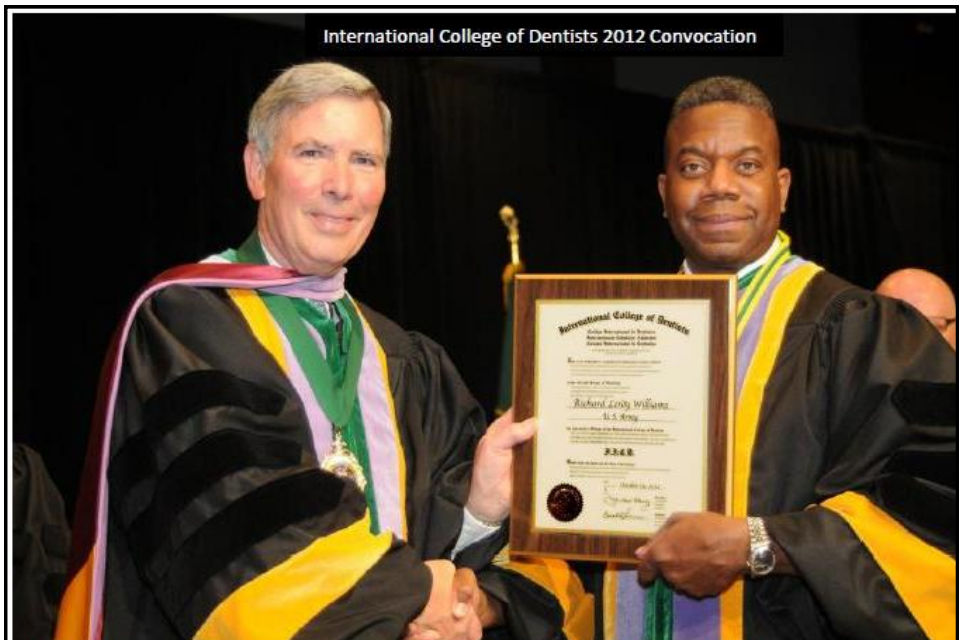
*S.P. Dr. Richard Williams
Lone Star Consistory No. 113
San Antonio, Texas*

Corps and is the Deputy Commander for Dental Trauma Research and Chief of the Biofilm-Impaired Healing Program at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, Fort Sam Houston.

He serves on the research faculties for both Air Force and Army

Comprehensive Dentistry Residency Programs, and was recently appointed Professor of Periodontics in the Postgraduate Dental College of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD. Bro. Williams has lectured at the national and international levels, and published numerous articles, on the multifunctional properties of antimicrobial peptides and their potential to mitigate hypertrophic scarring and ameliorate delayed healing in animal burn and wound healing models.

S.P. Williams received his Ph.D. in Oral Sciences-Immunology from University of Illinois, and his D.M.D. degree from University of Florida College of Dentistry. He completed advanced residency training in Periodontics at Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Ga. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology. In addition, he holds the Army Surgeon General's "A" Designator for professional excellence and is a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit.



Feedback from the Robert E. Connor Jr. Masonic Youth Camp



Story and photos by: Chapter Staff

In July 2012, Robert Lewis III and Jackson Mayes attended the Robert E. Connor, Jr. Young Camp, thanks to the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter. The boys advised that they had an opportunity to participate in several workshops in life skills and bible study. They are looking forward to attending camp in 2013 and adding to their experience with the Prince Hall Masons of Texas.

Pictured above: Jackson Mayes (lt), Worshipful Master Danny Pryor of Lone Star Lodge No. 85 (ctr) and Robert Lewis III (rt). Jackson and Robert's fathers are members of Lone Star Lodge No. 85 and their mothers are members of Loretta's Pride Chapter No. 62.

To Grand Worthy Matron Martha Wolridge:

My name is Robert (Trey) Lewis III. Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter sponsored me and my cousin Jackson Mayes to attend the Robert E. Connor, Jr. Youth Camp during the summer of 2012. We had a great time and learned a lot.

We had to get up in the morning, take showers and get dressed. Then we would run 1 mile away from camp and back to go eat breakfast. After breakfast we would have bible study and learn about God. We would get about an hour to play outside and they would call us for basketball drills. We had a chance to go swimming and play and also do exercises in the pool.

We learned additional life skills to help us grow into a better young men, and be helpful to those we love and who are less fortunate. We made new friends from all over Texas.

We are looking for the opportunity to go back to camp next year and learn even more. Thank you for the opportunity.

Thank you very much

ROBERT LEWIS III (Trey)

Christopher Delight Chapter No. 1 continues Their Tradition of serving the Community



Members of Christopher Delight Chapter No. 1 pose with Christmas Food Baskets for donation to needy families in San Antonio.



Yellow Roses of Texas Youth Fraternity Christmas Toy Drive for St. PJ's Orphanage.



Members of Christopher Delight Chapter No. 1 delivers a Christmas Basket.

Stars of Texas Chapter No. 2 brings Holiday Cheer to the George Gervin Youth Center



Story and photo by:
P.M. Edward S. Jones (1)

SAN ANTONIO – Members of the Stars of Texas Chapter No. 2, Order of Eastern Star, visited the George Gervin Youth Center and provided refreshments and a monetary donation, Dec. 12, 2012,

The Center, founded in 1991 by former NBA star, George “the Iceman” Gervin, has provided a forum for San Antonio families to excel in their personal and academic lives.

The Center’s vision statement reads, “Our vision is to ultimately resolve critical issues surrounding family relationships, school achievement, social attitude, employment, teen pregnancy, sub-

stance abuse, drug trafficking, teen suicide, school/neighborhood/gang violence, self-esteem, and homelessness.”

Sister Glory Floyd, the Chapter Secretary, presented a donation to the Center on behalf of the Chapter and expressed their desire to establish a relationship to assist with their mission of community wellness.

In addition to the donation and refreshments, the youth were treated to a free magic show.

Program Director Tonya Roberts of the Center welcomed the Sisters and was thankful for their generosity.

When asked about the visit, the Chapter agreed that being able to

give back to the community was what being a member of the Order of Eastern Stars was about and that it is getting out in the community even more is something the Chapter has vowed to do.

Sis. Monica Cooper, Chapter Treasurer, shared, “I just loved seeing the smiles on the children’s faces. It really made me proud to be a Star.”

To donate to the George Gervin Center, please visit their website, www.gervin-school.org.

Sisters of Cubie Horton Chapter No. 14 donate School Supplies, checks in on Ole Barracuda



Story and photos by: Chapter Staff

SAN ANTONIO - Members of Cubie Horton Chapter No. 14, Order of the Eastern Star, donated school supplies to St. Clair Elementary School in September 2012 and visited Past Associate Patron William "Ole Barracuda" Craig at his residence in November. Additionally, on Nov. 19, the Chapter prepared Thanksgiving Baskets for donation to family

In December 2012, to ensure those less fortunate enjoyed a good meal during the holidays, the Sisters donated Thanksgiving Turkey to needy families in the community.



Sisters of McCullough P. Wolridge assist PHamily in Food Basket Donations



Story and photos by: Chapter Staff

HOUSTON - Members of McCullough P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12, Order of the Easter Star, volunteered with Highland Heights Lodge No. 200, True Square Lodge No. 108, Wesley Chapter No. 39, Houston Dynasty Youth Fraternity and several others to help sort and package non-perishable food items for Thanksgiving Food Baskets which were donated the community in the Acres Homes area, Nov. 16 – 17, 2012.

The Sisters brought out food donations and assisted with putting together over 250 baskets. On Nov. 17, the Sisters and Brothers were on hand (bright and early) to assist with passing out the baskets

to the families in need. This is an annual event that helps serve those who are in need and McCullough

P. Wolridge Chapter looks forward to this event for 2013.



Covenant Sisters Chapter No. 74 hosts 2nd Annual Senior Prom



Story by: W.M. De'Onna Washington

DALLAS - Members of Covenant Sisters Chapter No. 74, Order of the Eastern Star, hosted their 2nd Annual Senior Prom to show their appreciation once again to the residents of the Senior Care and Rehabilitation Center.

The residents were so excited and dressed to impress. This year they were treated like Hollywood Stars.

The residents had their pictures taken on the red carpet and received star trophies. It is really hard to express in words what the Chapter experienced from this event. One would have to see it for themselves.

This year, some one was missing from the event, the Queen of the Prom, who passed away. After

the prom, the Chapter and residents went outside and released balloons in her memory.

The Chapter thanks Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 135, Paul Drayton Lodge No. 9, Good Street Lodge No. 182, and Dorcus Chapter No. 19 for donating food/items and supporting event.

A special thank you to Worshipful Master Edwin Moore for doing an outstanding job as the prom's guest speaker.



El Paso PHamily holds 1st Annual Community Christmas Dinner/Party



everyone who participated and made donations to make this event successful.

Thanks are extended to the Sisters of Star of the Sun Chapter No. 6, Brethren of Sunset Lodge No. 76 and Pride of the West Lodge No. 53, Sir Knights of DeMolay Commandery, members of Rio Grande Consistory, Nobles of Oro Temple No. 9, members of Northgate Optimist, and other members of the community. Job Well Done!

Story by: P.H.P. Duwan M. Mason Sr.

EL PASO - The Prince Hall Masonic Family along with the Northgate Optimist Club came together to hold its first community Christmas Dinner/Party at the Northgate Optimist Club, Dec. 22, 2012.

Everyone in attendance had a wonderful time. The dinner came from donations from individuals and organizations from the community.

Every child received a gift from Santa Claus and seeing the look on the kids faces when Santa arrived was priceless. The Companions had fun playing the musical chairs. The children made us laugh and the adults made us cry with laughter, especially when the adults were walking with their chairs instead of around the chair. Santa was played by Worshipful Master Felix Beard of Sunset Lodge No. 76, who did an outstanding job.

Excellent High Priest, Franck Bonhomme of El Paso Holy Royal Arch Masons and the President of the Northgate Optimist Club Paul Maggitt delivers sincere thanks to



York Rite Masons of Waxahachie perform Exaltation, Dubbing of 23 Companions, Sir Knights



Story and photos by:
Chapter and Commandery Staffs

WAXAHACHIE, Texas - As York Rite Weekend approaches in Houston; the York Rite Bodies of Waxahachie kicked off the 2013 year with a mass membership drive.

Arthur L. Banks Chapter No.143, under the leadership of Excellent High Priest Jerry Brown Sr, and D.C. Collins Commandery No. 40, commanded by Eminent Commander Karlous R. Morgan Sr., has worked together before in opposite capacities where they first established a "One Body with One

Purpose" type of relationship between both York Rite Houses.

Their goal has always been to educate and empower future leaders and men of extraordinary zeal and character.

On Jan. 12, 2013, the Chapter and the Commandery added 23 more men to their ranks. In attendance to support this historical morning of degree work was District Deputy Grand High Priest Julius Wright who also serves as the Eminent Grand Lecturer for the Lone Star Grand Commandery.

"We are a family here in Waxahachie," said E.C. Morgan. "We have collaborated in being hands on with our youth mentoring program, tuition assistance for students seeking higher education, and promoting the Christianity in Masonry by being visible in the community through church visitations. Our York Rite Houses are joined at the hip and one can't fall without the other; we have been like that for years and we will remain that way."



Heroines, Eastern Stars work Together



Story and photos by: District Staff

LA MARQUE, Texas - Members of the Heroines of Jericho District 15-B Matrons Forum, Rutha M. Hicks Chapter No. 29 (Order of Eastern Star), and La Marque Lodge No. 373 blessed more than 30 families with Thanksgiving Baskets this past holiday season.

Heroines and Eastern Stars donated side items while the turkeys were donated by the Lodge. After the deliveries, families were left with smiling faces and thankful hearts.

The Matron's Forum include Most Ancient Matron Heroine Sharon Barriere (Sarah Court No. 1); Heroine Emma Johnson (Forever Faithful Court No. 66); Heroine Shirley Young (Lakeview Court No. 262); Heroine Lillie Alex-

ander (Pride of the South Court No. 282); Heroine Jessie Price (Galilee Court No. 323); Heroine Erma Allen (Sweet Aster Court No. 327); Heroine Barbara Jackson (Treasure Island Court 353); Heroine Giovanni Turner (Mary Ann Court No. 434); and Heroine Dorothy M. Maxey (Deputy of District 15-B). Sister Sharon Mathews is Worthy Matron of Rutha M. Hicks Chapter No. 29 and Brother Gregory Ragland is Worshipful Master of La Marque Lodge No. 373.

Nothing like a PHAmily working together.



Sanderson Commandery No. 2 feeds the Hungry for Thanksgiving



*Story and photos by:
Commandery Staff*

HOUSTON - In true spirit of the Thanksgiving tradition, the Sir Knights of Sanderson Commandery No. 2 extended kindness and generosity in providing a Thanksgiving meal to 125 residents of the 3rd Ward at the Commandery's Hall, Nov. 21, 2012.

Approximately 15 Sir Knights, Guild members, and their children helped to prepare and serve the

meals, which consisted of turkey, ham, dressing, vegetables, desert, and cold beverages.

The Sir Knights enjoyed this opportunity to reach out and celebrate Thanksgiving with the members of the 3rd Ward Community.

Sir Knights who were not able to attend the event donated food and other necessary items. A special thanks to Sir Knights Griffith and Ross for coordinating, and to Sir Knights Johnson, Williamson, Eminent Commander Gregg, Grand

Eminent Commander Gerac, Deputy Sabree, Sir Knights Johnson and Singleton, Princess Captain Bowers, Sir Knight Robinson, and all the Sir Knights and Guild members' children for volunteering and making this a joyous event.

Lone Star Guild holds Regional in Red Oaks



Story and photos by Grand Guild Staff

RED OAKS, Texas - On Nov. 3, 2012, the Dallas-Fort Worth/Tyler Regional Training Conference was conducted by Grand Princess Captain R. Lucille Samuel. Guild participating in the Regional consisted of Trinity Guild No. 1, St. Cecil Guild No. 2, Francis Shivers Guild No. 7 and R. Lucille Samuel Guild No. 41.

Training consisted of Secretarial and Financial Bookkeeping, Protocol and Auditing.

The Grand Guild also initiated two new Princesses: Princess Meta Jackson of R. Lucille Samuel Guild No. 41 and Princess Janet

Sanders of Trinity Guild No. 1.

The Regional Trainings are used to bring information to the members who are unable to attend the annual Grand Conclave held in February or the annual Training Conference in September. It also provides a more personalized training for those who may need extra assistance that is not provided during the annual Session.

Sir Knight Andre McGaughey of Trinity Commandery No. 3 assisted in conducting the elections and Installation of Officers for all four Guilds, a tradition that G.P.C. Samuel wishes to continue in order to build a permanent working relation-

ship between the Guilds in regional areas.





United Supreme Council 33°
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry
Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Prince Hall Affiliation



John Butler Jr. 33°
Deputy of the Orient of Texas
P.O. Box 6742
El Paso, TX 79906

Tel.915. 821.5032
Fax. 915.822.3520
Email:jbj713@aol.com

Official Notice

Inspectors General of all ranks, Past Commanders-in-Chief, the first three officers in the Consistories, Council of Kadosh, Chapters of the Rose Croix, the first four officers in the Lodges of Perfection, and all Loyal Ladies of the Golden Circle in the Orient of Texas.

Greetings:

Be it known that I, John Butler Jr., Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Deputy of the Orient of Texas by the authority of the Constitution of the United Supreme Council, A.A.S.R. of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., do here by call the Council of Deliberation into its Sixty-Sixth Annual Session and the order of Assemblies into its Forty-Ninth Annual Session in the valley of Fort Worth, Texas, on March 08-10, 2013, the session will be held at the Radisson Hotel North, 2540 Meacham Blvd, Fort Worth, TX 76106, Tel. 817-625-9911. Cut-off date is February 17, 2013.

On site registration will begin Friday March 08, at 9:00am and continue until 6:00pm; and reconvene on Saturday, March 09, at 8:00am. Scottish Rite Workshops are schedule for Friday March 04 from 9:00am until 4:00pm. The Commanders of the Rite will meet Friday, March 08, at 6:00pm.

Friday March 08, from 9:00am to 11:00am, Golden Circle Q&A Session and Friday evening at 8:00pm the Golden Circle Fashion Show will be presented.

Saturday March 09, at 7:30am the Joint Memorial Service will be presented.

Council and Assembly Ceremonial Opening will be at 9:00am.

The close of the Council and Assembly will culminate with the Banquet at 7:00pm on Saturday evening March 09, 2013.

Appropriate robe or dark blue or black suit, white shirt, black shoes, black tie, white gloves and crown are required dress for the ceremonial opening. Tuxedo (black tie) is the desired dress for the banquet.

Attest:

John Butler Jr. 33°
Deputy of the Orient of Texas

Norman Thomas 33°
Illustrious Grand Secretary

**Texas Council of Deliberation
66th Annual Session
and
Texas Council of Assemblies
49th Annual Session
Registration Form**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Consistory/Assembly Name: _____ Number: _____

Consistory Registration: \$300.00

GIG Registration: \$75.00

Pre-Registration: \$75.00 (Will Not Attend) _____

On Site Registration: \$85.00

The deadline for pre-registration forms is March 01, 2013. Please mail the registration form(s) and check or money order to:

Texas Council of Deliberation C/O
GIG Norman Thomas ILL. Grand
Secretary
P.O. Box 740176
Houston, Texas 77274-0176

Please do not write below this line.

Date Received _____ Registration Number _____

Check/Money Order Number _____

Date Committee Notified _____ Initials _____

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*

Greetings:

As we journey into the year of 2013 let this prayer continue to be with us...

"Lord, I claim the joy of Your Holy Spirit today. I trust You because I believe that chaos, darkness and even deep distress do not frighten You away. I ask You not only to "hover o' me, Holy Spirit," but also to fill me completely now. Amen"

It has been stated that negative events occur infrequently in most lives, and that is why those event often stand out. Do you agree? Sometimes I feel like strongly disagreeing, but then as I consider my life even in its hardest times, I can see that much good and blessings have always been present.

The Holy Spirit is the joy bringer who enables us to see the multiplied points of Light in our lives even through the darkness of emotional, physical, or material trouble. The Spirit can work a miracle of true joy and beauty in you now.

Let the Holy Spirit turn on the Light in your life. If a letter, telephone call, or personal comment throws you into unexpected darkness, reach out to the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus' special gift to you.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Council of Deliberations and Council of Assemblies in March. Forms will be sent to the Assemblies and have been sent to the Consistories. Texas Council of Assemblies will be represented in the National Day of Service and Martin Luther King Day in Washington, DC.

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.)

The Institutionalization of Masonry Among the Freedmen in Texas during the Reconstruction Era

Freemasonry, as instituted among African Americans in Texas, as it was with African Lodge No. 459 of Boston, Massachusetts, was perceived to provide the most valuable leadership and organizational techniques necessary in their struggle to master the newly acquired cultural freedoms bequeath to them as U.S. Citizens. The idea of freedom comes from the Indo-European root meaning..."Rights of belonging in a society of free people" or "the Association as equals in a free society."

This idea of freedom permeated the very foundation of western institutions i.e. the churches, the schools, the public policy making branches of government and the Masonic Lodges.

The Prince Hall Grand Lodges, via the power of the local Lodges, came to epitomize the ideal of an enduring institution, capable of breaking down the walls of its caste, which served as a debilitating regulator of social control. It was the Masonic Lodges that were believed to be culturally capable of providing Blacks access into the corridors of power and the mainstream of American society where

men must meet as equals. The Masonic Lodges therefore became the institutions of choice, outside of the churches, that provided African American Leaders a way by which the people could attain their higher cultural strivings.

The following timeline will give a chronology of Prince Hall Masonry in Texas up to 1878 (5878).

Brave & Aggressive Mission into Texas

- 1st Lt. William D. Matthews, the first U.S. Negro policeman, who should have been the first Negro commissioned officer more than a year earlier, was mustered in with the Independent Battery, Kansas U.S. Colored Light Artillery as 2nd Lt. with the duty of a recruiting officer on July 7, 1864. He was promoted to first lieutenant on Feb. 27, 1865. The date the unit entered Federal Service. When Capt. H. Ford Douglas became ill, 1st Lt. Matthews assumed command of the Independent Battery. He was mustered out of service on July 15, 1865. (Black Armed Forces Officers 1736-1971 by LTC Jesse J. Johnson U.S. Army retired.)

- 1865: The National Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge is Richard H. Gleaves of South Carolina.

- 1866: On Oct. 9, 1866, Moses Dickson sent \$30 to the Grand Lodge of Missouri for warrants for 3 Lodges, (National Grand Lodge). They were, Enterprise Lodge No. 9 of Leavenworth, Kansas; Western Star Lodge of Leavenworth, Kansas; and Far West Lodge called St. Lawrence Lodge in Lawrence,

Kansas.

- Hiram Revels, Pastor of the Leavenworth Bethel A.M.E. Church and later to become the first Black to serve in the United States Senate, and later the first President of Alcorn State College, was commissioned District Deputy Grand Master of Kansas.

- 1868: Bro. Matthews was Grand Marshall of the National Grand Lodge. According to some sources, there is no information as to where or when he received his degrees, his Lodge membership, or when or how he became Grand Master of King Solomon Grand Lodge of Kansas.

- 1870: Missouri reports that it knew nothing of the operations of the National Grand Lodges of Kansas.

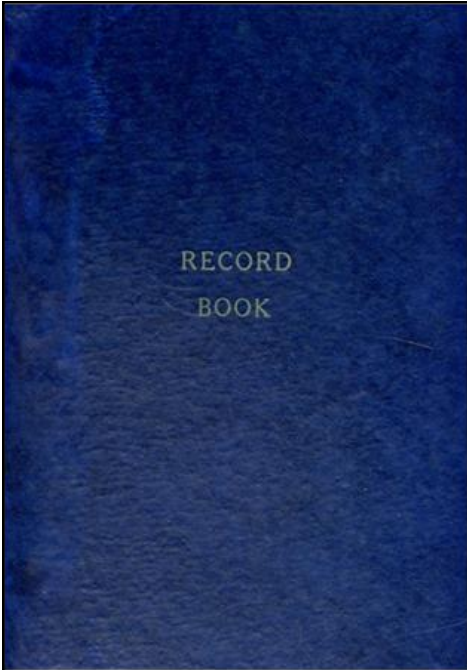
- 1871: Reports of strange doings in Kansas. Missouri reports King Solomon Grand Lodge had 10 subordinate and 4 under dispensation and 400 members.

- 1871 - 1873: Capt. W. D. Matthews is in Texas and establishes five subordinate Lodges to the King Solomon Grand Lodge of Kansas.

- San Antonio No. 22, San Antonio
- Mt. Bonnell No. 23, Austin
- Magnolia No. 24, Houston
- Galveston No. 25, Galveston
- Mt. Lebanon No. 26, Brenham

(VIII, Good and Bad Reviews will be featured in the Summer Edition of The Texas Prince Hall Freemason.)

In the W.M.C.T.P.H.L.M Archives



Story by: Don Gross, Archivist

Featured in this issue is one of the Archives' recently acquired items, a Taft Beauty Lodge No. 497 Record Book. The 14 x 8 1/2 inch blue vinyl covered book was produced by Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Company of New York. It contains hand written records of Lodge meetings from 1953 through 1969. The majority of the entries are in blue fountain pen. The book binding is broken and it suffers from a moderate mold infestation.

Accordingly, this item is currently segregated from the rest of the Taft Beauty Lodge collection but it is still available for research. This mold is not necessarily a permanent condition. With the proper conservation supplies, the mold can be contained and the book returned to its proper place in the collection.

Taft Beauty Lodge No. 497 was chartered on July 18, 1924. The Taft Beauty Lodge collection contains eight hard bound record books circa 1920 to 2000. The

books include descriptions of meetings, individual member financial records, and membership rolls. In a time before personal computers with their word processing and spread sheet programs, the only way to keep a permanent account of a lodge's activities was to write them down by hand in bound books. There was no auto correct. Any misspelled words just had to be crossed out.

Inside the front cover of this record book the names and addresses of individual members are recorded. The printed pages contain five pages with blanks to be filled in for each meeting. Information recorded includes: date, location, and type of Communication; officers present; members in Sick-ness and Dis-tress; Reports of Committees; Petitions for Member-ship; Business; and a Cash Ac-count Ledger. None of the Cash Account Ledger pages are filled in. Taft Beauty Lodge used separate cash accounting books.

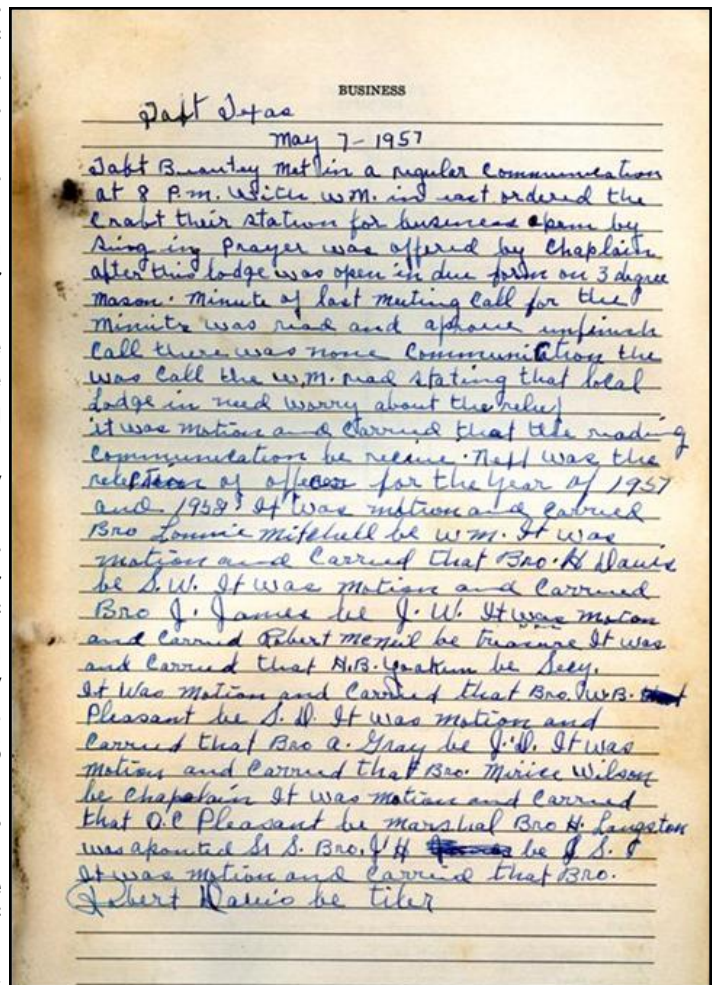
The first entry is dated Feb. 3, 1953. It is a record of a Regular Communication of the Lodge held on the first Tuesday of the month, beginning at 8:15 pm.

The last entry is from April 1, 1969. A typical example of the types of information available in this book

is from the meeting of Oct. 2, 1956.

At that meeting it was moved and approved that the annual salary for the treasurer be raised from \$3.00 to \$6.00 annually, and the annual salary of the treasurer in-creased from \$12.00 to \$24.00. In today's dollar, that is \$50 and \$202 respectively.

You can help preserve this piece of Prince Hall Grand Lodge History. A \$50 donation to the Library Museum will enable us to buy enough conservation supplies to repair this as well as other records in the Library Archives.



Texas Eastern Star reminisces about Grandfather

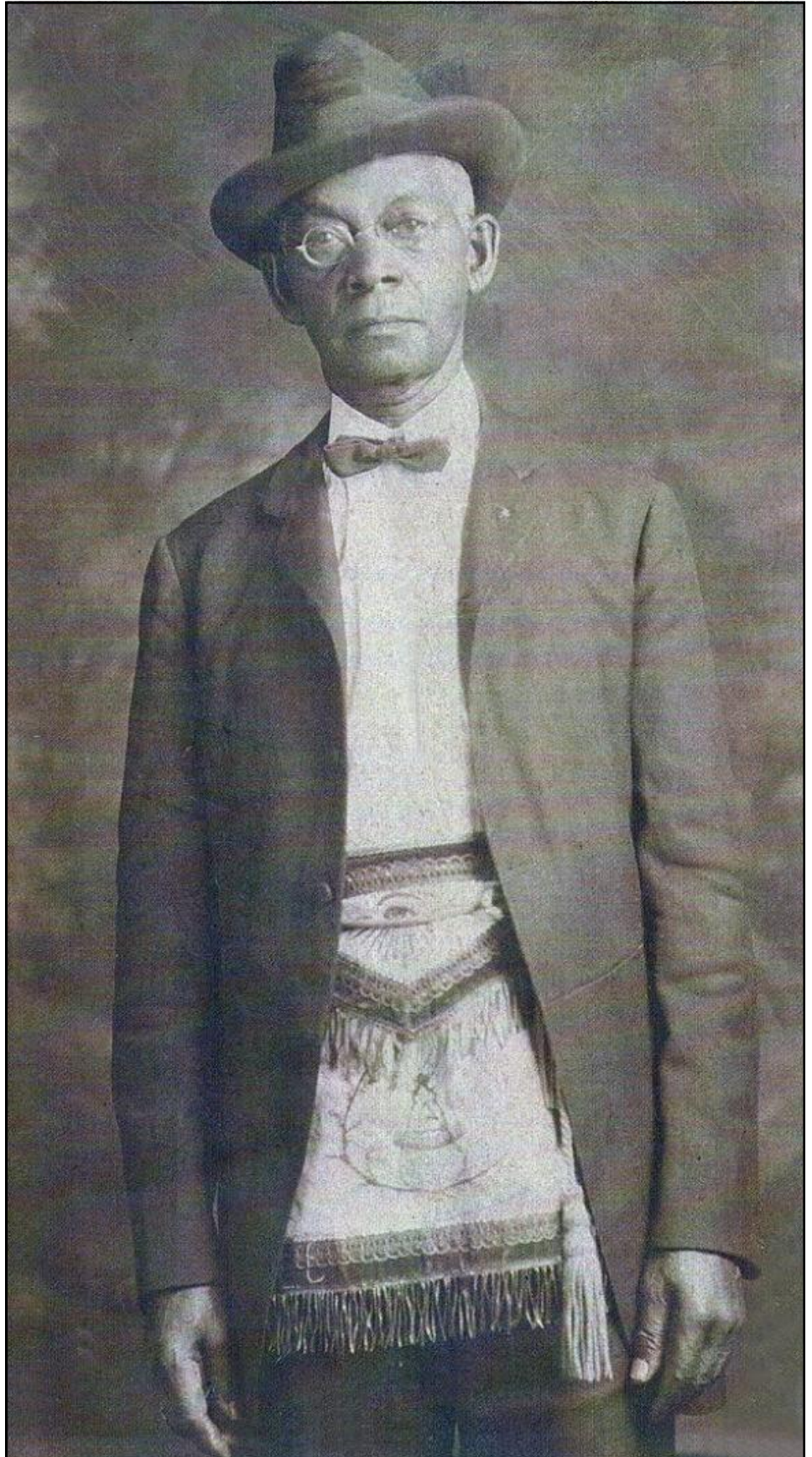
Courtesy of: Sis. Verda Byrd

SAN ANTONIO – Sister Verda Byrd, a member of Cubie Horton Chapter No. 14, Order of the Eastern Star, reminisces about her grandfather, William H. Cole, who she has never met.

Cole, who was born in Jackson, Tenn. in 1851, was the son of John W. Cole and Elizabeth Cole. His legacy began at the age of 40 and lasted four years from 1893 ending in 1897. That legacy was that he was the first Grand Master of Masons for the Territory of Oklahoma.

“WHEREAS, On 17 November 1892, the records of this Grand Lodge, will show that The Most Worshipful St. John Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was incorporated under the gavel of Most Worshipful Brother, W. H. Cole, of Guthrie, Oklahoma, as its first Grand Master.” Resolution of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oklahoma.

In 1905, P.G.M. Cole relocated to Newton, Kansas. He died on Nov. 14, 1938 and is buried at the Greenwood Cemetery in Newton.



FORUM

Leaders of the Prince Hall Fraternity join Together in Nation's Capitol



Sovereign Grand Commander Solomon Wallace (A.A.S.R., N.J.), Sovereign Grand Commander Deary Vaughn (A.A.S.R., S.J.), Imperial Potentate Homer Buchanan (A.E.A.O.N.M.S.), Grand Master John T. Doles Sr. (M.W.P.H.G.L. of D.C.), and Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis (M.W.P.H.G.L. of TX and President, C.O.G.M.) stand behind the Congressional Induction Class of 2013 (lt-rt): Bro. Donovan Lambert, 33°; Bro. Junior Curtis; Bro. Kenneth Allen, 33°, Bro. Isiah Thomas 33°, Bro. Ray Anderson, Jr. 33°, Bro. Dr. Farrah Gray 33°, Hon. Bro. Joe Armstrong 33°, Bro. Joe Harris 33°; and Bro. Rex Edrington 33° at the U.S. Capitol Meeting Room North, Jan. 22.

Story by: G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)
Photos courtesy of:
Bro. Dr. Ken Collins

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The top leaders of the Prince Hall Fraternity: Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine, Inc.; United Supreme Councils, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions; Grand Encampment of Knights Templar; Conference of Grand Masters, Inc.; and the Grand Lodges of the District of Columbia, Maryland, Texas, and Oklahoma participated in a Wreath

Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Jan. 22.

According to Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis (Texas), President of the Grand Masters Conference, he along with the two Sovereign Grand Commanders, and the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the Knights Templar were extended invitations from Imperial Potentate Homer Buchanan of the A.E.A.O.N.M.S. to attend and stand in solidarity with him at the Wreath Laying Ceremony.

"This was a historical event in

several ways. It has been 40 years since a Prince Hall Body has had the privilege of performing in such an honored event," said G.M. Curtis. "Secondly, it occurred on the day after President Barak Obama's inauguration and Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It was gracious of Imp. Potentate Buchanan to extend the invitation to all the Prince Hall Bodies."

According to Imp. Potentate Buchanan, the event was a step to dispel the rumored splintered relationship between the Shrine, Supreme Councils and Prince Hall Conference of Grand Masters.



Photo by: Bro. Donovan Lambert

G.M. Doles grips Bro. Isiah Thomas after his induction to Prince Hall Freemasonry at the U.S. Capitol, Jan. 22.

Additionally, Imp. Potentate Buchanan sent invitations to the Grand Master of Virginia, the General Conference Grand Thrice Illustrious Master, and the General Conference Grand High Priest. G.M. Curtis applauded Imp. Potentate Buchanan's sincere effort to mend the splintered relationship between the Shrine and Prince Hall solidarity.

"I truly believe that we all are trying to work toward that end," said G.M. Curtis.

"I have said it many times before, I am a proud Freemason and also a Shriner," said Imp. Potentate Buchanan. "Both unique bodies are sovereign in their own right and govern their appropriate membership separately. However, I encourage each and every Noble to remain financially active and participate in their local Lodges."

G.M. Curtis agrees with Imp. Potentate Buchanan's statement on sovereignty of the unique bodies and their right to govern their membership separately.

"There is no reason why we can't maintain a collaborative working relationship between the Prince Hall Bodies," said G.M. Curtis.

"That relationship starts with mutual respect for the leadership of the Prince Hall Bodies and I truly believe that we have that respect, friendship and Brotherly Love. I feel good about the future relationship of Prince Hall Freemasonry and Prince Hall

Shrinedom."

At the conclusion of the Wreath Laying Ceremony, the leaders traveled to the U.S. Capitol where G.M. John T. Doles Sr. of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia opened an Occasional Lodge and caused several Brothers to be made "Masons at Site". After which, several Master Masons were elevated to the 32 Degree (A.A.S.R.) and several brothers were Created Grand Inspector Generals (33rd Degree Masons) which after they were Created Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

"This too was a historical event by making Prince Hall Masons and Shriners at the U.S. Capitol," said G.M. Curtis. "I was honored to be present for that event. Prince Hall Freemasonry is on the move."



Actress Cicely Tyson meets with G.M. Curtis after the Induction Ceremony.

G.M. Warren offered a Warrant to Prince Hall



Story by:
P.M. Frederic Milliken
(135)

A recent story in the Scottish Rite Research bulletin newsletter, "The Plumbline," titled "A Scottish Lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction of Massachusetts" intrigued me. Written by old friend Michael Kaulback and Richard Van Doren it chronicles the early growth of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts with a heavy concentration on Saint Andrews Lodge. Saint Andrews Lodge became the first Lodge of the "ancients" working in the colonies, as the authors tell us, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

There already was a Provincial



Prince Hall

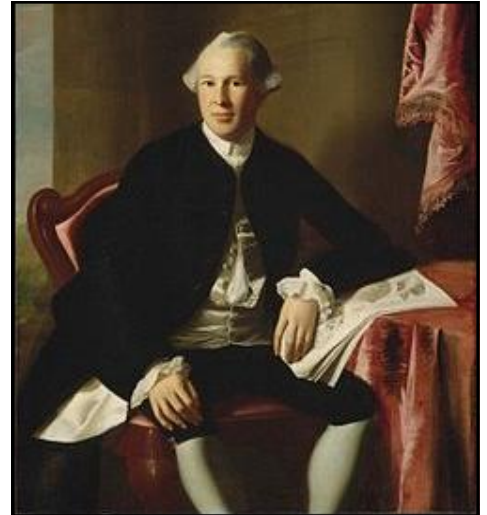
Grand Lodge of "moderns," most often referred to as St. John's Grand Lodge, operating in Massachusetts Bay Colony since 1733. Soon after Saint Andrews partnered with three military ancient Lodges attached to the British Army, No. 58 English stationed with the 14th Regiment, No. 106

Scottish stationed with the 64th Regiment and No. 322 Irish stationed with the 29th Regiment, to form a Grand Lodge.

In 1768, Saint Andrews petitioned the Grand Lodge of Scotland to have Joseph Warren as their Grand Master. He was so appointed and served until he was killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill in June 1775. The battle between the ancients and the moderns was more than just about ritual and the regularity of practice. It was just as much about the makeup of the two Grand Lodges. St. Johns Grand Lodge was made up largely of wealthy merchants, traders and landed gentry. Saint Andrews Grand Lodge was made up of what we would today call "blue collar" working men, men who worked with their hands. Kaulback and Van Doren give us an example of some of the Saint Andrews members.

- George Bray – *Baker*
- William Burbeck – *Carver*
- James Graham – *Chair maker*
- Samuel Peck – *Glazier*
- Thomas Milliken – *Bricklayer*
- John Jenkins – *Baker*
- Moses Deshon – *Auctioneer*
- Joseph Webb, Jr. – *Ship Chandler*
- Samuel Barrett – *Sail maker*
- Paul Revere – *Silversmith*
- Joseph Warren – *Doctor*

Two very interesting stories come from this article. The first is that on Aug. 28, 1769, William Davis was made the first Knight Templar in the United States at Saint Andrews Lodge. Paul Revere followed on Dec. 11, 1769 and Joseph Warren on May 14, 1770. Davis and Warren distinguished themselves at the Battle of Bunker Hill, Warren not surviving the ordeal. This means that before



Joseph Warren

the United States became an independent nation, we had Knights Templar on our soil. That is an important development in the history of Freemasonry because at that time the degrees were so new. But the conferring of the degrees Excellent, Super Excellent, Royal Arch and Knight Templar laid the foundation for what would become the "American Rite."

Paul Revere became the second Grand Master of the union of ancients and moderns into the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts that occurred in 1792. Saint Andrews Lodge held out until 1807 when they reached a final agreement with the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Kaulback told me personally when I spoke to him by phone that the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts is much more reflective of the ancients because the ancients won. The union with the moderns was on their terms and the practice of Freemasonry in Massachusetts henceforth was really a practice of ancient Freemasonry.

The other interesting story to come from this article is that Grand Master Joseph Warren met with Prince Hall who wanted to form a

Masonic Lodge and he agreed to give Hall a warrant to open his Lodge. Before he could execute that decision Warren was killed in the Battle of Bunker Hill. This decision is recorded in the minutes of Saint Andrew's Grand Lodge minutes. MONUMENTAL! What a game changer that would have been. Of course Prince Hall found another avenue to obtain his warrant.

Perhaps Hall went quickly to another source because Warren told him that while he wanted to give him a warrant the majority of his members would never approve it. Perhaps Hall chose a British ancient military Lodge because Saint Andrews had formed itself into a Grand Lodge by association with the same and he was told that. THAT'S ALL SPECULATION. But one has to wonder if Prince Hall had waited and bided his time to approach Warren's successor, what American Freemasonry would have looked like over the next 200 years.

What we can say is fact that is that Massachusetts was the leader of the nation in the abolitionist movement, that in the 1750s and 1760s Massachusetts had a number of freed Blacks, more than any other state, and that according to the minutes of Saint Andrews Lodge, it had seven Black members in the 1780s and 1790s.

People change and times change and an opportunity lost is sometimes lost forever and sometimes lost for just a long, long time. Sometimes the opportunity lost changes the course of history. G.M. Joseph Warren was killed in battle so he did not get to give Prince Hall his warrant. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated and a bitter and acrimonious post Civil War Reconstruction followed that never would have happened under him. John F. Kennedy was also gunned down and Lyndon Johnson

The Plumblin



Sum
Volume

THE QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE SCOTTISH RITE RESEARCH SOCIETY™

A Scottish Lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction of Massachusetts

BY MICHAEL S. KAULBACK, 32nd & RICHARD W. VAN DOREN, 33rd

FOR THIRTY-TWO YEARS following the declared independence of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, a lodge continued to exist and to initiate candidates under a charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Members of this "antients" lodge had been instrumental in the Colony of Massachusetts rebelling against the king of England, had assisted the American rebels to launch the "Boston Tea Party," and lent their aid to found the American nation. Yet, even after the United States was founded and the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts had merged other lodges operating under both the English and Scottish constitutions, this singular lodge



Green Dragon Tavern, Union Street

hurtled us headlong into the Vietnam War, a move President Kennedy would never have made. Men who rise to the occasion sometimes get shot down and we are all the poorer for it.

But dream with me a minute. Let's change the clock of history and go back, back, back to 1775. G.M. Warren doesn't die in the Battle of Bunker Hill and he does right away grant Prince Hall his warrant to form a Masonic Lodge. That would have set a precedent for every other Grand Lodge in the United States. You have got to think that New York and Pennsylvania and other northern states would have followed suit. Oh, maybe the South wouldn't have gone along. But then again post Civil War they too might have admitted Black men into their Lodges. Freemasonry could have changed the whole history of this nation and maybe, just maybe the 60s would-

n't have been the bloody 60s of Civil Rights battles. And maybe Martin Luther King Jr., another assassination that changed history, would still be with us.

Dreaming is fun but it's not reality. Yet I have to believe that Freemasonry still has a major role to play in the world because it changes the hearts of men. The current world conflict between Muslims, Jews and Christians could be ameliorated by Freemasonry and peace could be made by a Freemason who rose to the occasion. If one does let's take protective measures to assure that he does not die before his mission has been completed.

Book Release: Angry Little Men: Hypermasculinity, Academic Disconnect, and Mentoring African American Males

Author and mentoring consultant to at-risk males, Brother Kevin Porter of Solid Rock Lodge No. 149 has released a very intriguing book that looks at developmental issues faced by at-risk males, in particular, African American males regarding their academic disconnect in the classroom.

The book is aimed at offering insight for new and experienced teachers and mentors who have the desire and calling to work with at-risk kids, but find it difficult to reach a certain group of young males – in particular, African American males. It offers a view that few authors have examined called hypermasculinity identity – or male bravado – as a significant contributor to school disengagement.

A lot of books and studies suggest that negative outcomes faced by at-risk youth are associated with race and poverty, but very few investigate a developmental trajectory as to why African American males suffer dramatically in school, leading to bleak future employment opportunities or often inclusion in the criminal justice system. Even fewer studies and books focus on this trajectory as it relates to the notion of hypermasculine identity among African American male adolescents.

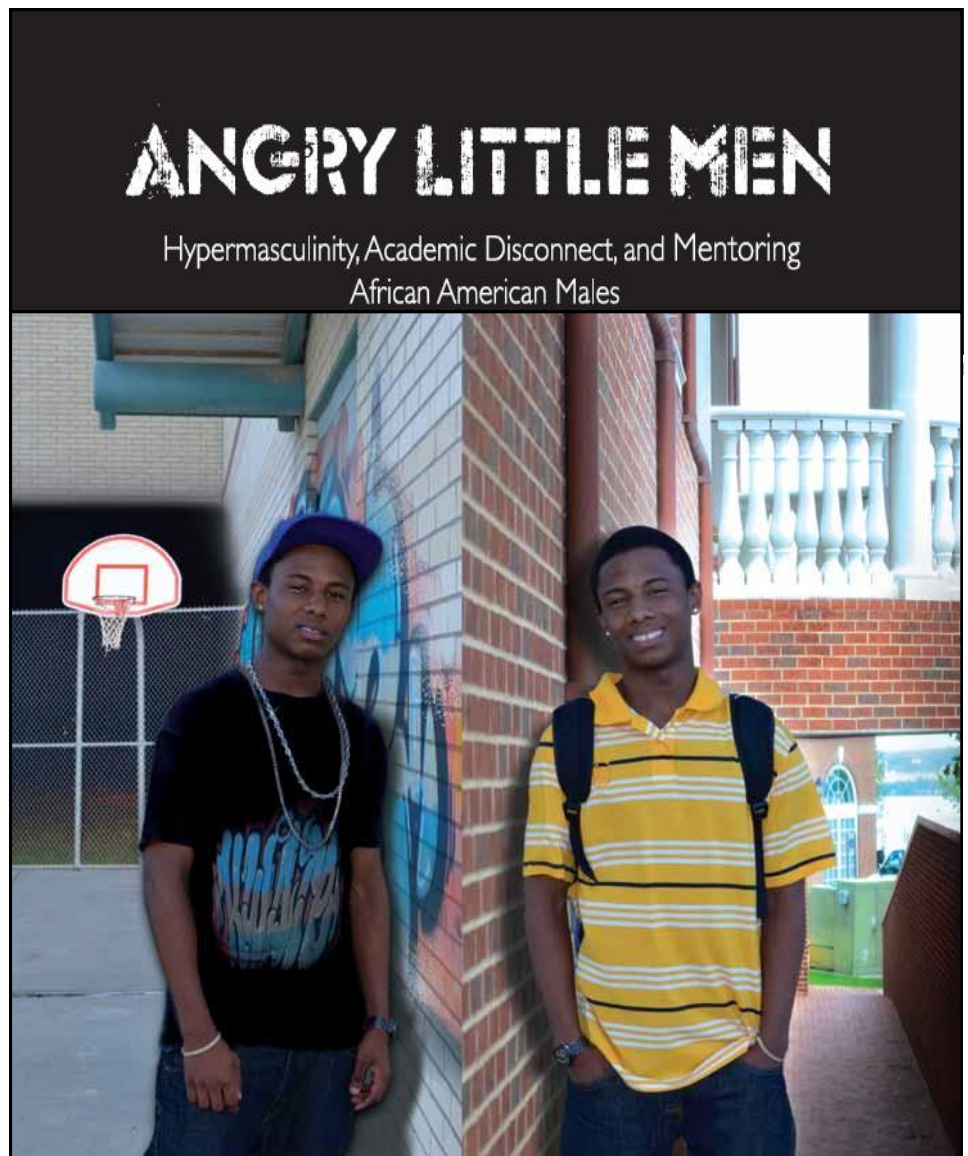
This book will offer a different perspective about why some at-risk kids are going to make it through the system and become excellent citizens in our great country, while a large part of the African American at-risk male population will continue to struggle beyond school or drop out. It often boils down to a lack of investment of one-on-one time from a trusting relationship – because gaining trust takes time. It's even more difficult for educators forced to compete with what seems like overwhelming odds, including crowded classrooms that include students dealing with street codes and credibility issues associated with maintaining reputations.

Bro. Porter is a mentoring enthusiast

who has worked with hundreds of kids in programs that include Kappa League, Man-Made Mentoring, Knights of Pythagoras, REACH, and Shriners As Mentors (SAM).

For more than 20 years he has reached out to at-risk males in an effort to coach them to CODE switch from a street survival mentality in order to embrace classroom learning and set goals. As a former teacher and entrepreneur he offers an intuitive perspective about at-risk males and male bra-

vado. By day, Bro. Porter is an Electrical Engineer who holds two engineering degrees and a Master's degree in Psychological Science. He is a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and a Shriner. Bro. Porter lives in McKinney, Texas with his wife and three children.



Why should I join Masonry? What would you say to a Possible New Member?



*Story by:
D.D.G.M. Hugh Goldie
Frontenac District
G.L. of Canada
Printed in the Sunday
Masonic Paper*

CANADA - You're interested in joining a Masonic Lodge? We'd love to have you. You're the type of person we look for: committed, enthusiastic, a leader. We think you'll do great things here. You will make lifelong friendships, and hopefully, you'll be the type of person whose positive impact will be felt here for many years. This is the start of something really cool.

We know you have your reasons for joining, and we also know that the reasons you'll stay will be entirely different. Trust us on that one. People tend to join for different reasons. They stay around for the friendships and because they find a place where they can impact the lives of others. It's a family. We know this. Soon, you will, too. The badge of membership will soon be yours. But, there's one lesson that we need to impress upon you before you sign your name on the dotted line, pay that first fee, and take that first step. It's the single most important thing we're going to ask of you, so you need to listen and understand it, now, before you say "yes."

It's the one most important thing that any fraternity can impress upon its new members. Truly, our survival as an organization depends on you understanding this one simple lesson and taking it to heart.

It's more important than our history, our traditions, our structure, or our rules; because, if you don't understand this most fundamental lesson, then none of the other stuff will matter. If you don't get this one "golden rule of Masonry," then your son and grandson won't have this organization to join someday, and all of this will just be a fuzzy memory.

Here it is. Ready? From the moment you say yes to this organization, you are always wearing your badge.

I'm going to repeat it. From the moment you say yes to this organization, you are always wearing your badge.

We're not talking about t-shirts, or sweatshirts, or hats made with logos of the group. We're not talking about a tattoo on your ankle, some party favor, or a badge you wear on your dress shirt.

What we mean is that when you say yes to lifetime membership in Masonry, everything you say, do and represent from that moment forward is a direct reflection on this group, your Brothers, and the thousands of members who have come before you. Everything you put out to the world is a direct reflection of this fraternity. Every decision, every achievement, every mistake you make happens to all of us from this point forward.

When you go to the grocery store, you represent us. When you drive down the road and slow down so a pedestrian can cross the street, you represent us.

When you become a leader, you represent us. When you insult someone or talk badly about another, you represent us. When you make decisions about how you be-

have, you represent us. When you go anywhere, you represent us.

When you go home and sit at your mother's dining room table, you represent us. When you get a job and go to work for a company or organization, you represent us. When you commit your life to that special person, you represent us.

You are always wearing your badge. From this day forward, always and in every day, in every situation, it never comes off.

It doesn't matter if you're wearing a jersey with our name on it, or a business suit at an interview. You have to assume that every person you meet will form a permanent opinion about Masons – good or bad – based on how you interact with them. Every good thing you do builds us up. Every dumb thing you do tears us down.

We live in a time when the actions of one man can kill a group like ours. One person who acts in a way that is inconsistent with our shared values can end hundreds of years of tradition and pride. One bad choice you make can take away everything that generations of men have worked to build.

All the stuff you see that belongs to us can be boxed up or thrown out, because of the choices you make.

If this seems a little intense, that's good because it's serious. If it sounds like too much responsibility, or if you don't think you can behave in a way that reflects well on us at all times, then walk away now. Do us the favor for we won't think less of you. In fact, we'll thank you. This sort of commitment isn't for everybody. But, don't say yes unless you understand.

We're not asking you to give up

anything. We aren't asking you to become something you aren't. We're asking you to become something more. We're inviting you to become part of a group of men who make a promise to take care of each other, every day. We're asking you to become the very best version of you that you can be.

It's a big deal, and not everyone can do it. Forget everything you've heard up to this point. Forget how much you might desire this, or how much we might want to bring you into the group. Just clear your mind and ask yourself one question. Are you ready to never take off the badge?

Because when you say yes, you're not just putting a badge on a sweatshirt. You're putting it in your heart. You're forever stamping your identity with it. Everything you are, from this point on, becomes who we are.

You will make mistakes, and Brothers will remind you of your commitment. There will be times where you will see other Brothers forgetting their promise, and you'll need to remind them. That's part of this whole "Masonic" thing. We work together to make ourselves better men who stand for something. We carry each other. We matter to one another.

If we're doing our Masonic duty right, then we'll make you a better man. If you're doing everything right, then you will make us a better organization. So, please think about it. Take it seriously.

Because if you say yes, this badge belongs to you as surely as it belonged to our founders. If you say yes, this badge becomes your responsibility forever. That's the promise.



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San Antonio Chapter of Sons of Solomon Motorcycle Club assists Local Community



Story by: San Antonio Chapter Public Relations Officer

SAN ANTONIO - The Sons of Solomon Motorcycle Club is a group of Prince Hall Masons based in the city who have come together to enjoy their love for Masonry and motorcycling.

The club's purpose is to introduce the experience of motorcycling to the Masonic family, along

with supporting Lodges through attendance and participation in their events. Not forgetting to help, aid, and assist sick and shut-in Brothers, as well as, contribute to the relief of widows and orphans, The Sons of Solomon support the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas from whose jurisdiction they Hail.

The club has strong family values and as Prince Hall Masons

they always strive to create a positive image of Masonry throughout the communities and in all walks of life.

On Nov. 10, 2012, the club contributed more than 300 pounds of food during a food drive benefiting the San Antonio Food Bank.

The San Antonio Food Bank relies on charitable organizations throughout the area to help get the food to the people who need it the most. The S.A.F.B. provides food and grocery products to more than 500 partner agencies in 16 counties throughout Southwest Texas.

The mission of the S.A.F.B. is to fight hunger in Southwest Texas through food distribution, programs, education, and advocacy. The Sons of Solomon will continue to support the San Antonio Food Bank and develop a partnership in the fight against hunger.

The Sons of Solomon Motorcycle Club of San Antonio will continue to be active in the community, while supporting all Masonic endeavors.

The club started as a group of Prince Hall Masons based in the District of Columbia, who came together to enjoy their love for Masonry and motorcycling. It has grown into a National Chapter with clubs in Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana and three in Texas (Killeen, Dallas and San Antonio).



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