



The Texas Prince Hall Freemason



Official Publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas
Volume 3 - Issue 9 - Winter 2012



“Exercise you Right on November 6, 2012”

Table of Contents

Grand Master's Message.....	3
Grand Master's Calendar.....	8
Prince Hall Americanism Day Photos.....	6
District Activities.....	10
Spotlight.....	27
Adopted, Appendant and Concordant Bodies.....	28
Historical Corner.....	39

From the Editor

Greetings,

Retention and increasing our membership continues to be a common theme stressed this Masonic year. There are numerous qualified candidates who wish to become Freemasons.

We must be able to provide them with sufficient information as why to join our Time Honored Institution. The G.A.O.T.U. has called home our Grand Pursuivant, Past Master Rev. Victor Herrell of John T. Maxey Lodge No. 74. A Man amongst Men, he will sorely be missed. There

have been attempts to suppress the vote. Let's demonstrate our strength in numbers as we go to the polls on Nov. 6. Again it is an honor and pleasure to bring to you the ninth edition of *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason*. Please continue to send in your submissions in the proper format. Additionally, the publication is available for advertisement. If you know of organizations who would like to advertise in the publication, please provide them with my email address in order to correspond.

Fraternally,

W.M. Burrell D. Parmer

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

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason

Publisher

M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis

Editor

W.M. Burrell D. Parmer

Publications Committee

Chairman/Layout & Design, **W.M. Burrell D. Parmer**

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

Copy Editor, **P.M. Frederic Milliken**

Copy Editor, **P.M. Burnell White Jr.**

Webmaster, **P.M. Clary Glover Jr.**

**Grand Lodge Officers
2012 - 2013**

Grand Master

M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis

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 Auditors

R.W. Ernie Williams

R.W. Samuel Hobbs Jr.

R.W. Robert Hicks Sr.

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

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

3433 Martin Luther King Freeway

Ft. Worth, Texas 76119

Office: (817) 534-4612

Fax: (817) 534-9289

Email: pha@flash.net



Message from the Grand Master

Greetings,

It is my prayer that this message finds you experiencing the bountiful blessings from the G.A.O.T.U., our Heavenly Father. I am writing to make a plea to you. As you are aware, in less than a week from now you are going to the polls to vote and elect your President of the United States of America for the next four years. Not only will you be voting for your President but there are some issues of concern that needs your attention. There is the attempt to suppress your vote through legislation such as the voter-id legislation and the continuous attempt at redrawing voting districts to reduce the significance of your vote. As a man, a citizen and a Master Mason, it is very important that you exercise your right and duty to vote. More importantly than just voting, you need to be an educated and informed voter.

M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis

If you are asking why the Grand Master is advocating that you vote; it is because when you obligated yourself to become a Mason, somewhere in the first degree instruction, you were charged to “be a quiet and peaceful citizen, true to your government and just to your country.” You were further charged to “conform with cheerfulness to the country in which you live.” Now, just as the Masonic Order holds you by a “stronger tie,” so does your community, city, county, state and the nation. You obligated yourself to be a truer citizen. You demonstrate your truthfulness by voting.

A resolution was submitted and passed at the 93rd Annual Conference of Grand Masters, this last May, requesting that each Grand Lodge undertake the challenge to fight the suppression of the vote to disenfranchised fellow citizens. As there are almost as many voter laws as there are states, each jurisdiction was to work within its own jurisdiction to help minimize the problem. Thanks be to Our Heavenly Father, the voter-id legislation has been declared unconstitutional but you can rest assured that the attempt to suppress voting is not over yet.

I am now calling on each Master Mason to make yourself a committee of one to promote voter education and voter participation.

Firstly, make sure that you and all of your acquaintances are well informed on the issues that affect you, your livelihood and know who has your best interest at heart. I am asking you to personally commit to encourage fifty (50) people that you know or come into contact with before November 6, 2012 to cast their vote.

Secondly, and most importantly, go vote and make sure all eligible voters that you know, vote. Vote early if you can. Identify your voting precinct in advance, take you proper voting credentials, go to the polls and vote your conviction. As you may know by now, in Texas, the early voting on Sundays has been discontinued. Now who do you think that affects the most? Some churches had after church voting drives. Don't let that deter you from voting.

I wish that I could say that my job is done but it won't be complete until you have performed your Civic and Masonic Duty to make sure everyone's vote count. Help me accomplish my task, but more importantly, standup, be accountable, be heard and vote.

I remain...

Fraternally yours,

Wilbert M. Curtis

Grand Master's Calendar

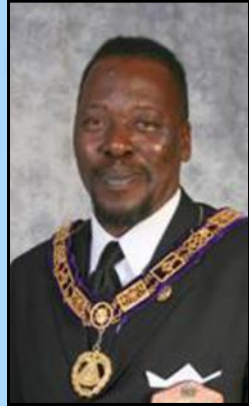
November 2012 - January 2013

Date	Location	Event
October 2012		
Tuesday, Oct. 30	N/A	Prince Hall Charitable Foundation of Texas Board Meeting Conference Call
November 2012		
Tuesday - Saturday, Oct. 30 - Nov. 3	Memphis, Tenn.	Administrative Meeting - United Supreme Council, S.J.
Friday - Saturday, Nov. 9 - 10	Fort Worth	M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas Mid-Winter Session
Monday - Friday, Nov. 12 - 16	Atlanta	Phylaxis Society Board Meeting
December 2012		
Sunday - Tuesday, Dec. 2 - 4	Jackson, Miss.	M.W. Stringer Grand Lodge Grand Session
Tuesday - Thursday, Dec. 11 - 13	District of Columbia	M.W.P.H.G.L. of D.C. Grand Session
Friday - Saturday, Dec. 14 - 15	Fort Worth	4th Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Christmas Gift Giveaway
January 2013		
Saturday, Jan. 12	Houston	6th Annual Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter Luncheon
Tuesday, Jan. 22	N/A	Prince Hall Conference of Grand Masters Conference Call
Thursday - Saturday, Jan. 31 - Feb, 2	Houston	Annual York Rite Weekend
November 2012		
Friday - Monday, Nov. 9 - 12	Fort Worth	Mid-Winter Session

Elected Grand Lodge Officers



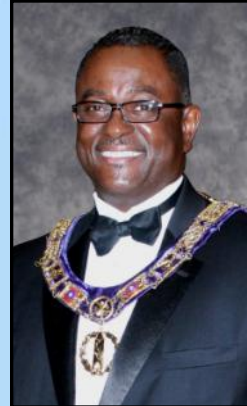
Past Grand Master
Hon. Edwin B. Cash



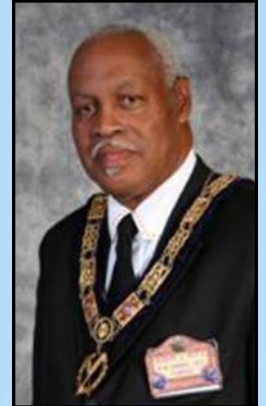
Deputy Grand Master
R.W. Michael T. Anderson



Grand Senior Warden
R.W. Bryce Hardin Sr.



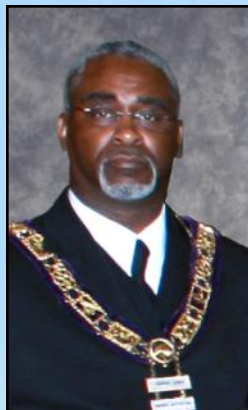
Grand Junior Warden
R.W. Frank D. Jackson



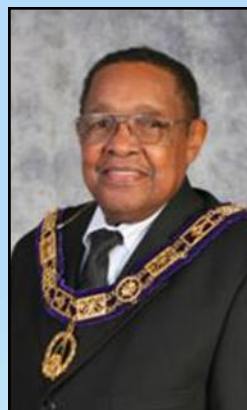
Grand Secretary
R.W. Hubert L. Reece Sr.



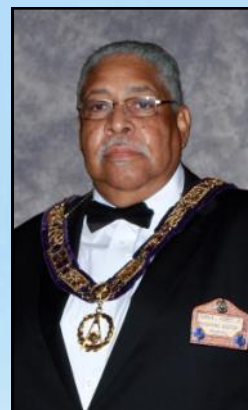
Grand Treasurer
R.W. Robert J. Datcher



Grand Tiler
R.W. Vernon J. James



Grand Auditor
R.W. Ernie Williams



Grand Auditor
R.W. Samuel Hobbs Jr.



Grand Auditor
R.W. Robert Hicks Sr.



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

Prince Hall Americanism Day Photos



THE PRINCE HALL MASONIC FAMILY

of Texas and Its Jurisdiction



Present Our

4th Annual Christmas Gift Giveaway

Saturday, December 15, 2012

11am to 2pm

*The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas
3433 Martin Luther King Freeway ~ Ft Worth 76119*

Children 16 years and under must be present to receive their toys or gifts.
Accompanying parent(s) **MUST** have a photo ID. Line-up will start at 10am.
Please call Mr. Robert B. Calloway at 972.223.0270 to get more details regarding this event.
Toys and gifts will be distributed until they are all given away to Fort Worth residents.



4th Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Christmas Gift Giveaway

The time is here again for us to show our Christmas spirit by giving to the local community. Over the past three years we helped many children and adults have a Merry Christmas. Our goal this year is to continue spreading this joy. This can only be accomplished by the support of every member of the Prince Hall Masonic Family. Your donations of toys, gift cards, money and time will be needed. Let's make this year better than ever. Please pass this information on to the churches, schools and everyone that lives in Fort Worth.

I pray that God will continue to bless each of you and your families during this Holiday Season.

Fraternally,
Robert B. Calloway Jr., Grand Worthy Patron



ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHAGORAS

MOST VENERABLE THOMAS H. ROUTT GRAND COUNCIL OF TEXAS

2  13

YOUNG MEN WITH
A PURPOSE

YOUTH

LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE

JULY 18TH - 21ST

SAN ANTONIO

DESIGNZ BY KEMISTRY (214) 412 - 0558

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.

Back to School “Give-Away” ends in Success



Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

QUITMAN, Texas - Giving in honor to God. The members of Headlight Lodge No. 124, assisted by the Rose of Tyler Chapter No. 55, Order of the Eastern Star, wishes to express their gratitude to the Wood County Democrat and local radio station for publicizing their back to school supplies Give-Away which was held at Brooks Chapel U.M.C. Fellowship Hall, Aug. 10.

Past Master Bobby Grant, Lodge Secretary, expressed his appreciation to the church and Pastor Linda McClough for allowing the Lodge and Chapter to use their facilities. Additional thanks are given to the parents and guardians for bringing their children to receive the school supplies for the fall school semester.

“Our goal was to show our gratitude to the community and assist their children for school,” said P.M. Grant. Grant.



Young Hill Lodge No. 457 makes difference in the Community



organization and stated, "This display of generosity is not just looked at as 75 back packs; it is looked at as a chance for 75 families to get one step closer to understanding and dealing their child's needs."



Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

TYLER, Texas - Members of Young Hill Lodge No. 467 joined forces with the local Juneteenth planning committee in participating and lending helping hands in the 2012 Juneteenth Celebration held in June.

As part of the celebration, the Brethren marched in the Juneteenth Parade and assisted with the preparation and serving of meals for the community.

After preparing more than 100 hundred meals, the Lodge aided in the clean-up of the picnic area upon completion of the celebration activities.

According to Worshipful Master William Robinson, the Lodge was happy to contribute to the success of the event and look forward to next year.

During the summer, the Lodge answered the call of a local non-profit organization, Assist Autism. Assist Autism supports families with children that have been newly

diagnosed with autism and other special needs. They made a special request, through social media outlets, for organizations and members of the Tyler community to help by donating back packs.

These back packs would normally contain literature regarding dealing with autism and children with special needs. Due to the organization publicly announcing that their funds were low and depleting, the Lodge decided to take the charge and donate 75 back packs to help out with the cause.

Vice President Cynthia deWet was very grateful when W.M. Robinson presented the back packs to her



District 7 holds Prince Hall Day Picnic



BEAUMONT, Texas - Prince Hall Americanism Day was held at Cathedral of Faith Baptist Church. . More than 50 members of the Masonic family from Beaumont, Orange, Port Arthur, Silsby and Woodville attended.

The day prior, a District 7 Prince Hall Americanism Day Community Picnic was held. Good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

District 10 performs Mortgage Burning Ceremony

Story and photos by: District Staff

DESOTO, Texas - Prince Masons of Phoenix Lode No. 648 attended the Land Mortgage Burning Ceremony for Legacy Funeral Home of Desoto in May.

The ceremony, performed by District Deputy Grand Master Karlous Morgan Sr., along with Worshipful Master Maurice Murray and Lodge members, was an historic moment for Phoenix Lodge No. 648 and the Desoto community.

Dignitaries whom attended were the Mayor of Desoto, 30th Congressional District Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, and a host of city officials.

D.D.G.M. Morgan stated how it was an honor to serve the community of Desoto as Prince Hall Masons and insured the City of Desoto that Prince Hall Masonry is alive and well in the State of Texas under the leadership of Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis.

Legacy Funeral Home will be built upon the land in 2013.



G.M. Curtis visits District 10

Story and photos by: District Staff

RED OAK, Texas - Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis visited the Brethren of District 10 during their 2nd Quarterly District Council Meeting, Aug. 4.

During the meeting, a Past Masters Council was implemented and elections held by District Deputy Grand Master Karlous Morgan. G.M. Curtis then installed the newly elected Right Worshipful Master, Past Master Jerry Brown Sr. and his Council Officers.

G.M. Curtis acknowledged

D.D.G.M. Morgan Sr. for the work that is being accomplished to revitalize the District. He said that the fruits of his labor are starting to show in Masonic 10.

G.M. Curtis also appointed D.D.G.M. Morgan as the District Deputy for the 9th Masonic District. D.D.G.M. Morgan has charged Districts 9 and 10 to "Get Back to the Basics of Freemasonry." In adherence to that charge, District 10 has partnered with Big Brothers and Big Sisters to become mentors of the youth in need of role models.



Capstone Lodge receives Dispensation from G.M. Curtis

Story and photos by: District Staff

RED OAK, Texas – Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis, along with Deputy Grand Master Michael T. Anderson, Grand Treasurer Robert Datcher, and a host of visiting Brothers traveled to District 10 to deliver a Dispensation to Capstone Lodge U.D. of Cedar Hill during Special District Meeting, Sept 1. During the ceremony, G.M. Curtis appointed Brother Kelan Logan as Worshipful Master, to include all Lodge officers. D.G.M. Anderson delivered the Charge to the Master and his Craft.



Masons join for Prince Hall Americanism Day



Story and photos by: District Staff

RED OAK, Texas - District Deputy Grand Master Karlous R. Morgan Sr. and the Brethren of Masonic Districts 9 and 10 hosted a Prince Hall Weekend and Americanism Day Service at the Red Oak

Municipal Building, Sept. 14 - 16.

The weekend consisted of a Friday Night Fish Fry, a Prince Hall Friends & Family Picnic on Saturday, and a Prince Hall Americanism Day Service on Sunday. More than 150 Master Masons, along with Heroines of Jericho and

Sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star, attended the service.

A generous donation was given to the youth of Heaven's Journey Fellowship Church of Wylie Texas led by Pastor Spencer Hughes.



Good Street Baptist Lodge No. 182 holds Voter Registration Drive

Story by: Sec. Ricci Williams (182)

DALLAS - Prince Hall Masons of Good Street Baptist Lodge No. 182 held a Voter Registration Drive at the Southwest Center Mall, Sept. 22.

Every natural-born citizen of the United States of America should be encouraged to help decide on our country's leaders. However, there is a political agenda to strike fear and confusion into the process of choosing our leaders, which is exactly what some political parties mean to accomplish by disenfranchising would-be supporters of the current Administration.

Good Street Baptist Lodge encourages and inspires the community to exercise their right to vote. Hosting a voter registration drive was one way the Lodge could help.



Goodwill in the Brazos Valley



By: P. M. Edward S. Jones (1)

BRYAN, Texas - It is amazing what a difference four hours can make. On Oct. 9, members of Labyrinth Lodge No. 96 visited Sherwood Nursing Home, which was adopted by the Lodge in 2012, to fulfill their monthly goal of celebrating the residents' birthdays.

Worshipful Master Richard D. Lee said this initiative was established to ensure that all residents' birthdays are recognized and that they receive visitation in cases where family is not able to visit.

"To see the look on the residents' faces as they are recognized is priceless," said W.M. Lee.

Members of Labyrinth were given the opportunity through the wife of Junior Warden Kevin Harris, who is employed by the facility.

Labyrinth Lodge No. 96 views this venture as one of its most important communal service projects and intends to bring joy to the facility for years to come.

Rocunda Moorinz, the Nursing Home's Activity Director, shared the joy of the residents as they look forward to the monthly visit from the Brothers of Labyrinth.



District 15-A extends Its Masonic Family



G.M. Curtis, W.M. Troy Cousin, Sir Knights of Sanderson Commandery No. 2, and a host of Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Brothers of District 15-A came together to welcome Logos Lodge U.D. to Prince Hall Masonry.

Logos Lodge U.D. is the latest addition to the Texas Prince Hall Family

Story by: District Staff

HOUSTON – The Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free & Accepted Masons of Texas, issued a Dispensation to set a Lodge to work in Harris County, Sat., May 7.

Brother Troy Cousin, Worshipful Master of Logos Lodge U.D., together with 40-plus other Master Masons requested to be healed

over from their former jurisdiction.

As they researched and learned about regularity, the group of Masons realized that there was a violation in the principle of autonomy. Therefore, they declared their independence and returned their original charters to the Ahimom Rezon Masonic Congress from which they originally hailed.

Through their continued research on regularity, they realized that there were only two “Regular and Recognized” Masonic bodies in Texas, the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas and the Grand Lodge of Texas. They decided to dissolve their Grand Lodge and Grand

Chapter and be healed over into the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas and its Jurisdictions.

These men have displayed a genuine zeal for the Prince Hall Fraternity, already pledging that each man on their roll will donate two toys each for the 4th Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Christmas Giveaway to be held at the Grand Temple in December.

To date, they have participated in Poll Watchers’ functions, several District church visitations, District Council meetings, and functions sponsored by Adoptive Bodies in Houston.

Strength in Numbers with “The Circle of Friends”



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

HOUSTON - Too often, many Lodges and Chapters find themselves shorthanded when it comes to service projects. Whether it's members working or just unable to attend events, the show must go on. Within District 15-A, several Lodges and Chapters have combined their efforts and resources to ensure that lending a helping hand continues in the city.

After completing several projects, the Masonic Family came up with the nickname “The Circle of Friends” which consists of Magnolia Lodge No. 3, Purple Heart Lodge No. 205, Heights-Ionic-Pride No. 280, Star of the East Chapter No. 11, Sisters of Destiny Chapter No. 68, Hosanna Faith Chapter No. 63 and Pride of Maple Leaf Chapter No. 43. Brother Burt Broussard of Magnolia Lodge No. 3 quoted Henry Ford by saying “Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

On Aug. 18, The Circle of Friends assisted Greater St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church at the Marcie L. Keys Center in city's Sunnyside area to give more than 200 backpacks with supplies to children who are “most in need” during Back to School Jam.

Legendary Pastor James Nash of the church, along with several prominent leaders, spoke to the kids on the importance of a good education and staying out of trouble. There were many games and good food for everyone, making the event fun for all.

Worthy Matron Anitra Dave of Star of the East Chapter No. 11 said, “It always pleases me to see the look on the kids' faces to receive something as simple as school supplies.”

Sister Jenyce Bond-Caldwell, Special District Deputy for Districts 15-A/B (Order of the Eastern Star) said, “It was truly awesome to see this project blossom from an individual Chapter and Lodge event to

become a successful district event.”

She also said that the camaraderie between the Lodges and Chapters have made us stronger. “It feels good to be a part of a group that makes a difference,” said Sis. Bond-Caldwell.



District History Book makes debut

SAN ANTONIO - Bro. Dr. Ron Kelley, the Historian of District 19, recently authored and published *The History of Prince Hall Freemasonry in San Antonio*. This new book documents the history of each of San Antonio's Lodges and Masonic organizations.

Being that San Antonio No. 1, the first chartered Prince Hall lodge in Texas, is located in the city, San Antonio definitely has an important place in Texas Prince Hall Masonry's history.

Some of the highlights of the book include the documentation of the many leaders in Prince Hall Masonry that San Antonio has produced, including a Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master.

The foreword of the book was written by the Hon. John Williams, the National President of the Phylaxis Society.

Some of San Antonio's historic

city leaders were prominent Prince Hall Masons and these men's many accomplishments are also documented in the book.

The information in the book is a good read not only for San Antonio's Prince Hall Masons, but any Brother or Sister who has an interest in the history of our time-honored organization.

The book can be purchased online at www.lulu.com. Just do a search for "Prince Hall San Antonio" on the site and the book's page will appear.

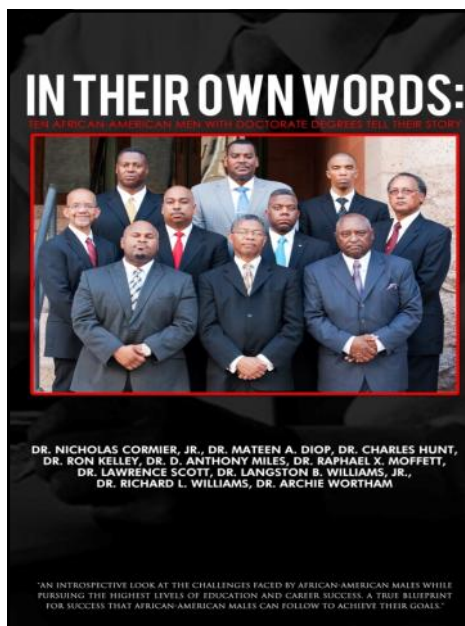


The History of Prince Hall Freemasonry in San Antonio RON KELLEY



Prince Hall Masons featured in New Book

SAN ANTONIO - Three Prince Hall Masons of the District 19 are featured in a book published recently. Bro. Dr. Ron Kelley, Bro. Dr. Nicholas Cormier, and Bro. Richard Williams and several other authors' goal is to inspire young Black males. The group recently spoke about the book during a book signing held at Magnolia Christian Church.



San Antonio Lodge No. 1 increases Membership, assists Those in Need



Members of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 assisted a damsel in stress by manually lifting her SUV off a curb across from the Masonic Temple, Oct. 27.

Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

SAN ANTONIO – Prince Hall Masons of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 have entered into the second half of the Masonic year and look forward to increasing their presence in the community.

In order to accomplish its goals, the Lodge increased its membership by 10 percent and reclaimed 9 members by reinstatement.

Adhering to the direction of Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis, every member who was dropped from the rolls, to include members who did not pay Grand Lodge Relief in May 2012, were personally contacted by Worshipful Master Burrell Parmer to encourage them to become and stay active, and if not, to ascertain their justification for not maintaining their membership.

With an increase in membership, San Antonio Lodge No. 1 can continue to move forward.

The following are a few recent

activities of the Lodge.

In August, retired school counselor Sandra Sapenter required assistance in relocating to a new home. Members of the Lodge provided labor to assist in the relocation of approximately 7-10 rooms of furniture and other household items.

In October, the Lodge again assisted Sapenter by donating funds to assist in household item removal from her new property. The city had cited her for bulky items in her backyard and was attempting to fine her \$1,000 per day if the items were not removed promptly.

W.M. Parmer contacted the city and respectfully requested additional time to complete the removal. After being informed about the deadline, Cheryl Parmer, President of the Lackland Performing Arts Groups, gathered over 15 Air Force volunteers and proceeded to remove the items from Sapenter's residence.

Special thanks to those volun-

teers for quickly mobilizing and coming to the aide of Sapenter. Additionally, the 19th Masonic District provided a donation to assist in paying for a storage facility.

In late October, members of the Lodge met at the Masonic Temple to conduct landscaping of the grounds, in doing so, the members assisted a damsel in distress by manually lifting her SUV off a high curb directly across the street from the Temple, demonstrating the strength of Brotherhood.

The members of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 look forward to continuing its mission of making Masons and providing assistance to



Landscaping.



Items which had to be removed from Sapenter's residence.

the community it serves.

Prince Hall Masons honoring Their Sacrifice



Lodge decided to participate.”

“We appreciate the Masons for taking the time to spoil us today,” said Housing Manger Inge Godfrey.

The tenants were grateful for the food, hospitality, and compassion shown. Coming together with each person doing his part to serve food to wounded warriors and their families was a small token of the Lodge’s appreciation for the wounded military members who have answered their nations call to serve this great country.

It was great to converse with truly exceptional people as Star Tom Lodge No. 100 continues their commitment to community service and looks forward to making this an annual event.

Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

SAN ANTONIO - Star Tom Lodge No. 100 partnered with Kingdom Kidz from Gods Way Church to participate in serving dinner for wounded warriors and their families at Fisher House, Aug 26. The group prepared a menu that consisted of spaghetti, salad, desert, and drinks.

The Fisher House Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization, builds new houses, and assists in the coordination of private support and encourages public support for the homes. A Fisher House is "a home away from home" for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers. The homes are normally located within walking distance of the treatment facility or have transportation available. San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) houses 4 different Fisher Houses. According to www.fisherhouse.org/houses, there are 57 Fisher Houses located on 23 military installations

and 20 veterans’ administration (VA) medical centers. Each house is designed to provide 8 to 21 suites. All are professionally furnished and decorated in the tone and style of the local region. The houses can accommodate 16 to 42 family members. They feature a common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room and an inviting living room with library, and toys for children. A Fisher House is a temporary residence and is not a treatment facility, hospice or counseling center. The program began in 1990, and has offered more than three million days of lodging to more than 160,000 families.

Special thanks to Kingdom Kidz from Gods Way Church whom exemplified the true meaning of giving thanks by personally hand carrying plates to each military member and their family.

Worshipful Master Steve Crayton stated, “It is important to instill in our children the value of servant leadership and I am happy the



Masons visit Church, participate in School Festival, celebrates Prince Hall Americanism Day

Story and photos by: Lodge Staff

BELTON, Texas - Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227, along with members of Sam T. Robinson Knight of Pythagoras Council No. 10, visited the congregation of Bethel A.M.E. Church pastored by Rev. Albert R. Gregory, July 15.

On Aug. 18, Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 partnered with Mt. Zion U.M. Church for their "Back to School with God" school festival.

Several actives were set up for the returning students to participate in, to include the local fire department, which was on hand to give tours of one of their fire trucks and provide safety tips on how to prevent fires and what to do in case of a fire.

There were drawing for school supplies, arts and crafts, and food booths. Additionally, local mime and youth singing groups performed at the event.

Remarks were given by Belton Mayor, the Hon. Jim Covington, Worshipful Master Richard Williams of Nolan Creek Lodge and Pastor H. E. Jackson Jr.

On Sept. 9, Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 joined District 24 in the celebration of Prince Hall Americanism Day. Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 hosted the event at Greater Peace M.B. Church located in Killeen, Texas.

Pastor J.A. Moland was the speaker of the hour and Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis gave closing remarks.



L-R: P.M. Fredrick Baltimore, S.W. Keith Prichett, P.M. Jeffrey Dyson, Pastor Albert Gregory, W.M. Richard Williams, Bro. Stanley Shider, and P.M. Herb Loring.



Members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227: Bro. Stanley Shider, Bro. Daniels, S.W. Keith Prichett.

New Light Lodge No. 242 supports Scott & White Blood Center



Story by: Bro. Michael Acierno (242)

KILLEEN, Texas - New Light Lodge No. 242 has been and continues to be involved in various community service and related programs that included participating in a Blood Drive, together with Heroines of E.L. Downing Court No. 237, Oct. 6.

The event, the first of its kind for New Light Lodge, was organized by Worshipful Master Alphonso Ford, Brother Miguel Chapa and other members, and was truly a successful event.

Bro. Chapa stated that they encouraged everyone to participate in this Blood Drive.

“The more participation, the more effectively we will get known within our community and more people will benefit from it,” said Bro. Chapa. “This is our community and it’ll only be as good as we make it. In a continued effort to improve on this event and make it serve the purpose of the community, we need mass participation and support to ensure a sufficient blood supply to service benefiting patients in our community.”

While some of the members attending the Blood Drive were unable to donate, it did not stop their recruiting of others who were eligible to give blood.

The donation process took only about 30 minutes from start to fin-



ish (registration, mini-physical, and interview); actual collection of blood took about five to ten minutes. The blood collected by the Scott & White Blood Center stays at Scott & White Hospital to be used by the patients who are treated there.

Donors received a free pint of Blue Bell ice cream, free Blue Bell donor t-shirt, hand squeeze, re-

freshments, and the chance to win a \$50.00 Visa gift card donated by The National Bank of Central Texas.

Members of New Light Lodge No. 242, Heroines of E.L. Downing Court No. 237, and the community provided a valuable service by volunteering their time and donating blood.



Prince Hall Masons of New Light Lodge No. 242 support Back to School Stay



L-R: Bro. Vincent Custard, Bro. Darrell Flythe, Sis. Dannelle Flythe, P.M. George Warren, and Bro. LaMarcus Sims. Not pictured are Bros. Albert Parker and Erin Moore.

The Lodge thanks Sister Dannelle L. Flythe for her invaluable time and support preparing and serving the lunch meal.



Program held during school rally.



Attendees listen to inspiring speeches.



Story by: Bro. Michael Acierno (242)

KILLEEN, Texas - Officers and members of New Light Lodge No. 242 participated in the continuing effort to support its community and children by supporting the Annual Killeen Branch N.A.A.C.P. "Back to School Stay in School Rally & Symposium" held at Manor Middle School, Aug. 18.

The purpose of the rally and symposium was to have community students focused on returning back to school, pledge to work hard, and follow their dreams. Inspiring speeches were made by various community and religious leaders, to include local politicians, who electrified the audience with their words of encouragements.

Many displays were on site to show students that success comes in many packages: fireman, law enforcement, medical services, educators, and others.

New Light Lodge No. 242 do-

nated 14 school bags and provided a valuable service by volunteering their time and also serving the lunch meal.

Past Master George Warren stated it is something the Lodge wanted to do for the community and to help give back to an organization that gives out so much. He said that it was truly an honor for New Light Lodge No. 242.

"We strive to make the community aware that we are here for them and to provide support in any way we can," said P.M. Warren.

Today's youth are faced with so many challenges with just being children and the economy makes it hard for some parents to afford the expense for education for their children to achieve their goal. It is critical that the Masonic Family educate the youth at all cost.

Prince Hall Masons of New Light Lodge No. 242 will continue to support its community by giving back to those who have given so much.

G.M. Curtis & G.W.M. Wolridge join Masons and Eastern Stars in visit to the Kinderschutzbund



able to meet the staff members and the children who attend the center.

This is what our organization is all about stated G.W.M. Wolridge. "I'm really proud of the work being performed by the Texas membership."

G.M. Curtis stated he was elated to see the smiles on the faces of the children who attend the center. "It was like a breath of fresh air to see how the faces lit up when the Brothers and Sisters entered the room." He also stated he was glad to see how well the brothers and sisters worked together as a unit.

Story by: D.D.G.M. Odis D. Atkinson
Photos by: D.D.G.M. Tefferra M. Atkinson

PARMESANS, Germany – Prince Hall Masons and Eastern Stars of Texas made a special visit to the Kinderschutzbund during the Joint Grand Visitation held in September.

Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis and Grand Worthy Matron Martha Wolridge had the opportunity to see the outstanding work that is taking place within District 26-A and District 26 (O.E.S).

During the Joint Grand Visitation, District Deputy Grand Master Odis D. Atkinson, along with District Deputy Grand Matron Tefferra M. Atkinson, had the opportunity to escort the Grand Master and Grand Worthy Matron to the Kinderschutzbund where they were



District 26-A & District 26 (O.E.S.) join Service Members in Community Service



Story by: D.D.G.M. Tefferra Atkinson
Photos by: D.D.G.M. Odis D. Atkinson

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany - During the Joint Annual Grand Visitation held in September by Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis and Grand Worthy Matron Martha Wolridge, members of District 26-A and District 26 (Order of the Eastern Star) volunteered to serve the service members who are medically evacuated from Iraq and Afghanistan to the U.S. Hospital in Germany for medical treatment.

The program is part of the USO's Wounded Warrior Project. The project's goal is geared toward serving military members in the Kaiserslautern Military Community.

The community service event, coordinated by Worthy Matron Amanda Tiggs of Lone Star Chapter No. 60, served as the second time where both Districts have par-

ticipated together.

The service members who came through the USO were very grateful and appreciative for the meals that were being served. For some a home cooked meal made their day. G.M. Curtis and G.W.M. Wolridge both had the opportunity to serve the service members and thanked them for their service to their Country.

G.M. Curtis stated this is an outstanding program being sponsored by the members of District 26-A and District 26 (O.E.S.), and he and G.W.M. Wolridge were pleased to have been a part of this occasion during their visit. G.W.M. Wolridge stated that she was proud of how close the members from the two Districts work so well together.

G.M. Curtis expressed how proud he was of the members and stated that this really made his visit, and if he saw nothing else

during his time in Germany, the visit to the USO center was all he needed to see. He made note that the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter are very proud of how well they were practicing the principles of the organization, and he encouraged the members to keep up the good work and that their deeds have not gone unnoticed.



SPOTLIGHT

Past Master Ivory Johnson Jr. was born and raised in Pine Bluff, Ark., and graduated from Watson Chapel High School in 1984. He decided to serve his country and enlisted into the U.S. Army. The Military would begin a life of service that last unto this day. Some of his accomplishments were receiving the Department of Defense Meritorious Service Medal and being selected from 118 drill sergeants as the "Drill Sergeant of the Year" for his installation; and being inducted into the prestigious Audie Murphy and Sergeant Morales Club. He retired from the Army in 2006.

After retiring, P.M. Johnson worked three years as a government contractor for McLane Advanced Technology. He is currently a Civil Service employee working as a Logistics Information Technology Assistant, Trainer, and Advisor to command leaderships throughout the Global Army. His job requires world-wide rapid deployment to anywhere in the world within 72 hours. It requires him to deploy and sometimes be embedded with soldiers during hostile conflicts, as well as, assist with disaster relief operations.

P.M. Johnson has completed a tour in Afghanistan and Iraq. Recently he was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Support of the Global War on Terrorism. This award is to honor the achievements of civilians



*Bro. Ivory Johnson Jr.
Jno G. Lewis Lodge No. 622
District 14
Copperas Cove, Texas*

with the Department of Defense who make an impact on the defense of Freedom on foreign soil. Additionally, he received the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Exceptional Meritorious Service while deployed to Afghanistan. He says the most rewarding part of his job is it helps keep soldiers alive on the battlefield.

P.M. Johnson became a Mason in June of 1995 in Thomas A. Sims Lodge No. 170 in Oak Grove, Ky. He is currently the Lecturer of Jno G. Lewis Lodge No. 622 in Copperas Cove, Texas and the Grand Lecturer for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. His Concordant Body affiliation includes being a Past Excellent High Priest in Mt. Sinai Chapter No. 42, Holy Royal Arch Masons; Past Eminent Commander of South Central Commandery No. 37, Knights Templar; and currently serves as the Very Eminent Deputy

Grand Commander of the Lone Star Grand Commandery, Knights Templar. He is a Grand Inspector General, 33rd Degree Mason and a member of Ed Blair Consistory No. 286 (Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite). Other affiliations include being the President of the Central Texas Chapter of the Phylaxis Society, a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans and the N.A.A.C.P.

In May 2012, P.M. Johnson started a course for Masonic students and dialogue named the Texas Prince Hall University (T.P.H.U.). This university is a two-year program consisting three levels of Masonic studies with 15 six-week classes designed to encourage dialogue and share ideas through weekly threaded discussions, two session-long projects and two exams per class.

P.M. Johnson possesses a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland and will complete a dual Master's in Business Administration in December 2012 with concentrations in Project Management and Logistics. He has one son, Ishmael, who is a junior at Texas State University. P.M. Johnson's continued service for the country, the local community, and the Masonic order reflects great credit upon himself, the community, and the Masonic order.



Eastern Stars contribute to The Beacon

Story and photos by: Chapter Staff

HOUSTON – Members McCullough P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12, Order of the Eastern Star, assisted by members of True Square Lodge No. 108 and Houston Dynasty Youth Fraternity, donated needed items to the Beacon Sept. 29.

Lead by officers of the Chapter, a donation of scrubs and toiletries were made to assist with the Beacon's mission.

Officers that lead the donation included Sisters Veloria Watts, ChaWanda Jackson, Aisha Marks, Kim Delaney, Precious Stewart, and Brothers of True Square Lodge. Sis. Marks was able to procure the scrubs from Quest Diagnostics for the donation.

The members of Chapter first volunteered at the Beacon in July, and it was during that visit members discovered the Beacon needed more items to help the homeless.

The Beacon is a non-profit organization that provides meals, clothing, private showers and lavatory services, laundry services and case management to the people living on the streets in Houston.

The Beacon is open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. More than 85 percent of the Beacon services are operated by volunteers.

The Beacon services approximately 600 homeless people, but has been known to peak in upwards of 750. The Beacon lists



Case Management as one of its most important services provided to its clients and makes sure that all knows that their mission involves more than just basic services such as simply feeding the homeless and putting them back on the streets. The Beacon helps

its clients identify, locate, and access services that can help them address the root causes of their homelessness situation and begin their journey towards moving off the streets and to becoming a self-sufficient citizen.

Eastern Stars assist in Voter Registration

Story and photos by: Chapter Staff

HOUSTON – McCullough P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12, Order of the Eastern Star, did their part to get citizens registered to vote by hosting a voter's registration drive Aug. 25.

The drive was held at Knowledge Is Power Program Polaris College Preparatory School for Boys Greater Northeast Houston.

This area was selected due to its population consisting of mostly African-American and Hispanic residents.

Worthy Matron Taia R. Smith gave reasoning for sharing this area when she offered, "This area

is under-served both educationally and economically."

In addition to the on-site registration, members canvassed the neighborhoods and local businesses to ensure that their residents and workforce had another opportunity to register and ensure their voices are heard.

Special thanks was given to the Preparatory School for the use of the facilities and extended thanks to the mem-



bers of True Square Lodge No. 108 who were there to assist with the registration efforts.

Eastern Stars donate Schools Supplies

Story and photos by: Chapter Staff

HOUSTON – In an effort to ease the transition back into school, Martha P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12, Order of the Eastern Star, donated school supplies to Kashmere Garden Elementary on Aug. 31.

Kashmere Gardens Elementary is a Pre-K to 6th grade school that has received academic acceptance ratings from the state of Texas and is comprised of student body that has 90 percent of the students being African American.

Worthy Matron Taia R. Smith said the school's focus for 2012-13 is literacy improvement.

The school has established the "Million Word" program that aims to get every student to read at least one million words during the school year. The idea behind this program is to increase vocabulary, comprehension, overall reading skills.

Associate Conductress Chawanda Jackson said the event touched her heart when she discovered that the school hadn't em-

ployed a librarian for over seven years and that most of the students are not reading at their respective grade level.

Most of the books and technology used by Kashmere is over 10 years old.

Sis. Jackson strongly stated that the children deserve better when it comes to educational facilities.

Martha P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12 has taken on the task of assisting with the "Million Word" program by working with the school's principal and staff to get more books, becoming reading mentors, and doing all within their power to help the children succeed.

"Kashmere Gardens Elementary

has opened their doors to us to use their facility to host events and meetings. Their band (who is partnered with the Houston Opera) provides music at functions and allows us to be a service on their campus and in their community", said Sis. Smith.



Eastern Stars host Tea honoring Citizens



Story and photos by: Chapter Staff

TEXAS CITY, Texas – Eastern Stars of Rutha M. Hicks Chapter No. 29 sponsored a Five Color Tea, Oct. 27.

One hundred guests from Texas City, La Marque, Hitchcock, Dickinson, and League City attended the Tea to honor 46 citizens for “Golden Citizens of the Community” Awards.

Although three of the honorees passed away prior to the event, the

honor was bestowed upon them.

The basic qualification for the honor was that the citizen be at least 90 years old.

Karrington Anderson graced the event with a solo that preceded a skit, “The Tired Missionary” performed by Heroine Delores Florence of Court 262.

The program included Precinct No. 3 County Commissioner Stephen D. Holmes reading a Proclamation from Galveston County, a closing blessing by Sis-

ter Rena Humphrey, and a special prayer for the honorees by Pastor Emeritus B. J. Hunter.

New member and granddaughter of Sis. Rutha M. Hicks, Sis. Fariece Preston served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

The Tea Committee ensured guests enjoyed great food that was prepared by Chapter members, in addition to ensuring a great program.

Sisters of Agape assist Twin City Mission

Story and photos by: Chapter Staff

BRYAN, Texas – Members of Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38, Order of the Eastern Star, made a charitable donation to Twin City Mission, Sept. 17.

Chapter members created 60 bags for the donation consisting of soap, lotions, shampoo, conditioner, Q-tips, feminine products, razors, toothpaste, and mouthwash.

Twin City Mission’s focuses on providing services to the Brazos Valley homeless.

Established in 1963, Twin City Mission has focus on the increasing rate of homeless citizens and vowed to establish programs that

could address the issue.

Worthy Matron Tiffany Lee shared, “After almost 50 years of providing a home for the homeless, being a friend to the friendless and giving hope to the hopeless, Twin City Mission remains the foundation of support for those in need.”

Whether it is shelter, meals, clothing, or standard household items, Twin City Mission operates on the premise of not seeing through each other, but rather, seeing each other through



W.M. Lee stated. “Twin City Mission provides temporary housing for those in need and it was an honor for this Chapter to assist in some way.”

Sisters of Agape assist Family Promise



C o v e n a n t Sisters Chapter No. 74 Back to School Drive



Story and photos by: Chapter Staff

BRYAN, Texas - The members of the Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38, Order of the Eastern Star, made a clothing donation of 6 new outfits to a homeless family thru Family Promise, Sept. 20.

Plans are under way to make quarterly donations of new clothes and shoes for the children who are under the care of Family Promise.

Dr. Phobee, executive director of Family Promise, states the mission of Family Promise is to help homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence.

Family Promise recognizes that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted response. The organization responds by integrating educational outreach, smart programming, effective policies, and the hands-on work of thousands of volunteers.

They provide food, shelter, and support services for homeless families. They provide advice and advocacy for at-risk families to pre-

vent their becoming homeless. And educate people about poverty and the means to combat it.

Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 was honored to be able to help out this family in their time of need and look forward to partnering with Family Promise to help support the needs of additional families in the future.



Voter Registration a High Priority for Charles Wadley Chapter No. 47



Story and photos by: Chapter Staff

CEDAR HILL, Texas – Charles Wadley Chapter No. 47, Order of the Easter Star, held two Voter Registration Drives, Sept. 8 at a Health Fair, and Sept. 21 at Minyard Food Store in Dallas.

The members registered 94 voters.

To prepare members to assist in voter registration, the Chapter hosted a “Get Out The Vote” Deputy Registrars Meeting at Paul Drayton Lodge Hall, Aug. 30.

Thanks to Ms. Elnora Cox of Dallas County Voter Registration for the class and instruction. More than 25 members were deputized.



13th Annual York Rite Weekend



124th Annual Grand Conclave
Lone Star Grand Commandery



132nd Annual Grand Convocation
Most Excellent, Prince Hall Grand Chapter



84th Annual Grand Conclave
Lone Star Grand Guild

To All York Rite Bodies of Texas and its Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliated:

The Houston York Rite Family will host the 13th Annual York Rite Weekend
January 31 – February 3, 2013.

Hyatt North Houston
425 North Sam Houston Parkway East
Houston, TX 77060

281-249-1234 281-445-9826 fax
www.northhouston.hyatt.com

Make all reservations under York Rite Weekend. Rooms are:

\$89.00/night (single/double)

Please Make All Reservations With The Hotel.

Cutoff Date: January 15, 2013

3:00 PM Check – in, 12:00 Noon Check – out

*****Please Register In Advance In Order To Limit On – Site Registration*****

\$75.00 Pre-Registration (January 15, 2013 Deadline)
\$100.00 Onsite Registration

Make all checks and money orders payable to:

12 Tapers Club
7319 Gettysburg Dr.
Richmond, TX 77469
Email: defjambmaster@aol.com

Holy Royal Arch Masons of El Paso hold PHamily and Friends



Story by: *Comp. Emanuel Tucker*

EL PASO - Family and Friends are very important to the Companions of El Paso Holy Royal Arch Chapter No. 90.

Though the Blessings of the Lord and Savior, in which all things are made possible, the 2012 PHamily and Friends Event was a huge success.

The event, focused on the community, demonstrated to the people of El Paso on how much they mean to the Companions.

The Chapter serviced more than 420 guests and provided activities for the children such as basketball, tug of war and a dunking booth.

Additionally, the Companions provided free cotton candy and snow cones.

Excellent High Priest Franck Bonhomme and Past High Priest Duwan Mason Sr. opened the event with words of encouragement and CP McCluney delivered the prayer. The Chapter hopes to have over 500 attendees next year.

“The cookout is our way of giving back to the community,” said E.H.P. Bonhomme. “We are appreciative for all the great things and support they have given us this year.”



Heroine Claressa Thompson honored during Grand Session



Story and photos by: Grand High Court Staff

FORT WORTH - The Grand High Court, Heroines of Jericho celebrated yet another Grand Session in June. Many smiling faces could be seen all around the meeting room. During the Heroine Luncheon, Past Grand Secretary Claressa Thompson was honored for her many years of service to the Grand High Court. A portrait of Heroine Thompson was unveiled and is placed in the Grand Court Office.

Grand Most Ancient Matron Jackie Levingston presented Heroine Thompson with a plaque and Heroine Thompson was honored with a musical rendition of "May the Work I've Done Speak for Me" by Grand Musician, Heroine Edwina Evans.

Monetary blessings were also given from those in attendance. Though tears flowed from Heroine Thompson, they were tears of joy and appreciation for a

job "well done."

Heroine Thompson is a native of Teague, Texas. She is the daughter of Sanford and Annie Burks. Heroine Thompson was introduced to the Masonic Family by her grandmother Beatrice Moseley

served as the Most Ancient Matron of Martha Court No. 38.

Heroine Thompson began her journey with the Order of Eastern Star, but later joined the Heroines of Jericho, not knowing what was to lie ahead.

Heroine Thompson organized Centennial Court No. 500 in Fort Worth in 1984. She began her work in the Grand High Court Office in 1985 as Bookkeeper under the supervision of Past Grand Secretary Dorothy Logan. After the death of Heroine Logan, she continued her service under Past Grand Secretary Bernice Watson. Heroine Watson retired in 1992 and Heroine Thompson was elected Grand Secretary of the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho and served until she retired in 2009. During her tenure, Heroine Thompson served to the best of her ability under G.M.A.M. Susie Julius, G.M.A.M. Clara B. Gates, G.M.A.M. Margaret A. McDow and presently, G.M.A.M. Levingston.

Heroine Thompson is an active member of Corinth Baptist Church where she serves as the President of the Shepherd's Rod Committee (Pastor's Aide). She is married to the love of her life, L. T. Thompson of 52 years; the mother of three children, Bridgett, Rhonda (presently serving as Grand Secretary of the Grand High Court) and Lamont, who passed in 2004; the grandmother of 5 and the great-grandmother of 5. She enjoys life and can often be found in her yard passing the time away in retirement and caring for her great-granddaughter. Heroine Thompson is a very well respected woman in her family, church, community and the Heroines of Jericho. "Who can find a virtuous woman for her price is far above rubies." We Salute Heroine Claressa Thompson!



Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho pays Respect to P.G.M.A.M. Margaret Anderson McDow



Story and photos by:
Grand High Court Staff

DALLAS - Members of the Grand High Court, Heroines of Jericho, along with over 300 family members and friends, gathered at Kirkwood Temple CME Church to pay final respects of honor and gratitude to Past Grand Most Ancient Matron Margaret Anderson McDow, May 17.

P.G.M.A.M. McDow was born to the late Bose and Emma Anderson of Cameron, Texas on April 29, 1916. She was a graduate of O.J. Thomas High School in Cameron and Paul Quinn College in Waco. She taught both elementary and adult classes.

She and Henry McDow were wed in 1936 and they moved to Quanah, Texas in 1942. They had seven children, and he preceded

her in death.

P.G.M.A.M. McDow was an active member of McKinney Chapel CME in Quanah until moving to Tyler, Texas in 2004 to live with her second oldest son, where she attended Carter Temple CME. After his death in 2005, she moved to DeSoto to live with her daughter and joined Kirkwood Temple CME Church, where she remained a faithful member until her death.

P.G.M.A.M. McDow was a faithful member of the Northwest Texas Conference. She was the first missionary president of presidents of the conference and served as annual conference missionary president of the conference for 11 years. She continued to serve McKinney Chapel CME as chairman of the annual conference presidents and as member-at-large of the general board of the CME Church. She was a stewardess at McKinney Chapel CME for a number of years. She was a member of Cancer Board Homemaking Club, Key 63 officer of Northside Garden Club, and Citywide Religious Committee. She was also recognized by the Quanah Chamber of Commerce for exceptional support of Quanah.

P.G.M.A.M. McDow joined the Heroines of Jericho in 1950, working her way through the ranks and holding various positions, she became Most Ancient Matron of True Friendship Court No. 444 in Quanah serving from 1954-1964. She began attending Grand Court Sessions in 1954 and continued attending each year until 2011, never missing a year.

Because of her dedication to the Grand High Court, she was elected Grand Keeper of the Regalia and served as chairperson and mem-

ber of various committees of the Grand High Court. She was elected to serve as Grand Junior Matron from 1972 - 1979 and served as Grand Senior Matron from 1980 - 1989. After the death of P.G.M.A.M. Susie Julius, she was elected Deputy Grand Most Ancient Matron in 1990 to serve with P.G.M.A.M. Clara B. Gates. After the death of Heroine Gates, six months later, P.G.M.A.M. McDow became the 22nd Grand Most Ancient Matron serving from 1991 - 2001, when she retired. A Servant, A Leader, A Friend, P.G.M.A.M. McDow was an inspiration to the Grand High Court and will never be forgotten.

Preceded in death by her husband, Henry McDow and two sons, H. Clyde McDow and Paul McDow, she leaves cherished memories in the hearts of her daughter, E. Faye Durham of Lancaster; four sons, Arthur McDow, Willie McDow, Samuel McDow Sr., and Lee McDow of Dallas; a brother, Willie Anderson of Tyler; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, relatives and friends.

She was laid to rest beside her husband in Quanah Memorial Cemetery in Quanah on Friday, April 18, 2012.



Lone Star Grand Guild creates Breast Cancer Awareness Emblem



Grand Deputy Irma Cothron and G.P.C. Samuel discuss plans for next years Training Conference. "We always want to improve," said G.P.C. Samuel. "We decided to have a suggestion box at our Grand Conclaves so members can submit ideas, suggestions or questions without knowing their names. Sometimes members are reluctant to stand in front of their peers and ask questions." Grand Commissary Pamela Mitchell of Trinity Guild No. 1 originated the idea.

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

FT WORTH - October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Grand Princes Captain R. Lucielle Samuel all Princesses to develop a design of a Grand Guild emblem together with the Breast Cancer Awareness Emblem. The winner was Princess Angelina Phifer from Trinity Guild No. 1. She will receive a gift card. To spread awareness, all Guilds were allowed to wear pink during their October meetings.



G.P.C. Samuel presented a check for \$300 to a Representative from Ekklesia Christian School. Each the Grand Guild gives Charity to an organization in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area as well as the Youth Camps of our Masonic Family.



Princess Ashley Forge, Princess Juanita Cook, and Princess Shernetta Veazey all of Trinity Guild No. 1 were initiated at the Grand Guild Training Conference.

Lone Star Consistory No. 113 starts Student Mentoring Program



ders, a substance abuse counselor at one of San Antonio's top counseling centers; and Dr. Ron Kelley, the Commander-in-Chief of Lone Star Consistory and chief executive officer of a national education company, an author, and a former school principal.

The in-depth monthly mentoring sessions with African-American and Hispanic male students involved discussions regarding: career planning, staying away from drugs, personal appearance, and many other important social issues.

At the first mentoring session, the students were taught how to tie a necktie and each student was given a necktie to take home as a gift from the Consistory. This program has quickly become one of the city's top mentoring programs and truly highlights the many good deeds that Prince Hall Masons do in the San Antonio community.

Story by: C.I.C. Dr. Ron Kelley (113)

SAN ANTONIO - Lone Star Consistory No. 113 in San Antonio recently began its inaugural student mentoring program in the summer. Being that middle schools are known to have the most behavior challenges in today's school system, the Consistory decided to focus its student mentoring program on a predominantly African-American middle school.

The eastside of San Antonio has several historic African-American middle schools and S.J. Davis Middle School was the school chosen for the program.

Lone Star Consistory has some of the most prominent African-American men in the San Antonio community in its membership, so an all-star cast of very accomplished Scottish Rite Masons was assembled for the inaugural Mentor Team.

The mentor team consisted of

the following prominent 32nd and 33rd Degree Masons: Dr. Richard Williams, a nationally known dentist and Army lieutenant colonel. Dr. Williams currently is a professor in the Army's Dental School and an award-winning scientist in regards to dentistry and periodontics research; Navy Lt. Gary Reed, a decorated naval officer who supervises the Language School at Lackland Air Force Base; Dr. Nicholas Cormier, a nationally known retired college professor and school principal; Grady Peavy Jr., the District Deputy Grand Master for the 19th Masonic District and executive of the Cemetery Division at Fort Sam Houston; Dr. Howard Anderson, a nationally known pastor and college professor; Air Force Staff Sgt. Patrick Hunt, an instructor at the U.S. Air Force School for Military Police; Mark Saun-



Texas Council of Assemblies Order of the Golden Circle

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



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

Greetings:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Gal. 5:22 - 23..."

We have enjoyed a bountiful summer with many harmonious visits and fellowship...looking forward to many more visits with Texas Assemblies.

Loyal Lady Ruler Lacy and the Loyal Ladies of Dalworth Golden Assembly No. 31 held their 2nd annual "Golden Affair" during the month of August in Dallas. It was a beautiful and gracious event with an entertaining program. It was a pleasure to attend and hear the history of the Assembly and a salute to passed Loyal Ladies.

Central Texas Assembly No. 306 of Killeen, led by L.L.R. Whitmire, held celebrated their Commander in Chief/Loyal Lady Ruler Banquet on Oct. 20. It was a grand affair.

L.L.R. Simmons and the Loyal Ladies of Rio Grande Assembly No. 24 of El Paso attended a banquet held by the local Consistory. A grand time was enjoyed by all.

We have just recently returned from United Supreme Council held in Washington D.C. and a great time was had by all who attended. The "Country of Texas" had many ladies representing several assemblies. The following Ladies include: Mrs. Forbes, Nelda Harper, Debra Edmonds, Sandra Forsythe, Mary Hardeman, Charmaine Huggins, Frances Smith, Hazel Scott, Patricia Conner, Shontell Riley, Mrs. Gloria Anderson, Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Lunelle Curtis and Shirley Henry Gideon. If someone was in attendance, but was not named...blame it on my head and not my heart.

Loyal Ladies, please remember to collect toys and participate in the 4th Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Christmas Giveaway to be held in December. All Assemblies are required to be a part of this most audacious occasion of giving by our Masonic Family. You may send Assembly checks, money orders and gifts, please inform me which avenue your Assembly has chosen. If you need assistance getting your gifts to the Grand Masonic Temple in Fort Worth, feel free to let me know and transportation will be not be a deterrent.

Let me take this opportunity to say...enjoy your families always and during the coming holiday seasons. We all have love ones and things to be thankful for and we all know from whom those come...our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

"Thank You, Lord, that with Jesus I can be always on the winning side." Amen.

Peace and Unity!

Shirley Henry Gideon

HISTORICAL CORNER

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



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

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

The Trans-Mississippi Command in Waller County, Texas (Cont'd)

J.W. Throckmorton was elected governor in June and when the legislature convened the laws that were passed clearly demonstrated that Texas was still adhering to its old ways and was determined to institutionalize the ideals of white supremacy. A series of laws limiting the rights of blacks were passed. In labor disputes, the employers were to be the final arbitrators. The codes also bound an entire family's labor, not just the head of the household, to an employer. Funding for Black education would be limited to what could be provided by Black taxpayers. Since few Blacks owned land or had jobs, that provision effectively denied education to Black children...The intent of the legislature was clear, Blacks were not to be considered full citizens." (TX Almanac 02-03 pg 47)

"In March 1867, Congress began a Reconstruction Plan of its own. Texas became apart of the Fifth Military District with Louisiana under the command of Gen. Phillip Sheridan. Finally in August 1867, Governor Throckmorton was removed from office by Gen. Sheridan and replaced with Governor E.M. Pease as provisional governor. Gen. Sheridan also removed many state and county officials." (TX Almanac pg 48).

A new constitutional convention was called for in November 1867 by Gen. W.S. Hancock who replaced Gen. Sheridan.

Eleven African-American men

(some of them future Prince Hall Masons) participated in the Constitutional Convention of 1868-1869 and the resulting constitution that empowered Black males was despised by the Southerners. Free Blacks, with the power to vote, hold office and shape public policy stood in direct contradiction to the ideal of white supremacy.

"Governor Pease, disgusted with the convention and the military, resigned September 1869. Texas had no governor until Edmund J. Davis took office January 1870." (TX Almanac pg 48).

Texas was readmitted to the Union March 30, 1870. The Twelfth Legislature 1870-71 was truly historic for the first time two African-American men were elected to the Texas Senate, George T. Ruby and Mathew Gaines, both representing counties in the Brazos River Valley. In the Texas House of Representatives, twelve African American men would be the first of their race on serve. Again, the counties located in the Brazos River Valley enjoyed a sizeable representation.

Richard Allen, while enslaved, lived in Brazoria County but once freed moved to Houston in Harris County. He was elected State Representative (District 14) to represent Harris and Montgomery Counties. Richard Allen was a District Deputy Grand Master for the M.W. National Grand Lodge and would succeed Norris Wright Cuney to become the 2nd Grand Master for the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.

Governor Edmund J. Davis organized the State Police Force and State Militia to give the governor broad police powers he considered necessary to deal with the rampant violence and lawlessness in Texas. Blacks made up 40% of the police force and a majority of the militia. These organizations, in spite of their unpopularity, brought lawlessness under control in

many areas. The stories of many of these brave Texas heroes are lost to history. Again, Prince Hall Masons were active members of both the State Militia and State Police Force. It would be the Excelsior Guards that would escort the body of G.M. Norris Wright Cuney from San Antonio to its final resting place on Galveston Island. After the gubernatorial election of 1873 Democrat Richard Coke easily defeated the unpopular Governor Davis. Davis appealed to President U.S. Grant to keep him in office, but Grant refused to intervene. Davis took refuge in offices of the state capitol building while the rest of the building was being occupied by White Democrats and with armed guards. It would be members of the Black State Militia that would escort the former Governor from the state capitol.

"For the first time, a system of public education was created. The law required compulsory attendance at school for four months a year; set aside one quarter of the state's annual revenue for education and levied a poll tax to support education. Schools were to be integrated, which enraged many White Texans."

"Richard Coke, a Virginian by birth and Confederate Army Captain, as governor, along with the legislature, set about stripping away at the constitution of 1869 and the democrats now in power, called for a new constitutional convention in 1874.

Five African American men were members of the Constitutional Convention. Four of the five members represented counties in the Brazos River Valley. The Texas Democrats curtailed the road program, created a "community system" in public education without a power of taxation and segregated schools by race. Gov. Coke in 1874 re-established the Texas Rangers."(TX Al. pg 48) This ended Reconstruction in Texas.

During the 15th Legislature of Texas, two African-American men would serve in the Texas Senate in the persons of Walter M. Burton (a Prince Hall Mason whose descendants are still active Masons) and Walter M. Ripetoe. In the Texas House, there were four African American men, three of which hailed from the Brazos River Valley. One in particular was William H. Holland who represented Waller, Wharton and Fort Bend Counties. Representative Holland is known as the "Father of Prairie View A&M University", in that he fought with skill and determination to create "Alta Vista College for Colored Youth" during a Special Session of the Legislature on August 14, 1876. This is the same Legislature that created A&M College (for White Males) during its regular session. Equal provisions were to be provided for both institutions.

Southerners believed that northerners gave the Negroes ideas of false hope and of their importance. Northerners also organized them into Military Companies or Militia and secretly taught them to vote for Republican delegates. Southerners felt kindly towards the Negro but believed them to ignorant to vote. The KKK was stated to have been organized in reaction to this as the avenging spirit of confederate dead.

As a re-cap of the political power struggle, Blacks would elect members to the 13th Legislature of 1873, two to the Texas Senate and eight to the Texas House of Representatives. In the 14th Legislature of 1874, one Black was elected to the Texas Senate and six to the Texas House of Representatives. During the Constitutional Convention of 1875, five Blacks were delegates of which two were from Waller County. State wide; during the 15th Legislature two Blacks would serve in the Texas Senate and four in the Texas House; during the 16th Legislature (1879) two Blacks would serve in the Texas Senate and eight in the Texas House; during the 17th Legislature (1881), one Black would serve in the Texas Senate, (which was Walter M. Burton, Ft. Bend, Waller, Wharton Counties, and would be the last African American Texas Senator in the 19th Century) and five in the Texas House;

during the 18th Legislature (1883), no Black would serve in the Texas Senate and two would serve in the Texas House. One of these was George W. Wyatt, Waller, Ft. Bend Counties, who is buried in the Wyatt Chapel Cemetery, located on the northern perimeter of the campus of Prairie View A&M University; during the 19th Legislature (1885), three Blacks served in the Texas House (Benjamin F. Williams represented Waller, Ft. Bend Counties. He would be the last African American representing Waller County to serve in the 19th Century); during the 20th Legislature (1887), two Blacks served in the Texas House; during the 21st Legislature (1889), two Blacks served in the Texas House; during the 22nd Legislature (1891) one Black served in the Texas House; during the 23rd Legislature (1893), one Black served in the Texas House; during the 24th Legislature (1895), two Blacks served in the Texas House; during the 25th Legislature, one Black, Robert L. Smith, Colorado County, would serve in the Texas House. (Through Many Dangers Toils & Snares – Dr. Merline Pitre, pgs 23-26.

"After the death of Edmund J. Davis in 1883, Norris Wright Cuney became the leader of the Republican Party in Texas... White Republicans (known as Lilly Whites) revolted against the Black leadership... Blacks recognized that alone, their strength was limited... they decided to practice fusion politics... Cuney led the Republicans into a coalition with conservative Democrats in 1892...The election marked the first time major Democratic candidates courted the Black vote..." (Texas Al-

manac page 49).

By 1899, White Democrats would firmly be in control of state government in Texas and the series of "Black Codes" and other practices designed to make permanent the caste status of the Negro and remove them as a political threat was in full gear. The last African Texan to serve in the Texas legislature in the 19th century was Robert Lloyd Smith of Oakland, Colorado County. When he left office in 1899, the next group of Blacks to be elected would be in 1966. Barbara C. Jordan would be sworn in the Texas Senate in 1967 with Curtis M. Graves and Joseph E. Lockridge sworn into the Texas House of Representatives. During this sixty-eight year period, the highest ranking state official in Texas would be the Principals / Presidents of Prairie View A&M University and eventually in 1948 the Presidents of Texas Southern University.

(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.)

In Memory of Rev. Vernon Jessie



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

ENNIS, Texas - On Sept. 1, I attended the funeral of one of God's great servants, Brother Rev. Vernon Jessie, pastor of Saint Paul Church of God (COGIC) in Teague, Texas. The service was held at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Corsicana, Texas.

Bro. Jessie was born in Corsicana on April 4, 1928 to the parentage of Lucion and Essie Jessie. He was educated at G. W. Jackson High School in Corsicana and served in the U. S. Army. On June 16, 1956, he married Annie Mae Smith. This marriage lasted 54 years. Sister Jessie died on March 9, 2011. Bro. Jessie was employed at Oil City Iron Works, Chattanooga Glass, Wolf Brand Chili, and Collin Street Bakery.

Bro. Jessie began his ministry as assistant pastor of Renfro COGIC in Corsicana. From 1981 until his death on August 24, 2012, he served as pastor of Saint Paul COGIC in Teague. He served as treasurer for COGIC's Mexia East District. He was also an active Prince Hall Freemason, helping with the reactivation of Saint Timothy Lodge No. 68, Free and Accepted Masons (which originally met in the Timothy Community of Navarro County but now meets in Corsicana). He served as Secretary of his Lodge until his demise.

For many years, we have known Bro. Jessie; his brother, Lucion Jessie Jr.; and his sister-in-law Gussie Jessie. Cedric Jessie, the son of Lucion and Gussie, has been married to Debra's sister Minister Cilkaye Jessie for over 30 years.

At the Sept. 1 celebration of Bro. Jessie's life, Rev. Alfred Cox Jr., pastor of Mount Olive participated. The service included Scripture readings by Revs. Tas Betts and William Lewis Jr.; a prayer by Rev. Curtis Johnson Jr.,



and special remarks by Minister Donald Parks of Saint Paul COGIC. Selections were performed by long-time friend Bro. Buford Gee (to whom we served as pastor at Blooming Grover from 1996 to 1999) and Missionary Mary Manning. The eulogy was delivered by Rev. Don Manning, in the absence of his father, Superintendent L. J. Manning of the Salvation Lighthouse COGIC. Saint Paul COGIC presented a resolution, as did the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. The latter was signed by Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis. Interment was in Woodland Memorial Park in Corsicana, with graveside services conducted by Prince Hall Masons.

The following words of inspiration from II Timothy 4:7-8 appear on Bro. Jessie's funeral program: "I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Called to the Celestial Lodge

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



Ray L. Carter.....	Hiram No. 5
Rev. Eugene Florence.....	Panther City No. 159
Rev. Victor C. Herrell.....	John T. Maxey No. 74
Rev. Vernon Jessie.....	St. Timothy No. 68
Andrew Johnson.....	True Level No. 226
Lovie Johnson.....	True Level No. 226
Joseph Kidd.....	La Marque No. 373
Rev. James E. Lightfoot.....	Maple Leaf No. 147
Rev. W.H. Maddox.....	Panther City No. 159
Sammy Pratt.....	Owl Turner No. 646



**RED TOWER
REGALIA, INC.**

**CALL OR EMAIL US FOR
QUOTE!**

1301 S. JOYCE ST, UNIT 4533
ARLINGTON, VA 22202
(703) 861-5771
SALES@REDTOWERREGALIA.COM

**VISIT US AT:
WWW.REDTOWERREGALIA.COM**

WE SPECIALIZE IN CUSTOM MADE APRONS!



SHOW YOUR TEXAS TEMPLAR PRIDE



\$20 EACH

**ORDER YOURS THROUGH
THE GRAND COMMANDERY**

LSGC.GRAND.RECORDER@GMAIL.COM

CONFERENCE TOPICS

•TOPICS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MASONIC RESEARCH AND WRITING

Research methods, primary and secondary sources, citations

Writing styles for different publications

Writing for different audiences

Interviewing techniques for oral histories

Recommended publishing standards

Editing quotes, sources, and scripts

Publishing ethics and etiquette

MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES

Building and using an artifact database

Basic preservation and presentation

Photographs

Collections policies

Archival preservation

MASONIC LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

Cataloging systems- Masonic vs. non-Masonic

Online databases- OCLC, World Cat

Digitization of proceedings and other materials

Presentation and preservation of printed and written material

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



**George Washington Masonic Memorial
Alexandria, VA • September 27-29, 2013**



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



**REGISTRATION & ACCOMODATIONS
INFORMATION TBA FALL OF 2012**

WWW.THEQUARRYPROJECT.COM
INQUIRIES: INFO@THEQUARRYPROJECT.COM

Advertise in the Grand Publication

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason is looking for businesses, organizations, associations, and other entities to advertise in *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason*.

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason is published electronically four times per year in the months of February, May, August, and November. It is accessible via www.mwphglotx.org where it is viewed by thousands in and outside of the Texas Jurisdiction. Full page and half page spaces are available.

If you are interested in advertising in *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason*, please send your contact name, address and telephone number to the Grand Editor Burrell Parmer at parmermasonictraveler@hotmail.com.

Advertising rates are:

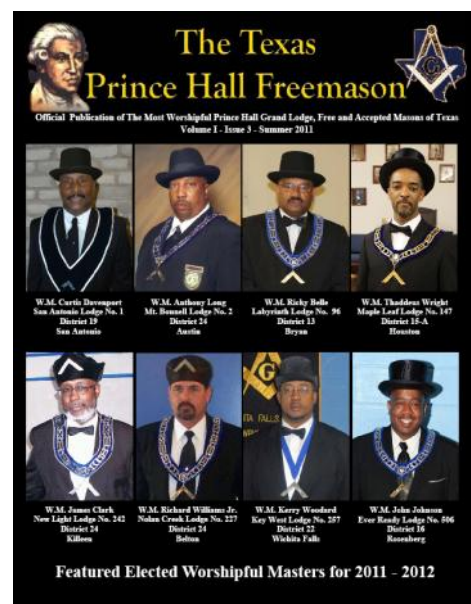
	1X per Qtr	2X per year	4X per year
Full Page	\$100	\$175	\$300
Half Page	\$50	\$100	\$175

Get your printed copies of The Texas Prince Hall Freemason

These editions are available at the cost of \$5 each. Contact the Committee on Publications at 210.833.1975 or email: bro_edward.jones@yahoo.com



Spring Edition 2011



Summer Edition 2011