



The Texas Prince Hall Freemason



Official Publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas
Volume 3 - Issue 11 - Summer 2013



W.M. Burrell Parmer
San Antonio Lodge No. 1
District 19
San Antonio



W.M. Steve Crayton
Star Tom Lodge No. 100
District 19
San Antonio



W.M. Dr. Ron Kelley
Noble Star Lodge No. 277
District 19
San Antonio



W.M. William Brummett
Nero Prince Military Lodge No. 634
District 26-A
Germany



W.M. Donald Overton
Cyrus Forbes Military Lodge No. 640
District 26-A
Germany



W.M. Troy Cousin
Logos Lodge U.D.
District 15-A
Houston

Featured Elected Worshipful Masters for 2013 - 2014

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From the Editor



Greetings,

Congratulations to all the new and re-elected Worshipful Masters. May you govern your Lodges with Love, Understanding, Appreciation, and Patience. As we prepare for the 138th Grand Communication, urge your new

Brethren attend. Much is learned during the occasion and its good for new members to meet others from outside their Districts. I hope that this publication is worth your time attention. It is your publication. It services as a quarterly history book. So it is important for you to continue to send submissions. Again it is an honor and pleasure to bring to you the eleventh edition of *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason*. Please continue to send in your submissions in the proper format. Additionally, the publication is available for advertisement. If you know of organizations who would like to advertise in the publication, please provide them with my email address in order to correspond.

Fraternally,

W.M. Burrell D. Parmer

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

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason

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2012 - 2013

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R.W. Frank D. Jackson

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Grand Tiler

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R.W. Samuel Hobbs Jr.

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

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M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis

Message from the Grand Master

I greet you in the name of the Grand Architect of the Universe, Our Lord and Savior. I pray that you are experiencing His bountiful blessings.

By now, all Lodges have elected your officers and leaders for the new Masonic year. I want to congratulate each and every Brother that has been elected or appointed to an office of your Lodge. Every position is important and it plays a role in the harmony and growth of the Lodge. Ephesians 4:16 (NAS) states, "in whom the whole body is united and held together by every ligament with which it is supplied. As each individual part does its job, the body builds itself up in love."

This passage of scripture can be applied to members and officers of the Lodge. If every Brother fulfills the duty of his office with zeal and pride, the whole Lodge will be united and prosper. Each office instills moral values through its ritualistic workings. From them we learn discipline, cooperation, timeliness, humility, self-respect and dedication. The moral lessons learned in the Lodge are to be of use in your daily life; home, work, church, and social life. So, approach your duties as Lodge officers with vigor, integrity and honor. Make the position that you serve be one that a young brother would aspire to serve, whether it is the Tiler's office or the Worshipful Master's office. Your Lodge is only as strong as "the whole" makes it.

As we move forward into 2013 - 2014 Masonic Year, 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.

Finally, I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the One Hundred Thirty-Eighth Grand Communication, June 20 - 23, 2013 in Fort Worth, Texas. Come and transact the business of your Grand Lodge.

Fraternally yours,

Wilbert M. Curtis

Grand Master's Calendar

May - July 2013

Date	Location	Event
May 2013		
Saturday, May 4	Fort Worth	SAGE-50 Project Analysis Meeting
Saturday, May 11	Huntsville, Texas	Set Dugan Lodge U.D. of Conroe to Work
Wednesday - Sunday, May 15 - 19	Columbus, OH	Conference of Grand Masters Annual Conference
Saturday - Tuesday, May 24 - 28	Philadelphia	United Supreme Council, N.J.
June 2013		
Wednesday, June 5	Tulsa, Okla.	M.W.P.H.G.L. of Oklahoma Grand Session
Saturday, June 8	Houston	Silver Trowel No. 47 125th Anniversary Celebration
Wednesday - Friday, June 12 - 14	Baton Rouge, LA	M.W.P.H.G.L. of Louisiana Grand Session
Thursday - Sunday, June 20 - 23	Fort Worth	M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas 138th Grand Session
Saturday, June 29	Rochester, NY	General Grand Conference
July 2013		
Thursday, July 4	Belton, Texas	Belton 4th of July Parade
Sunday - Tuesday, July 7 - 9	Tacoma, Wash.	M.W.P.H.G.L. of Washington Grand Session
Thursday—Sunday, July 11 - 14	Oakland	Robert E. Connor, Jr. Masonic Youth Camp

Proclamation

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

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

Date: February 27, 2013

Subject: 138th Annual Grand Communication

By the authority vested in the office of the Most Worshipful Grand Master and in accordance with the constitution of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Texas, I, Wilbert M. Curtis, am hereby calling the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Texas and its Jurisdiction into its 138th Annual Grand Communication for official business beginning, June 20, 2013, and ending June 23, 2013, at the Grand Masonic Temple located at 3433 MLK Freeway, Fort Worth, Texas. The headquarters hotel will be the Radisson Fort Worth North, 2540 Meacham Blvd, Fort Worth, Texas, 76106.

On Thursday, June 20, 2013, the Master Mason Workshop will start at 9:00 a.m. at the Grand Masonic Temple. All Master Masons are hereby summoned to attend. There will be instruction along with a Question and Answer Session.

The Past Master Degree will be given on Thursday, June 20, 2013. The ceremony will promptly start at 2:00 p.m. All Master Masons receiving the degree must meet with the Grand Lecturer at 1:30 p.m. and be Masonically dressed. Master Masons receiving the degree must register with the Grand Lodge Office, prior to June 1, 2013.

All District Deputy Grand Masters and Special District Deputy Grand Masters are hereby summoned to attend the District Deputy Meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2013 at 10:50 a.m. There are matters of importance that will be addressed.

On Thursday evening starting at 7:00 p.m. the 138th Grand Communication will host a Joint Queen Contest by the OES and HOJ at the Hotel. The festival will feature the Prince Hall Masonic Family Sisters at their finest. The attire coat and tie.

On Friday, June 21, 2013, the 138th Annual Grand Communication will officially convene at 8:30 a.m. at the Grand Masonic Temple. Masonic dress is required.

The Saints John Day and Memorial Service will be held on Friday, June 21, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Hotel. A Lodge of Sorrow ceremony will be performed. Masonic Dress with white aprons is the appropriate attire. The High Twelve Club will sponsor a dance at the Grand Masonic Temple after the Memorial Service.

On Saturday, June 22, 2013, the Awards Luncheon will be held at the Hotel, beginning at 12:00 noon. In addition to the Awards Ceremony, the Scholarship Winners will be announced.

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

On Sunday June 23, 2013, all Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers are required to attend the Annual Joint Installation Ceremony. It will be conducted by Past Grand Master, Edwin B. Cash or appointee, at the Hotel immediately following the Devotional Service starting at 9:00 a.m. All Master Masons are encouraged to attend.

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

Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Wilbert M. Curtis

Wilbert M. Curtis
M. W. Grand Master

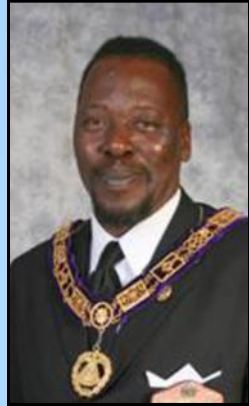
Attested by: Hubert L. Reece

Hubert L. Reece
R. W. Grand Secretary

Elected Grand Lodge Officers



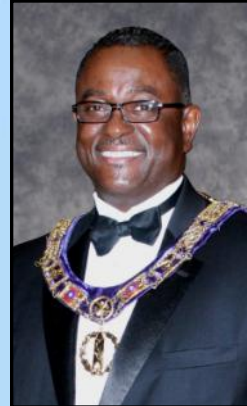
Past Grand Master
Hon. Edwin B. Cash



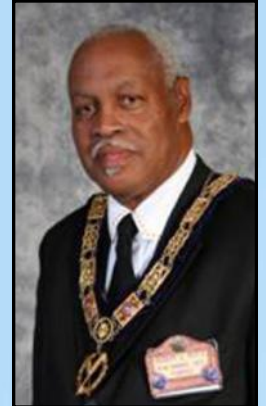
Deputy Grand Master
R.W. Michael T. Anderson



Grand Senior Warden
R.W. Bryce Hardin Sr.



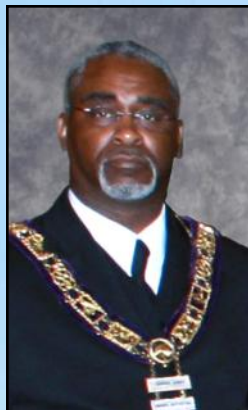
Grand Junior Warden
R.W. Frank D. Jackson



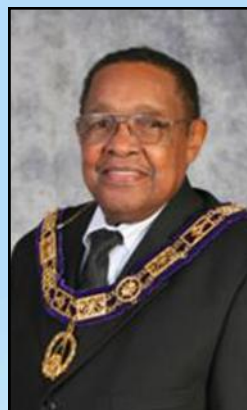
Grand Secretary
R.W. Hubert L. Reece Sr.



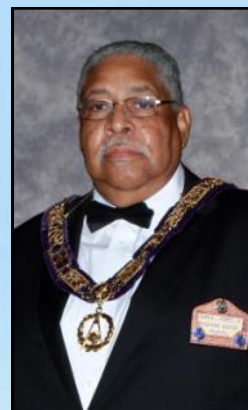
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Grand Auditor
R.W. Samuel Hobbs Jr.



Grand Auditor
R.W. Robert Hicks Sr.



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

Prince Hall Masons conduct Cornerstone Leveling at Union Missionary Baptist Church



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

ITALY, Texas - Brother Jimmy Henry wanted his church's cornerstone laid by a ceremony conducted by his Grand Lodge. So with the aid of District Deputy Grand Master Karlous Morgan Sr., a request was submitted to Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis and The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas to perform the ceremony.

G.M. Curtis called on District 24's Ceremonial Team together with Brothers from District 14 led by Bro. Ronnie Jones to assist in accomplishing the sacred event.

On April 7, it all came together at Union Missionary Baptist Church located at 484 Derr's Chapel Road. The ceremony began inside the church with Bro. Henry providing the welcome. A turnout of approximately 75 Master Masons with an equal number of parishioners filled the church. Prayer was followed by some awesome singing. But what brought down the house was a solo by Past Master Charles Lilley who didn't even know he was going to be called upon. His rendition of "He Saw The Best In Me," touched all souls. Pastor Alqua R. Isaac introduced the speaker for the service, Pastor

Cedric L. Richardson from Holy Temple of Dallas. Pastor Richardson's text for his message was Psalm 92:12-14.

¹² The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;

¹³ planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.

¹⁴ They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green,

His theme was the need to be planted, planted in the church.

"It's easier to be at church than to be 'in' church," he said. "We must be like a palm tree, ever bending but never breaking."



Pastor Richardson made it plain that a Christian must grow in the faith. Without growth, bad habits and a superficiality in life sets in.

The ceremony transitioned outside the church and was officiated by G.M. Curtis. During the ceremony the Grand Treasurer placed the deposits inside the wall, the Grand Master prayed over the cornerstone, then he spread the cement and the cornerstone was placed onto the building whereupon public Grand Honors were given thrice.

Next the Deputy Grand Master determined the cornerstone to be Square, the Grand Senior Warden proved that it was level and the Grand Junior Warden tried that it was upright. The Grand Master then made the declaration by striking the cornerstone three times with his Gavel, after which the same three officers applied corn, wine and oil to the cornerstone.

Grand Lecturer Ivory Johnson presented a brief history of cornerstone laying through the ages and Deputy Grand Marshal Ronnie Jones concluded the ceremony with a proclamation from the South, West and East.

“Hear Ye, by order of M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis, Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons for the Jurisdiction of Texas, I proclaim that this cornerstone has been laid agreeably to the usages of Ancient Craft Masonry and in Due Form.”



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: \$40 (shipping and handling included)

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

Package B: \$20 (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.

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6200 SKYLARK CIRCLE - NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS 76180

Prince Hall Charitable Foundation Golf Tournament



Registration - \$60 per Golfer

June 19th

Registration Deadline: 1 June 13

Prince Hall Charitable Foundation 501(c)3 will be sponsoring a Golf Tournament

Location:

The Iron Horse Golf Course

6200 Skylark Circle,

North Richland Hills, Texas 76180 , PHONE - 817-485-6666

Open to the Order & the Public, Check in at 12:00 PM.

Volunteers Needed & all proceeds benefit the Prince Hall Foundation.

The golf course is located just a few miles from the hotel headquarters on Meacham Drive.

Looking for golfers (Men & Women) and sponsors

Please pass the word to all of your golfing buddies in the area. Masonic Order , non Masons, & general public .



For Further information please contact
Vernon James, Tournament Chairperson
Burnell White, Jr., Co-Chairperson Tournament Director
Edward Brown Committee
phctfgolftourney@gmail.com
<http://www.birdeasepro.com/761>

Robert E. Connor, Jr.

Masonic Youth Camp of Texas

Cathedral Oaks Retreat Center
Bro. Charles E. Dewitt
Grand Youth Director
July 11 - 14, 2013

The 13th Annual Prince Hall Youth Camp will be held at the Cathedral Oaks Retreat Center located approximately 10 miles south of Weimar, Texas. The Camp will begin on Thursday, July 11, 2013 at 3 p.m. and conclude on Sunday, July 14, 2013 at 12 noon. The Theme of this year's Youth Camp is "Preventing a Lost Generation."

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

Each participant will receive a Camp T-shirt, cap and a Holy Bible. They will have an opportunity to fish, play basketball, football, softball, swim and meet new friends. Members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family will hold Church service each night of the Camp.

The registration fee covers housing, food and activities of the Camp. The Camp will be limited to 50 participants. The deadline for registration is June 1, 2013. For applications, you should contact your District Deputy or the office of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.

Rules of Attendees

1. Participant must be a male and a reside of Texas.
2. Participant must be between the ages of 9 and 17 before the start of Camp.
3. Participant must possess a school G.P.A. of 2.0 or a C average.
4. Participant must bring required medications to the Camp
5. Participant must submit a liability release form signed by a parent of guardian on or before June 1, 2013
6. Participant with a felony record cannot register for Camp.
7. Participant must possess good moral character.
8. Participant must adhere to the rules and regulations set forth by the Camp Staff. Camp Directors will ensure that all rules are enforced. Failure to follow Camp rules will result in participant being sent home.
9. It is the responsibility of sponsors to provide transportation for participants to and from the Camp.
10. Participants will furnish their own personal items (toothpaste, soap, towels, linen, pillow, etc.)
11. Participants must adhere to dress code established by the Camp Directors. Dress code will be strictly enforced.
12. Participants shall arrive at Camp on Thursday, July 11, 2013 on or before 3 p.m.
13. Participants will be divided into groups and assigned to an Adult Group Leader.

Visit The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas' website: www.mwphglotx.org to download an application and view Camp Policy or contact you local District Deputy Grand Master.

Districts 9 & 10

D.D.G.M. Karlous Morgan

Graveside Service performed by the 10th Masonic District Burial Team



*Story and photo by:
D.D.G.M. Karlous R. Morgan Sr.*

CORSICANA, Texas – We know neither the time nor the place when the Grand Architect of the Universe may call a Brother Master Mason from labor to reward. Bro. William Roberts, a member of Eli Baker Lodge No. 62, Jurisdiction of California, was laid to rest on April 13, under the direction of Past Special District Deputy Grand Master

Jamal Rasheed and the Brethren of the 10th Masonic District Burial Team. As District Deputy Grand Master of District 10, it was very humbling to receive such a request by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California through a directive from Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis.

It just goes to show how we as Freemasons are truly held together by a stronger tie, that such a service can be rendered to a brother

Master Mason whom we have never had the pleasure to meet. I commend my Special District Deputies, in my absence, for ensuring that Prince Hall Masonry in the State of Texas will be remembered in the hearts of those near and far who attended the Graveside Service.

Church Cornerstone laid by G.M. Curtis and M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas Ceremonial Team



Story and photos by District Staff

Brothers attended from throughout the region.

ITALY, Texas – Worshipful Master Jimmy Henry of Progressive Lodge No. 432, a deacon of Union Missionary Baptist Church, invited Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis along with the Grand Lodge’s Ceremonial Team to the 10th Masonic District.

W.M. Jimmy Henry was the Master of the Day, and the historical ceremony was performed successfully and memorably on April 7, by G.M. Curtis and the Ceremonial Team.

G.M. Curtis gave a special thanks to the Cornerstone Laying Team for an outstanding job in performing the Ritualistic Work.

Special recognition was also given to the 10th Masonic District for hosting such a Masonic Service that’s beneficial to the Brethren as well as to the community.

The Pastor and congregation was well pleased. As many as 60



W.M. Jimmy Henry and D.D.G.M. Karlous Morgan Sr.

Capstone Lodge UD of Cedar Hill, defeating adversity through Community Service



Story by: *W.M. Jerry Brown Sr.*

CEDAR HILL, Texas – Castoff clothing dropped off in parking lot donation bins don't always end up with charities devoted to helping the poor.

More and more, clothing collection bins are being operated by for-profit recycling firms or non-profits that give only a small portion of their proceeds to Charity. With that in mind, Capstone Lodge U.D. located in Cedar Hill, located such an organization that could benefit from clothing donations and was assured that these items would reach the needy.

On Feb. 16, the officers and members of Capstone Lodge U.D. cleaned out their closet and loaded up their automobiles and delivered three bins of clothing items to the North Ellis County Outreach Center. The director of the center informed the Brethren that the center has given away about half of the donated clothing, this donation really assisted in replenishing their stock.

According to the center's clothing closet coordinator, a number of people who have come to the center over the last few days are homeless or in need of well-made clothing for jobs and job interviews.



District 11 hosts Awards and Recognition Banquet



- Rising Star Lodge No. 650 - New Day Lodge No. 655 - Fannie Lee Stearns Court No. 538 H.O.J. - Covenant sisters Chapter No. 74 O.E.S.

D.D.G.M. Walker then presented District awards. For Service and Dedication, he issued awards to Rising Star Lodge No. 650 and individually to Bro. Deshawn Mack. He then presented awards to S.D.D.G.M.s – Jimmy Deamus, Jacob Davis, Anthony Reece and Chris Carriere.

Worshipful Master of the Year was Worshipful Master Calvin Thomas and Lodge of the Year was New Day Lodge No. 655.

An award was presented to the guest speaker after which G.S.W. Hardin presented an award to D.D.G.M. Walker. The Benediction by Bro. Andre McGaughey brought this affair to adjournment.



D.D.G.M. Walker and W.M. Thomas



Guest Speaker: Melvin Barnes

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

FT. WORTH, Texas – District 11 under the leadership of District Deputy Grand Master Marcus Walker conducted an Awards and Recognition Banquet at the AAFES Skyline Restaurant, April 20.

Special guests attending the event were Grand Senior Warden Bryce Hardin and Grand Treasurer Robert Datcher. The Master of Ceremonies was Brother Satari Shaw.

After a greeting and establishment of protocol by S.D.D.G.M. Anthony Reece and an invocation by Bro. Edwin Moore all sat down to an excellent meal of pork roast-chicken-rice-roasted potatoes-vegetables and salad.

Following dinner, the guests were entertained by the poetry of Terry Odis followed by remarks by the guest speaker, Melvin Barnes. The theme was “Moving Forward With A Vision.”

Barnes is the Instructional Coordinator of DeSoto High School and

his focus was on the education of children. He spoke of a need for teachers to have passion and purpose.

Regarding teaching school kids, “If you don’t have their hearts you have no business messing with their heads,” said Barnes. “We need to teach our kids to think.” The pillars that will support this passion and purpose are:

- Commitment – working for a common cause
- Communication – ability to share
- Restoration – restore character in our young people.

Eleven Lodges of the District plus members of the Heroines of Jericho and Order of the Eastern Star were recognized.

Paul Drayton Lodge No. 9 - Pride of Mt. Pisgah Loge 135 - Metropolitan Lodge No. 146 - Solid Rock Lodge Lodge No. 149 - King David Lodge No. 151 - Live Stone Lodge No. 152 - Good Street Lodge No. 182 - Celestial Lodge No. 231 - Cherubim Lodge No. 237

Fellow Crafts Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on Rooftop



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

DALLAS - Some days you don't even feel like getting out of bed. Saturday, April 27, was one of those days and while I slept in I didn't stay in. Oh no, no way. For there was a rooftop Raising to go to and I was to be the Chaplain. So with a cold, muscular-skeletal issues, nevertheless, I persevered because this might be a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Arriving early, I was able to take pictures as the rooftop space was being set up and in the light of day. We opened Lodge as the sun set and six Fellow Crafts were Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in the night. We had two sidelights and the lighting of the three lesser lights around the altar.

That was all.

This whole idea was the brain-child of Worshipful Master Jerome D. Lacy of Metropolitan Lodge No. 146. We gathered on the 5th floor rooftop of a building on the side of a hill along I-35 just south of downtown Dallas. From this vantage point one could see a beautiful view of the core city of Dallas.

The degree was performed by a degree team comprised of Brothers from many of the Lodges of the 11th Masonic District. All 11 Lodges of the District had representatives present to watch the degree. Both Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis and Deputy Grand Master Michael T. Anderson were present to lend their support.

What a sight it was to see six Brothers at the altar taking their obligation illuminated just by the

three lesser lights and 75 Master Masons on the right and the left. The Master was on the East side of the altar under the wands and the Chaplain on the West side under the wands.

Only a little bit later, these six Brothers were Raised under the canopy of a true starry decked heaven, the one that God made. Afterward, we all sat down for a meal under the stars and fellowshipped only as Master Masons can.

The night was a huge success and when anybody asks me about this "Masonic male bonding thing," I always tell them you got to see it and experience it to believe it. This was one of many great instances where being a Freemason was proved to be something special!

Holloway Lodge No. 7 assists Church during Easter



Story and Photos by:
W.M. Charles Lilley

DOWNSVILLE, Texas – Brethren of Holloway Lodge No. 7 joined with the members of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church for their annual Easter Egg Hunt.

It is one of those events that seem to make you feel good all over. The smiles on the kids faces during this event was something that the members will never get tired of seeing.

Many are aware of the meaning of Easter and what it symbolizes, and for the Brethren it is a time to reflect on the life of one of the greatest servants of all time.

It should be a time for encouragement and remembrance that we are servants, who should be willing to do what is required to make mankind better.

For the youth however, it's a time to indulge in some sweet treats, find a neat little gift, and gather all

the colored eggs the Easter Bunny left behind.



Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 hosts annual Breakfast



Grand Legal Advisor Willie H. Coleman thanked the Lodge for the donation of t-shirts to the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum.



Bro. Ira B. Scott.



D.D.G.M. Douglas, H.P.M. Congressman. Green, and W.M. Johnson.

Story and Photos by:
Bro. Robert Livingston (506)

PEARLAND, Texas – Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 held its 8th Annual Breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn, March 23. Forty-four Brothers and potential candidates attended the affair.

The purpose for the breakfast was to encourage Brothers that are square, as well as, the Brothers that are not square to meet, visit, talk about old times, and perhaps encourage them to take a more active role in membership and attendance at our meetings.

Worshipful Master John Johnson was pleased to present the Lodge's Master Mason of the Year Award Plaque to Bro. Robert L. Livingston III.

W.M. Johnson also presented a \$500.00 donation to the Thomas Rott Scholarship Fund and a \$500.00 donation to the Thomas H. Rott Grand Council Knights of Pythagoras.

W.M. Johnson also introduced his elected and appointed officers; and to honor Bro. Ira B. Scott for his 96th Birthday, he presented a birthday cake to him.

Honorary Past Master, Congressman Al Green made remarks on the importance of voting especially in this upcoming election. He reminded all about the leadership positions that some African Americans have in the Obama administration. Before leaving, he expressed his love for Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 and all the Brothers. As a last note, he encouraged us all to continue to be "GOOD FOR NOTHING MASONS". *Meaning, continuing to do good works while expecting nothing in return.*

Fort Bend County Precinct 2 Constable Ruben Davis spoke on the importance of voting and other topics, including the Annual Spring Zydeco and Dance.

Special Guest Jefferson County Commission Michael Sinegal Precinct 3 spoke on the problems on the Port Arthur School Board. He also expressed interest in joining Ever Ready Lodge No. 506.

Lodge member Bro. Roosevelt Petry pledged \$5,000 and back packs with school supplies to each youth at the Robert E. Connor Jr. Masonic Youth Camp.

Members of Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 host Annual Trailblazers Banquet



Story and Photos by:
Bro. Robert Livingston (506)

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

The 2012 awardees were: Worthy Matron Desiare S. Duplechan, Virtuous Stars 56 (O.E.S), Fred C. Guess (Juris Doctorate), José Griñán (Fox 26 News Anchor), and Rev. A. L. Edwards (Greater New Prospect Baptist Church).

The banquet's special honored guest was Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis. The keynote speaker was Grand Junior Warden Frank D. Jackson, who currently serves as the mayor of Prairie View, Texas. G.J.W. Jackson gave a very stirring and enlightening speech.

Also in attendance was State Rep. Ron Reynolds and Bro. Marlon Heard, Assistant Pastor of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church who performed the invocation and

blessing of the meal.

Thanks to the good work of Bro. Kevin Patton, District Deputy Grand Master Clarence B. Douglas Jr., and the 2012 Trailblazers Awards Banquet Committee.

The bar has been set high for our 2012 Banquet and with the team of Ever Ready Lodge Brothers and their dedication to excellence this goal will be exceeded. We love the challenge.

We would like to congratulate Bro. José Griñán, one of the 2012 Trailblazers Awards Winners for his many years of presiding over the Trailblazers Banquet. He has given many years of service and work in the community.

The prerogative of the Grand Master to make "Masons at Sight" is a Landmark. (*Landmark 8, Section (I), Constitution of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of Texas and Jurisdiction, Free and Accepted Masons*)

This ceremony was performed earlier in the day for Bro. Griñán with many of the Brethren of Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 in atten-

dance.

With the number of years Bro. Griñán has volunteered his services, many members thought that he was a Mason. Welcome Bro. Griñán to Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 and to the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family.



D.D.G.M. Douglas, Bro. José Griñán, and G.M. Curtis.



Prince Hall Masons, Eastern Stars join together for Breakfast, Charity dispensed



Story and Photos by:
Bro. Robert Livingston (506)

ROSENBERG, Texas - District Deputy Grand Master Clarence Douglas Jr., Worshipful Master John Johnson and Brethren of Ever Ready Lodge No. 506, Worthy Matron Desiare S. Duplechan and Sisters of Virtuous Stars Chapter No. 56 (O.E.S.) Worthy Matron Taia Smith and Sisters of McCullough P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12 (O.E.S) came together for a fellowship and donation breakfast, Jan. 26.

The director and staff members of the Fort Bend County Women's Center were invited to the Lodge for this annual event. The Brethren presented the center with a monetary donation.

Funds to support the center are raised though the Lodge's only fundraiser; it Trailblazers Banquet.

According to D.D.G.M. Douglas, it's because of the support from Ever Ready Lodge members, ads

posted in the Trailblazers' Souvenir Book and the Masonic family that the Lodge can continue to support the Fort Bend County Women's Center.

Ever Ready Lodge's goal is to make each of the Trailblazers Awards Banquets a big success.

In addition to the donation to the center, a check was also pre-

sented to McCullough P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12 and Sister Cha-Wanda Jackson to help purchase books for Kashmere Gardens Elementary. They are currently executing a million word reading challenge but do not possess a sufficient number of books to reach their goal.

W.M. Duplechan and the Sisters of Virtuous Stars Chapter No. 56 donated clothing and shoes to the center.

These donations help the women of the center who have escaped from a bad life situation with just the clothes on their backs.

According to W.M. Duplechan, every year the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter (District 16) makes a large donation of goods to the center. The donations go a long way to help the women and children affected by domestic violence and sexual assaults.

The goal of the Women's Center, as the only service provider in Fort Bend County, is to be a resource for abused women and children who have nowhere else to turn. The Women's Center offers intervention services: a 24-hour





crisis hotline; an emergency shelter; rape crisis services; safety planning and lethality assessment; food and clothing; emergency and basic medical services; counseling; transportation; case management; legal accompaniment and advocacy; children's programs; a learning resource center; computer training, job readiness, financial empowerment, parenting, and self-esteem building workshops; permanent and transitional housing assistance programs; and job placement assistance, all with the goal of helping victims become safe and self-sufficient. The Center also provides prevention services: community education, professional trainings, structured education and a primary prevention curriculum. All Services are free and are available to both resident and non-resident clients, and are made possible through volunteer hours and donations from the community.

Special thanks to Brother Kevin Patton, who planned and executed a wonderful breakfast.



Masons of Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 assist N.O.B.L.E.



Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

HOUSTON - The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement (N.O.B.L.E.) is committed to equity in matters related to law enforcement, its mission to ensure equity in the administration of justice, and its unyielding commitment to work towards the elimination of racism and bias of any type within the law enforcement field. This includes a commitment to equal treatment in the administration of justice and within the law enforcement field for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression.

On Jan. 17, members of Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 assisted N.O.B.L.E. with preparing young men and ladies from the surrounding area for the workforce at the 5th Ward Enrichment Center.

The students were taught the proper way to tie their ties and how to polish their shoes. Students were also trained on how to conduct themselves, walk, talk, and dress for job interviews.

N.O.B.L.E. was founded in September 1976, during a three-day symposium to address crime in urban low income areas. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Po-

lice Foundation and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.



San Antonio Masonic Family enjoys Weekend full of Masonic Activities



Story by: G.E. Burrell D. Parmer (1)

SAN ANTONIO – Members of the 19th Masonic District enjoyed numerous activities during the weekend of March 23 - 24.

On March 23, the Loyal Ladies of Lone Star Assembly No. 19, Order of the Golden Circle held a prayer breakfast to celebrate their 83rd Birthday at the Masonic Hall. Members from all Masonic organizations attended. The Word was delivered by Rev. Reginald Steadman, the Commander-in-Chief of Lone Star Consistory No. 113.

State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Shirley Henry Gideon and D.G.L.L.R. Loretta Bankston.



G.M. Curtis (and Grand Lodge Officers), and W.M. Rockeymoore (and Brethren of J.T. Maxey Lodge No. 74).





W.M. Parmer with newly Raised Brethren Carlos Correa, Waylon Mitchell, and Tranclle Byrd.

Later that morning, the Brethren Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis, of John T. Maxey Lodge No. 74 Grand Junior Warden Frank Jackson, and Grand Lecturer Ivory Johnson conducted their Cornerstone Leveling Ceremony at their Masonic Hall located at 409 Altitude Drive. In the afternoon, San Antonio Brethren from as far as Houston Lodge No. 1 conferred the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on three event. Special guests included worthy Brothers.

That evening, John T. Maxey Inc. held their annual Black and White Charity Ball at the Ft. Sam Houston Golf Club.

The event was attended by numerous organizations to include representatives from the San Antonio Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. The keynote speaker of the night was G.J.W. Jackson.

On March 24, members of the District attended Palm Sunday Services held at the Masonic Hall. The services were sponsored by Heroines of Jericho and Order of the Easter Star. The message was delivered by Rev. Courtney Evans of God's Property Baptist Church.



W.M. Thomas Rockey Moore



G.J.W. Frank Jackson



D.D.G.M. Jo Ann Storey and members pose for Palm Sunday Service photos at the Masonic Hall, March 24.



D.D.G.M. Peavy (ctr) and S.D.D.G.M. Julian Jenkins (far rt) stand with parents and their children who participated in the District Scholarship Contest held at the Masonic Hall, April 6.

19th Masonic District assists C.O.I. with Charity 5K Run



Story by: G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)
 Photos by: P.M. Edward Jones (1)

SAN ANTONIO – To assist Community Options, Inc. (C.O.I.) in their charitable endeavors, Prince Hall Masons and Eastern Stars of the 19th Masonic District volunteered to operate the annual Cupid’s Chase 5K Run held at Southside Lions Park East, Feb. 9.

The annual Cupid’s Chase 5K Run is held in eight states within 21 cities hosted by C.O.I., which is a non-profit organization that has been providing housing and employment supports to individuals with disabilities since 1989.

Knowledge of the C.O.I and its mission was brought to the attention of the District by Bro. Rev. Reginald Steadman, after which the District voted to chair and to provide all volunteers for the run.

“I would like to take this time to thank all of the Brothers and Sisters who volunteered their time to

assist with the Cupid Chase Run,” said District Deputy Grand Master Grady Peavy Jr., the event’s co-chair. “With it being a cloudy and dreary day, I was surprise to see so many runners. I believe everyone had a great time.”

According to D.D.G.M. Peavy, the Brothers and Sisters assisted with registration, passing out t-shirts, back packs, badges, water and snacks.

“Not only did we assist in the run’s set up but also having continued fun after the run’s completion by dancing with the finishers,” said D.D.G.M. Peavy. “This is one of many ways that we can make our presence known in the community, with just a few free hours on our part.”

“We plan to hold this run every year,” said Jamie Brundige, executive director of C.O.I. “I want to especially thank my Co-Chairs Clary Glover and Grady Peavy, and all of the 19th District Masonic Family for

attending and volunteering.” All proceeds from the Cupid’s Chase 5K Run go to support people with disabilities served by C.O.I.



Don't Mess with Texas, Prince Hall Masons keeping San Antonio's roadsides clean



Story and photos by:
G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)

SAN ANTONIO – Joining in on the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off, Freemasons and family members of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 gathered at the corner of Interstate 410 and East Houston Street to trek two miles to assist in beautifying the roads of East San Antonio, April 6.

According to the Texas Adopt-a-Highway website, the Adopt-a-Highway Program started out as a pilot program in 1985 and has grown into a nationally-recognized program across the world and it was just 25 years ago when the first stretch of roadway was adopted in Texas.

The Adopt-a-Highway Program gives citizens an opportunity to support the department's litter prevention programs by adopting a section of highway for the purpose of reducing litter on an adopted section through public participation.

According to the program's website, Adopt-a-Highway volunteers keep the program going strong. The program currently has more than 4,500 groups across the state, which is a testament to the thousands of volunteers and their passion to keep Texas beautiful.

The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off is the single largest one day cleanup event in the state and

serves as Texas' signature event for the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program.

The logo features the text "Don't Mess with Texas" in white on a blue background. Below it, "TRASH-OFF" is written in large, bold, black letters with a star over the 'A'. At the bottom, "April 6, 2013" is written in white on a red background.



SAN ANTONIO - W.M. Parmer participated in numerous activities during Fiesta 2013. Pictured left is W.M. Parmer and Field Representative Ramon Chapa Jr., military specialist to U.S. Congressman Joaquin Castro at The Alamo, April 23. Pictured right is W.M. Parmer and Edward Wilson, president of the San Antonio Zulu Association with the Fiesta Queen of Soul and pageant participants during Siclovia, April 7.



SAN ANTONIO - Pictured are members of Star Tom Lodge No. 100 who assisted Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Tau Omega Chapter as they sponsored their 50th Annual Mahogany Brain Child Challenge, Feb. 16. Every year the Lodge participates in this event by serving as judges, score keepers and timers. The purpose of this event is to impart Black History to the youth by having them participate in a jeopardy style contest. Several community churches and social organization entered teams of four individuals which have been prepared by their respective Program Mentors.

J. Washington Lodge No. 191 helps kept Texas Clean



Story by: Lodge Staff

CIBOLO, Texas - The Brethren of Washington Lodge No. 191 supported the Cibolo community by participating in the Texas "Adopt a Highway" program, April 6.

The Lodge set forth, over a two mile stretch on FM 465, collecting trash and debris off the neighboring farm land road. Within the fold, three of six newly Initiated Entered Apprentices experienced their first

moments of Charity as Brothers serving their community in high Masonic fashion.

This uniting of Brothers under one common cause provided the City of Marion a vision of commitment and personal satisfaction of Masonic pride, March 12. Junior Warden Kevin Lindquist volunteered at the Sipple Elementary School as part of the "Art la cart" program.

The one hour-a-week program

provides kindergarten teachers with volunteers to assist in reading, painting, teaching, and mentoring young children through fun learning.

These few of many acts of selfless service are nothing but routine for J. Washington Lodge No. 191, and will blossom into bigger events within the near future.

St. James Lodge No. 71 supports School Incentive Program



Story by: Lodge Staff

TEMPLE, Texas - Worshipful Master Rick Phillips and Senior Warden Ronald Turner of St. James Lodge No. 71 delivered a new bicycle to Temple Independent School District's Wheatley Campus to be included in their school incentive program in April.

The Brethren collaborated with Principal Carl Pleasant to create an end of year incentive program. They wanted something that could encourage students to finish the school year with the same energy and determination seen at the start of the year.

"The students earn chances by working toward high standards, like perfect attendance and completion of all work requirements," said W.M. Phillips. "A bicycle seemed like a great incentive for students."

The Brethren are making plans to give several similar donations throughout the coming year in support of their charitable efforts.

W.M. Phillips said, "It is a pleasure to be a part of something so positive for our youth. This donation is the kick-off to this year's Lodge theme, *"Somebody has to care!"*

New Light Lodge No. 242 hosts Joint Unity Masonic Banquet



Story by: Bro. Michael Acierno

KILLEEN, Texas – The Brethren of New Light Lodge No. 242 continues to lead the way. The Lodge celebrated with Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 and New Star Light Chapter No. 5, Order of the Eastern Star. It was the first time in the history of Killeen which all three Masonic bodies joined together for one banquet. Not only were there attendees from the Masonic bodies but the community as well.

The Masonic bodies work closely within the surrounding communities as a give and take opportunity, always bonding. The Joint Unity Masonic Banquet took place on March 16, at the Fort Hood Phantom Warrior Club on Fort Hood. It was truly and extraordinary event in which everyone who attended was overwhelmed with the hospitality, greetings, socializing and fellowshiping with and amongst each other.

It was an evening with musical entertainment, a slide show and dinner. The Masonic bodies continue their efforts to be involved in various community services and

related programs such as the N.A.A.C.P., food kitchens, voting polls, assistance in loss of homes and/or family members, Charity drives, nursing home visits, veterans hospital visits, sick and shut in visits, providing transportation to those without appointments, just to mention a few and other numerous outreach services the communities provides.

Everyone left with a feeling of inspiration; expounding on what just transpired that evening. The Lodge had accomplished its mission and served the community well. The Craft looks forward to next year's banquet being even a bigger and greater event.

This extravagant banquet could not have taken place without all three Masonic bodies becoming one to achieve the same results, an outpouring of knowledge shown and appreciation by all who could dwell together in unity.

Thanks to Worshipful Master Alphonso Ford of New Light Lodge No 242, W.M. Johnnie Perez of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620, and Worthy Matron Rochelle Cottingham of New Star Light

Chapter No. 5, and all their committees whom made the event possible.

The Masonic bodies extend thanks and appreciation to Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis and Killeen Mayor Daniel A. Corbin for attending, along with other dignitaries.

Special thanks to the Souvenir Committees for a superb job on the souvenir journal.

New Light Lodge No. 242 is proud of its community and will continue its efforts to improve upon all events and provide better service to the community, their families and children within District 24.



Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 continues to serve its Community



P.M. Jamerson, P.M. Levi, W.M. Williams, S.W. Prichett, Bro. Shider, the four winners, principle, and coordinator.

Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

BELTON, Texas - Members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 attended the SW Elementary School Perfect Attendance Award Ceremony where the Lodge donated bicycles to four worthy students, March 15.

On March 20, the Lodge visited Mt. Zion U.N.M. Church of Belton where the Rev. H.E. Jackson is Pastor.

On March 27, the Brethren honored their Worshipful Master, Brother Richard Williams Jr. at their annual Worshipful Master's Banquet.

On March 30, the Craft hosted their

Annual Easter Egg Hunt where more than 30 children attended. In addition to the children finding eggs, the Brethren also gave away Easter Baskets and provide the children with a hot-dogs and punch.





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



Proclamation

March 9, 2013

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

Greetings:

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

The Session will convene at the Radisson Forth Worth North Hotel, 2540 Meacham Blvd. at I-35, beginning June 20, 2013, and ending June 23, 2013. The Ritualistic Opening on Friday June 21, 2013 will mark the official opening of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter Session.

ADMINISTRATIVE DEGREE – PAST MATRONS & PATRONS DEGREE

All new Matrons and Patrons attending the Grand Session will be given the Administrative Degree on Thursday, June 20, 2013 at 4 p.m.

The Past Matrons and Past Patrons Degree will also be given on Thursday, June 20, 2013 at 4 p.m., the location will be announced.

Please take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Fraternally,

Martha Wolridge
Grand Worthy Matron

Robert B. Calloway, Jr.
Grand Worthy Patron

Attested by: *Tracy Gardner*
Grand Secretary



McCullough P. Wolridge Chapter starts Strong in 2013 by providing Charity to its Community



Story and Photos by: Chapter Staff

HOUSTON – Sisters of McCullough P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12 volunteered at Boutique Day 2013, April 19.

The Sisters were Fairy God Mother's for the day. The Chapter helped the young ladies select the perfect dress, shoes and jewelry for their special evening. This was an experience that the Chapter will never forget.

The Giving Gown Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 community service organization. The Sisters collect donations of new and "like-new" formal gowns and accessories and provide them free of charge to high school girls who would otherwise be unable to attend their Prom.

The foundation is dedicated to promoting confidence and self-esteem in junior and senior high school girls and strives to help them attend their proms in style while surrounding them with positive role models and encouraging their future success.

On March 31, Sisters of McCullough P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12 participated and donated Easter Eggs, Candy and monetary donations in support of the Cross Roads Community Church in Pearland, Texas. More than 150 children participated in the Easter Egg

Hunt. Special thanks to Sisters Gabby Velastegui and Alicia Sheppard.

On March 23, the Sisters of McCullough P. Wolridge Chapters No. 12 volunteered at Habitat for Humanity. The goal of the day was to reinforce the inner frame of the





house, and to finish the roof.

Houston Habitat is the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Established in 1987, Habitat for Humanity has built more than 900 homes and served more than 3,000 Houstonians as Family Partners. More than 5,000 people volunteer each year to help out with home building, clerical work, and retail.

Houston Habitat works to eliminate substandard housing by helping hard-working families purchase simple, decent homes in which to live. This is possible through corporate sponsors, individual donors and foundation grants that fund the majority of construction costs on each home. Our Family Partners are approved and qualify for down payment assistance and a zero-interest mortgage carried by Houston Habitat for Humanity.

Brothers from True Square Lodge No. 108 participated in the project.

On March 16, Sisters of McCullough P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12 played Bingo at Jolivette's Assisted Living. Jolivette's Assisted Living was established in 1999. The objective at Jolivette's Personal Care Home is to meet each resident's individual needs and wants. At the home, residents enjoy a full schedule of social, educational and entertaining activities.

The home's structured program

helps all residents maintain a high quality of life. Jolivette knows that seniors need varying degrees of help as they get older, but still want to feel independent

Brothers from True Square Lodge No. 108 participated in the project.

On Feb. 8, Sisters of McCullough P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12 donated 12 boxes of books to Kashmere Garden Elementary School.

This project stems from the Chapter's August visit to donate school supplies. During the visit, the Chapter learned that Kashmere Garden hadn't had a librarian in over seven years and all of their books and technology were outdated (1990s).

The school is currently having a million word reading challenge for their students but how can they succeed without the necessary tools (BOOKS).

To support the school's goals, the Chapter pledged to help the school get books.

Special thanks to Sis. Chawanda Jackson who raised over \$1,500 for books and to the various members who took time out of their schedules to volunteer at Scholastic Books which allowed the Chapter to gather more books.

The event would have not been a success without all members doing their part. Sisters of McCullough

P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12 pledges to continue being an active presence in the lives of OUR children and OUR communities.



Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 continues its Support to the Community



and had been serving children of all ages in Bryan for the past 39 years. Many of the book titles focused on the outstanding achievements of African Americans past and present.

Sisters of Agape shared the importance of reading and encouraged the children to read everyday. The children featured in the photos are from area elementary schools along with the Director of North Bryan Community Center, Mrs. Shirley Chambers.

Story and Photos by: Chapter Staff

No. 38 donated over 25 books to the North Bryan Community Center.

BRYAN, Texas – Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 participated in the wall rising of the Green Family Habitat Home, March 23. Habitat of the Brazos Valley has recently begun construction of eight new homes in the new Faith Subdivision. Members of the Chapter volunteered six hours assisting with this construction. The Chapter plans to assist the Habitat Coordinator Ryan Pierce with the construction of other homes within the Faith Subdivision.

The North Bryan Community Center was established in 1979

On March 24, the members celebrated Palm Sunday Service at Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church in College Station. Later that day, the Chapter sponsored a community Easter Egg Hunt, which included hotdogs, chips, nachos, giant pickles and cake for community. The members served a total of 40 children and 20 adults.

On Feb. 26, in honor of Black History month, Sisters of Agape



Matrons, Patrons and Members Council hosts Annual Black History Celebration



their skin.

After the Negro League presentation, the guests were treated to a skit performed by the Yellow Rose of Texas Youth Group, an introduction and description of the local Knights of Pythagoras, and a stupendous performance by Gail Walker, who delivered a poem call, "I Hear Voices."

After all the presentations, all attendees were treated to soul food dinner.

The event was attended by numerous Masonic bodies. Many are looking forward to next year's event.

The Council is comprised by members of Christopher Delight Chapter No. 1, Stars of Texas Chapter No. 2, and Cubie Horton Chapter No. 14.

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

SAN ANTONIO – Members of the Matrons, Patrons and Members Council celebrated Black History for its community with the assistance of some historic pioneers, Feb.17.

The program, held at The Broadnax Place, served as the Council's way to not only celebrating the holiday, but to showcase history shared by the people who experienced it.

Members of the famed Tuskegee Airmen were present to share their stories of heroism and pride. The President of the San Antonio Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Rick Sinkfield, gave a presentation explaining the historic facts concerning the Airmen. Adults and children alike were in awe of the Airmen's combat statistics. For additional information visit: <http://www.sactai.com>.

With the release of the Jackie Robinson movie "42", today's youth are told a story of how an African

American, in spite of horrid racial tension, helped change professional baseball forever.

During this program, a speaker from the South Texas Negro League Players Association of San Antonio shared the history of the Negro League which was established in 1920. Comprised of mostly African Americans, the league provided the game for players that were not able to join mainstream teams due to the color of



Prince Hall York Rite Bodies of Texas Allocutions



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

Greetings,

Giving thanks to the Great I Am, the author and finisher of all mankind. He has allowed us to see yet another Grand Convocation, not because of our goodness, but because He is a merciful God, for His mercy endureth forever. Another year has expired and it is again my duty to this Grand Chapter to give an account of my stewardship for this past year. It has been an honor and privilege for me to labor in the quarries of this Grand Chapter as your Grand High Priest.

It is once more a great honor and pleasure to extend to each of you the warmest welcome to this 132nd Annual Grand Convocation of Holy Royal Arch Masons of Texas and Jurisdiction Prince Hall Affiliation. We have a great fraternal relationship with all Masonic bodies throughout the country. Companions, there is still much work to be done. In keeping with

our motto **“Train to Sustain”**, the key ingredients are still the same: **Commitment, Determination, and the Desire to Achieve**. In the process, we have allowed ourselves to become idle. To be idle means to not work, inactivity, not operating, or, sluggish...do you get the meaning? This will hinder the growth of this Grand Ole Order. So let us consider the lesson on idleness.

Heed this warning against idleness from the scripture 2 Thessalonians 3:6

“In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us.”

I’ve heard that some of us here are idle. Companions are not busy; but rather they are busybodies. Such people I urge to settle down and become productive in this organization as well as earn the positions they seek.

Just as parents are responsible to train their children to share the work load at home so that they will be saved from idleness and be raised as responsible adults, similarly, wise leaders will train and raise others to lead and work for the edifying of the prescribed vision so that every aspect of the task runs smoothly. Paul says in Ephesians 4:11-12 to equip the saints for the work of service, to the building of the body of Christ. Often people are idle because leadership has given them nothing to do. I’m not speaking of position; I’m talking about the work in the trenches to build a stronger organization. If we have had failures on our part, by leading an idle lifestyle leaving others to do all the hard work; or if we have failed to guide and train others to be effective with their hands, today’s word should bring deep conviction in our hearts. Let’s deal with those areas and change us to be effective and efficient people; true hard working Royal Arch Masons learning, working and

leading so that idleness no longer exists in our midst. Today, I urge you to work with all your heart at whatever you do (Colossians 3:23)! Remember, Train to Sustain's main ingredients are Commitment, Determination, and the Desire to achieve. Idleness has no place among these three tenants.

STATE OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS:

Companions, our organization is well but we need help. We need to be more active in our meetings. We need to be more involved in our community activities, such as youth programs and church functions. It is our responsibility as leaders to layout plans for the ensuing year. For our companions, I have asked for the following five initiatives to take place:

- Mentor Program
- Book donations to a local library; regular or Masonic literature
- Zerubbabel Programs at the local level
- Adopt a family in crisis or a battered shelter to support
- Annual youth benefit banquet in your area

This is not just a membership issue but a leadership issue as well. High Priest, I recommend that you write the vision so that the companions may be able to carry out the work and incorporate my initiatives. Our responsibility as leaders is to lead, that means doing the work even if we find ourselves doing it alone. Everyone has a responsibility in the work to be done in Royal Arch Masonry. True leadership is exemplified with honest servitude.

We are continuing to move forward in the 21st century by upgrading to keep up with the technological and electronic age. We anticipate removing our social media website (Face book) which is the Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Texas. This site will be replaced with the new website which is up and running and can be found at www.mephgcoftexas.org. We've purchased a new computer for the recording secretary along with a 2 TB external hard drive and a scanner to chronologically keep our historic records.

Let us continue to remember our Companions who have traveled this way before us. Charting the pathway were, W. H. Edward, T. C. Davenport, J. W. Cane, J. F. Cooper, J. J. Bennett, and many others, for on July 18, 1882, they had the vision and wisdom to have organized this Grand Chapter of Colored Royal Arch Masons for the State of Texas. The articles of Incorporation was filed some twenty-nine (29) years later in (1911) and issued July 9, 1915--- Please read about our History, embrace it, share it with those being found worthy. It is important and vital to our being. On September 12, 2012, we renewed our articles of incorporation to read "The Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons of Texas and its Jurisdiction."

Two chapters were re-established. Gregg Chapter No. 4 in Longview, Texas with the assistance of Deputy Julius Wright and Harold Carson Chapter No. 141 in Beeville, Texas with Shiloh Royal Arch Chapter No. 16 of San Antonio playing a major role in assisting me in setting up the previous chapter. Disappointedly, one Companion has been expelled for misappropriation of funds. I have randomly visited Chapters throughout the jurisdiction which were not conducting business, changing meeting times without notice to members, and completely inactive.

We are still supporting activities in the Grand Lodge such as donating money to the Masonic Youth Camp and contributing toys to the holiday toy drive. We also supported the Heroines of Jericho as escorts in the Annual Matron's March Queen's contest and contributed to their Livingston Girls Retreat. We donated \$1,000 to the Dallas Community during the Annual York Rite Weekend 2012. We exhausted all King's Contest funds in conjunction to awarding eight college scholarships.

Our recruiting efforts continue to look promising and our membership is holding steady. Arthur L. Banks Chapter No. 143 has just initiated 23 Companions on Jan. 12, 2013, and several other Chapters have had Initiations as well. Companions, I can say that The Grand Chapter H.R.A.M. of Texas is moving membership in the right direction with good results. I trust in the Lord that all things will continue to be done decent and in order. The Great I Am is in control.



**Allocation Excerpt from
R.E. Grand Commander
Ronald D. Gerac**

Greetings,

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

I am told that the Grand Commander's allocation should be just like a woman's dress. It should be short enough to be interesting, and long enough to cover the subject.

That said, I will cut straight to the chase...THE DEVIL IS BUSY. I know that this isn't the typical way to begin an annual address, but let's be real today. Let's call The Enemy out for who he really is, like Jesus did in Mark Chapter 5, where a man possessed with an evil spirit came out to meet him; a

man who could not stay shackled, a man who could not be subdued, a man who would cut himself with stones. That evil spirit-possessed man ran to Jesus to ask him, "Why are you interfering with me? In the Name of God, I beg you, don't torment me!" See, the Enemy knew who he was dealing with. What did Jesus do? He called him out, and asked him, "Who are you?" Why did he do that? He identified the demon. You see, Princesses and Sir Knights, it is not nearly enough to just say "Lord, heal me please." If you are fighting a serious battle with a demon who means business, you must call that demon out by name and get its attention. CANCER, I Bind you in the Name of Jesus. POVERTY, I Bind you in the Name of Jesus. DIVORCE, I Bind you in the Name of Jesus. SICKNESS, I Bind you in the Name of Jesus. DIABETES, I Bind you in the Name of Jesus. JEALOUSY, BACKSTABBER, GOSSIP, MALCONTENT CHILD...call your demons out by NAME, and watch God intervene. You all are SOLDIERS in the army of GOD. Mark Well, your duty to spread the Gospel and defend your high moral standards with the Sword of Truth. A sword is sharp. Well, the Bible is sharp also, and the Bible is used for spiritual battle. The Word of God contains the truth, and the truth can be sharper than any two edged sword. But please be mindful that not everyone is good with a sword. Let me break it down to you like this: when you go to your respective homes and places of abode at the end of these meetings this weekend, set a chair in your garage. Sit in said chair for 15-20 minutes. Then stand up. Check to see if you turned into a car. The lesson here is this: sitting in a garage does NOT make you a car... just sitting in church does not make you a CHRISTIAN. If you don't arm yourself with the Word of God, then surround yourself with folks that do.

I have attended many meetings and events in the "Country of Texas" and beyond in Templar Year 2012. To name a few, I have attended state meetings of the several Concordant and Appendant Bodies of the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family, Pelican Grand Commandery Grand Conclave in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Funeral of Past Grand Princess Captain Burnell Van Slyke, Grand Encampment in Ohio, Scholarship Gala of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated (special thanks to Sir Knight Charles Washington of Sanderson

Commandery #2 for inviting me to this awesome event), Celebration of 50+ year members of Texas Masonic District 15B in Hitchcock, Texas, North Texas Coalition Joint Christmas Toast, and several Commandery and Guild visits. Most importantly, I represented you at the 137th convening of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.

During the recess of the Lone Star Grand Commandery, our Grand Master was appointed to serve on the Grand Encampment Committee on Foreign and Fraternal Relations by Most Eminent Grand Master Dr. Arthur Parrott. I was appointed to the office of Right Eminent Grand Recorder after the resignation of Sir Barry Williams Mitchell. Texas continues to serve and represent well. He also has appointed my friend and Classmate, Reverend Kenneth Brown, as Assistant Grand Recorder.

STATE OF THE ORDER:

Peace and harmony prevails in the Lone Star Grand Commandery. We had a successful Mid-Templar Year Workshop and Special Session. The Princesses of the Lone Star Grand Guild, under the baton of its Fearless Leader, Grand Princess Captain R. Lucille Samuel, have paved the way for the Grand Commandery to share in their success with their mid-year workshop and toy drive donations. I want to give special thanks to The G-Unit for keeping me grounded and halfway sane for pretty much all of 2012. The Sir Knights of the Treacherous Trinity Commandery #3 took up the mantle and conducted degree work in full ceremony at our mid-year session. Long gone are the days where microwave degrees are given. More Commanderies are practicing the opening in full ceremony, and the inevitable has been proven: If you USE it, you won't LOSE it. The transition to the new plastic dues card has been an overall success. Many Sir Knights have respectfully voiced concerns about this new program to the Eminent Grand Recorder and myself, and we have taken those concerns under sincere consideration. It is Sir Knights like that who help frame our Order into something better than it once was. An organization where everyone agrees 100% with its leader is an organization that cannot sustain growth. We are looking forward to Order of the Temple College in August 2013 with our resident chief professor, Eminent Grand Lecturer Sir Julius Wright. We have bound our ritual and constitution into two separate publications. Thanks to Eminent Grand Captain General Sir Jerry "The Kang" Brown, Sr., we are incurring revenue through the sale of chapeaus. More and more Sir Knights are taking their two year commitment seriously to obtain their full frock uniform. Hubert L. Reece Commandery No. 42 is in good hands via report of our Eminent Grand Generalissimo, Sir Vernon James. We share stronger fraternal bonds with our Sister Jurisdictions, with its leaders coming together on a quarterly basis to share ideas and support each other. This year, we will focus on revamping our website, lonestargc.org, placing our proceedings on a secure section of the site, refining workshop topics for the next Mid-Templar Special Session and Workshop, and taking additional steps to outfit our Asylum. My long term goal is still to start a non-profit arm of the Lone Star Family that dedicates itself to aiding struggling inner city high school music programs in cities where the Grand Conclave is held. In summation, all is well with the Lone Star Grand Commandery of Texas.

As I close this oration, let me end how I started: The DEVIL is BUSY. For anyone who asks why there is so much tragedy lately, the answer is the devil is busy. Even many Christians get ensnared in the poisonous grip of the enemy as he plants his seeds of destruction in our lives and in the lives of our loved ones. It brings to mind a speech I recently heard entitled, "If I Were the Devil."

If I were the Devil . . . I mean, if I were the Prince of Darkness, I would, of course, want to engulf the whole earth in darkness. I would have a third of its real estate and four-fifths of its population, but I would not be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree, so I should set about however necessary to take over the United States. I would begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: "Do as you please." "Do as you please." To the young, I would whisper, "The Bible is a myth." I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what is bad is good, and what is good is "square" or not hip. In the ears of the young married couples, I would whisper that work is debasing, that cocktail parties are good for you. I would caution them not to be extreme in religion, not to be extreme in patriotism, and not to be extreme in moral conduct. And to the old, I would teach to pray. I would teach them to say after me: "Our Father, which art in Washington." I would convince people that character is not an issue when it comes to leadership. I would cheapen human life as much as possible so that the life of animals is more valued than the life of a human being. I would get control of the media, so that every night I could pollute the mind of every family member for my agenda.

If I were the devil, I would attack the family, the backbone of any nation. I would make divorce acceptable

and easy, even fashionable, for if the family crumbles, so does the nation. I would convince the world that people are born homosexuals, and that their lifestyles should be accepted and marveled. I would convince the people that right and wrong are determined by a few who call themselves authorities and who refer to their agenda as politically correct. I would dull the minds of Christians, and make them believe that prayer is not important, and that faithfulness and obedience are optional.

If I were the devil, I'd educate authors in how to make lurid, gruesome, sexually explicit literature exciting so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten T.V. with dirtier movies and vice versa. And then, if I were the devil, I'd get organized. I'd infiltrate unions and urge more loafing and less work, because idle hands usually work for me. I'd peddle narcotics to whomever I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. And I'd tranquilize the rest with pills. If I were the devil, I would encourage schools to refine young intellects but neglect to discipline emotions . . . let those run wild. I would designate an atheist in front for me before the highest courts in the land and I would get preachers to say "she's right." With flattery and promises of power, I could get the courts to rule what I construe as against God and in favor of pornography, and thus, I would evict God from the courthouse, and then from the school house, and then from the houses of Congress and then, in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and I would deify science because that way men would become smart enough to create super weapons but not wise enough to control them.

If I were Satan, I'd make the symbol of Easter an egg, and the symbol of Christmas, a bottle. If I were the devil, I would take from those who have and I would give to those who wanted, until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. And then, my police state would force everybody back to work. Then, I could separate families, putting children in uniform, women in coalmines, and objectors in slave camps. In other words, if I were Satan, I'd just keep on doing what he's doing.

This speech was broadcast by legendary ABC Radio commentator, the late Paul Harvey on April 3, 1965. It rings just as true today as it did then. Sir Knights, Princesses, Prince Hall Family: Don't go through 2012: The Sequel. Make it 2013: Fresh and Anew. The devil is busy...but MY God...Jehovah JIREH...The Lord, My Provider...Jehovah NISSI...The Lord, My Banner...Jehovah SHALOM...My PRINCE of PEACE...EI SHAD-DAI...The God who is MORE THAN ENOUGH...is BUSIER. May God bless our active and retired Armed Forces personnel, first responders, local law enforcement, and firemen. God bless America. God bless the Lone Star Family. God bless Prince Hall Masonry in Texas and abroad. And may God have mercy and bless us all.



**Allocution Excerpt from
Grand Princess Captain
R. Lucille Samuel**

Greetings,

Romans 12:21: Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

I am humbled and blessed to stand before you today while bringing you heartfelt greetings from the Lone Star Grand Guild, Heroines of the Templars Crusade of Texas, PHA.

Where do I begin? The year of 2012 was complete chaos and turmoil. We have lost many of our Trailblazers that have gone on to bigger and better things in paradise. Their footprints in the sand are left to guide us as we embark upon a New Year. At the end of every storm there is a Rainbow for us to view. We should not ask our Heavenly Father to remove the storms but to give us strength to endure the storms and enjoy the sunshine.

We were also told the World would end this year. Although it may have been false how many of us are really ready? Are your affairs in Order? Is your Masonic Life in Order? Are Our Priorities In Order?

Galatians: Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

I often hear people say that they don't have enough time to do what is needed to be done. I believe they have the time but the wrong priorities. There is a difference between what you NEED to accomplish and what you WANT to accomplish. In order to prioritize you must first identify your goals.

In our organizations most members prioritize serving in the East as First on their list! Their values are all wrong and definitely their priorities are out of Order. Plato once said "He who is not a good servant will not make a good master. Is this a true statement? You can never lead anyone if you have never followed someone else first. Some of us have our own agenda from the time we are initiated into the Order. Unfortunately it is the wrong agenda. The key to a successful leader is to earn respect, not because of your rank or position but because you are a leader of character. How can your members respect you if you do not respect yourself? Buying presents and friendships will not make you a better leader. It subtracts from your self-esteem.

We have to remember that no matter how well we do our jobs we will only be judged by one thing, the end result. You may be the most educated person in the world but there is no Masters or Doctorates Degree in common sense!

There will always be members that will do any and everything to throw obstacles in the way of progress.

Instead of working against each other we need to work with each other. We have forgotten the Priority of Our Orders. We are here to serve our community and those less fortunate than ourselves. But because the Priority has become receiving all the accolades and praises for being the leader of the organization we are failing. The human body cannot function without a Brain. The brain is composed of many compartments that work together to perform the many missions. In our organization the Brain is the body or the membership. Without the body the Leader cannot function. Although many feel that the organization will fail without them as the leader. You must have an open mind and be receptive to others opinions and ideas. Some of you get upset if a member has new ideas or suggestions to better the organization. If anyone attempts to run for your position you become offended and stop talking to that person. Last time I checked none of these positions have our names on them. But some of you would rather the organization die and not flourish before you step aside and allow a better qualified person to step in. Better yet you would rather die in your position because of greed and glory. Stop worrying about jeopardizing your position and start prioritizing your goals! In order for our Masonic Family to Sustain and prosper it starts with US and not YOU! Selfishness, Envy, Backstabbing and Gossip need to CEASE! WE need to stop talking and start praying because it is evident that we are losing members and interest in our Works.

We are our own worst enemies. Instead of supporting our leaders we would rather see them fail. You need to realize when the leader fails so does the body. We all look bad because we are labeled as those Masonic people! In order to lead you must be open to change. Things we used to do don't work anymore!

President Obama was not born President of the United States. Grand Master Curtis was not born Most Worshipful Grand Master of Texas! They both worked their way from the bottom to the top. Why? Because they started out as followers and then prioritized their goals!

We need to stop allowing people to steal our focus because they are destroying or Deliverance! The future of our Grand Lodge is dependent upon the priorities of the Appendant and Concordant Bodies. When we start remembering that it is not about US but about the Organization we will have succeeded. The only person that never makes a mistake has never tried to accomplish anything. Making mistakes is human and learning from them makes us stronger. Look around your meetings and check your membership rosters. Are you growing or fading away? Stop traveling down the same old paths and make new footsteps!

Always remember successful people are always looking for opportunities to assist others. Unsuccessful people are always asking "What's in it for me?"

I challenge each and every member in this room today SET YOUR PRIORITIES!

Proverbs 14:33: Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding; but that which is in the midst of fools is made known.

STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

The Lone Star Grand Guild is moving and growing with speed. This past year I attended all State Events and also Local Programs all around Texas.

Again many Thanks to Most Royal Grand Commandress Amelia Clark and your staff for affording my members once again the opportunity to receive the Cyrenes Degree. The members of Pelican Grand Court were also given their Guild Degrees in Dallas last year. We will be travelling to our second home once again in Lafayette, Louisiana for the Annual Pelican Grand Conclave. R.E.G.C. Beasley and M.R.G.C. Clark always ensure that Texas is treated above and beyond.

International Grand Encampment was held in West Lake, Ohio this year. I.G.P.C. Harpe held an awesome Session. I was again re-appointed International Grand Junior Shepherdess. She did send me a beautiful letter asking to understand that we have to share her with the other States but she will be back to Texas. Also I ask that you remember Dr. Ivory Buck in prayer. I will miss serving with Princess Ernestine Holmes Buck this year at International. She was a lady that will be missed by many but we have memories for the rest of our lives.

The Regional Training continued this year and it is ongoing. Members are grateful that are not able to attend our Annual Sessions.

Princess Angelina Phifer of Treacherous Trinity won the Contest for designing our new Grand Guild Cancer Awareness Emblem. I will be modeling the emblem throughout the weekend. We thank her for her creative talent and support of our Grand Guild..

The tradition continues with our Annual Casino Trip Fundraiser to Oklahoma on Friday preceding our Grand Guild Training Conference. If you missed out it is your loss. We always have a great time getting to know each other. The tradition will continue this year. Our Grand Guild Training Conference was held at the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge. The training was outstanding and we look forward to returning this year. This was also Our First Joint Training Conference with the Lone Star Grand Commandery and it was a huge success. This Family Works Together!

At our Annual Black and White Banquet we were able to give a \$350.00 charitable donation to Ekklesia Christian School in Ft Worth, \$500 joint donation with the Lone Star Grand Commandery to the Levingston Girls Camp of HOJ and \$500 to the Grand Lodge Charitable Trust Fund for the Robert E. Connors Youth Camp. Charity does begin at home and the Grand Guild believes in GIVING!

Congratulations again to our Deputy of the Year Special Deputy Christina Chambers of Super Sanderson Guild No. 3!

We were very fortunate to be able to present a \$700.00 scholarship to Ms. Danielle Burrell of Ft Worth. I recommended Ms Burrell and submitted her application. This is the second year in a row Texas has received funds from the International Grand Court of Cyrene's, Verge E. Cary Student Aid Fund. Let's continue the traditions!

I issued 9 Dispensations. There were no Suspensions. I don't know if that is a good or bad thing.

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

Grand Secretary, Prince Judie, Grand Corresponding Secretary Joyce Toney, Grand Assistant Corresponding Secretary, Shuntai Mitchell thank you for making my job so much easier. Deputy Karen Mirabeau I need about 10 more like you! A.G.P.C. Peggy Nuttroy and Grand Deputy Irma Cothron my car does not start without the engine and you are my engine! Princess Meshanda Phillips my new Grand Assistant Thank God for placing you in my path!

All Grand Officers Elected and Appointed I love you all for SUPPORTING this organization. You are a blessing to me! Grand Commissary Pam Mitchell and Grand Assistant Commissary Dionne Williams I truly thank you for your innovative ideas and Fundraising Programs.

P.C. Kameko Bowers, Special Deputy Christina Chambers (Deputy of the Year 2012) and your officers and members of Sanderson, I salute you for Hosting us in your city once again. I love you! We have lost another Pioneer of the Lone Star Grand Guild. P.G.P.C. Burnell Van Slyke has gone to the Grand Guild above. Life is promised to no one and we need to realize that Tomorrow is promised to NO ONE! Love thy neighbor! I will miss her beautiful smile and soft spoken voice. She was an inspiration to me. Our Queens Contest will now be called the Burnell Van Slyke Queen's Contest.

Lone Star Grand Guild I love you all and it is always my pleasure to serve you! You inspire me and your support of me is beyond the sky. Please continue to set the Bar above all others!

S.K. Fredric Milliken a very special thanks to you for exposing my Articles on Phoenix Masonry and other Websites.

R.E.G.C. Gerac and Lone Star Grand Commandery thank you for always having our back. We are always "RIDE OR DIE"!

H.P.G.P.C. Shirley Gideon I love you for always being by my side. You traveled with us to Louisiana and on to International in Ohio. Thank you for your commitment to the Lone Star Grand Guild. If there is ever anything the Lone Star Grand Guild can do for you please never hesitate to ask.

Grand Master Curtis thank you always for being there for the Lone Star Grand Guild. We always brag when we travel that we have the Best Grand Master in the Domain. You are very well respected. We love you.

Dr. Bernard F. Samuel I want you to know that I am thankful for your patience and support of me day and night. I know I work your nerves but you never kick me out! I love you for allowing me to be ME!

In closing I ask that we all remember "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

I will continue to lead BY THE CROSS.



R. Lucille Samuel Guild No. 41 brings Attention to Heart Disease



Story by: P.C. Demetra Jackson

WAXAHACHIE, Texas - Usually the month of February is known for Valentine's Day and Black History, but it is also known for something else; heart disease awareness.

To bring attention to this deadly disease the Princesses of R. Lucille Samuel Guild No. 41 participated in celebrating 10 years of "Going Red" Campaign sponsored by the American Heart Association by wearing red at their February meeting and donating to the fight of heart disease in women.

- Heart disease is still the number one killer of women killing more women than all kinds of cancer combined

- Women's heart disease symptoms are different from men's and are often hidden or misunderstood
- One woman in three dies of heart disease

It's amazing how women don't take better care of themselves and have some of the symptoms to only pass it off as thinking, "Oh I just over did it a little too much today". Women need to know the facts to be better informed so to better take care of themselves. It is best to know the facts, to not become a statistic.

For more information go the website: www.heart.org.



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*

"Let us all live in Peace and Harmony..."

We met for the Council of Deliberation in Fort Worth, Texas and celebrated our 49th Council of Assemblies, a grand and glorious celebration.

Our new form of election was a success and will be used with this administration. It is less time consuming and we know how much has been completed in such a short span of time at each session.

Our elected officers remained in their respective seats, with one new appointment of P.L.L.R. Pamela Jameson, as Standard Bearer. She is anxious to begin a fundraiser and will be sending information to all the Assemblies.

H.P.S.G.L.L.R. Samuel presented training on the positions and the duties of those seats. Let us be mindful of our duties. At the state level, we serve everyone, not just our local assemblies.

Our Secretary of the Year, P.L.L.R. Paula West, fulfilled her duties by getting all of the required information in on time and completed. Thank you, Paula. Also, the Assembly of the Year, Fort Worth Golden Assembly No. 281, L.L.R. Peggy Nuttroy in the East.

Our S.G.L.L. Queen is L.L. Kami Braden from Central Texas Assembly No. 306, Killeen and we are proud and excited. We had three ladies raising funds for the Queen contest which sponsors our scholarship program.

We had three students who were the recipients of \$1000 student aid which goes towards their college fees. We always welcome students applying for our scholarship program because we donate to the middle of the range student. Letters will be sent out to the L.L. Rulers of the local Assemblies who had a student receive a scholarship and a presentation to the student/family is appropriate when a letter of acceptance into the college is received.

Our community service project is Sickle Cell Anemia, due to circumstances beyond our control; we were unable to connect with anyone in the Fort Worth area this year to contribute a donation. We have several ladies working on a committee of this very serious condition which affects people of color often.

FYI: We have several Assemblies fall behind on many aspects of their obligations. L.L. Rulers it is your duty to keep all finances up to date. S.G.L.L.R. will be contacting you...

Also, we have several Assemblies seeking to again become active; we welcome those who are interested.

We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary in 2014, let us bring in 50 new Loyal Ladies...

Peace and Unity!

Shirley Henry Gideon

Sons of Solomon continue Masonic Works



age.

The club recently has taken on the responsibility on maintaining a 2-mile stretch of land under the Adopt-A-Highway program. The Adopt-a-Highway program of the Texas Department of Transportation has given the club an opportunity assist in keeping Texas beautiful.

Additionally, the Killeen and San Antonio Chapters traveled to the Texas State Capitol in Austin in support of the Annual Legislative Day 2013. This year's session was a huge success as bikers from all over Texas, and out of state, united to advocate for motorcycle safety and rights for all citizens.



Story by: Chapter Staff

SAN ANTONIO - The Sons of Solomon Motorcycle Club of San Antonio is a local chapter of the National Sons of Solomon Motorcycle Club who are Prince Hall Affiliated Masons. The club actively participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. March held, Jan. 21, by volunteering as march escorts and marshals. It was a great opportunity to serve a worthy cause and fellowship with members of the community.

The parade participants and MLK Commission, who organized the event, greatly appreciated the club's service who contributed to both the safety and success of the event.

In support against kidney disease, the club participated in a free screening program at the Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828.

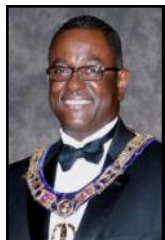
There are approximately 3,455 people in Bexar County on dialysis. The mission of the State of Texas Kidney Foundation is to improve the health and well being of people

at risk or affected by kidney disease, through education, prevention and support and by increasing organ donation and transplantation. Kidney disease symptoms are usually silent. With early treatment, kidney disease can be slowed and sometimes even prevented from doing permanent dam-



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

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

VIII

Good & Bad Reviews

- 1872: Grand Master W.D. Matthews is noted in a Resolution of the Missouri Grand Lodge for un-Masonic conduct. M.W. Grand Lodge of Kansas was asked by the Missouri Grand Lodge to "place a good man at their head, and failing to do this, they felt that the M.W. Grand Lodge will be compelled to suspend Masonic intercourse with the M.W. Grand Lodge of Kansas."
- 1873: Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts remained under the auspices of the National Grand Lodge until December 18, 1873 when she seceded from the National Grand Lodge against the advice and consent of the National Grand Lodge. (Brock)

IX

Delany & Gleaves Political Power in Carolina

Bro. Martin R. Delany moves to Charleston, S.C. where he held many elected political positions.

In 1874, he lost an election for Lieutenant Governor of South

Carolina to Richard Howell Gleaves. Bro. Gleaves would serve three terms as Lieutenant Governor.

• 1874: Norris Wright Cuney is raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason and designated by Grand Master Matthews as Deputy Grand Master of King Solomon Grand Lodge of Kansas and Jurisdictions.

• 1874 - 1878: The attitude of defiance and rebellion towards the National Grand Lodge became acute during the period by the Grand Lodges known as "States Rights Lodges." It was during the heat of the dissensions caused by the State Rights Adherents that Captain William D. Matthews rose to National Leadership. He has attended the convention in Wilmington, Delaware in 1878 as Grand Master from Kansas (King Solomon Grand Lodge), while George W. Levere held the National Grand Mastership. But after 1886, it was to be Captain W.D. Matthews who would be at the helm of the National Grand Lodge. Impatient with waywardness, and endowed with a soldier's mind for action, he gave and ultimatum to the rebellious Lodges, and terminated the revolt as far as the National Grand Lodge was concerned. (Brock)

X

The Founding of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas

• 1875: Deputy Grand Master (of Kansas) Cuney and District Deputy Grand Master Richard Allen on Au-

gust 19th answered the call to assemble in Brenham, Texas for the purpose of establishing **The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas and on August 20 adopted the committee's report of recommended officers.**

Grand Master Norris W. Cuney, J.R. Taylor of Brenham Grand Senior Warden, Edward Wilkerson of Austin Grand Junior Warden, J.H. Morris of Galveston, Grand Secretary, J.P. Ball of Brenham Grand Recorder, Wilson Nicholas of Galveston Grand Treasurer, John Lands of Galveston as Grand Tiler.

• 1876: January 29th. The Grand Lodge Officers were installed by **Captain W.D. Matthews** (according to Bro. Robert Uzzel – Captain W. D. Matthews was Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge and a resident of Leavenworth, Kansas)

The record shows that he was Grand Master of the (National) Grand Lodge of Kansas - King Solomon Grand Lodge during this period.

The First Lodges:

• 1876: Charters were granted to the following Lodges.

- San Antonio No. 1, San Antonio
- Mt. Bonnell No. 2, Austin
- Magnolia No. 3, Houston
- Amity No. 4, Galveston
- Widow's Son No. 5, Marshall
- Mt. Morial No. 6, Waco
- Holloway No. 7, Downsville
- Roosevelt No. 8, Kendleton
- Paul Drayton No. 9, Dallas
- Pilgrim No. 10, Denison
- Western Star No. 11, Victoria
- St. John No. 12, Chapel Hill/ (Mt. Lebanon in Brenham)

- Gulf No. 13, Corpus Christi
- Reed No. 14, Luling
- Jackson No. 15, San Angelo
- Baldwin No. 16, Ft. Grant, AZ (Military Lodge)

XI

Brother Matthews Dismissed

• 1876: Missouri dismissed Bro. Matthews and his Grand Lodge and reported in its proceedings of 1876 that "It is the practice of society, as soon as one individual steps down and out, another takes its place. When an organization has accomplished its mission, and life is hanging by a thread, a new one comes into being, and begins its work where the other left off." And with that it reported on a new Grand Lodge of Kansas made up of Western Star No. 5, Euclid No. 39, Topeka and Mt. Olive No. 4 of Leavenworth working under PHGL of Ohio, meeting in a convention in Lawrence, Kansas to form a new Grand Lodge independent of the National Grand Lodge for Kansas.

XII

Actions taken concerning Bro. W.D. Mathews by Texas

M.W.G.L.O.F.F.A.A.Y.M. for the State of Texas and its Jurisdictions on June 19, 1876, "The committee on the Grand Master Richard Allen's Address:

We the committee on the G.M. Address...Deploring the unfortunate differences that exist in the country between Colored Masons, hail with joy any movement in keeping with the ancient landmarks that will tend to bring the Craft together again in the bounds of unity and brotherly love.

We would therefore recommend, that the M.W.G. Master, strike out so much of his Address as alludes

to what Bro. Wm. D. Mathews of Kansas informed him, in relation to the call of the National Masonic Convention, called for the 4th of Sept. A.L. 5877 in the city of Chicago; as the language is not such as ought to go to the Masonic world from this Grand Lodge...

• 1877: Date the National Grand Lodge was rumored to have ceased operations. The Compact meets in Pittsburg, Penn. May 15th – 18th even though it was affected by mass defections.

• 1878: The M.W.G.L. of F.A.A.Y.M. for the State of Texas and Jurisdictions June 18, 1878 on a motion by Bro. Cuney offered the following resolution.

Whereas, On the 8th day of May, 1878, there was assembled in the City of Wilmington, Delaware, a Masonic Convention, called for the purpose of considering the unfortunate differences that have long existed among the Colored Masons of this country, and

Whereas, The said Convention did recommend the disbandment of the National Grand Lodge, and organization, instead thereof, a National Grand Lodge Union, **Therefore, Be it Resolved**, By the Grand Lodge for the State of Texas, in annual session assembled, that deeming the said action of the National Convention to be for the best interests of the Masonic Fraternity. We do hereby accept the findings of the said Convention, and recommend to all sister Grand Lodges throughout the country, the acceptance of the same.

Be it further Resolved, that the Secretary of this Grand Lodge is hereby instructed to notify all Grand Lodges throughout the country, of the action of this Grand body, and that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to each Grand Secretary.

On motion, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

• 1878: Captain W.D. Mathews went into Missouri to recruit masons for the National Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge of Missouri recorded the following in its minutes of 1878: King Solomon Grand Lodge. This Grand Lodge is situated in the State of Kansas, and became an insignificant body, almost a nonentity, in the Masonic world, yet the Grand Lodge of Masons in pursuing a policy that has always been followed since our organization, viz., to exchange Representatives with all Grand Lodges, two years ago, on application, the Grand Master, King Solomon, was placed on the list of exchanges, and the Grand Master, W.D. Mathews, was honored as the Representative of our Grand Lodge. Near that delectable Grand East, all went well for a time; King Solomon Grand Lodge was dying by inches.

• 1878: The Sovereign Grand Lodge of Kansas (Prince Hall) under the leadership of M.W. David G. Lett, Hannibal G. Lett, and H.C. Bruce, was gradually and surely supping up King Solomon, until hardly a drop of the King is left. In this dilemma, Grand Master Mathews cast his hungry eyes to the fair and blooming fields of Missouri. They could not resist the temptation of coming into our territory in the month of February, 1878, in the town of Liberty, Clay County, Missouri, where he gathered a few Professors, took all their money and gave them Masonry. He gave them a warrant, as he said, under the authority of King Solomon Grand Lodge.

• 1878: Here was a piece of smallness, petty meanness, seldom found in a man that has filled the high position he was honored as our Representative, appointed to protect the interest of our Grand Lodge near his Grand East, yet he tramples on every principle of justice and right and lay aside the

honorable position that we had lifted him to. The peace and harmony of the craft was nothing to him. I have said more than the influence of the man demands, he is Masonically dead, and his Grand Lodge will soon be a thing of the past; our doors were closed against all members of the Grand Lodge... (Walkes)

Resolution by PGM N.W. Cuney (Proceedings of TMWPHGLOT)

Whereas, On the 8th day May 1878, there was assembled in the City of Wilmington, Delaware a Masonic Convention, called for the purpose of considering the unfortunate differences that have long existed among Colored Masons of this country, and

Whereas, The said Convention did recommend the disbandment of the National Grand Lodge, and organization, instead thereof, a National Grand Lodge Union, thereof.

Be it Resolved, By the Grand Lodge for the State of Texas, in annual session assembled, that deeming the said action of the National Convention to be for the best interests of the Masonic Fraternity. We do hereby accept the findings of the said Convention, and recommend to all Sister Grand Lodges throughout the country, the acceptance of the same...(Unanimously adopted)

• 1881: Proceeding. GM Norris Wright Cuney in Austin ... Is useless for us to try any longer to hold on to the shadow when the substance is gone. The National Compact is a thing of the past in so far as its influence for good extends. ... We have waited for two years, hoping for an amicable adjustment. It is now high time that we would take some affirmative action ourselves in this matter to the end that this unseemly dispute may be finally disposed of and no longer left to disturb the harmony of the craft.

• 1884: Report on Correspondence, Arkansas Grand Master M. A. Clark ... He also gives the National Compact thieves, Captain William D. Matthews Co., "down the river," where it is hoped that the last vestige of this Masonic rascality will be drowned so deep that not one of them will be heard of, or disturb the peace of masonry.

Iowa Proceeding. This M.W.G.L. is young, only about one year in service, and have had some difficulty with the M.W.G.L. of Missouri over jurisdiction. It seems that Masonic brethren have been doing something like our bogus friends, Captain Matthews and Company of Arkansas, but we hope by the time this reaches the G.L the difference will be settled and the hatchet buried... M.W. J.H. Shepard, G.M.

• 1884: Resolution by Brother C. C. Dean: Resolved that a committee of three be appointed to investigate the invasion of our jurisdiction by on Captain William D. Matthews of Kansas. From the Proceedings of 1884, the Committee on Invasion reported as follows: To the M.W.G.M., Warden and Brethren of the M.W.G.L. of the State of Texas and Jurisdictions. We your committee, beg leave to make the following report: Whereas, it has come to our knowledge that one Jacob Young, who purports to be deputized by Captain William D. Matthews, GM of the so called National Compact of Kansas, and the said Jacob Young has deputized one J.D. Stephenson by proxy to set a Lodge at Ft. Worth, Texas, thereby invading this jurisdiction and offering to pay \$1.50 per head for each member that he might congregate for the purpose of setting up lodges and we, knowing that said transaction to be contrary to our Masonic law, either ancient or modern, We therefore recommend that said William D. Matthews be requested by this Grand Body to withdraw his said deputies from this sacred land

of our jurisdiction within 30 days notice from this G.L., or else he and his deputies will be published in the Texas & Kansas papers as impostors and frauds.

On a motion, the report was adopted.

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

Metropolitan Lodge No. 146 celebrates its History, remembers its Past



Story and photo by: Lodge Staff

DESOTO, Texas - On March 23, the "Historic" Metropolitan Lodge No. 146 celebrated its 110th Anniversary with an anniversary dinner honoring their prestigious members, history, and many years of community service. People know Metropolitan Lodge but do not know about its rich history and its role in the Dallas Metroplex.

One of Lodge's charter members was Brother Benjamin Franklin Darrell. This legendary educator was born in Winchester, Franklin County Tennessee in 1856. Bro. Darrell graduated from Fisk University with a Bachelor's and Master's degree and began a lifelong career in education. After teaching many years in his native state of Tennessee, Bro. Darrell relocated to Dallas shortly after the first slaves were freed. He is credited with establishing and serving as the principal of the first colored

school organized in Dallas in 1884, named Colored School No. 1. This was one of the original framed schools built in 1884 when free public schools for blacks were first organized in Dallas. In 1903, the school was later named the Wright Cuney School for the Colored.

In the spring of that same year, Bro. Darrell along with more than 25 other men chartered Metropolitan Lodge No. 146 in Dallas. In 1917, Bro. Darrell became principal of yet another elite school, the Booker T. Washington High School and died mid-semester of 1919 and is buried at the L. Butler Nelson Cemetery in Dallas. This high school was later named the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts and has graduated Grammy award winning artists such as Eryka Badu and Norah Jones to name a few.

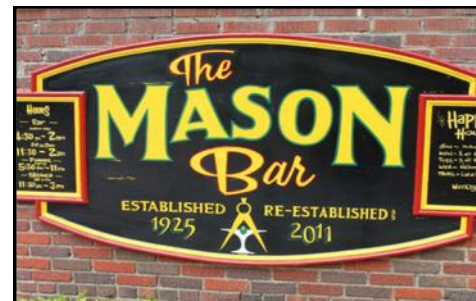
In 1981, The B.F. Darrell Elementary School was built on Lancaster Road in Dallas. Later in

2009, the school was renamed the Barrack Obama Male Academy at B.F. Darrell to honor our first African-American President of the United States of America.

Since the chartering of Metropolitan Lodge No. 146, evidence of the Lodge's work can be seen throughout Dallas and its surrounding cities. The Lodge built and/or acquired four lodge halls during their existence with 2 of them still standing and displaying their cornerstones to this very day. Of the two existing locations on Fleetwood and Guillot Streets, the Guillot Street location now serves as an upscale bar & restaurant named "The Mason Bar" in what is now known today as the uptown district of downtown Dallas.

The owners still acknowledge the existence and the history of Metropolitan Lodge No. 146 by incorporating it into the restaurant's history on their website, www.themasonbar.com, under their history and picture tabs. The restaurant still has the original lodge hall chairs from the 1950's and the cornerstone was laid by yet another legendary Past Master, the late D.C. Collins of Metropolitan Lodge No. 146.

Members of District 10 of Waxahachie, Texas honored P.M. Collins by naming their Knights Templar Commandery No. 40 after him.



Brief History of the Most Worshipful Elohim Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



Former Grand Master of Elohim Grand Lodge regalia.

Submitted by: W.M. Troy Cousin

HOUSTON - The Most Worshipful Elohim Grand Lodge of Texas was organized on January 8, 2011 in Houston, Texas by The Logos Lodge No. 7, The Logos Lodge No. 16, and The Logos Lodge No. 25 (formerly Stone Cutters Lodge No. 15), and The Logos Lodge No. 34 which all declared their independence from the New Covenant Grand Lodge of Texas Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and joining the Ahimon Rezon Masonic Congress and the Independent Supreme Council. During that time, the Grand Lodge accepted the Heroines of Destiny Grand Chapter, Order of the Easter Star into

its jurisdiction. While belonging to the Independent Supreme Council, many of the Brethren received degrees in the following concordant bodies: Holy Royal Arch Masons, Order of Knights Templar, Lodge of Perfection, Rose Croix, Kadosh Council, Consistory, and Supreme Council, along with Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. The Sisters received degrees in the following appendant bodies: Order of Amaranth, Heroines of Jericho, Lady Knights Templar, and Rose of the Seven Seals, along with the Daughters of Sphinx.

The Grand Lodge's Grand Master, Brother Troy Cousin began research into regularity and concluded that the

Grand Lodge was violating the principle of autonomy. Therefore, the Grand Lodge declared its independence and returned the original charters to the Ahimon Rezon Masonic Congress.

After the Grand Lodge's declaration of independence, it added the following Lodges to its register: The Logos Lodge No. 43 of Dallas, Texas; Masada Lodge No. 1, and Stones of Howard McMahon Lodge No. 4 of Brooklyn, New York; and Gabriel Lodge No. 3 of Newport News, Virginia.

However, through their continual research on regularity, the Grand Lodge recognized that they are only two "Regular and Recognized" Masonic bodies within the State of Texas: The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas and The Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Therefore, the members of the Most Worshipful Elohim Grand Lodge agreed to dissolve and be "Healed" into The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas.

The historical event took place at Heights-Ionic Pride Lodge No. 280 in Houston, Texas on September 22, 2012. At which time, the members were "Set To Work" as Logos Lodge (Under Dispensation) by Most Worshipful Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis.

The Logos Lodge No. 43, Masada Lodge No. 1, Stones of Howard McMahon Lodge No. 4, and Gabriel Lodge No. 3 remain clandestine.

FORUM

Phylaxis National Convention 2013



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

ATLANTA - One of the great Prince Hall moments of our time, a milestone in our history, was held, March 6 - 9. It was both the 40th Anniversary of the Phylaxis Society and the end of a 7-year reign of President John B. Williams, whose untiring efforts have revitalized and grown the Phylaxis Society into the preeminence it has today. Con-
junctively, The Phyllis Society also celebrated their 30th Anniversary meeting at the same host hotel, the Atlanta Airport Crowne Plaza.

Most of the members had not yet arrived Wednesday night, but the few that were there gathered for a light repast with a 40th Anniversary cake where a few 30th and



Lt. to Rt.: Brothers Alton Roundtree, John B. Williams, Damajo Smith, Robert Campbell, Donald O. Nelson, and Ed Crews.

40th Anniversary awards were given to both Phylaxis and Phyllis members. The highlight of the evening was the Council of Representatives' Tried And True Award presented to President John B. Williams by his officers. President Williams was stepping down but



Cover of past issues of The Phylaxis magazine.

not without much appreciation.

March 7, was the official opening of the 40th Session of the Phylaxis National Convention. A joint Phylaxis-Phyllis Memorial Service was conducted in the morning by Brother Larry Moore who turned the ceremony over to Hon. Bro. Alex Smith. A candle was lit at the altar after which all recited the 23rd Psalm followed by singing of "Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross." Then followed the roll call of deceased members followed by prayer. The Phylaxis Memorial Service having been completed, the Phyllis Society then conducted its opening ceremony and memorial service. Closing remarks were given by Phyllis President Alfreda D. Brumfield and President John B. Williams.

After a short break both Societies boarded two buses for an Atlanta Masonic tour choreographed by Past Grand Historian of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia, Past Master

Doug Evans. While we all were waiting for the buses to arrive P.M. Evans show us some giant pictures of Georgia Masons circa 1945.

There were essentially four major stops we made on this bus tour. We visited the Grand East of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia. It was located in a beautiful building that had originally been a church. As a matter of fact, the Grand Lodge rents out space to a church to have its services each Sunday.

We stopped at an off ramp to an



Bro. Doug Evans displaying photos of Georgia History.



Brothers Charles Stewart and Emmanuel Lewis.

Interstate highway where there was an old Slave cemetery. Some of the graves had been uprooted when the highway went in, but a group of citizens made a valiant effort to preserve what remains in this place today. One of the graves had a Masonic symbol on it.

We then visited the downtown memorial to P.G.M. John Wesley Dobbs and then unto the corner of the old Grand East building at 330 Auburn Street. This building shows the history of a bygone era and is still in use by some of the Blue Lodges.

We ended our tour with a stop at the Martin Luther King Center and the Ebenezer Baptist Church close by.

Mingling with the Phyllis Sisters provided two highlights for this author. Meeting and talking with Sister Jeannette M. Walkes, wife of the late Joseph A. Walkes Jr., and founding Phyllis member 101-year-old Kayrellen Dunn, spry as can be, was testimony not to be missed.

Later that evening, we visited South Fulton Lodge No. 598 that had set up in a private room at the hotel. The District Deputy Grand Master was P.M. Jonathan White and the Master of the Lodge was Bro. Frederico Johnson. Here, we got to see how Georgia performed opening and closing ceremonies. The Senior Deacon of the Lodge announced all visitors by name

starting with all Grand Lodge Officers, then Past Grand Lodge Officers, all Past Masters followed by all Master Masons. Joining us that evening were G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis of Texas, G.M. Cleveland Wilson of Arkansas, P.G.M. Joe B. Lewis of Missouri, P.G.M. Jessie Watkins of New Mexico, and P.G.M. Alex Smith of New Mexico. The Grand Master of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of George, Hon, Douglas Jones, was received with Grand Honors whereupon he received the gavel and received all visiting Grand Masters and Past

search Society.” He talked about the Phylaxis Society and preached the need for a strong foundation combined with great leadership. Bro. Roundtree gave us views on this subject from interviews with past presidents and leaders of the Phylaxis Society. He stated that the Phylaxis Magazine plays an important role in getting the society noticed. Bro. Roundtree mentioned a 1993 meeting in St. Louis regarding recognition with four Mainstream Grand Masters. That was leadership!

Bro. William H. Gross presented



Grand Masters.

Some of us noticed a few practices that were different from our jurisdictions. When officers in Georgia passed the South or West they salute these stations. The Chaplin is seated facing out but the Senior Deacon opposite him faces in. The evening came to a close with some inspiring remarks from G.M. Jones.

March 8, we spent the day in Workshops.

Bro. Alton Roundtree presented a paper titled “Survival of a Re-

a paper about Gargoyles. These characters are found on many well known European churches and some have Masonic overtones. The “sign of the journeyman” consisted of placing the right hand with the thumb forming a right angle on the throat. It recalls, as well, that Saint Blaise, one of the Patron Saints of Masons, was also the protector of the throat.

Bro. Ras Cannady followed with Chapter Awards to Brothers Edward Mitchell, Tehuti Evans,



Bro. Alton Roundtree

Stephen Dotts and Khari Cooper, after which he turned over a significant portion of his time to Bro. Adrian Cooley who presented a case study of Brian L. Abrams Sr. Chapter of Chicago.

Tried and True Awards were presented to Brothers Bruce Benjamin, Adrian Cooley, Charles Stewart and Karl Reid. Bro. Robert Campbell held awards for Brothers Raymond S. Walters and Brian Rodgers who were not present.

The awards were followed by PHD Phyllis Sister Sibyl E. Moses who presented a well researched and fascinating presentation titled, "A Real Contribution to the Cause of Negro Education." She told us about the Masonic Project started by the Urban League and Prince Hall Masons. Along the way, we learned about Amos T. Hall, George Williamson Crawford, Lester B. Granger and Obed E. Vanderburg. Sis. Moses is a reference specialist in the Humanities and Social Sciences Division of The Library of Congress. She received a standing ovation for her presentation.

President Williams took a moment to present G.M. Wilson with a framed copy of the Man of the Year article published about him in *The Phylaxis* magazine.

We broke for lunch hosted by the Phyllis Society. Mistress of Ceremonies was Sis. Jeannette M. Walkes. Sis. Eileen Jackson sang two solos. The featured speaker was Rev. Sister M. Darylene Rood-

Allen, who inspired us all to experience life fully. Awards were given out to Bro. Tommy Rigmaiden, President Williams, Sis. Alfreda D. Brumfield and Sis. Flora J. Simon. That afternoon, the session saw a continuance of workshop presentations.

First up was President Williams with a fascinating presentation titled "Why Ethiopia?" Escaping to Ethiopia was not found in Anderson's Constitutions, President Williams told us, although much other information about the 3rd Degree is there. Few people know that Nubian Civilization, indigenous Africans along the Nile River who speak the Nubian languages, had



Brothers John B. Williams and Alex Smith

an ancient advanced culture and civilization that provided much of the foundation for Greco-Roman civilization. In Greek – ethio = burned and pia = face. So Ethiopians with a burned skin tone was a place with the greatest genetic diversity of any area in the world, a great place to hide and blend in. A tidbit that Williams educated us in was that the likeness of the pyramid on the dollar is one of a Nubian pyramid not an Egyptian one.

Next was an equally fascinating presentation by Bro. A. Tehuti Evans titled "The Ahmes and Moscow Mathematical Papyrus, The Ancient Origin of Geometry and Mathematics." Bro. Evans told us that the use of Geometry can be traced to early peoples where geometry was

a collection of empirically discovered principles concerning lengths, angles, areas and volumes which were developed to meet some practical need in surveying, construction, astronomy and various crafts. Both the Egyptians and Babylonians were aware of versions of the Pythagorean Theorem about 1,500 years before Pythagoras. Ancient African Mathematics are called the Ahmes (Rind) and Moscow Papyri, Geometry written and recorded on papyrus.

We rounded out our day by inducting two Phylaxis Brothers into the Harry A. Williamson Masonic Hall of Fame. Receiving the award posthumously was Bro. Howard B. Harvey, accepted by his widow. And also receiving the award was President Williams. Both Mrs. Harvey and President Williams were grateful for the recognition.

March 9, we returned to the place whence we came for more workshop presentations.

We started off the morning with a panel discussion on the subject "Social Networking and The Craft." President Williams began with some introductory remarks and then turned it over to a panel of Brothers Adrian Cooley, Fred Milliken, Damajo Smith and Don Parks. A lively discussion ensued with many comments from the audience.

Bro. Canady followed with an excellent and most interesting presentation on the Buffalo Soldiers,



Brothers Ras Cannady, Tommy Rigmaiden, William H. Gross



Bro. William H. Gross

those African-American guardians of the Wild West who kept America safe from marauding Indians, cattle rustlers, border bandits, and revolutionaries. The Buffalo Soldiers, many of whom were Prince Hall Masons, fought in the Spanish-American War alongside Teddy Roosevelt. Bro. Canady completed his presentation by presenting two Buffalo Soldier statue awards to two Brothers that he felt had especially mentored him, Tommy Rigmaiden and William H. Gross. That was a wonderful, heartfelt moment. Bro. Amr Asker followed with a presentation on "The All Seeing Eye." We got to see the many uses of the "All Seeing Eye" through history from most early times to the present.

"The Symbolism of Euclid's Sign," by Bro. Marlon S. Honeywell followed. Bro. Honeywell talked about the symbolism of the Pythagorean Theorem and Bloom's Taxonomy. A=divine revelation, B= earthly experiences, C= wisdom. A= compass, B= square, C= letter G. Then we have another 3 – Wisdom, Strength and Beauty. Bro. Honeywell got a standing ovation for his great analysis and articulation.

Bro. Larry D. Moore was the Master of Ceremony for the Phylaxis Society's 4Bs Awards Luncheon. The Phylaxis Society recognizes community service contributions of Brothers in the areas of Ballot, Business, Books and Brotherhood. The recipients were

as follows:

Ballots:

Bro. Alexander Gothard

Business:

Bro. Emmanuel Lewis

Books:

Bro. Doug Evans

Brotherhood:

Bro. Jeffrey L. Anderson

We returned from lunch for a presentation by President Williams on "Phylaxis Society General Laws," followed by the election of officers. Bro. Campbell was elected the new President of the Phylaxis Society. All other elected officers were reelected to their positions. Brothers Edward Darnell, Damajo Smith and Ed Crews were elected to the vacant positions on the Board of Directors.

All that remained was the joint Phylaxis-Phyllis Awards Night's Banquet. Master of Ceremony was Bro. Tommy Rigmaiden. And what a great night it was. Brotherly love and affection just flowed around the room like milk and honey.

The Robert W. Brown Chapter of Louisiana received the Chapter of the Year Award. Bro. Brian Rogers

from Georgia received the Representative of the Year Award. Bro. Alton Roundtree was awarded the 2013 Presidential Award.

Followed was the much coveted John G. Lewis Medal of Excellence, presented first to G.M. Dr. Ralph Slaughter of Louisiana, then to G.M. Wilson by John B. Williams. The tribute given to the outgoing president brought tears to our eyes and his farewell remarks brought the house to its feet. Loving remarks by the G.M. Jones closed out the memorable 40th Session of the Phylaxis Society.

Next year it is on to Albuquerque, N.M. under the leadership of President Campbell.



SPOTLIGHT

Brother José Griñán was born and raised in Tampa. His father was a native Cuban and his mother was a first generation Cuban-American.

Bro. Griñán is well respected and admired by many in the Houston-Galveston area. In 2002, the International Order of Forresters recognized him as the 2001 "Man of the Year". The "Houston Press" named him the "Best TV News Anchor" in 2007. Besides keeping busy as a full-time anchor, Bro. Griñán stays active in the community. He is a volunteer for the Stride for Stroke Run, Jazz Education Houston, Inc., the National Kidney Foundation, The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Special Olympics, and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, to name a few. He is also a board member of several community-based organizations that include the Houston READ Commission, Keep Houston Beautiful/Clean City America, and the Dive Pirate's Foundation.

Bro. Griñán joined KRIV-TV in August of 1993 and has been an integral part of FOX 26 Morning news since its inception. He is currently the station's senior morning news anchor, sitting alongside Melissa Wilson and Natalie Bomke every day on FOX 26 Morning News from 6:00 to 9:00 AM. He also anchors solo on FOX 26 News at Noon.

Bro. Griñán speaks Spanish fluently and takes a great deal of pride in his dual heritage. He has been a member of the National Association of Black Journalists since 1978. He also maintains membership in the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, and the Southwest Alternate Media Project. In addition, Bro. Griñán is one of FOX 26's most requested personalities to serve as "master of



*Bro. José Griñán
Ever Ready Lodge No. 506
District 16
Houston, Texas*

ceremony."

Bro. Griñán also enjoys speaking to students throughout school districts in our area, giving words of encouragement, motivation, and information about the various aspects and career opportunities



available to them. Bro. Griñán's interest in broadcasting came while filming and helping to produce documentaries for the U.S. Army.

Since being discharged from the Army, Jose's career has taken him to several major cities throughout U.S. He's worked in New York, Tampa, Miami, Los Angeles and Dallas before joining the Fox 26 News department in 1993. His career choice has allowed him to be an eyewitness to both triumph and tragedy. He covered the massacre at a Luby's cafeteria in Killeen, Texas. He saw civil disturbances firsthand in Miami, Los Angeles, and New York, as well as the tragic sewer explosion in Guadalajara, Mexico. Bro. Griñán has chased hurricanes in the Caribbean and on the U.S. mainland, and was one of the first reporters on the scene of the Branch Davidian siege in Waco, Texas. As many of these real-life dramas unfolded he was bringing live reports to his television viewers.


Bro. Griñán is the father of two adult daughters. During his off-duty hours, he enjoys all sports and outdoor activities. In addition to his anchor duties, Bro. Griñán has produced a variety of special series reports, and hosts "The Black Voice", and substitutes as host for "Hola Houston". Both are now weekly public affairs segments in weekend news programming.

Before joining KRIV, Jose anchored and reported at KDFW-TV in Dallas for 2 years. He began his broadcast career in 1975 as reporter and weekend anchor for KTSM in El Paso, Texas.

He was made a Mason at Sight by G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis during a ceremony held in Houston in October 2012.

Called to the Celestial Lodge

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

Benjamin Alley.....		<i>Prince Hall No. 18</i>
Leon M. Botts.....		<i>Key West No. 257</i>
Ernest Brow Jr.....		<i>LaMarque No. 373</i>
Clifford G. Brown.....		<i>Ever Ready No. 506</i>
Henderson Byrd.....		<i>Johnson No. 504</i>
Guthrie Dennis.....		<i>Star Tom No. 100</i>
Travis Hendricks.....		<i>Amity No. 4</i>
Rodger Johnson.....		<i>Olive Leaf No. 319</i>
James C. Jones.....		<i>Pride of Beaumont No. 291</i>
Noah E. Kline.....		<i>Olive Leaf No. 319</i>
Claude C. Lofton Sr.....		<i>Rainbow No. 445</i>
Cranford Matlock.....		<i>Heights-Ionic Pride No. 280</i>
Alonzo Oliver.....		<i>Mt. Aratt No. 131</i>
Lee Charles Page.....		<i>Nacogdoches No. 369</i>
Lincoln Randle.....		<i>Reed No. 14</i>
Floyd S. Rowe Sr.....		<i>Polar Star No. 33</i>
Bobby G. Royal.....		<i>Love Chapel No. 558</i>
Raymond Shaw.....		<i>Key West No. 257</i>
Mario A. Wilson.....		<i>Alvin B. Amos No. 645</i>

BRING YOUR LODGE BANNERS TO THE GRAND SESSION

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

The Grand Lodge is continuing the new tradition of inviting local Lodges and Districts to bring their Lodge banners to the Grand Session for display around the rails in the second floor foyer. In order to participate the banners must arrive at the Grand Temple before 12:00 noon on Thursday, June 20, 2013. The banners will be displayed on a first come, first served basis until all of the available space is occupied. The banners must be available to remain to be displayed until after the close of business on Saturday, June 22, 2012. The banners must be in condition such that it is capable of being hung from the rails. Upon arrival at the Temple, the banners will be checked in on the second floor and the Lodge will be given a receipt for the banner and must retrieve the banner with that same receipt. The location where the banner will be displayed will be determined by the committee handling this activity. For further information concerning this activity contact G.L.A. Willie High Coleman, Jr., D.D.G.M. Tracy Williams or P.D.D.G.M. Jerry Brown. Please join us in celebrating who we are!

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CONFERENCE TOPICS

•TOPICS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MASONIC RESEARCH AND WRITING

Research methods, primary and secondary sources, citations

Writing styles for different publications

Writing for different audiences

Interviewing techniques for oral histories

Recommended publishing standards

Editing quotes, sources, and scripts

Publishing ethics and etiquette

MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES

Building and using an artifact database

Basic preservation and presentation

Photographs

Collections policies

Archival preservation

MASONIC LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

Cataloging systems- Masonic vs. non-Masonic

Online databases- OCLC, World Cat

Digitization of proceedings and other materials

Presentation and preservation of printed and written material

The conference is open to anyone interested in Masonic research and preservation, but will be specifically targeted toward two groups: (i) members of Masonic lodges of research as well as authors, writers, and researchers, both published and aspiring, and (ii) Masonic librarians and museum curators.



**George Washington Masonic Memorial
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The Quarry Project is co-sponsored by The Masonic Society and the Masonic Library and Museum Association in cooperation with the George Washington Masonic Memorial.



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