



The Texas Prince Hall Freemason



Official Publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas
Volume 3 - Issue 8 - Fall 2012



M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis presents the Charter of Roots Lodge No. 656 to Worshipful Master Louis Metan and the officers of Roots Lodge. Roots Lodge No. 656 is the first Prince Hall Lodge established in Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa.

“We come Together in Unity”

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From the Editor



Greetings,

Retention and increasing our membership has been a common theme stressed this Masonic year, and well so. Without Freemasons, there would be no Freemasonry. Let's not assume that once a man is made a Master Mason that he will stay active. He must attain the passion of Freemasonry. He attains it through involvement with his Lodge and through self-study. Again it is an honor and pleasure to bring to you the eighth edition of *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason*. Please continue to send in your submissions in the proper format. Additionally, the publication is available for advertisement. If you know of organizations who would like to advertise in the publication, please provide them with my email address in order to correspond.

Fraternally,

W.M. Burrell D. Parmer

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

Cover photo by Bro. Bryan Thompson

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason

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2012 - 2013**

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

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Message from the Grand Master

(Excerpts from the Annual Allocution)

I greet you in the name of The Great Architect of the Universe. The Constitution of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and its Jurisdiction sets forth the second duty of the Grand Master. He is to present at each annual communication a written message therein, setting forth all of his official acts during the year. The Grand Master is to inform the Craft of the general conditions of Freemasonry within the Jurisdiction of Texas and recommend legislation that is deemed necessary for the welfare of the Order. I stand before you today as your Grand Master to perform that task.

M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis

I thank God for allowing us to meet and greet one more time as a Masonic Family. I am well pleased to have our Sisters of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter and the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho in the midst of the Brothers for the purpose of sharing the thoughts of the condition, vision and hope for the future of our Grand Old Order as the Prince Hall Masonic Family. It is by God's grace that we are able to continue to play a major part in promoting Morality, Brotherly Love and Charity.

I come to you this Saturday morning, the 23rd day of June, bringing you my 9th Annual Message as your Grand Master.

I ask our Grand Organist to lead us in an inspirational song after which we will be blessed with a prayer by our Grand Chaplain. I ask that he pray for our military sisters and brothers that are in harm's way, fighting for our freedom. I ask that he pray for our country and wisdom for our President and leaders. I ask for him to pray for world peace.

I now stand before you to deliver my Ninth Annual Allocution.

I want to thank the entire Prince Hall Masonic Family for your prayers, encouragement and support. We have successfully completed another Masonic year.

State of Our Grand Lodge

Membership

As stated in the report of the Grand Secretary; we had an increase in membership this year. As you heard me state previously, we have reactivated the Charters of three Lodges and will issue Charters to two Lodges at this Grand Session. Both Lodges are progressing nicely. I am proud to announce that one of the Lodges is our tie back to our Brothers of West Africa; Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The name given the Lodge is most appropriate; "Roots Lodge No. 656". We are proud to have representatives from that Lodge present today to receive their Charter and take back a dispensation for a second Lodge, whose recommended name is "Silence U.D. Lodge". The ultimate goal for our Brothers in Cote d'Ivoire is to eventually setup at least three subordinate Lodges and constitute a Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa. The Jurisdiction of North Carolina has also setup at least one Lodge in The Congo, Africa. They will be collaborating to make a presence of Prince Hall Freemasonry there.

All of this is great but we still are having problems with retention of our Brothers. We are still losing a significant number of Brothers to non-payment of dues. I am afraid that it is more of a lack of interest in our Lodges. Some of our Lodge hall doors that young men knock on to seek Light and wisdom have become revolving doors. They knock, you let them in, they see that you are not doing anything productive and they go right back out of that door, never to return again. One of the excuses given is because of the bad economic conditions. Well Brothers, I beg to differ with you. I believe that if we were doing the work of Freemasons; extending Charity, Benevolence, Brotherly Love and expressing Hope for a better tomorrow, in these economically hard times, we would attract men and women to the Order.

Financial Condition

My brothers, the financial conditions were presented on yesterday and I thank you for overwhelmingly taking the necessary actions to remedy the problems. There are still those who try to find excuses not to change or want to prevent change. There are always going to be those people. We let them voice their opinion but in the end, it is the opinion of the majority that counts.

Charity and the Charitable Trust Foundation

Our Charitable Trust Foundation is now functioning as a separate entity with Bro. Willie High Coleman, Jr. serving as chairman. Most Charity of the Grand lodge is now made through the Foundation. Last year contributions the foundation were made to:

- Robert E. Connor, Jr. Youth Camp,
- Knights of Pythagoras Leadership Conference
- J. T. Maxey Scholarship
- Prince Hall Family Annual Christmas Gift Give-Away
- The Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum.

Other Charity is donated through the Foundation as the need arises. You heard the report of the Foundation given by Bro. Coleman on yesterday.

I would be remised if I didn't thank all of the Masonic Bodies that have made contributions of Charity through the Foundation:

- Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter
- Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho
- Lone Star Grand Guild
- Texas Golden Assembly
- M.E.G.C. H.R.A.M. of Texas
- Lone Star Grand Commandary
- Texas Council of Deliberations
- United Supreme Council AASR.

The Prince Hall Masonic Family Annual Christmas Gift Give-Away was a success once again. Making over 1,200 children happy with free gifts for Christmas was a rewarding experience. The joint committee has already met and is preparing for this year's give-away. It was just as rewarding to us as an organization giving, as it was to those that received the gifts. I am still appalled that we still have those that criticize this effort. They say it is not doing anything in their community. I have stated over and over again, the donations given for this project do not replace donations made locally around the state. We need to quit being narrow minded, only concerning ourselves with what's in it for us? I dare to say that those who complain probably don't do much of anything in their local community either.

What can we do to increase contributions that will increase our charitable efforts? Brothers and Sisters, many of you work for major corporations that make donations to non-profit organizations based on volunteer work of their employees. I ask that you consider having those donations made to the Charitable Foundation. You may also designate what charitable activity you would like those funds to go toward.

Necrology

This last Masonic year, we lost 47 members. Some of the Brothers were pillars of this Grand Lodge. Pap Anderson, Leon Thornton and a Brother that has helped capture the working of this Grand Lodge and most of the Masonic bodies through his photography. That is none other than Rev. Bro. Bernard Brown. His work in this Grand Lodge will live on but I feel the memory we have of him will live on in our hearts much longer.

Burial Relief Program

Burial relief payments have been made to all who submitted the proper paper work and were eligible to receive it.

Masters and Secretaries, I ask that you work with the widows and family members of deceased Brothers in getting the death proof blanks and death certificates in to the Grand Secretary as soon as possible so that the relief can be processed.

Masonic Districts

I thank those Brothers that give up your personal time to serve the Grand Lodge through the Masonic Districts. I plan to attend more District meetings this coming year. The main objective this year is to assist in

training the Worshipful Masters of the Lodges to become better leaders and find ways to increase and maintain your membership.

Fraternal Relations with Concordant and Appendant Bodies

I continue to work with the leaders to insure that all Masonic Houses in this jurisdiction are all on one accord. We must continue to work together in order to grow. The Grand Lodge is the foundation and the source for all the organizations. This past September on Prince Hall Americanism Day Weekend, we had a great pilgrimage back to Brenham, Texas, the place where we were organized. It was there that we, the head of the Prince Hall Masonic Family met and discussed the concerns, issues of the Masonic Family. We found that the solution to 99% of our issues is to communicate. We left there with the commitment to continue meeting and working together. We had our second meeting in January, in Houston, Texas during the Norris Wright Cuney Annual Luncheon. We will continue to meet for the betterment of the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family. I still have a vision for all the Masonic Houses to meet together at an annual session before I leave the seat as Grand Master. I think that would be a beautiful thing, but I want it to be a desire by all.

Fraternal Relations

As of this date, The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas is in harmony with our sister Prince Hall Jurisdictions and the other Grand Lodges of which we have mutual recognition. We are pleased to have visitors from eight jurisdictions at this Grand Session. We are also on one accord with the United Supreme Council, A.A.S.R., S.J.

We are in amity with the Conference of Grand Masters, the General Grand Conference Holy Royal Arch Masons, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and the Sister Counter-parts to those Conferences.

At the Conference of Grand Masters this year, we were asked to have everyone concentrate on not only voter registration, but voter education. Know who you are voting for and know what you are voting for. Secondly, be aware of the push to require specific voter identification in order to vote. That legislation is presently being reviewed by the Supreme Court. This is purely a way to prevent the underclass and poor from voting. If you ever have a chance to voice your opinion, let it be against this legislation.

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason Publication

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason Publication is the online quarterly publication for the Grand Lodge. It can be accessed by anyone who has access to the Grand Lodge's website. I hope that all are taking advantage of it on a quarterly basis because it tells keeps you abreast of what is going on around the state. I thank our Grand Editor Burrell Parmer and his Committee for doing a fine job with the publication. Its continued success depends on you submitting your events for the publication.

Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum

The library museum greatly enhances this building and makes this house Our Home. It allows us to "tell our own story" through our documents and artifacts! The most exciting part of it all is that, this is just the beginning.

State of the Country

The State of the Country can best be described as evolving. America is still the best Country in the world, but its position as a world leader has changed. When events occur around the world as they have in Egypt and Syria and other places the world looks to the United States for a response and leadership. As a country, we continue to provide responses and leadership, but there is, perhaps rightfully so, a more controlled response to the world's issues.

The recovery from a worldwide recession and economic turmoil has been slow. The top issue to Americans appears to be the high unemployment rate. While improvements have been made and the rate of unemployment is reducing there are many who are unemployed and many who have remained unemployed for a significant period of time. The debate about healthcare continues and the United States Supreme Court is now reviewing the legality of the national healthcare plan. The housing market is slowly recovering and this recovery is creating stimulus to the economy in other areas. United States troops are still deployed in Afghanistan and around the world and President Obama has recently identified a withdrawal plan from that Country. God bless the men and women who volunteer their service to defend the ideals of this Country and who place their lives on the line for our safety.

Our goals as a Jurisdiction this year are quite simple:

1. Be a positive impact and make a difference in our communities by performing Charity work outside of Lodge hall walls.
2. Work together with our Sisters, as a Masonic Family, to provide Charity in the communities.
3. Increase membership to 4,000 with worthy and well qualified Brothers.

Our goals as Grand Master and Board of Directors are:

1. Improve the Masonic Order at all levels from the local Lodges, Districts to the Grand Lodge.
2. Build upon our present fraternal relations with sister jurisdictions and national fraternal orders.

Conclusion

I must thank the Board of Directors who worked hand in hand with me to insure the progress of this Grand Lodge. A special, special thanks to Grand Secretary Hubert L. Reece for his unwavering dedication he provides for not only this Grand Lodge, the Prince Masonic Family of Texas but to some of the national Masonic bodies.

A special thanks to our Office Manager, Mrs. Angie Scroggins for the daily business operations of the Grand Lodge Office.

I thank the leadership of all the Masonic Houses for having a vision for our Grand Old Order, for setting goals based on that vision and pursuing those goals as one Masonic family. It is our duty and responsibility to see that it continues on from our generation to the next.

I remain...

Fraternally yours,

Wilbert M. Curtis



THE FACE OF PRINCE HALL

Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis

(The Face of Prince Hall is where The Phylaxis features the diverse faces of Prince Hall Masons all around the world who embody the true spirit of Prince Hall Masonry. G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis was selected to be the first face featured. Reprinted with permission from The Phylaxis.)

HE IS THE QUINTESSENTIAL embodiment of the word “achievement” in modern Prince Hall Masonry; and as such, it is only right for The Phylaxis to introduce The Face of Prince Hall by recognizing the achievement of our own Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis, F.P.S.H.

Brother Curtis is a native of Temple, Texas and currently resides in Hewitt, Texas. He is married to LaNell C. Curtis, and have one daughter, Valerie Curtis Robertson and two grandchildren. He is a member of Toliver Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Waco. In 1987, Bro. Curtis was ordained as a Deacon at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church in Waco.

He is a graduate of Temple High School, and continued his education at McLennan Community College (receiving an A.A.S. in Computer Science) and Paul Quinn College (receiving a B.S. Degree in Organizational Management). And after 35 years of employment in Information Systems, Bro. Curtis retired from Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Company in May of 2011.

Bro. Curtis currently serves as the 21st Grand Master of the Prince Hall Masons of Texas, and is President of the Conference of Grand Masters Prince Hall Masons, Inc. He is a Past Master of St. James Lodge No. 71; Past Commander-in-Chief of Ed Blair Consistory No. 286; Past Joshua of Rising Sun Court No. 150, H.O.J.; and is a charter member of Shiphrah Chapter No. 54, O.E.S. He is a member of the Knights of Pythagoras Youth Fraternity.

On Oct. 9, 2005, Bro. Curtis was coronated a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, which is the 33rd and last degree in Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction.

Bro. Curtis is also a member of Alvin B. Gaston Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons and Central Texas Commandery of Knights Templar. Highest York Rite honors received are Hon. Past Grand High Priest, Past General Grand Conference Grand High Priest Past Right Eminent Grand Commander, and Past Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment.

Bro. Curtis is a life member, board member and Honorary Fellow of the Phylaxis Society. He was selected The 2007 Man of the Year.

Bro. Curtis is a members of Epsilon Epsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Chi Rho Fraternity, and is a member of McLennan County N.A.A.C.P. Chapter.

Furthermore, The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas honored Bro. Curtis by naming its library museum the “Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum.” The theme of the library museum is “Telling our Own Story.”

Other activities and duties include:

- Board of Directors of the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation of Texas, Ex Officio Member
- Board of Directors of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of TX, Chairman

Lastly, while one of Bro. Curtis’ lasting achievements was in establishing mutual fraternal recognition with the United Grand Lodge of England, but his greatest satisfaction overall is in working together with the Prince Hall Masonic Family promoting community involvement and Charity. Showing leadership through works and not lip service, Bro. Curtis believes in leading by example and not asking someone to do something that he himself hadn’t done or will not do.

For his strong leadership presence, dedication to the Craft, and willingness to make far-reaching decisions for the benefit of Prince Hall Masonry, The Phylaxis is proud to call Bro. Curtis our first Face of Prince Hall.



Grand Master's Calendar

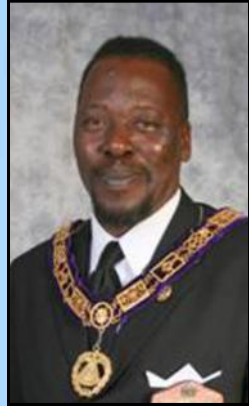
August - November 2012

Date	Location	Event
August 2012		
Tuesday - Friday, July 31 - Aug. 3	Memphis, Tenn.	Audit - United Supreme Council, S.J.
Saturday - Sunday, Aug. 11 - 12	San Angelo, TX	District 25 Meeting
Saturday, August 18	San Antonio	Wreath Laying Ceremony for P.G.M. Abraham Grant
September 2012		
Thursday - Monday, Sept. 13 - 17	Homburg, Germany	District 26-A Meeting Prince Hall Americanism Day
Thursday - Friday, Sept. 27 - 28	Fort Worth	Lone Star Grand Commander Mid-Winter Conference
October 2012		
Thursday - Tuesday, Oct. 4 - 9	Washington, D.C.	United Supreme Council, S.J.
Friday, Oct. 26	Houston	Ever Ready Trail Blazer Banquet
Saturday, Oct. 27	Round Rock, TX	Robert E. Burns Lecture
November 2012		
Friday - Monday, Nov. 9 - 12	Fort Worth	Mid-Winter Session
Friday - Monday, Nov. 30 - Dec. 3	Baltimore, MD	M.W.P.H.G.L. of Maryland Grand Communication

Elected Grand Lodge Officers



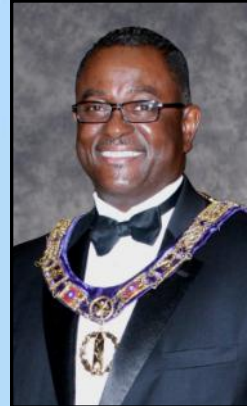
Past Grand Master
Hon. Edwin B. Cash



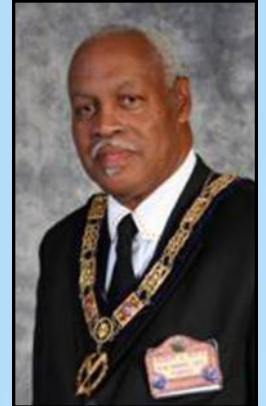
Deputy Grand Master
R.W. Michael T. Anderson



Grand Senior Warden
R.W. Bryce Hardin Sr.



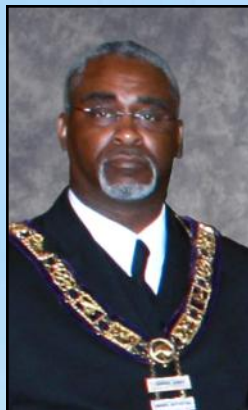
Grand Junior Warden
R.W. Frank D. Jackson



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



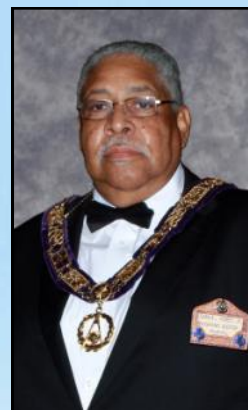
Grand Treasurer
R.W. Robert J. Datcher



Grand Tiler
R.W. Vernon J. James



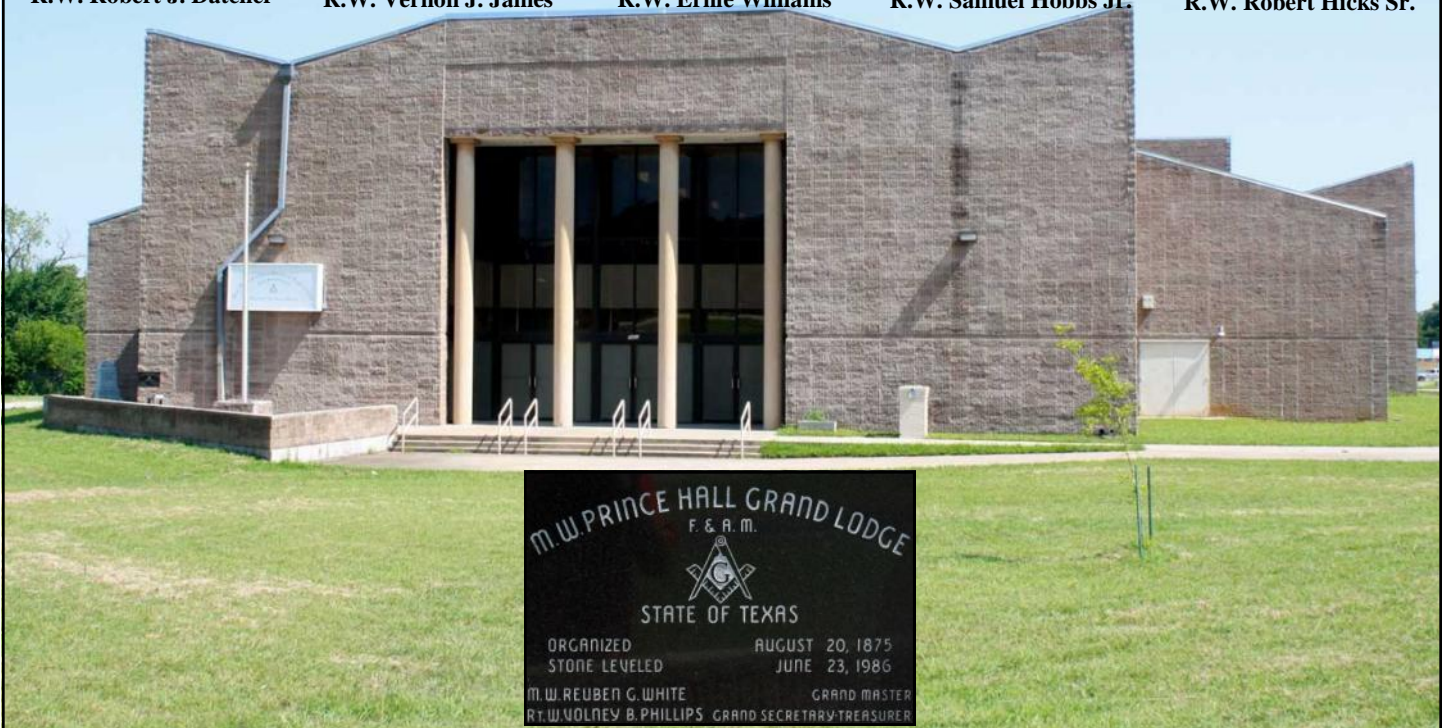
Grand Auditor
R.W. Ernie Williams



Grand Auditor
R.W. Samuel Hobbs Jr.



Grand Auditor
R.W. Robert Hicks Sr.



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



*Grand Senior Warden
R.W. Bryce Harden*

Ways We can increase our Membership

Brothers,

During past 14 years, membership of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free & Accepted Masons of Texas has rapidly declined. In 1998, there were 8,000 active Prince Hall Masons in the Jurisdiction of Texas. In 2012, we have 3,237 actively on our rolls. What happened to our Brothers, they didn't all ascend to the Celestial Lodge! Maybe they died a "Masonic Spiritual Death" where their love and dedication for the Order has vanished. This decline of membership can be attributed to several different causes to include the economy, lack of personal commitment, unproductive or stagnated Lodges in our jurisdiction. There may be other reasons or excuses why we are faced with this issue. But let's all be more proactive and creative on finding ways to keep our current members in the arms of Brotherly Love, reclaim our once faithful Brothers that have lost their way, and create positive and welcoming environment for potential members. Listed are a few suggestions of ways to help rebuild our membership.

LODGE MEETINGS

Make your meetings a positive and productive experience! Worshipful Masters, cultivate your members by giving Brothers an opportunity to be successful. Let them chair a committee, (especially if the project was their idea). Explore your members' hidden talents. Quit all of the jealousy and envy among Brothers! When a Brother does something good, compliment him and encourage him, rather than tear down what he did. Older members, quit running the younger members away. They are craving knowledge and an understanding. You have the "Wisdom" to give them what they crave. If they don't get it, they'll drop out. Worshipful Masters, your job is to set the example, maintain order and decorum in order for young Masons to become better Masons and dedicated members of our organization.

MEET & GREET

Host a Meet & Greet activity with potential candidates or persons interested in joining the Order. This would give both the potential candidates and members of the Lodge an opportunity to network and socialize in a non-formal setting.

FRATERNAL NIGHTS

Fraternal Nights is a great way to not only increase membership numbers at the local Lodge level but also to increase membership in the Appendant and Concordant Bodies, as well as in Masonic Youth Organizations.

CHURCH VISITATIONS

Church visitations are probably one of the best ways to increase membership in our local Lodges. The Lodge members in attendance should be knowledgeable in Masonry to dispel rumors and stereotypes regarding our fraternity. In the church you should have a diverse congregation of men that are dedicated to the service of God that would make excellent members of our fraternity.

LODGE VISITATIONS

If your local Lodge is small in numbers, combine your visitation with another nearby Lodge or the District. Just imagine the impression made with 25 - 50 Prince Hall Masons bonded together as one.

SUPPORT SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Supporting Meals on Wheels, voter's registration drives, homeless shelters, hospital volunteers, community health fairs, Boy & Girls Scouts of America, and Boys & Girls Club of America either financially or dedicating your time will increase our visibility in our communities and attract potential members.

VISITATION OF ELERLY & SICK & SHUT IN MEMBERS

Brothers, first of all this is part of our obligation as members of the fraternity. Don't be fooled, the family knows if "WE" have been our Brother's Keeper when he was sick or shut in. We are always watched from afar. There may be a son, grandson, brother or neighbor that has observed our actions as Masons and want to join our organization.

WIDOWS & OPHANS

Invite them to Lodge functions and remember them during the holidays. Let them know that their loved one's work in our organization was not done in vain. You may be surprised what they may have to offer to our fraternity.

JOINT VENTURES

Plan and executed a joint picnic, banquet, church visit, degree work with other Lodges in your District. You will be surprised how more of an impact your function or event will have.

SPONSOR YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Support our Knights of Pythagoras and Masonic Youth Camp Programs. Other activities that you can support are Pee Wee football, baseball, and other youth-at-risk programs.

ESTABLISH A PAST MASTERS CLUB

PARTICIPATE IN NON-MASONIC ACTIVITIES

Invite co-workers, family and friends to a night at the movies, sporting event, etc. Attend other fraternities' functions. They too have "Good Men" that could be positive assets to our fraternity.

COMMUNICATION

Brothers, the U.S. Postal Service and Ma Bell are still in existence! Although emails and text communication are quick, fast and convenient, they are not "Official Communications." Call your members, Sprint, T-Mobile, Metro PCS and Verizon has made it so easy to reach out and touch a member of your Lodge by phone. Communication is the key!

CONTACT DROPPED MEMBERS

Go through your Lodge archives and contact dropped members. You will be surprised how many wish to return to the Lodge but just don't know how.

These are a few suggestions on ways we can increase our membership.

Fraternally,

"Big" Bryce Hardin

We come Together in Unity: Prince Hall Masonic Family convenes for Annual Grand Sessions

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

FORT WORTH – By the authority vested in the office of the Grand Master and in accordance with the constitution of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas, the Honorable Wilbert M. Curtis called all Prince Hall Masons of the Jurisdiction of Texas into the Grand Lodge's 137th Annual Grand Session held at the Grand Masonic Temple, June 21 - 24.

Concurrently, members of the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho and Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter convened their 128th and 16th Annual Grand Communications, respectively.

The Grand Lodge Session began with the opening of an Occasional Lodge led by Worshipful Master Johnny Perez of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 followed by workshops which included lectures from W.M. Perez on the Points of



Photo by: Bro. Bryan Thompson

The Occasional Lodge was opened by W.M. Louis Metan and officers of Roots Lodge Under Dispensation of Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa, June 22. The new U.D. Lodge performed the opening entirely in their native language of French.

the Square and Compass/Four Bones, W.M. Charles Lilley on the Book of Ruth, and Grand Lecturer Tracy Williams on Masonic Sym-

bolism. Prior to the start of the workshops, Deputy Grand Master Michael Andersen informed the Grand Lodge regarding an upcoming initiative dubbed Texas Prince Hall University, a school for Masonic studies within the Grand Lodge.

In the Deputies' meeting, reports were delivered and numerous topics were discussed to include retention, John T. Maxey Scholarship participation, D.D.G.M.'s duties, and the participation of Entered Apprentices/Fellow Crafts in Masonic activities.

According to G.M. Curtis, Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts are not to participate in Masonic activities of the Lodges until after they are Master Masons.

After lunch, a Council of Past Masters was opened and 35 Worshipful Masters received the Past Master Degree along with two others who received the Honorary



P.M. Willie H. Coleman Jr. speaks regarding the increase in dues and administrative fees during the District Deputies meeting.



Worshipful Masters awaiting the Past Masters Degree.

Past Master Degree.

In the evening at the Radisson Fort Worth North, the Prince Hall Family Choir along with others performed during the Gospel Exposition.

On Friday, the Occasional Lodge was opened by W.M. Louis Metan and officers of Roots Lodge Under Dispensation of Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa. The new U.D. Lodge performed the opening entirely in their native language of French. All members of the Grand Lodge rose and delivering a round of applause. After the opening, G.M. Curtis received the District Deputies, Appointed, elected Grand Lodge Officers and P.G.M. Edwin B. Cash.

After establishing a quorum, G.M. Curtis opened the Grand Communication for the purpose of business in Due Form.

During the meeting, G.M. Curtis passed the gavel to acting Most Venerable Grand Master Knight Salestirest Brewer of New Light Council No. 11, who placed his Grand Youth Knight Officers in their stations and places. M.V.G.M.K. Brewer presented the State Director Michael Simms, who delivered his yearly report. After the report,

M.V.G.M.K. Brewer called for a motion in which acting Grand Senior Knight Alex Porter (a 10-year-old) of Lawrence "Pap" Anderson Council No. 16 made the motion and acting Grand Junior Knight Mason Thompson (another 10-year-old) of New Light Council No. 11 seconded. M.V.G.M.K. Brewer then moved to ask all Youth Knights who were in favor to raise their hands and then asked if any opposed. He then rapped the gavel to

bring the vote to completion and then presented G.M. Curtis and eight visiting Grand Masters with the new Texas K.O.P. car emblem.

After some reports, leaders of the concordant bodies were received, to include Right Eminent Grand Commander Ronald Gerac, Lone Star Grand Commandery; Most Excellent Grand High Priest Willie Tate, Holy Royal Arch Masons of Texas; Deputy of the Orient Dr. Rev John Butler, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry (S.J.); and C.G.H.P. Roosevelt Huggins of the General Conference Grand Chapters Holy Royal Arch Masons of the United States and the Bahamas.

Distinguished visitors included the Grand Masters of Arizona, M.W. John Miller; Washington State, M.W. Gardner Torrence Sr.; Florida, M.W. Anthony Stafford; Tennessee, M.W. Arvin Glass; District of Columbia, M.W. MacKinnon Myers; Arkansas, M.W. Cleveland Wilson; Louisiana, M.W. Dr. Ralph Slaughter and Oklahoma, M.W. Dr. Deary Vaughn, who also serves as the Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, A.A.S.R., P.H.A., S.J.

An important report was pre-



Acting M.V.G.M.K. Brewer prepares to receive the annual K.O.P. report from State Director Michael Simms.



Rev. F.D. Sampson served as the guest speaker during the St. John's Day/Memorial Service held at the Radisson North.

presented by P.M. Willie H. Coleman Jr., Chairman of the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation of Texas. The reported provided information regarding a proposal for dues increase to take effect in 2013. It was motioned, seconded and approved.

Stewardship reports were then delivered. One which stood out was that of D.G.M. Andersen.

"Will Prince Hall Masonry die on your watch? We have to move up and guard each other backs," said D.G.M. Andersen. "We have to step up and do what we need to do for the good of the Order and to leave a legacy. If we don't do what we need to do then we'll be non-existent."

In the evening, the Saint John's Day/Memorial Service was held at the Radisson, which included a Lodge of Sorrow which was conducted by District 14, lead by W.M. Jerry Martin Sr.

On Saturday morning, G.M. Curtis delivered his Allocation in a joint session that included the Heroines and Eastern Stars.

After the Allocation, the Grand Communication reconvened, additional reports received, awards pre-

sented and nominations held for elected Grand Lodge Officers.

Secretary of the Year was presented to P.M. Patrick Brathwaite of Key West Lodge No. 257.

District of the Year was awarded to District 24.

District Deputy Grand Master of the Year was presented to D.D.G.M. Marcus Walker, District 11.

Lodge of the Year was awarded to Mosier Valley Lodge No. 103.

Worshipful Master of the Year was awarded to W.M. Calvin Thomas of New Day Lodge U.D.

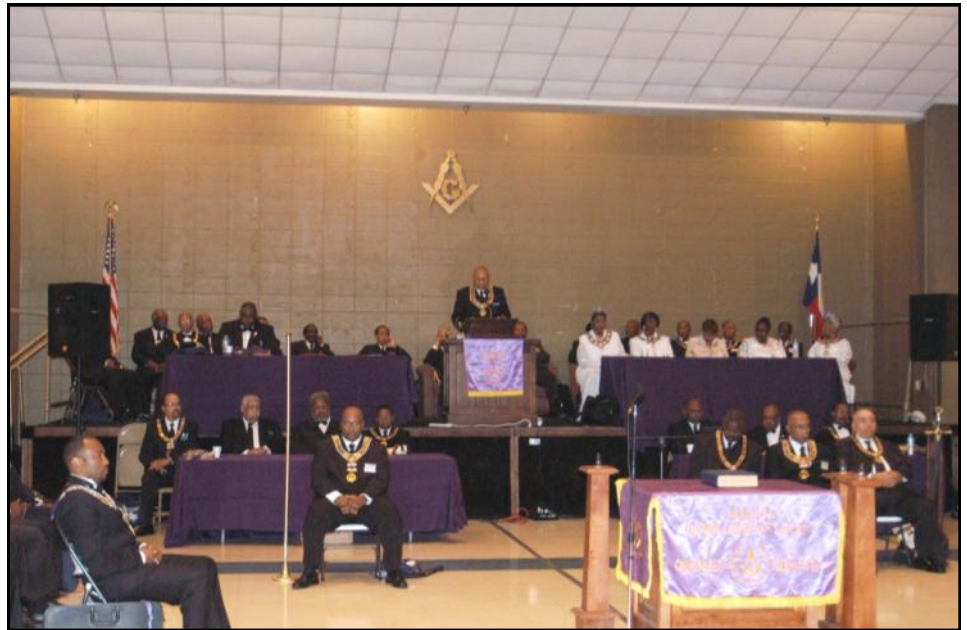
Once voting ended, the membership gathered at the Radisson to attend the Annual Awards Luncheon.

During the luncheon, numerous awards were presented by the Grand High Court and N.W.C. Grand Chapter.

The Grand High Court awarded Outstanding Court to Lakeview Court No. 262 with El Downing Court No. 237 as runner-up. Tied for third place were S.A.R. Starks Court No. 208 and Galilee Court No.323, respectively.

Scholarship winners were then announced:

The Grand High Court awarded two scholarships totaling \$4,400. The top scholarship recipient was Destani Williams, who was awarded \$3,000. Williams will attend Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas and will major in Business or Cosmetology. The second scholarship of \$1,400 was awarded to Akeyra Kincaid, who will attend El Centro College in Dallas or the University of Texas at Arlington where she plans to major in Nursing.



G.M. Curtis delivers his annual Allocation.



G.M. Curtis presents to G.M. Vaughn a pair of spurs. G.M. Vaughn had previously made comments regarding the Oklahoma Thunder defeating the San Antonio Spurs in the 2012 NBA Playoffs. The gift was in sentiment of G.M. Stafford's Miami Heat defeating G.M. Vaughn's Thunder in the 2012 NBA Championship.

The N.W.C. Grand Chapter awarded 14 student scholarships totaling \$12,000.

\$2,500: Johnathan E. Matlock

\$1,000: Torie D. Batiste, Jaylin K. Dunn, Brittany M. Faulks, Destiny Grant, Alexandra C. Jones, and Briana A. Marshall

\$500: Savannah J. Bledsoe, Delvanta O. Doolittle, Angela Dyson, Marcus D. Johnson, A'Quisha R. Morgan, Jamarcus Tyrone, and Lovie A. Valentine

Three additional awards of \$500 (Sis. Zhantell Quigley) and two \$1,000 scholarships (Sis. Janine Lewis and Lori Parker) were provided to Eastern Stars for continuing education. The Grand Amaranth Court awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Sis. Sharon DeJohn. Chapters of the Year: Stars of East Chapter No. 11, Dorcus Chapter No. 19, Sisters of Agape No. 38, and Covenant Sisters Chapter No. 74.

The Grand Lodge awarded 12 scholarships totaling \$11,000.

The overall winner of the J. T. Maxey Scholarship Contest was Tatiana Tway of San Antonio, who was awarded \$2,000.

The J.T. Maxey Scholarship Pro-



G.M. Curtis reads the Charter of Roots Lodge No. 656 before handing it to W.M. Metan and the officers of Roots Lodge.

gram demonstrates the Grand Lodge's commitment to youth and education.

Tway, who graduated from Virginia A. Stacey Junior-Senior High School, represented District 19. She will attend Delaware Valley College to pursue a degree in Large Animal Science.

During the luncheon, G.M. Curtis announced D.D.G.M. Gerac as Master Mason of the Year.

Before the conclusion of the event, the King of the Court Committee presented a \$1,000 donation to the P.H.C.F and \$500 to the Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council Knights of Pythagoras. Additionally, Deputy of the Orient, Rev. Dr. John Butler delivered a donation of \$500 on behalf of the Orient of Texas, A.A.S.R. to the P.H.C.F.

With the award luncheon completed, the Grand Lodge Communication was reconvened and remaining committees delivered their annual reports to include the election results.

Two Lodges Under Dispensation received their Charters, New Day



Guest speaker of the Prince Hall Masonic Family Banquet was P.M. Coleman, who talked about the commitment of the Masonic Family's Leadership.

Lodge No. 655 and the Grand Hall Family attended the Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Banquet at the Radisson, where Texas State Representative Marc Veasey delivered a proclamation. The guest speaker was P.M. Coleman, who talked about sincere commitment of the Prince Hall Masonic Family's Leadership. He gave accolades to G.M. Curtis, who he said should be the Master Mason of the Year. "There is no person who has

G.M. Curtis congratulated the newly elected officers and for all who attended the Grand Communication, he then proceeded to close the 137th Annual Grand Communication.

To close out the night, the Prince

committed more to this Grand Lodge and to the Prince Hall Masonic Family since 2003 than G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis."

He also told a story about chickens, pigs, and parsley, and a direct correlation with Masons, Heroines, and Easter Stars.

After a round of applause, a raffle for a 2012 Chevy Malibu was conducted. The winner of the 2012 Joint Car Raffle was Bro. Bryon Porter of Humble, Texas, 2nd place winner (\$500) was Brenda Kay Boyd of Jacksonville, Texas and 3rd place (\$250) was Katora Taylor of Dallas.

On Sunday morning, P.G.M. Cash installed G.M. Curtis along with the elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers. He was assisted by G.M. Wilson, who installed the Grand High Court and N.W.C. Grand Chapter officers. Prior to the ceremony, Roots Lodge No. 656 presented G.M. Curtis and his wife with numerous gifts before their departure back home.



G.M. Curtis pull the 1st Place raffle ticket during the annual Joint Car Raffle held during the Prince Hall Masonic Family Banquet. Bro. Bryon Porter was the winner of a 2012 Chevrolet Malibu.



Photo by: Bro. Bryan Thompson

G.M. Curtis received parting gifts from the Brethren of Roots Lodge No. 656 prior to the Joint Installations Ceremony.

Gospel Explosion



Photos by: Bro. Bryan Thompson

Lodge of Sorrow



Photos by: Bro. Bryan Thompson

J.T. Maxey Scholarship Contest Winners 2012



*Tatiana Tway of District 19
Delaware Valley College
\$2,000*



*Cha'Mar Henderson of District 15-A
University of Houston
\$1,400*



*Akilah Jackson of District 11
Mississippi State University
\$1,200*



*Lathan King Moore of District 24
Texas A&B/Blinn College
\$800*



*Janae Campbell of District 14
University of Texas at Austin
\$800*



*Darryl Sherrod, II of District 16
University of Texas at San Antonio
\$800*



*Rocquel Pettigrew of District 3
Stephen F. Austin State University
\$800*



*Khadidra Coleman of District 2
Paris Junior College/Texas A&M
\$800*



*Jerome Blankenship of District 18
Texas Southern University
\$800*



*Jaeren Hardin of District 20
University of Texas at San Antonio
\$800*

*Not Pictured
Jessica Kafer of District 26-A
Univ. of N. Florida at Jacksonville
\$800*

Annual Awards 2012



*Secretary of the Year
P.M. Patrick Brathwaite*



*Mosier Valley Lodge No. 103
Lodge of the Year*



*District of the Year
District No. 24*



*District Deputy of the Year
D.D.G.M. Marcus Walker*



*Worshipful Master of the Year
W.M. Calvin Thomas*



*Master Mason of the Year
D.D.G.M. Ronald Gerac*

*Outstanding Courts
Lakeview Court No. 262
El Downing Court No. 237,*



*Outstanding Courts
S.A.R. Starks Court No. 208
Galilee Court No. 323*



*Award of Appreciation
Sister Cletus Mouton
Sister Judith Cradolph accepted the
award on Sister Mouton's behalf*



*Chapters of the Year
Stars of East Chapter No. 11
Dorcus Chapter No. 19
Covenant Sisters Chapter No. 74*



*Chapter of the Year
Sisters of Agape No. 38*

Bro. Bryon Porter takes Home New Chevy Malibu



Lt - Rt: Heroine Marjorie Cary (H.O.J.), Grand Joshua Issac Cary Sr. (H.O.J.), Grand Treasurer Robert Datcher, Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis, the Porter Family, Grand Worthy Patron Robert B. Calloway Jr., (O.E.S.), and Sister Lillie Calloway (O.E.S.).

Story by: G.W.P. Robert Calloway, Jr.

FORT WORTH - It was indeed a Happy Fourth of July for Brother Bryon Porter and his family. Bro. Porter, the winner of the 3rd Annual Joint Car Raffle, and his family were all smiles when he took possession of a 2012 Chevrolet Malibu at Lynn Smith Chevrolet.

This was Bro. Porter's first new car, which made it extra special.

According to Bro. Porter, a resident of Humble, Texas and member of Heights-Ionic Pride Lodge No. 280, he purchased four raffle tickets.

"I did not think I would win the car; I was just trying to support the fundraiser," said Bro. Porter.

Bro. Porter said that he has never won anything in his life and that it took numerous phone calls and texts messages from fellow Masons for him to accept the news.

"At first I didn't believe it was true but after several phone calls it finally registered to me that I had really won," said Bro. Porter. "The emotions that I felt at that moment are hard to put into words, but I



Bro. Porter proudly displays the Grand Lodge check which was used to purchase his 2012 Chevy Malibu.

thanked the Great Architect for the blessing that he had just given unto me. Then I started to scream and cry all at the same time; it was an amazing feeling."

Present at the dealership to congratulate the Porter family was Grand Master Wilbert Curtis, Grand Treasurer Robert Datcher, Grand Joshua Issac Cary Sr.

(H.O.J.), Grand Worthy Patron Robert B. Calloway Jr., (O.E.S.), Past Master Maurice Franklin, Heroine Marjorie Cary (H.O.J.), and Sister Lillie Calloway (O.E.S.).

The 2nd place winner of the Joint Car Raffle was Brenda Kay Boyd of Jacksonville (\$500) and the 3rd place winner was Katora Taylor of Dallas (\$250).

The Joint Car Raffle Committee congratulates all winners of the car raffle and for those who participated and provided support.

Special thanks to Grand Senior Warden "Big" Bryce Hardin for having the grand prize available for viewing at the 2011 Mid-Winter and 2012 Annual Grand Sessions.

Additionally thanks to Rich Stevens of Lynn Smith Chevrolet for his continued support.

Bro. Porter plans to give the car to his wife.

"She is truly the wind beneath my wings and she deserves it more than I do," said Bro. Porter.

12 Years and Counting, Texas Youth attend Masonic Youth Camp



Story and photos by:
P.M. Willie H. Coleman, Jr.
Chairman, P.H.C.F.

OAKLAND, Texas – Youth from around the state attended the 12th Annual Robert E. Connor Jr. Masonic Youth Camp held at the Cathedral Oaks Retreat Center, July 5 - 8.

One may think that because this was the 12th year of the camp that there would not be much excitement, but excitement and enthusiasm was bountiful throughout the entire weekend.

The first day's activities began with check-in and a delicious meal. The campers began to get acquainted with each other on the basketball courts and assignments to the various dorms were made.

Fifty-two campers attended and 23 Master Masons volunteered to participate. The Grand Lodge was represented by Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis, Deputy Grand Master Michael T. Anderson,

Grand Senior Warden Bryce Hardin and Grand Junior Warden Frank D. Jackson. The Prince Hall Charitable Foundation of Texas was represented by Chairman Willie High Coleman, Jr.

The Youth Camp, under the direction of Grand Lodge Youth Director Charles Dewitt, was assisted by Brother Willie B. Criss.

Cooks at the camp were under

the direction of Bro. Fred Baltimore, who was assisted by H.P.G.M. William Woods, Brothers Gene Domon, Val Jackson, Charles Gipson and Tyrone Powell.

Counselors who supervised the campers were Brothers Devan Davis, Charles Clayborne, Don Marshall, Bobby Grant, Sam T. Albert, James Oliver, Gary Connor,





services.

A special treat was provided to the campers when some of their family members arrived on motorcycles and gave comments and a short presentation.

Each year the counselors of the Camp select a camper of the year in different age categories. The Campers of the Year were Jabari Deas (9 - 11), Nicholos Howard (12 - 14) and Chrisman DeLeon (15 - 17).

Next year's camp will be held July 11 - 14, 2013.

Lawrence Greene, Jr., Otis Gadsden, Broderick Hammonds, Bernard Samuel, Donte Allen and Danny Pryor.

The following Districts sponsored campers: 15-A (15), 20 (13), 16 (5), 24 (5), 7 (4), 3 (2), 18 (2), 11 (1). Campers were also sponsored by the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter (4) and Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho (3).

Campers participated in seminars, sports and recreation, swimming and discussion sessions. Guest speakers for the camp included Rev. Herbert Addison, youth minister at Covenant Glen UMC, a former convict who turned his life around and talked to the campers on how to avoid mistakes and live productive lives; Attorney Cedric Scott, a corporate attorney with Chevron, who talked about how he became a lawyer, good de-

cision making, the support and motivation that he received from his mother and the importance of being a good parent; Vernon Hunt, a retired City of Huston Health Department Administrator and now Heath Department Director for the City of Sugar Land, talked about health issues and the importance of being responsible for your own health and the health of those who you come into contact with; Scott Harrell, a school teacher and pastor, talked about peer pressure and how to deal with and avoid it, G.J.W. Jackson, who was introduced by his son Cheikh, presented on the importance of African Americans in Texas history and the connection to the continent of Africa; and Bro. Bernard Samuel presented on CPR providing instruction and a Certificate of Participation for each of the campers.

Welcome greetings were given by District Deputy Clarence Douglas (16) who was accompanied to the camp by Roosevelt Petry Jr., President and CEO of GP Industrial Contractors Inc., a large Port Arthur based company which specializes in pipe and steel fabrication, engineering, field maintenance, fire watch, project management services, labor services and janitorial



Texas K.O.P. visits 137th Annual Grand Session of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

Story by:
State Dir. Michael L. Simms, Sr.

FORT WORTH - The Most Venerable Thomas H. Rount Grand Council, Order of the Knights of Pythagoras, at the request of the M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis made a visit to the 137th Annual Grand Session of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, June 22.

This was an historic event for both the Grand Council and the Grand Lodge as G.M. Curtis allowed the Youth Knights to take their respective stations in the Session. Additionally, it served as an opportunity for Master Masons who aren't aware of the K.O.P.

At the Session, the Most Venerable Grand Master Knight was given the gavel by G.M. Curtis. The Grand Master Knight proceeded to place his officers in their stations and asked for the annual K.O.P. report from the State Director, Brother Michael Simms Sr.

After the report was given, the State Director turned it over to the Assistant State Director for announcements and informed the Grand Master Knight his report was completed. The Grand Master Knight then called for a motion from his Grand Council to receive the report. The Grand Senior Knight made the motion which was seconded by the Grand Junior Knight. The Grand Master Knight

then called for the motion to be approved by the Grand Council.

Over 600 Master Masons, along with eight visiting Grand Masters, were amazed by the display of the Grand Council.

District and Lodges throughout the state should have a K.O.P. program. It allows us to form a partnership with the youth, parents, and communities in which we live in. Parents and youth in cities across the state are looking for a program that will help mentor youth and we as Prince Hall Masons have one. It's never a problem finding youth; it's always a problem finding mentors.



2012 Young Men with a Purpose Youth Leadership Conference



Story by:
State Dir. Michael L. Simms, Sr.

FORT WORTH - The Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council, Order of the Knights of Pythagoras completed their 2012 Young Men with a Purpose, Youth

Leadership Conference at Texas Christian University, July 19 - 22.

The Conference Chairman was Sir Knight Michael Levingston and was hosted by New Light Council No. 11 (Senior Advisor, A.J. Bennett), Prince Hall Council No. 9 (Senior Advisor Josh Stephens),

and Lawrence "Pap" Anderson Council No. 16 (Senior Advisor Kevin Porter).



The program began with a visit to the Grand Lodge for their opening ceremony, tour of the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum, and an Xbox and PlayStation 3 Tournament.

Additionally, the Knights enjoyed a cook out with members of New Day Lodge No. 655 who served as the cooks for evening.

On Friday, it was training day for the Youth Knights. Training was provided by 27 Sir Knights (Master Masons) who enjoyed teaching the



Michael L. Simms, Sr. at sdtexas-kop@aol.com. Your donations can also be tax deductible.



Texas K.O.P.'s visit to the Grand Lodge for their opening ceremony, while at the Grand Lodge, the Youth Knights toured the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum.

Youth Knights in nine workshops which included; Anger Management, Leadership is Within, Developing a Personal Mission & Vision Statement, Youth of Today, How to Interview for a Job, Learning how to Communicate Effectively, Taking Responsibility for their Lives, Developing the Right Attitude, and Discussion of the Youth of Today.

at state.recorder@texaskop.net. This entire conference was outstanding. It was so great that the Grand Council is planning on doing it twice.....if you missed the event this year be on the lookout for next year...**2013 Young Men with a Purpose, Youth Leadership Conference** in San Antonio, July 19 - 22, 2013.

In the evening, the Youth Knights enjoyed the Main Event Entertainment where they participated in a bowling competition and other activities at the complex.

Eight additional workshops will be available for the youth. These events are made possible through donations. If you would like to donate to help the K.O.P. with this event please contact the State Dir.

On Saturday morning, the Youth Knights participated in a 3-on-3 basketball tournament. In the afternoon, they had another class provided by the State Director who used the book "8 Ways to Create the Life You Want" by Dr. Creflo Dollar as a source for the training. Later in the evening, the Youth Knights participated in the Oratorical and Debate Competition. They also hosted their election of officers and awards ceremony.

The Youth Knights were given K.O.P. shirts, towels, notebooks, backpacks, TCU water bottles, Purpose Drive Life books, The Mentor & The CEO Books, and Bibles.

These items are for purchase by contact State Rec. Clary Glover Jr.



Sir Knights of the Lone Star Grand Commandery prepare to draw swords and knight the K.O.P. graduating class of 2012.



Texas KOP names its Class: Hubert Reece Graduating Class of 2012



R.W. G.Sec. Hubert L. Reece Sr. with the K.O.P. graduating class of 2012.

Story by:

State Dir. Michael L. Simms, Sr.

FORT WORTH - At the 2012 Young Men with a Purpose Youth Leadership Conference, the Texas Knights of Pythagoras honored and named their graduating class after

one of the oldest Sir Knights (K.O.P.) in the state and the R.W. Grand Secretary of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.

The class was named the 2012 Hubert L. Reece Graduating Class. It was truly an honor to name the

class after a Master Mason who has done so much for Masons all across the country.

R.W. Reece was presented a plaque and had an opportunity to have Youth Knights to shake his hand during the presentation.

During the awards ceremony, members of the Texas Lone Star Grand Commandery took charge and knighted the graduating class. It was truly awesome.

The previous names of graduating classes:

Wiley College - State Director, Michael L. Simms, Sr., Class of 2009

Texas Southern University – M.W. Grand Master, The Honorable Wilbert M. Curtis, Class of 2010

Huston Tillotson University – Grand Youth Director Charles DeWitt, Class of 2011

The ceremony was written by Assistant State Director Rahsaan Cook.

Arizona, Washington D.C. K.O.P. visit Texas K.O.P. Youth Leadership Conference

Story by:

State Dir. Michael L. Simms, Sr.

FORT WORTH - This year at the Texas Knights of Pythagoras 2012 Young Men with a Purpose Youth Leadership Conference had visitors from outside the state: State Director Frank Armster of Arizona and State Director Arnold Hudson along with his Sir Knights and Youth Knights.

The Texas K.O.P. rolled out the red carpet for its visitors as they enjoyed the conference. State Director Armster participated in many of the events and State Director

Hudson and his Knights gave a presentation on the District of Columbia's K.O.P. program.

State Director Hudson and his staff attended other K.O.P. Summer Encampments including Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

He said that he had to come to Texas since he has heard so much

about the Texas K.O.P. program. He also invited the Texas K.O.P. program to come to Washington, D.C. during their encampment.



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

Dedicated June 25, 2011

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



Front

Back



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

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

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

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

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

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

New Hope Lodge No. 400 participates in Waco Juneteenth Parade



group walked along the parade route, candy was given to the many children that lined the street. The members waived, shook hands and talked with many people as they passed by, many of whom thanked the group for the work that they do in the community.

New Hope Lodge No. 400 proudly represented The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas with professionalism and upright character. The Lodge looks forward to assisting the community, District No. 14, and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge in whatever way possible.

Story by:
P.M. Antonio V. McClinton (400)

WACO – Once again, the Brethren of New Hope Lodge No. 400 were proud to be a part of the great annual celebration of liberation known as Juneteenth Day by participating in the annual parade held June 16.

Several members of New Hope Lodge No. 400 joined in the march who included Worshipful Master Anthony McCargo, Senior Warden Rozell Hudson, Junior Warden Rodrick Alexander, Senior Deacon Nolan Walker, and Past Master Antonio McClinton.

The staging area was on the old Paul Quinn College Campus which has been developed into a beautiful community attraction. While in the staging area, the Brethren assembled with members of Union Seal Lodge No 64 and Sisters from

Angels of Mercy Chapter (O.E.S.).

The parade route travelled along Elm St., where hundreds of onlookers stood, sat and leaned against whatever was convenient. As the



District 15A celebrates “Juneteenth” in Historical 3rd Ward

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

HOUSTON – District 15-A, lead by District Deputy Grand Master Ronald Gerac and Grand Worthy Matron Martha Wolridge (Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter), celebrated 147 years of freedom by participating in the 39th Annual Juneteenth Parade, sponsored by The Friends of Emancipation Park in the historical Third Ward, June 16.

Despite hot temperatures, the Brethren and Sisters assembled at Texas Southern University and proudly displayed the Texas Prince Hall Spirit down Wheeler Street to Dowling Avenue ending at Emancipation Park.

Juneteenth commemorates the news received on June 19, 1865, that slaves in Texas were free.

The general order, read in Galveston, Texas, came almost three years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862.

Emancipation Park is the oldest park site in the city. The 10-acre parcel of land was purchased in 1872 for \$800 by a group of black community leaders to serve as a site for celebrating Juneteenth. The purchase of the land was organized by members of local churches, most notably Bro. Richard Allen of Magnolia Lodge No. 24 (currently Magnolia Lodge #3), one of the founders of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.

Several Lodges participated in celebration to include Magnolia Lodge No. 3, Maple Leaf Lodge No. 147, True Level Lodge No.



226, Bayou City Lodge No. 228, and Heights-Ionic-Pride Lodge No. 280. Sisters from various Chapters in the District also participated, along with G.W.M. Wolridge and Grand Associate Conductress Rhonda Davis. Most Ancient Matron Mary Smith was escorted in the True Level Lodge van by Past Master Arthur Mays.

Bro. Todd Barber, Senior Deacon of Magnolia Lodge No. 3, shared his thoughts about the contributions that one of our founding Brothers made.

“I was so proud to march in the Juneteenth Parade and humbled to be a part of this great organization.”

He also stated that Past Grand Master Allen’s efforts has helped to shape the city of Houston with his design of Antioch Baptist Church, the first African American Baptist Church in Houston, and his work with the establishment of Freedman’s Town, the city’s oldest Black

community.

In addition to P.G.M. Allen’s accomplishments, he was also elected to the 12th Texas State Legislature in 1869.

Senior Warden Regis Rayme, also of Magnolia Lodge No. 3, summed it up best.

“All this was done before our historical meeting on August 19, 1875 (organization of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas).” This shows the impact we had on this city. Let’s celebrate as they did with strawberry soda and a barbecue pit full of pork, lamb and beef.”



District 15-B pays Tribute to D.D.G.M. (E) Maxey and 81 Members with 50 or More Years of Service

Story by: District Staff

HITCHCOCK, Texas – Members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family of District 15-B, together with family and friends, gathered at the Greater St. Matthews Baptist Church Fellowship Hall to honor District Deputy Grand Master Emeritus Willie B. Maxey for 17 years of dedicated service, April 28. He was honored along with 81 members of the Masonic Family who have held membership of 50 years or more, April 28.

The speaker for the event was the Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis, Grand Master of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.

More than 350 people were in attendance to pay tribute to the elder members.

Two Brothers, Travis Hendricks of Amity Lodge No. 4 and Joseph Kidd of La Marque Lodge No. 373 were the oldest attendees at the banquet, both being 97 years of age.

Other honored guests include, Grand Worthy Matron Martha Wolridge; Deputy Grand Most Ancient Matron Fannie Bellard; Right Eminent Grand Commander Ronald Gerac; Sister Lanell Curtis; Grand Associate Conductress Rhonda Davis, Grand Queen of Palaces Barbara A. Monroe, Deputy Grand Queen Doris Brooks; visiting District Deputies, Clarence Douglas, Zannavia Wilpitz and Mary Smith; and Judge Bro. Harrison Gregg, Jr.

Honorees included: (Master Masons) Brothers Arnold Bess, Ernest Brow Jr., Sterling Davis, Henry Faust, Willie Gayden, Lee Andrew



District Deputy Grand Master Emeritus Willie B. Maxey

Giles, Myrtis Hamilton, Boyd Hendricks, Travis Hendricks, Jourman Hobbs, T. J. Jackson, Jr., Joseph Kidd, James Lovings, John L. Mack, Matthew McDaniel Sr., Elferay Neal Sr., Lawrence Owens, Lonnie Phillips, Johnnie E. Phillips, Marvin Phillips, John A. Robinson Jr., James D. Shankle, Willie D. Walker, Milton Walker, and Robert Williams.

(Heroines of Jericho) Heroines Ardella Atkins, Sharon Barriere, Marjorie Bernard, Martha Bogan, Vera Bowers, Rosa Lee Byars, Velma Chapman, Annie Mae Charles, Lula Daniels, Cora Elias, Lillian Franklin, Bessie Gayden, Sarah G. Giles, Gladys Gilford, Vander Haynes, Pearl Hill Paige, Willia Hughes, Bertha Hunter, Reva Lee Hurd, Rev. Perrie J.

Jackson, Juanita Johnson, Thelma Justice, Josephine Loud, Lela Martin, Elna McDaniel, Dorothy McKinney, Era Miller, Lola Miller, Della Moore, Jerlee Owens, Johnnie M. Owens, Elzenia Pennington, Norma Jean Pickens, Willietta Price, Teriese Roberson, Essie M. Rollins, Cherry Scurry, Dorothy Sears, Lizzie Shaw, Ommie Lee Simmons, Annie Lee Smith, Beulah Smith, Ella Tucker, Camilla Ward, Pinky Warren, Lola Wilcox, Pauline Williams and Carrie Wilson.

(Order of the Easter Star) Sisters Virginia Callis, Vera Bell Gary, Joyce Hobbs, Beverly Jackson Brown, Ara Shankle, Mary Lois Tolliver, Vivianee Watts and Ollie Jewel Williams.

Committee members include District Deputy Grand Master Myrtis Hamilton, Deputy Grand Most Ancient Matron Dorothy Maxey, Brothers John N. Humphrey (Banquet Chairperson), Ernest L. Hatter Jr., Jeremiah Taylor, Heroine Erma Allen, Sisters Sharon Mathews and Krischele De La Cerda.

An enjoyable time was had by all.



Lt - Rt: Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis, speaker, Deputies, Myrtis Hamilton and Dorothy Maxey and Bro. John N. Humphrey, banquet chairperson.

Attentive Ear Lodge No. 350 helps Community Clean Up the Streets



was a small token of the Lodge's gratitude for all the support provided by the community.

The Brethren who participated received a t-shirt for their participation and the Lodge looks forward to contributing in next year's event, as well as become members of Keep Stafford Beautiful.

Attentive Ear Lodge No. 350 searches for every opportunity to support and provide service to the community. The Lodge has been awarding scholarships to college-bound students, donating back-to-school supplies for grade school children, conducting clothing drives for the homeless, and supporting the widows and orphans of deceased Masons.

Located in the city, the Brethren have been working with other organizations in the area to include Covenant Glen United Methodist Church, The Stafford Boys & Girls Club, J & L Café, the Stafford school district and many more.

Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

STAFFORD, Texas – Members of Attentive Ear Lodge No. 350 participated in the Keep Stafford Beautiful annual clean-up, April 21.

The Brethren arrived at Stafford City Hall at 8:30 a.m. and were tasked to clean up Brand Lane just south of Highway 90. The members began their service at 9 a.m. and finished at 11:15 a.m.

The city and Keep Stafford Beautiful were appreciative of the dedication of Attentive Ear Lodge No. 350 and their families who participated.

Removing trash and debris and keeping the city visually appealing



District 19 assists Meals on Wheels by donating Fans to assist Elderly during Hot Summer Months



Photo by: P.M. Franzell Pankey

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

SAN ANTONIO – The 19th Masonic District came together to assist Meals on Wheels of San Antonio by donating approximately 50 new box fans in support of Christopher Delight Chapter No. 1's Project Fan at the Masonic Temple, July 21.

The fans were collected and delivered to Meals on Wheels to be distributed to the elderly. Now in its third year, the Chapter is looking to expand its visibility in the community by reaching out to more of the deserving citizens.

"I am currently working with Meals on Wheels of San Antonio to get a route operational in the Lackland Air Force Base area," said Associate Patron Raven Mirabeau and Project Fan Chairman. "With this expanded route, there will be more needy people that will require assistance. Last year, the 19th

Masonic District collected and distributed approximately 60 fans." According to Marsha Wiltz, Volunteer Services Manager for Meals on Wheels of San Antonio, people over the age of 60 are more susceptible to heat related illnesses.

"The sweltering temperatures that we experience rapidly increases these risks. Not only can

a fan be helpful to reduce these risks, but would also provide some relief to these high temperatures," said Wiltz. "Also, many of our seniors choose not to run their air conditioning because of the high cost. Providing a box fan may be more economical for someone."

Wiltz said that the Meals on Wheels' drivers and volunteers have daily contact with those who use the program, thus giving Meals on Wheels notification of the clients who are in need of a fan. Once fans are brought to the agency, the drivers or volunteers will take the fans along with them as they deliver meals.

"We really appreciate the Masonic organizations taking the time to care about an elderly population that often feels as if nobody does," said Wiltz. "There are so many dangers that our elderly neighbors face during these hot summer months. Providing fans not only provides the relief that is desperately needed, but could be saving of hundreds lives."



Brothers of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 keep Busy through Community Works



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

SAN ANTONIO – Hitting the streets once again, members of San Antonio Lodge No. 1, the first Prince Hall Lodge chartered in Texas (May 10, 1876), gathered at the corner of East Houston Street and Interstate 410 to help the East-side Community keep its streets clean, July 21.

The Brethren have been conducting the community service as part of the Adopt-a-Highway Program, administered by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Beginning early in the morning, the Brethren, some of whom were accompanied by family members,

trekked the two-mile strip of roadway and deposited several bags of

trash at the pickup site.

In a continuing effort to be visible in the community and to join in worship, the Brethren visited God's Property, also located on the city's eastside, July 22.

The pastor, Rev. Courtney Evans and his congregation fully welcomed the Brethren and provided a well-received message of continuing faith through practice.

Not to disregard the Lodge's commitment to the Carver Library. The Brethren donated eight printed copies of *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason* which included the Summer Edition 2011, Fall Edition 2011, Winter Edition 2012 and Spring Edition 2012.

The library, which is located on the eastside, primarily serves those of the African-American and Hispanic communities.

San Antonio Lodge No. 1 will continue to furnish the library with a quarterly copy of *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason*, further keeping its patrons informed of past and present Masonic activities, not only in San Antonio, but throughout the Lone Star State and beyond.



Photo by: P.M. Edward Jones

Brethren of Star Tom Lodge No. 100 travel to Boston, attend opening of African Lodge No. 459



Brethren of Star Tom Lodge No. 100 pose with officers of Milton F. Finch, Sr. Lodge No. 848 U.D. of Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo under the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Story by: *W.M. Steve Crayton (100)*

BOSTON – Members of Star Tom Lodge No. 100 trekked to Massachusetts to attend the biannual symbolic reopening of African Lodge No. 459, April 26 – 28.

The Brethren witnessed a few historic events while in attendance. These events were the signing over of the Prince Hall Monument to the city of Cambridge, Mass., the dedication of an original constitution, and meeting Brethren from Milton F. Finch, Sr. Lodge No. 848 U.D. of Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo under the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Star Tom Lodge's contingent consisted of Worshipful Master Steve Crayton, Past Masters Ben Burleson, Moses Johnson, Charles Wilson and Brother Reginald Steadman.

The weekend started with a tour

for the many Brothers who traveled from various jurisdictions. The first stop on the tour was Cambridge City Hall. While at City Hall the Brethren witnessed the signing over of the Prince Hall Monument to the city. The city is now responsible for the upkeep of the monument. Also it is designated as a Cambridge landmark.

The tremendous effort of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Massachusetts was aided by Vice Mayor E. Denise Simmons who also is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

The tour included a visit to the Prince Hall Monument at Copp's Hill Burying Ground where Prince Hall is laid to rest and other sites around the city of Boston.

The second day started with official opening of African Lodge No. 459 by the Hon. Frederick B. Summers, M.W. Grand Master, assisted by visiting Grand Masters

from various jurisdictions.

Once the Lodge was officially opened, the members were then obligated on the first, second and third degrees. The treat of day was the unveiling of an authenticated original Prince Hall Constitution. After the closing, the original Constitution and original Charter were available for pictures by the Craft.

While on the tour, the guide asked who had traveled the most distance. The Texas contingent knew beyond a shadow of doubt they were the ones to beat. That was until the Brethren of Milton F. Finch, Sr. Lodge No. 848 U.D. stated they hailed from the Republic of the Congo.

One of the highlights of the trip was fellowshipping with fellow Masons. Although the majority of the Congolese Brethren spoke French, brotherly love prevailed and they expressed how significant Prince Hall Freemasonry is in the Congo.

The two day event concluded with each Brother departing back to their various jurisdictions with a renewed sense of pride in being a Prince Hall Mason.

If this weekend is any indication, Prince Hall Freemasonry is alive and well not only in the United States but around the globe as well.



Authenticated original Prince Hall Constitution.

Star Tom Lodge No. 100 and Friends race for the Cure to Breast Cancer



Story by: W.M. Steve Crayton (100)

SAN ANTONIO – Members of Star Tom Lodge No. 100, along with other members within the 19th Masonic District, joined together to help raise money and bring awareness for the cure of breast cancer by participating in the 15th Annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, May 12. The District's mission was not only to bring awareness and fundraise, but also to support our family members, friends and co-workers who have been affected by this disease.

"Established in 1997 by a group of dedicated survivors with a shared vision, Komen San Antonio Affiliate has raised and invested more than \$12.75 million. Seventy-five percent supports local non-profit programs provid-

ing vital breast cancer screening, treatment and education right here in San Antonio. The remaining 25 percent goes to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Grants Program for groundbreaking breast cancer research and scientific programs around the world." (www.komensanantonio.org)

According to www.breastcancer.org, about 1 in 8 U.S. women (just under 12%) will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of their lifetime. In 2011, an estimated 230,480 new cases of invasive breast cancer were expected to be diagnosed in women in the U.S., along with 57,650 new cases of non-invasive (in situ) breast cancer. About 2,140 new cases of invasive breast cancer were expected to be diag-

nosed in men in 2011. A man's lifetime risk of breast cancer is about 1 in 1,000. For women in the U.S., breast cancer death rates are higher than those for any other cancer, besides lung cancer.

The Lodge felt that it was important to show the San Antonio community that the Prince Hall Masonic Family is in the fight with them.

For Brother Tremaine Johnson, Senior Warden of Star Tom No. 100 it was a more personal endeavor.

S.W. Johnson's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and is currently undergoing treatment. He stated "I ran this race in honor of my mother; I wanted her to know that I love her and want not only for her to get treatment but for all the other women like her."

Brethren of St. James No. 71 host Annual Beat the Heat Community Fan Giveaway



Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

TEMPLE, Texas – Members of St. James Lodge No. 71 hosted their “Beat the Heat Community Fan Giveaway” in June.

The fan giveaway is an annual project that provides new box fans to families in need during the sweltering Central Texas Summer months.

This year, the Brethren collected/donated dozens of fans in support of the project. They also donated six air conditioning units that were given away to community members through a ticket drawing.

The giveaway was held at St. James No. 71 Lodge Hall. Approximately 40 families came out to receive a fan and participate in the air conditioning unit drawing.

The event is quickly becoming a Temple community tradition. It is a

small task that can make a big difference in the life of Temple community members.

Plans and preparations for the 2013 Giveaway have already begun.



Nolan Creek Lodge enters Belton's 4th of July Parade, W.M. Williams receives Honors



Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

Your Flag on the 4th of July.

largest Parades in the state of Texas.

The Belton Parade is on of the Texas.

BELTON, Texas – Prince Hall Masons of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 accompanied by members of Sam T. Robinson Knights of Pythagoras Council No. 10, St. James Lodge No. 71, and New Light Lodge No. 242, participated in the Belton 4th of July Parade.

The 4th of July Parade is held each year for the benefit of more than 30,000 spectators and the many participants involved. There were floats, bands, marching units, decorated vehicles, antique cars, decorated bicycles, etc.

This long-time Belton tradition started at 10:00 a.m. on Main Street at 10th Avenue, traveled south on Main Street to Central Avenue, turned east on Central Avenue, turned left on Birdwell and ended on 4th Ave.

The first parade was held in the mid 1800's and has been an annual event in Belton since 1919. In 2008, USA Today named the Belton 4th of July Parade as one the Nations "Top Ten Places to Fly



W.M. Richard Williams stands with his wife and granddaughter after being awarded the Bell County Adult Probation Officer of the Year by Todd Jermstad, the Bell Director of Bell County Adult Probation.

New Light Lodge No. 242 awards Scholarships through Robert L. Latimore Scholarship Contest



Congratulations to 1st Place Award Winner (\$1,200) Surena Ellis-Wilkerson, who is a graduate of Killeen High School and attendee of the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Story by: Bro. Michael Acierno (242)

KILLEEN, Texas – In a struggling economy, some families could use all the assistance that one could possibly ask. Fortunately, New Light Lodge No. 242 has always been a helping hand in children's education and goals.

Obtaining a higher education is one of the fundamental rights which every student should pursue in life, therefore giving each student the opportunity to excel. Not only does an education provide someone with more opportunities in securing a high paying job, but also to enjoy college life.

The Lodge's community outreach is focused on keeping children happy, healthy and well with educated endeavors.

The Brethren have been enthusiastic about getting the word out about the Robert L. Latimore Scholarship Contest held each year and possibly being a runner-up in the District No. 24 Scholarship Award Contest.

The winner from the District Contest travels to The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas and competes in the J.T. Maxey Scholarship Contest. The program demonstrates the Prince Hall Grand Lodge's commitment to youth and education.

To assist two students with their financial commitments, Prince Hall Masons of New Light Lodge No. 242 awarded two scholarships in the name and honor of Robert L. Latimore (a past member of New Light Lodge No. 242).

Congratulations to the following students for competing in this year's contest, 1st Place Award Winner (\$1,200) Surena Ellis-Wilkerson, who is a graduate of Killeen High School and attendee of the University of Texas at San Antonio and 1st Place Runner-Up (\$500) Tyrone Deckard-Pittman, also a graduate of Killeen High School, who will be attending Central Texas College.

New Light Lodge No. 242 will continue to assist in funding the education of high school seniors who exhibit great dedication to community service and academic accomplishments.



Congratulations to 1st Place Runner-up (\$500) Tyrone Deckard-Pittman, a graduate of Killeen High School, who will be attending Central Texas College.

District 26-A | D.D.G.M. Odis Atkinson

District 26-A, 26 (O.E.S.) continue to be Positive Role Models for Children of Kinderschutzbund



Story by: Bro. Daniel Davis (640)
Photos by: Sis. Amanda Tiggs (60)

GERMANY – The Brothers and Sisters of Texas continue to be positive role models for the children at the Kinderschutzbund located in Parmesans.

District Deputy Grand Master Odis Atkinson said the event brings out the kid in all.

The Sisters of Lone Star Chapter No. 60 made an impact by interacting with the girls of the center. The Sister shared childhood games with the children to included jumping rope, old miss, mary-mack, and duck-duck- goose.

D.D.G.M. Atkinson said these were the games played long before the Play Station and Xbox. The Sisters even had some of the Brothers participating by turning

the ropes. This event is a rendition of a family reunion for both the members of Texas and the children of the center.

Manfred Auer, one of the staff members who volunteers at the center said, "It is always a joy for everyone here at the center when the Texas members come to visit.

It feels like we are one big happy family and we love it."

Bro. William Smith of Cyrus Forbes Lodge No. 640 said, "I felt just like a little kid again. Being around all these kids just takes you back to the days when you were a kid and all you wanted to do was play all day and you

didn't get tired. This is the feeling I have today and I love every minute of it."

There were new members of both District 26-A and 26 (OES) who stated they loved being at the center and it is one of the reasons why they joined the Masonic organization.



District 26-A, Brothers of Right Step Lodge No. 636 enjoy Family Outing



Story by: District Staff
Photos by: Bro. Jose Ortiz

GERMANY – Members of Right Step Lodge No. 636 recently returned from a year long deployment and as a way to reintegrate with their families the Lodge hosted a family outing at the Vilseck Bowling Center.

Worshipful Master Earl Harris stated this is something the Lodge wanted to do in order to strengthen the bond between members of the Lodge.

The Lodge also had some new additions to the Masonic family. Several of the wives, fiancés, and friends of the Brothers joined Lone Star Chapter No. 60, Order of Eastern Star. This was an enlightening experience as a whole.

Special District Deputy Grand Master Anthony Barnes called it a dream come true. He stated he always knew this day would come, but he did not know it would come

so fast.

“In my mind, I always saw the members of Texas in Vilseck growing as a unit and that day has fi-

nally come,” said S.D.D.G.M. Barnes.

“D.D.G.M. Atkinson gave the green light to make things happen, and with his guidance the Chapter is in operation. Soon we will have an O.E.S. Chapter located in this area where it will give the Sisters an opportunity to share the joy of this wonderful organization,” said Sis. Pamela Davis of Lone Star Chapter No. 60. “I see Vilseck, Germany as the new main stay for Texas Masonry. As a new Sister I’m really looking forward to the great things to come. I really love the family bond that is displayed here n Texas.”



SPOTLIGHT

Past Master Bobby R. Grant, the son of Leroy and Bobby Grant, was born in Vancouver, Wash. in 1948. His family moved to Quitman, Texas where he graduated from Quitman High School. Instead of accepting an athletic college scholarship, P.M. Grant decided to service his country by joining the U.S. Army.

P.M. Grant served 20 years in the U.S. Army, including two combat tours of duty in Vietnam. In 2011, he retired from L-3 Communications with 23 years of service.

P.M. Grant was made a Master Mason in 1983 in Headlight Lodge No. 124 of Quitman, serving 12 years as Worshipful Master. He currently serves as the Lodge Secretary and a Special District Deputy Grand Master in District 3.

P.M. Grant is also a member of Welcome Chapter No. 112 (H.R.A.M.), Henry Johnson Commandery No.1 (K.T.), Warie Consistory No. 236 (A.A.S.R.), and Aqaba Temple No. 173 (A.E.A.O.N.M.S.) all located in Tyler, Texas.

Recently, the Wood County Bar Association presented the 2012 Liberty Bell Award to P.M. Grant. Local attorney and U.S. Army Lt. Col. James Attaway (Ret.) presented the prestigious award to P.M. Grant last month in the district courtroom.

The Liberty Bell Award is presented each year to a person who has "promoted better understanding of the rule of law, encouraged greater respect for the law and the courts, stimulated a sense of civic responsibility, or contributed to good government in the community and American Justice System," according to the criteria set by the bar association.

P.M. Grant has served his county and community on Wood



*Bro. Bobby R. Grant
Headlight Lodge No. 124
District 3
Quitman, Texas*

County grand juries, probably the pinnacle of non-elective public service; on trail juries; and a term on the Wood County Salary Grievance Committee. He is certified and li-

censed by the State of Texas as a security officer.

P.M. Grant is a member of Brocks Chapel United Methodist Church where he has served on the Board of Trustees, Staff Pastor Relations Committee, and Treasurer. His work in veteran's affairs in the community includes his current position as President of the Wood County Military Veterans Committee, and he was instrumental in the placement of the veteran's monument on the Wood County Courthouse grounds on Memorial Day 2000.

His wife, Gail, a high school teacher, passed away several years ago from cancer. They produced two children, a son, Patrick, and a daughter, Amber. He has three grandchildren, Derrian, Mercedes, and Maiya.

P.M. Grant's lifetime of service to his community, to his county, and to his country indeed demonstrates individual responsibility and promotes better understanding and appreciation of the rule of law.



Norris Wright Cuney Grand Youth Fraternity holds Annual Conference in San Antonio



July 26 - 27, 2013. Mark your calendars.



Above: G.W.M. Wolridge presents a \$1,000 donation check to Anthony Ray, Branch Director of the Eastside Branch Boys and Girls Club on behalf of the Grand Youth Fraternity.

Below: G.W.P. Wolridge presents a \$250 donation check to Principal Charlotte Gregory of Doric Miller Elementary School on behalf of the N.W.C. Grand Chapter.



*Story and photos by:
District Patron Clary E. Glover*

SAN ANTONIO – Norris Wright Cuney Grand Youth Fraternity held its annual Grand Youth Conference at the 19th Masonic District Lodge Hall, July 13 - 14.

Sisters Anastasia Whitmire and LaVada Davis performed a wonderful job mentoring the youths through their ritualistic work, and providing instruction during the ice breakers. Sis. Davis will begin her term as the new Grand Youth Director for the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Youth Fraternity beginning in August 2012.

Grand Worthy Matron Martha Wolridge of the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter was on hand to witness the great things the Grand Youth Fraternity is doing.

“Our hats are off to the youth; they are learning at an early age that it is better to give than to receive,” said G.W.M. Wolridge.

During the conference, the Grand Youth Fraternity donated \$1,000 the Eastside Branch Boys

and Girls Club.

“The Boys and Girls Club is a wonderful organization that sponsors many activities in the community for youth,” said G.W.M. Wolridge. “We were happy our youth could help.”

The Grand Youth Fraternity also contributed school supplies to the “Kids Helping Kids” program. The supplies were presented to Principal Charlotte Gregory of Doric Miller Elementary School.

Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter also donated \$250.00 to the school for the purchase of other supplies required for the new school year.

Special thanks are delivered to Sisters Jo Ann Storey, Gloria Floyd and Loretta Bankston for preparing and serving all the food. Additional thanks goes to District Deputy Grand Master Grady Peavy and the Brothers of the 19th Masonic District for clearing their calendars to assist in the Grand Youth Conference.

The next Grand Youth Conference will be held in Houston on

19th District celebrates Norris Wright Cuney Day



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

SAN ANTONIO – Order of the Eastern Star members of District 19 of the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter met at Grace First Baptist Church to celebrate Norris Wright Cuney Day, May 27.

In addition to the Eastern Stars, Master Masons from the 19th Masonic District attended as well.

It was a special day for the church as it recognized all of its grants and scholarship recipients.

Two students received grants of \$1,500 and the following scholarship amounts were awarded: (2) \$5,000, (2) \$7,500 and (1) \$8,000.

The pastoral leadership informed the congregation that 100 percent of their students graduated from high school of which 85 percent will be attending college.

The theme of the day was “If there is no harmony between you and your Brother, there is no harmony between you and the Almighty.”

Norris Wright Cuney was the first Grand Master of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas. He served from 1875 – 1876 and again from 1879 – 1881. He died on March 3, 1898 in San Antonio and is buried in Lake View Cemetery in Galveston, Texas.

Excerpt from a Eulogy delivered by Dr. L. H. Reynolds of New Orleans: “He was an intense race man. He fought and planned and hoped and fought for his race. Because of his superior intelligence and the respect in which he was held everywhere, even among the most cultured of the land, he might have drifted away from his people,

as many have done but, like Moses of old, he chose rather to suffer affliction with his own people than to enjoy honors and pleasure with another race.” Maud (Cuney) Hare, *Norris Wright Cuney, A Tribute of the Black People* (New York City: The Crisis Publishing Company, 1913) 230

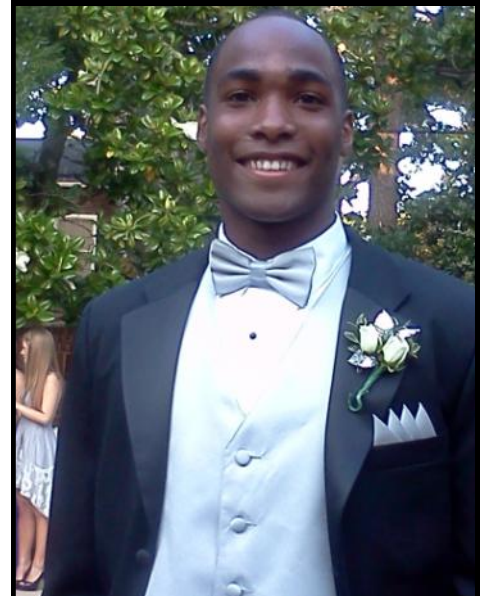


Norris Wright Cuney

McCullogh-P. Wolridge Chapter assists The Beacon



Sisters of McCullogh-P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12 prepared food and performed laundry service at The Beacon which assists Houston's homeless, July 8.



Congratulations to Jamarcus Tyrone of Houston Dynasty Youth Fraternity of the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter, who received a full academic scholarship to Ohio State University.

Story and photos by: Chapter Staff

HOUSTON – Sisters of McCullogh-P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12 prepared food and performed laundry service at The Beacon which assists Houston's homeless, July 8. The event was well attended by the Chapter, Sis. Mildred Robinson and several Brothers from True Square Lodge No. 108.

Since January 2007, this day center has been providing hot meals, clothing, private shower and lavatory facilities, laundry services, and case management to people living on the streets of Houston. The case management provided at The Beacon helps individuals access services that can assist them in addressing the root causes of their homelessness and begin the process of moving off the streets and becoming self-sufficient.

The Beacon is open every Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Mon-

day. More than 85% of Beacon services are operated by volunteers. The Beacon serves approximately 600 clients daily and, some days, surpasses 750 clients.

One of the most important services provided by The Beacon is case management. Its goal is to do more than simply feed people and put them back on the street. The Beacon is helping clients identify, locate, and access services that can help them address the root causes of their homelessness and begin the journey towards moving off of the streets and becoming self-sufficient. Case management guides clients through a complex system, providing tools that ultimately lead to increased stability.

Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 participates in Cancer Walk, awards Scholarship



Story and photos by:
Chapter Staff

BRYAN, Texas – Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 hosted a Mother's Day Raffle during the month of May. Proceeds from the raffle go towards the Chapter's 2012-2013 Scholarship Contest. A total of \$150.00 was raised.

Additionally, Worthy Matron Tiffany Lee participated in the Susan G. Koeman Breast Cancer Walk as part of the group named Pink Love 4 Girlies Walking for a Cure.

In July, Sisters of Agape awarded a \$500 Scholarship to Joseph Reese, who attended Somerville High School graduating 4th in his class. He plans to attend Hutson-Tillotson University in Austin.

ville High School graduating 4th in his class. He plans to attend Hutson-Tillotson University in Austin.

Here comes the Queen



Queen LaKieth Pleth-Suka of Dorcus Chapter No. 19, Order of the Eastern Star, led the fundraising charge for the 2011 - 2012 Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter Scholarship fund raising campaign with \$1,300.

She received her crown from Sister Emma Buckner of Dorcus Chapter No. 19 at the annual Queen's Luncheon held during the 2012 Grand Session which featured a memorial to the late Sister Emma Renfro, Grand Chapter Treasurer and 1st Worthy Matron of Dorcus Chapter No. 19. The Chapter continues to exemplify women who are doing the work, supporting Charity and securing the future by educating the youth.



Members of Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 and Joseph Reese. Reese will attend Hutson-Tillotson University.

Lone Star Chapter No. 60 demonstrates Texas Love through Community Service



Story by: *Sis. Dani Gehrke (60)*
Photos by: *Bro. William Smith (640)*

GERMANY - Members of Lone Star Chapter No. 60 (O.E.S) made their annual baby bag donation to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center located in Kaiserslautern.

The event has taken place since the establishment of Lone Star Chapter No. 60 in 2008. District Deputy Grand Matron Tefferra Atkinson said that this type of giving back really touches the heart of everyone who participates.

"It was designed to give the mothers who experienced early

childbirth a sense of relief of knowing someone understood what they were going through and was there for moral support as well," said D.D.G.M. Atkinson.

The Sisters of Lone Star Chapter No. 60 all agreed that the event was very special.

Worthy Matron Christina Coomer of Lone Star Chapter No. 60 (an expecting mother) said, "I can relate to what these mothers are going through. I love what we are doing and if I could come here every day it would be more than an honor for me to do so."

The Sisters of Lone Star Chap-

ter No. 60 plan to expand the event by providing bags to the labor and delivery section of the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.



Royal Arch Masons of El Paso donate to Elementary Science Department



Excellent High Priest Franck Bonhomme presenting a donation from El Paso Holy Royal Arch Masons Chapter No. 90, May 16. He is accompanied by P.H.P. Bennie Moss, P.H.P. Duwan M. Mason, Sr, and Paul Maggitt.

Story by:
P.H.P. Duwan M. Mason, Sr. and
P.H.P. Emanuel Tucker

EL PASO – Members of El Paso Holy Royal Arch Masons Chapter No. 90 made a monetary donation to the Whitaker Elementary Science Department, May 16.

Promoting education is a very essential piece of Masonry. Not only do we strive to better ourselves but we encourage the improvement of others. This process normally begins at the home children are raised in and continues in the education process at our local schools.

The Holy Bible guides all Masonic faiths, and numerous figures in the bible promote knowledge and wisdom. Proverbs 18:15

states, "The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." This

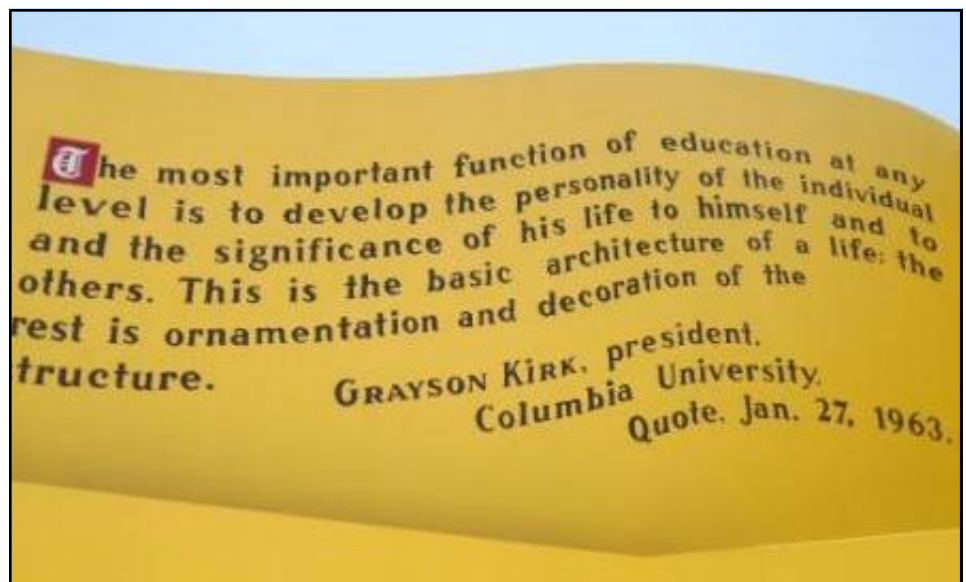
verse, along with many others, is the reason Masons continue to promote education on the Bible, math, science, history, etc...

The Chapter was more than pleased to hear about the great accomplishments of Whitaker Elementary in the field of science. The school placed first in the local science fair but due to budget cuts, trophies were not able to be purchased.

The Chapter, along with the assistance of Paul Maggitt, was able to donate the funds so the children could receive their awards.

Excellent High Priest Franck Bonhomme spoke to the children about community service and provided a brief history of the Chapter. The children were extremely happy and asked many questions.

"These youths did a great job at the science fair by coming in first place, but due to budget issues the school could not award them all with awards, so our Chapter donated enough for each student to receive trophies, medallions, and certificates," said E.H.P. Bonhomme.



Heroines of Sun Court No. 150 participate in Temple Juneteenth Parade



Story and photos by: Court Staff

TEMPLE, Texas – Members of Rising Sun Court No. 150 participated in the Temple Juneteenth parade and festivities, June (date).

The Heroines had a great time practicing their “Queenly” waves and fellowshiping with others in their community.

After the parade, the Court set-up a tent and barbecue pit and had

lunch together with the Brethren of St. James Lodge No. 71 and members of the community.

Additionally, the Court set-up a voter registration table and deputized heroines registered five people to vote.

A great time was had by all who attended the event. Plans are in the works to participate in the annual event in 2013.

Members of Lone Star Grand Guild hold Workshop in San Antonio



come together and strengthen the bond of Sisterhood with the members of the Lone Star Grand Guild Family.

The Regional Workshop was implemented by G.P.C. Samuel in 2011 in order to reach out to senior members and others that are unable to attend the annual Training Conference in September and the annual Grand Conclave in February. G.P.C. Samuel wants all members to remain aware and informed of the progress of the Lone Star Grand Guild.

The Guilds look forward to next year's South Central Regional Workshop. Place to be announced at a later date.

The Lone Star Grand Guild will convene in Ft. Worth at The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge on Sept. 29 for the annual Training Conference and Black and White Banquet.

Grand Royal Advisor Derec Thomas and Grand Princess Captain R. Lucille Samuel, along with members of Flowers of Alamo Guild No. 8, Leora "O" Guild No. 35, South Central Guild No. 39, and Heart of Texas Guild No. 38.

*Story and photos by:
Princess Sec. Karen Mirabeau*

the workshop informative for training and sharing ideas, but also served as a great occasion to

SAN ANTONIO – The 2nd Annual South Central Regional Training Workshop was held at the 19th Masonic District Temple, July 28. The workshop, hosted by Flowers of Alamo Guild No. 8, included the membership of Leora "O" Guild No. 35, South Central Guild No. 39, and Heart of Texas Guild No. 38.

Grand Princess Captain R. Lucille Samuel traveled from El Paso to conduct the training. Additionally, Grand Royal Advisor Derec Thomas was in attendance to provide drill commands and words of wisdom.

The Workshop covered Texas Protocol, Ritualistic Procedures, Rules of the Grand Constitution, International Grand Encampment and other subjects. Not only was



Lone Star Consistory No. 113, Alamo City Chapter of the Phylaxis Society holds 1st Annual Brotherhood Night



Story and photos by:
S.P. Burrell Parmer (113)

SAN ANTONIO – An event long overdue, members of Lone Star Consistory No. 113, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (P.H.A., S.J.) and Alamo Chapter of the Phylaxis Society co-sponsored the 1st Annual Brotherhood Night at the Masonic Temple, July 16.

More than 30 Master Masons attended the occasion to fellowship and have the opportunity to listen to a panel of four Past Masters who possessed between 60 – 47 years of Masonic service.

Grand Inspector General Dr. Ron Kelley, the Illustrious Commander-in-Chief of Lone Star Consistory No. 113, served as master of ceremonies and provided the statement of the occasion.

Prayer was delivered by P.M. Willie Calvin of Noble Star Lodge No. 277.

After prayer, P.M. Clary Glover, President of Alamo Chapter, wel-

comed the guests and provided information on the Phylaxis Society.

C.I.C. Kelley then delivered a brief lecture on the history of Freemasonry and its beginnings in the Lone Star State. Following his lecture, the audience viewed a slideshow presentation displaying various photos from Masonic history and local Masonic activities.

With the slideshow presentation complete, the audience turned their attention to the panel. The panel consisted of Past Masters Lawrence Foster of Blue Bonnet Lodge No. 192 (60-year-member), P.M. Roosevelt Tennessee of Noble Star Lodge No. 277 (50-year-member), Willie Calvin of Noble Star Lodge No. 277 (47-year-member), and Hon. Past Grand Master Norris McVea Sr of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 (50-year-member).

The panel provided their personal experiences on a variety of topics to include, but not limited to, the

investigation process, conduct of degree work (Initiations, Passings, and Raisings) and how Masonry has impacted in their lives.

A continuing concern expressed by the panel was that the older members must teach the younger generation of Masons and establishing/maintaining a Masonic Study Club is beneficial.

According to P.M. Tennessee, the 19th Masonic District had one of the best study clubs in the Jurisdiction. The club would travel to regional contests and compete.

Near the end of the event, District Deputy Grand Master Grady Peavy delivered final remarks.

The night ended as it began, with prayer and fellowship.



HISTORICAL CORNER

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



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

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

The Trans-Mississippi Command in Waller County, Texas

Confederate Lt. Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith, Commander of the Trans Mississippi, along with the Confederate Maj. Gen. John B. Magruder, the commanding officer for Texas, and other generals were waiting on CSA President Jefferson Davis to arrive in Texas where together they would plan new strategies for the war effort. With the capture of President Jefferson Davis, these efforts were crushed.

"In mid-May 1865, not all troops of the Trans-Mississippi Department had surrendered and the governors of Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana directed Gen. E. Kirby Smith, to formalize a surrender agreement. The situation was such that according to one member of the 3rd Texas Cavalry that at this time ... "the Trans-Mississippi Department's command began a spontaneous disintegration." Lt. Gen. Simon B. Buckner, acting on behalf of Kirby Smith entered into a military convention with Maj. Gen. Osterhaus, who was acting on behalf of Maj. Gen. Canby. The terms of this military convention were agreed to in New Orleans on May 26, with Kirby Smith signing the terms of the agreement in Galveston, Texas on June 2, 1865." (The Surrender, American Civil War Round Table of Australia, (NSW Chapter) 2006 Conference Papers. www.americancivilwar.asn.au)

Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith, upon surrendering his command of the Trans-Mississippi on June 2, 1865 also fled into Mexico in fear of being

tried for treason. Prior to his departure, orders were issued dismissing the Confederate Troops under his command. These orders were read at Hempstead, (the future county seat of Waller County) and a rail head town serving as a major shipping point for troops and supplies. The reading of the letter dismissing the CSA Troops is documented on a historical marker, erected in the middle of the sidewalk, on the north lawn of the Waller County Courthouse.

During the final days of the war, Gen. Kirby Smith, members of his staff, along with members of his family, were headquartered at his cousin's (Col. Jared Ellison Kirby) Brazos River Valley Plantation known as "Alta Vista," which is now Prairie View.

"From May until July there was no state government functioning in Texas. Vigilante committees and Home Guards were organized to protect homes and property. Peoples Court, neither military nor constitutional were the dispenser of justice as those with the fastest gun saw fit." (History of Waller Co.) President Andrew Johnson appointed A.J. Hamilton, a Unionist and former congressman from Texas, as provisional governor.

"Juneteenth" or the "19th of June" (1865) is an original Texas term, that describes the phenomenon of the federal occupation of Texas, that became a celebration of the day that word was received on Galveston Island from Gen. Gordon Granger, of the emancipation-liberation / freedom of enslaved African Americans held in bondage in the Confederate States of America (CSA). The "Emancipation Proclamation", issued by President Abraham Lincoln, became effective on 1 January 1863, but it would take some 2.5 years for Federal Troops to deliver the word to Texas.

General Order No. 3 – Federal Action in Texas

When Gen. Gordon Granger, under the command of Gen. Phillip M. Sheridan, landed on Galveston Island on June 19, 1865 with 1,800 federal troops and read General Order No. 3, (which cited the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln that became effective on 1 January 1863), from the balcony of Aston Villa, this brought federal action to Texas and a confirmation that the Civil War was over.

General Order No. 3 - Read by General Gordon Granger, "19th of June", 1865 at Galveston, Texas":

"The people are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them, become that between employer and hired labor. The freed are advised to remain at their present homes, and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts; and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere."

In the first statement of General Order No. 3 which reads: "The people are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free." **"Liberty" is proclaimed and the idea confirmed that the legal bond between Master and Slave is broken.**

The second statement which reads: "This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them, become that between employer and hired labor."

“Freedom” and the “absolute Equality” of “rights belonging to a community of free people” are the ideas that energized liberty and made aspirations and dreams seem attainable.

The newly classified “wage earners” were told to remain where they were and depend on the benevolence of their former masters and now employers, to treat them fair and pay them a living wage, so that they could now provide for their own food, clothing and shelter. Reconciling public policy to the reality of Texas culture would be a challenge to all Texans on into the 21st century. The Black wage earners, now raised to one level above a slave, were now in competition with working class Whites that were already dominating this socio-economic class. Both groups often blinded by the political idea of race, failed to see that they had more mutual interests than differences. Those in political and economic power, engaged in a relentless campaign to shape the public conscience to divide, rule and preserve a way of life advantageous to them. And the last part of General Order No. 3 captured an old stereotype of the lazy, shiftless Negro slave that required the ever present domineering White overseer to finish his / her assigned tasks. The phrase “...and they will not be supported in idleness...” seem to echo down to our times with pronouncements by conservatives and liberals on the modern welfare reform movement.

The Government of Texas collapsed. The Army of the Confederate States of America was disbanded. The Leaders fled to Mexico leaving some “500 non-Texans in the state that depend upon robbery and murder for a living.” (History of Waller Co.) This was a period of seemingly unbridled lawlessness. Much of the armed robberies, murders and vandalism were specifically directed against northern business interest, i.e. railroads, their southern sympathizers and African Texans. “Texas was in turmoil...Thousands of the state’s men had died in the conflict. Indian raids had caused as much damage as the skirmishes with the Union army, causing the frontier to recede up to 100 miles eastward in some areas...only a

handful of the 50,000 Union troops were dispatched in the interior. Most were sent to the Rio Grande as a show of force against the French forces in Mexico.” (Texas Almanac 02-03 pg 47) Shortly after the civil war, between 1865 -1866, the Klan was first organized by ex-confederates advocating White supremacy through violence and terror. It wasn’t long before the KKK reached Texas and the intimidation and murder of Negroes, Carpetbaggers and southern sympathizers escalated and became more organized.

From 1865-1870 Texas Government was dominated from Washington D.C., from the Governor’s Office to the local County Officials through Military Districts.

President Johnson’s plan for reconstruction was considered by many in the Union not severe enough in its punishment of the Southern Traitors. No person could vote until he had taken the oath of Allegiance to the U.S. Gov. A.J. Hamilton on Aug. 19, 1865 issued a Proclamation providing for registration of voters in accordance with President Johnson’s plan. Those taking the Oath of Amnesty were to be registered upon taking the Oath of Allegiance, which were as follow:

Amnesty Oath

No. ___ Place taken: ___ Date taken: ___
I, ____, Do solemnly swear or affirm in the presence of Almighty God, that I will hereafter faithfully defend the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States there under, and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all laws and proclamations which have been made during the existing rebellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves. So help me God
Signed: ___ Subscribed and sworn to before me this ___ day of ____, 1865
Provost Marshall

Iron Clad Oath

Prescribed July 2, 1862 by Congress for all States Officials

That I have never voluntarily given no aid, countenance, counsel, or encouragement to persons engaged in armed

hostility thereto; that I have neither sought, nor accepted nor attempted to exercise the functions of any office whatever, under any authority or pretended authority in hostility to the United States; that I have not yielded a voluntary support to any government or authority or constitution within the United States, hostile or inimical thereto.

The States were also required to ratify the 14th Amendment which gave Negroes full citizenship and the 15th Amendment giving the Negro the right to vote.

Voters for sometime consisted of Negroes, southerners who had taken no part in the war (scalawags), and northern white men (carpetbaggers). All were despised by southerners.

“President Johnson forced Gov. Hamilton to call for a Constitutional Convention in January 1866. Hamilton told the gathering what was expected: Former slaves were to be given civil rights; the secession ordinance had to be repealed; Civil War debt had to be repudiated; and slavery was to be abolished with ratification of the 13th Amendment, which actually abolished slavery or involuntary servitude. Many delegates to the convention were former secessionists and there was little support for compromise.... Texas took limited action...Slavery was abolished, and Blacks were given some civil rights. But they still could not vote and were barred from testifying in trials against Whites. No action was taken on the 13th amendment...The Constitution followed closely the Constitution of 1845. President Johnson in August 1866 accepted the new Constitution and declared insurrection over in Texas. The last of the states of the Confederacy so accepted under Presidential Reconstruction.” (TX Almanac 02-03 pg. 47)

(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.)

Brief History of Pride of Ennis Lodge No. 420



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

ENNIS, Texas - On Aug. 7, 2009, Pride of Ennis Lodge No. 420 was re-activated (after a number of years of dormancy) when Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis installed the Lodge officers in a ceremony at the hall of Bethesda Lodge No. 168 in Waxahachie, Texas. Since then, members of Pride of Ennis have Initiated, Passed, and Raised a number of new members, conducted a number of community service projects, visited churches, and participated each year in the Ennis Polka Festival and Christmas Parades.

Research in the archives of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas indicate that Pride of Ennis was organized around 1915, as the Lodge is first listed in the 1916 proceedings. The following men have served as Worshipful Master for the following approximate years: W. M. Blount (1915-19), Watson Sherrell (1919-22), F. W. Scott (1922-25), Rev. J. E. Rogers (1925-51), Willie E. Love (1951-83), Tommie Fields (1983-90, 1991-94), M. M. Newhouse (1990-91), James Hill (1994-95), McCain Bodie (2009-11), and Marcel Middlebrooks (2011-Present).

At various times between 1915 and 1995, Pride of Ennis had the following members: James Adair, Ora Albert, Tom Allen, Saul Anderson, Ed Avery, Roy Baker, Lee Battle, Robert Lee Batts, Jr., Will Bell, William Benton, Henry Betts, A. I. Biggins, F. B. Biggins, Andrew Bisby, A. C. Blandford, L. A. Booker, Henry Lee Bowen, Lorenza Bowen, Wesley Bright, Jack Brown, Will Brown, Deedey Bullion, Cleophas Cade, Hozie Cade, Roe Caine, Hervey Calahan, Kelt Calahan, J. S. Campbell, Eugene Carr, Joseph Carr, W. C. Carroll, James Chaney, Clyde Clarett, Rev. L. O. Clayton, Clarence Clemmons, Abe Colbert, George Cole, A. C. Coleman, J. F. Coleman, J. L. Coleman, R. Cato Coleman, Ruben Conley, Jessie Connor, Griffin Corliss, Jr., Lee Counter, W. M. Counts, Charlie Cox, S. P. Crenshaw, Wilbert Cuddle, Robert



Cummings, A. J. Cunningham, Rubbie Dabbs, R. C. Curry, Fernando Davis, J. Thad Davis, Neal Davis, R. E. Decatur, William Henry Dickerson, R. C. Dixon, William H. Dixon, W. M. Doss, Roosevelt Dozier, Levi Ellis, R. C. Enghram, John Ferlow, Abe Fields, Delbert R. Frazier, I van Frazier, Claudie Frederick, Jim Gayton, Dave Grant, Edd Gray, Lumos Green, Orfie Green, Edd Gregg, Ollie Griffin, Ransom Hart, Davis Harvey, L. A. Hawthorne, W. A. Hawthorne, Lewis Hayes, Lorris Hayes, Everidge Henry, James Henry, Alex J. Hill, Richard Hill, Clarence Holeman, Peter Holmes, Isom Hood, J. C. Honeycutt, Tony Honeycutt, J. D. Hughes, Art F. Hunter, Melvin H. Hunter, Jr., Andrew Jackson, G. W. Jackson, Rev. J. J. Jackson, Prof. S. W. Jackson, Emmitt James, John James, Tommy Lee Jefferson, Simpson Jessey, Bishop Jones, C. E. Jones, Frank Jones, Gary B. Jones, Jonnie Jones, Robert Jones, S. T. Jones, Walter Kelly, Harold King, Elihu Kinners, Jeff Knight, Jr. Avo Leaks, Roy Lee, J. L. Lewis, Willie Scott Lister, Rev. E. L. Lockett, Jonnie Love, Willa Lucas, Robert Massey, G. W. Maise, Ben Mathias, Grant Mays, Lemon Mays, J. J. McDaniel, Aaron McDowell, Robert Aaron McDowell, Felipe McElroy, Jake McNeal, R. P. McNeal, Mason Medlock, Andrew Mendoza, Willie Miller, George Mitchell, Lawrence Mitchell, William Mitchell, Bush Moore, Hermon Moore, Roy Moore, Eph Morris, Romeo Morton, Earnest Munson, John Munson, J. Q.

Nellum, Durwood Nelson, L. T. Oliver, Tommie Overstreet, Tilmon Pendleton, Frank Peevey, H. P. Peters, S. P. Pratt, J. B. Postell, Delbert Price, Eugene Price, H. L. Price, W. D. F. Pyles, Allen Reese, Jasper Riptoe, Forrest Roberts, Smith Roberts, B. A. Robertson, Henry Robertson, Ben Robinson, Henry Robinson, Leon Robinson, Russell Robinson, A. O. Rogers, Harvey Rogers, C. R. Russeau, William Russell, David Schrock, F. W. Scott, George Shannon, F. D. Sherrell, Walter Shipman, W. M. Shipp, Cato Sims, Robert Smallwood, Bracy Smith, Charles Smith, Claude Smith, Grey Smith, Henry Smith, Rufus Smith, Tom Smith, W. F. Somerville, William Spicey, Rev. H. L. Stapleton, R. E. Steptoe, H. Sterling, Henry Lee Stevens, Leroy Taylor, Claudie Terrell, Jr., Claudie Terrell, Sr., Robert Terrell, Prof. B. F. Thomas, George Thomas, James Thomas, Leroy Thomas, Lesley Thomas, Albert Thompson, A. Tolbert, L. T. Toliver, C. D. Turner, Grady Taylor, Joe Tyler, J. P. Wade, James Walker, John Walker, Timothy A. Walker, Roy D. Washington, Will Washington, Rev. Hardee W. Weathers, Lonnie West, Charlie Whitley, Arthur Williams, C. A. Williams, C. M. Williams, Edd Williams, Robert Wills, Prof. James Wilson, John Wise, General Woodard, Elex Woods, Robert Woods, Jr., Guy Wright, Willis Wright, Rev. W. W. Wright, and K. C. Yarborough.

FORUM

Prince Hall Monument Legacy Continues



Presenting the Prince Hall Monument Banner to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History are R.W. D.G.M. Derrick Paige, Museum Director of Archives and Libraries LaNesha Gale DeBardelaben, P.M. James L. Young II, and R.W. J.G.W. Adrian Green.

*Story by: P.M. James L. Young II
G.H., M.W.P.H.G.L. of Mich.*

On May 15th, 2010, arguably, the first public monument to civil rights activist, social reformer, promoter of education for African-American children, and abolitionist, Prince Hall, was unveiled. Under the leadership and spearheading of, then Mayor E. Denise Simmons (Cambridge, Mass.), this process took a total of five years to complete in which now the Prince Hall Monument stands on the Cam-

bridge Common Rotunda – the place where Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War era. In addition, Prince Hall is the first African American to be memorialized on the national landmark.

One intent in the development of the monument to Prince Hall was to use the edifice as a means of education for our youth and the public. Former Mayor Simmons wished for the monument to be a beacon of light that spread

throughout the country and the world. Though the monument stands in Cambridge, the overall goal is to continue the Prince Hall Monument “Project” beyond the boundary lines of where it exists.

Having been a dedicated participant with the Prince Hall Monument Committee, and understanding Simmons’ vision, I decided to continue the spreading of information and education concerning Prince Hall and bring a few remnants of the Prince Hall Monument unveiling to Detroit. However, my



Prince Hall Monument at Cambridge, Mass.

request for the Prince Hall Monument Banner was not for my own personal indulgence and safekeeping but rather for a more noble cause, for it was my intent to deliver these items to the world's largest African-American museum – the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History.

This museum carries the name of a noted African American, Dr. Charles H. Wright, who was an obstetrician and gynecologist in the Detroit area. This man, along with 30 other visionaries, established the museum, then named, the International Afro-American Museum and was later re-named in his honor in the 1998.

After talks with Simmons, she agreed with the gesture and sent me one of the Prince Hall Monument Banners that were draped around Harvard Square during the unveiling weekend. I contacted the museum's archivist, who after learning of my request, became very excited to receive the items. Conducting additional research, Simmons discovered that within the museum's collections they had no items concerning Prince Hall, which was surprise to the museum staff, as well as to myself.

Based on this discovery, the act of depositing the banner into the museum brought forth even more significance, for this item would be the first Prince Hall memorabilia that the world's largest African-American museum has ever received since its inception. So, in essence, though the donation would be small in nature, the overall act would be substantial, as well as historic.

Furthermore, I decided, to not only deliver the banner to the museum but also append the City of Cambridge's Proclamation that proclaimed Prince Hall a "Founding Father" of this nation and a commemorative Masonic apron that has the African Lodge No. 459 name engraved.

So on March 24, 2012, I, along with a group of Prince Hall Masons representing several Lodges, as well as R.W. Deputy Grand Master Derrick Paige and R.W. Junior Grand Warden Adrian Green under the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Michigan, convened in the museum board room where three items were turned over to the museum's care.

Now with these items, the museum is very open to developing a

large-scale national exhibit on Prince Hall. So I've been given the assignment of comprising a proposal, of sorts, to deliver to the museum so they can then assess what is needed materially and monetarily to bring this exhibit to fruition.

So until the Prince Hall exhibit is completed, the aforementioned donated items will be incorporated within other existing exhibits and programs.

It was the late Joseph A. Walkes Jr., who made the statement that "The History of Prince Hall Freemasonry ought to be told by Prince Hall Masons!" With all the myriad negative propaganda that continues to flood society on the subject of Freemasonry, we have to ask ourselves, what are we do as a fraternal order, and to what extent does our responsibility lie in combating misinformation with correct information? Now, an opportunity is on the horizon for us to create a center of learning within a respected and noted institution that will ultimately conquer the lies and help in placing Prince Hall out of the category of the nameless and faceless unmentionables in history to one who will be justly included within the ranks all other relevant historic figures.

Lastly, though we are taught not to reveal any secrets of Freemasonry to any person or persons, ritualistically, we can pursue the act of telling our story, from a historic perspective, that can educate the masses on whom Prince Hall was and how much of a staple his life and legacy are in the sum of not only African-American History but American History as well.

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The Personification of a Mason



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

Here is something to frame and hang on your wall nearby where you can glance at it now and then. This excerpt is taken from the "address to the Brethren" given very close to the end of the installation of the officers of a Lodge according to the "English" or British Columbia "Canadian Work". It comes from the Masonic Publication "*The Educator*" (<http://www.theeducator.ca/ritual-2/the-personification-of-a-mason/>) but seems to be an adaptation of an original piece of work, "*The Ideal of a Freemason*," written by Brother Otto Klotz in the mid 1800s. According to Cal Christie the piece "*The Ideal of a Freemason*" was written by Bro. Otto Klotz and incorporated into the General Charge at Installation of Lodge Officers in the Ontario working.

"Born in Kiel, Holstein Germany, brewer and hotelier, Otto Klotz, immigrated to Preston, Ontario in 1837. Within a year, he was elected to the Board of School Trustees where he served as secretary-treasurer, almost without break, from 1839 to 1891. In 1845, Preston's school became Ontario's first "Free" school.

He also served as Chief Engineer of the Preston Fire Brigade in 1850, Justice of the Peace in 1856, and, among other offices, was the President and long time director of the Waterloo County Agricultural Society.

Highly regarded by Ontario Freemasons, he was made a Honorary Past Grand Master in 1885. Excerpts from an article he wrote,



Bro. Otto Klotz

published in The Canadian Craftsman on 15 March 1868, entitled "The History of Freemasonry" have been incorporated into the ritual of most lodges in Canada as The Ideal of a Freemason." - from: http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/biography/klotz_o/klotz_o.html

The Personification of a Mason

"If you see a man who quietly and modestly moves in the sphere of his life ; who, without blemish, fulfills his duty as a man, a subject, a husband and a father; who is pious without hypocrisy, benevolent without ostentation, and aids his fellow-man without self-interest; whose heart beats warm for friendship, whose serene mind is open for licensed pleasures, who in vicissitudes does not despair, nor in fortune will be presumptuous, and who will be resolute in the hour of danger."

"The man who is free from superstition and free from infidelity; who

in nature sees the finger of the eternal master; who feels and adores the higher destination of man; to whom faith, hope and charity are not mere words without any meaning; to whom property, any, even life, is not too dear for the protection of the innocence and virtue, and for the defence of truth;"

"The man who towards himself is a severe judge, but who is tolerant with the debilities of his neighbour; who endeavours to oppose errors without arrogance, and to promote intelligence without impatience; who properly understands how to estimate and employ his means; who honours virtue, though it be in the most humble garment, and who does not favour vice though it be clad in purple; and who administers justice to merit whether dwelling in palaces or cottages."

"The man who, without courting applause, is loved by all noble-minded men, respected by his superiors and revered by his subordinates; the man who never proclaims what he has done, can do, or will do, but where need is, will lay hold with dispassionate courage, circumspect resolution, indefatigable exertion and rare power of mind, and who will not cease until he has accomplished his work, and who then, without pretension, will retire into the multitude because he did the good act, not for himself, but for the cause of good."

"If you, my friend, meet such a man, you will see the personification of brotherly love, relief and truth; and you will have found the ideal of a Freemason."

Book Review: The Hour Glass: African-American Freemasonry in the State of New York

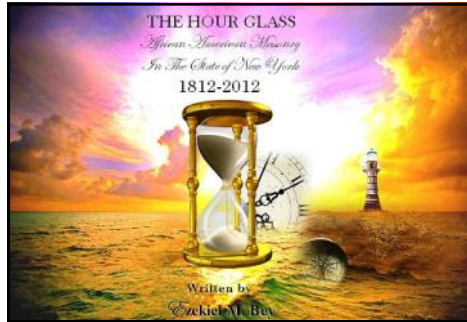
Review by: P.M. Frederic L. Milliken

Talented Prince Hall Masonic authors and writers are not as plentiful as grapes on the vine. So when one comes along we need to take notice and pay close attention to his works. Such a man is Past Master Ezekiel M. Bey whose latest book is "The Hour Glass, African American Freemasonry In The State Of New York 1812 – 2012." *The Hour Glass* records the sands of time in the life of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York, the great men therein who shaped the world to come and the part P.M. Bey has played and continues to play in the development of Prince Hall Freemasonry in New York and the nation. P.M. Bey is a writer, a historian and a poet all rolled into one. He combines that unusual dual talent of being a great researcher and historian and a great writer at the same time. P.M. Bey is no esoteric closet intellectual, however. He has served on the Grand Lodge Committee on Works and Lecture; the Committee on Masonic Education, where he spent some time as Secretary; and the office of Grand Historian from 2006 - 2011. He is a Fellow of the Phylaxis Society and has spent 10 years on its Commission on Bogus Masonry much of that time as its Deputy Director. At the same time he has served as Editor-in-Chief of his Grand Lodge's publication, *The Sentinel* until 2008.

One of Bey's pride and joys is the nationwide E-Group *Blue Lite* which he founded. A Prince Hall discussion and educational undertaking, it has blossomed into one of the most active gatherings of Masons on the Internet. Recently he has added the Prince Hall Research and Information site *Blue-Lite.com*.

P.M. Bey has paid his dues. Now all that blood, sweat and tears – that hard work and dedication and honing of skills - has culminated in a fascinating work of Masonic history, *The Hour Glass*.

The Hour Glass begins where every



other Prince Hall Masonic book doesn't, with the Haitian Revolution, the revolt of African American slaves from 1791 - 1804. The connection here is by way of Freemason Jean Pierre Boyer who was to become the second President of Haiti. Sometime during this conflict when the US and France were fighting the Franco-American War he, and all the others on his French vessel, was captured by the American war ship Trumbull and brought back to Connecticut as a prisoner of war. Discovering him to be a Mason they gave him a modicum of freedom and then sent him to Pennsylvania where he was ultimately set free. Boyer who attended some Lodges while he was in Pennsylvania seems to have had a profound effect on all he came in contact with as New York's first African American Lodge, African Lodge No. 459 of New York chartered by African Lodge No. 459 of Boston in 1812 soon changed its name to Boyer Lodge No. 1. After assuming the Presidency of Haiti, Boyer welcomed a migration of freed Black Americans to his country.

P.M. Bey then takes us through the Underground Railroad and the part that early New York African-American Freemasons played in that historical time after which there is a detailed account of the false information that the first African-American Grand Lodge in New York was Boyer Grand Lodge supposedly formed in 1845. Upon due research, P.M. Bey confirms that the first African-American Grand Lodge in New York was The United Grand Lodge of the State of New York formed in 1848 which later changed its

name to The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

Next is the painful experience of the National Grand Lodge or Compact as it was called. It was extremely stressful for New York as the United Grand Lodge of the State of New York never joined the Compact and its failure to do so resulted in the Compact attempting to expel the United Grand Lodge. Within Prince Hall Freemasonry the whole National Grand Lodge episode is a sore that will not heal. Remnants of the National Compact remain today but they are clandestine as many would say they always have been. While Mainstream Masonry also flirted with a National Grand Lodge at the same time it never pulled the trigger. P.M. Bey has contended that the whole National venture was illegal and he takes the reader through the steps of how this all came about. The documentation he provides on the history of New York African-American Freemasonry at this time and New York's involvement with the Compact is outstanding. Any historian who would like to have a better understanding of this issue should refer to *The Hour Glass*.

What follows is a wealth of information on clandestine African-American Freemasonry in New York. P.M. Bey takes us through the Committee on Clandestine Masonry and The Legal Committee reports at Grand Lodge Sessions 1954 - 1969. We learn who the players are, the measures taken by the M.W.P.H.G.L. of New York to combat bogus Freemasonry and even about a court case filed against two bogus New York Masonic Grand Lodges.

From the 1962 report of the Legal Committee to the Grand Lodge:

Litigation was commenced against two of these spurious organizations in New York State about three years ago. In November of 1961, there was a trial involving your Grand Lodge and one of these spurious organizations. In January of this year, injunctive relief was secured against this organization known as the Supreme Council of the

United States of the Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the 33rd and Last Degree A.A. Scottish Rite. This was the first case of its kind in the State of New York, in which injunctive relief was granted to a Masonic organization, giving it the right to put the spurious organization out of business. Moreover, the decision specifically stated that Prince Hall Masonry was legitimate and that it had a prior or better right to practice Masonry as against the organization which was enjoined. Your Legal Committee reports that this organization is now out of business.

P.M. Bey has continued in the footsteps of Brothers Harry A. Williamson and Joseph Walkes in association with the Phylaxis Society in educating the Craft and those seeking membership about the evils of Bogus Freemasonry. This remains a continuing battle against ignorance. *The Hour Glass* exposes each and every one of these clandestine organizations, names, dates and places, for all to see.

No story would be complete without heroes. P.M. Bey, in addition to his mentor Bro. Joseph Walkes, chronicles the lives and contributions to Prince Hall Freemasonry of R.W. Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, Harry A Williamson and S. David Bailey.

Bro. Schomburg, a native of Puerto Rico, was a promoter of Spanish speaking Lodges within Prince Hall New York. He was a researcher, historian, writer and accumulator of many Masonic books and manuscripts. In 1911, with John A. Bruce he formed the Negro Society for Research. Bro. Schomburg was elected Grand Secretary in 1918 and served in that position through 1926.

P.M. Bey tells us: *Schomburg saved every bit of information that he could get his hands on and built an archive in which he donated to public libraries. He is the reason that today Freemasonry and the black struggle in America have a huge section in the New York City Public Library in Harlem. This spirit of saving information for our future influenced his good friend and Brother, R.W. Harry A. Williamson, Grand Historian of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York. It was Arthur Schomburg who encouraged Williamson to place his collection of over 800 books, manu-*

scripts, photographs, periodicals, pamphlets, and scrapbooks in the N.Y.C. Public Library's Division of Negro Literature, History and Prints.

By the year 1925, Schomburg had acquired over 5,000 books, pamphlets, manuscripts, etchings and many other items. When the Division of Negro Literature opened in the New York City Public Library on 135th Street in Harlem, Schomburg sold his collection for \$10,000 to the Carnegie Corporation to be placed in the new library. Schomburg later became curator for the library in 1932 in the Division of Negro Literature, History and Prints. In memory of Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, the New York City Public Library in Harlem was renamed in 1973, "The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture".

Another giant of Prince Hall New York that P.M. Bey writes about was Bro. Harry A Williamson. Grand Historian from 1911 through 1924 Bro. Williamson held many Grand Lodge offices including Senior Grand Warden and Deputy Grand Master and chaired many Grand Lodge Committees. He was a prolific writer and was an early crusader against Bogus Freemasonry in the state of New York.

The third legend from Prince Hall New York was Bro. S. David Bailey, an accomplished jazz percussionist. P.M. Bey tells us that he had:

collaborations with most of the Ellington Alumni, such as Mercer Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, Ben Webster, "Shorty" Baker, and Al Sears. David Bailey also played with Billy Taylor, Clark Terry, Bob Brookmeyer, Miles Davis, Chris Conner, Billie Holiday, Marian McPartland, Lucky Thompson, Lena Horn, Harry Bellefonte and the Gerry Mulligan Band(s) for 13 years until 1968 when he left to join the newly formed "Jazztet" featuring Art Farmer, Benny Golson,

But Bailey had another love – flying. Again we learn from P.M. Bey: *From 1968 to 1973, David worked with famed criminal attorney F. Lee Bailey as Vice President of Marshfield Aviation in Marshfield Airport, Massachusetts, 20 miles south of Boston. As Chief Pilot and flight instructor, and the attorney's personal pilot, David flew the business Learjet in and out of Logan International Airport in Boston.*

Dave was also a Designated Pilot Examiner for the FAA in Boston as he was in New York. David enjoyed a good professional relationship and warm friendship with F. Lee Bailey.

But in a strange twist of career paths Bro. Bailey returned to his first love when he became Executive Director of Jazzmobile.

In Prince Hall Freemasonry, Bro. Bailey became a District Deputy and his efforts in Masonic Instruction and Masonic Education became renowned. He headed up the first Grand Lodge Committee on Education and now 86 years old, he can look back upon an illustrious Masonic career of 60 years.

It is difficult to know where you are going unless you know where you have been. *The Hour Glass* will prove to be a most valuable work for Prince Hall New York Masons to remember where they have been and to honor and treasure the memories of those who have gone before them.

It is vitally imperative that within the Craft records and archives are kept to show a clear path of what Freemasonry has stood for and what it has withstood throughout its history. P.M. Bey has been meticulous and detailed in his research for this book. *The Hour Glass* is both interesting and informative.

Not shy in expressing himself, P.M. Bey writes with a passion that jumps out at you from the pages of his book. His love for the Craft comes through loud and clear.

Moreover, P.M. Bey blazes a trail that other Prince Hall Grand Lodges should take. A chronicling of the history of any Grand Lodge casts in stone what defines that Masonic community and it is by such a work as this that a Grand Lodge can tackle the future with a mission statement in hand.

This is a monumental work that will be on every library shelf and in many a Mason's bookcase.

It should be in yours also.

The Hour Glass is on sale now at: <http://blue-lite.com/the-hour-glass/>



P.M. Ezekiel M. Bey

Called to the Celestial Lodge

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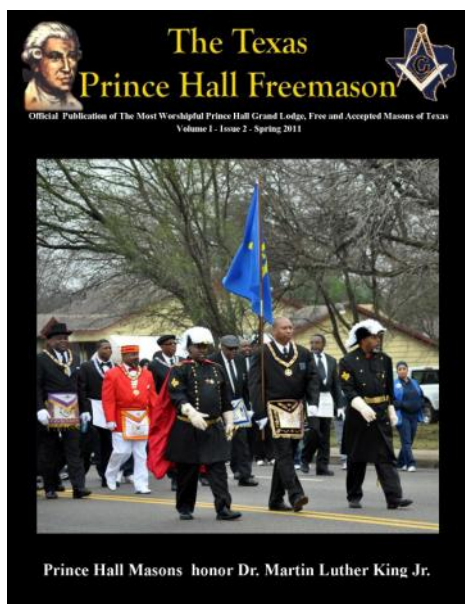
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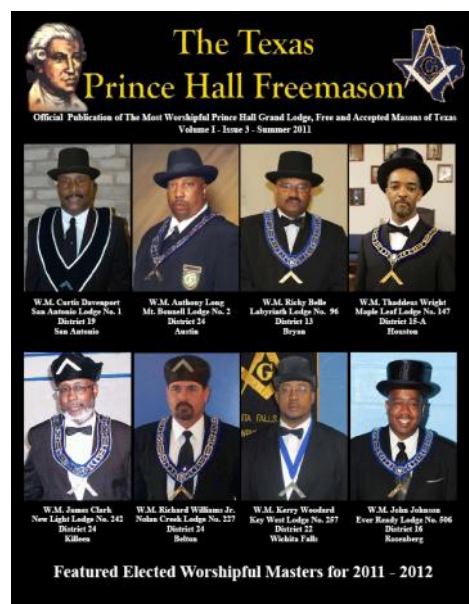
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