



The Texas Prince Hall Freemason



Official Publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas
Volume 4 - Issue 12 - Fall 2013



M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis delivers his 2013 Allocation to members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family during the 138th Annual Grand Session held at the Grand Masonic Temple in Fort Worth, June 22.

“Leadership, Leadership, Leadership”

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From the Editor

Greetings,



Leadership was the theme stressed throughout the 138th Annual Grand Session. A very good white paper on Leadership and the Abuse of Power was read and distributed. We also witness the spirit of giving as GP Industrial Contractors, Inc made an substantial charitable contribution to the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation. A challenge was issued that each District should answer. Again it is an honor and pleasure to bring to you the twelfth edition of *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason*. Please continue to send in your submissions in the proper format. Additionally, the publication is available for advertisement. If you know of organizations who would like to advertise in the publication, please provide them with my email address in order to correspond.

Fraternally,

W.M. Burrell D. Parmer

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

Cover photo by G.P. Bryan Thompson

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason

Publisher

M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis

Editor

W.M. Burrell D. Parmer

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2013 - 2014

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

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

3433 Martin Luther King Freeway

Ft. Worth, Texas 76119

Office: (817) 534-4612

Fax: (817) 534-9289

Email: pha@flash.net



Message from the Grand Master

(Excerpts from the Annual Allocation)

I greet you in the name of The Grand 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 on this Saturday morning, the 22nd day of June, bringing you my 10th annual message as your Grand Master. This year I feel a void at this session because we are missing an important link in the chain of this Grand Lodge. For the first time since I've been Grand Master that the Past Grand Master Edwin B. Cash is not in attendance of this Grand Lodge. He sends his well wishes for a harmonious session. I ask that we include him in our prayers.

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:

I have the best job in Masonry. I have the privilege of being the 21st man in 137 years to lead this great organization and you have honored me for the last 10 years to elect me as your leader. I absolutely cherish this privilege and accept and assume the responsibility and duty that comes with it. Historically there has always been a Grand Master. The Constitution of this Grand Lodge provides that there must be a Grand Master and that the Grand Master is to act as the conservator of masonry in this state. As conservator the Grand Master must set the direction for the craft, protect the craft and ever work to improve the craft. Sometimes it becomes necessary for the Grand Master to make decisions that even though they may not be seen as necessary or some may not like them the decisions still have to be made and the actions have to be taken.

A situation has developed within the jurisdiction that attempts to bring into question whether a Lodge, officer or member can disregard a directive, request, or order from the Office of Grand Master.

Landmark 17 states that "It is a landmark that every Free Mason is amenable to the laws and regulations of the Masonic Jurisdiction in which he resides..."

The Constitution says in Article VI, Section 1, under the heading, The POWER of The Grand Master, Section 1(a)—The Grand Master, during the interval between the Communications of the Grand Lodge, may exercise all its executive powers and functions. Section 2 under that same Article says that it is the DUTY of the Grand Master.... "to exercise a general and careful supervision over the Craft and to see that the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge are strictly maintained, supported and obeyed and to discharge all the necessary functions of the Grand Lodge when that body is not in session...."

Courts have said that there is no question about the authority of the Grand Lodge to set its own rules of operation.

I bring all of this up because recently there have been attempts by some to interpret the Constitution in such a manner that would imply that there is an option for a Lodge to obey a directive from the Office of Grand Master. Any such interpretation has taken the text of the Constitution out of context. A preacher once said that any time that you take a text out of context it becomes a pretext and consequentially a lie. I said that kind of fast and I want to make sure that you heard it. Any time that you take a text out of context it becomes a pretext and consequentially a lie. If a Lodge or a member interprets the text of the Constitution out of context the interpretation becomes a pretext and consequentially a lie.

The Constitution of the Grand Lodge says that the Grand Master is the interpreter of the Constitution when the Grand Lodge is not in session and the Grand Master has the right and responsibility to issue edicts and orders with an expectation that they will be followed and as long as the Grand Master is not asking a Lodge or member to perform an act which is illegal or immoral and which is within his right and responsibility as Grand Master to perform then the Lodge and the individual has an obligation to obey and carry out the order of the Grand Master. If every one of the 160 Lodges in the jurisdiction and all of the members of the Grand Lodge decide that they are going to decide whether they are going to follow a directive of the Grand Master then the Grand Lodge will be in chaos and disarray. That cannot be and it will not be.

Having been elected Grand Master for the last 10 years, and if elected to fill this office again, I will be the Grand Master and I will take any and all actions necessary to maintain and protect the landmarks, constitution, edicts and traditions of this order and I request that this Grand Lodge authorize me to take any and all actions necessary to fulfill my duty.

Membership:

As stated in the report of the Grand Secretary; we had an increase in membership this year. The number of active lodges has decreased. As you heard me state previously, we have reactivated the Charter of one Lodge and will issue a Charter to one Lodge at this Grand Session. Both Lodges are progressing nicely.

We still have problems with retention of our Brothers. We are still losing a significant number of Brothers to non-payment of dues. 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.

Charity and the Charitable Trust Foundation:

Our Charitable Trust Foundation continues to function as a separate entity with Bro. Willie High Coleman Jr. serving as its chairman. Most Charity of the Grand Lodge is now made through the Foundation. Last year foundation contributions 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.

I would be remiss 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 Commandery
- Texas Council of Deliberations
- United Supreme Council AASR

The Prince Hall Masonic Family Annual Christmas Gift Give-Away continues to be a success. The joint committee of all the Masonic Bodies under the chairmanship of our Grand Worthy Patron Robert Calloway has made this event one that the members look forward to participating in during the Christmas season.

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 Charity activity you would like those funds to go toward.

Necrology:

This last Masonic year, 49 Brothers were called home to be with our heavenly father.

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.

The Board of Directors has approved the implementation of an accidental death program for our members through American Income Life Insurance Company. Each member will have accidental death coverage in the amount of \$2,500. It is of no cost to the members or the Grand Lodge. Several Prince Hall Grand Lodges are on this program. The insurance company makes their money by selling additional coverage. We will be finalizing the talks with American Income Life in the near future.

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. One good example of working together was the joint Queen Contest. It was a Heroines of Jericho and Order of the Eastern Star function that was supported by the Brothers.

A project that I want to undertake is a joint leadership conference sponsored by all Masonic Heads. The purpose of the conference will be to provide general leadership and communication training for the leaders of all the Masonic Bodies.

There was a resolution that was passed at this Grand Session and submitted to the Jurisprudence Committee to recognize the Masonic bodies known as the Purple House; Royal Select Master and the Ladies of the Circle of Perfection. The purpose of the change is to allow Brothers and Sisters of the Texas Jurisdiction to become members of those two Masonic Bodies. It is not my intent to immediately start any councils here in Texas.

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 established 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 Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction.

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, several constructive items came from it. One is the emphasis placed providing leadership training and certification for our Lodge leaders. Another is a policy on inter-jurisdiction demit.

The Texas Prince Hall Masonic Publication:

The Texas Prince Hall Masonic 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 is taking advantage of it on a quarterly basis because it 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.

The Library/ Museum:

The library museum 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. We continue to receive artifacts from families of deceased members. That lets us know that the word is out about our library museum.

State of the Country:

The State of The Country can best be described as perplexing. America is still the best Country in the world. In November 2012, America held its national elections. President Barak Obama was reelected by a wide margin and continues to serve admirably.

The national economy is recovering. The recovery in the housing market is improving. Unemployment is in a steady decline.

The National Security Administration is currently under investigation for entering the emails and phone records of citizens in an effort to thwart terroristic activity inside and outside of the country. There is much debate about whether this is appropriate conduct for the government.

Same sex marriage has now been voted on and approved by ten states and there appears to be a movement in sentiment around the country in favor of this concept. The United States Supreme Court is considering several cases concerning this issue.

National disasters have been rampant over the last year with severe damage from Hurricane Sandy in the Northeast section of the country, the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School where 28 students and teachers were killed by a reportedly mentally ill shooter, the explosion at the fertilizer plant in West, Texas where 14 people including a number of emergency first responders were killed in a massive explosion and tragic tornadoes in Oklahoma.

Gun control is being debated throughout the country with the National Rifle Association vowing to never give up the right to own any weapon that they choose and supporters of gun control arguing that there are some weapons that there is no reasonable explanation for a private citizen owning.

Comprehensive immigration legislation is being considered by both houses of Congress which will ultimately provide a path to citizenship for a group of individuals who America has been acting like they were not in this country for a long time.

United States troops are still deployed in Afghanistan and around the world. Control and responsibility for security in Afghanistan was recently taken over by the Afghanistan troops. Withdrawal from Afghanistan by U.S. troops is scheduled for late 2014. 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:

Be a positive impact and make a difference in our communities by performing charity work outside of the lodge hall walls. Work together with the sisters as a Masonic Family to provide charity in the communities. Improve the leadership skills for our Worshipful Masters and those that are aspiring to become Worshipful Masters.

Our goals as Grand Master and Board of Directors are:

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

Conclusion:

Thanks To The Board of Directors!

I must thank the Board of Directors who worked hand in hand with me to insure the progress of this Grand Lodge. 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 Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons
of Texas and its Jurisdictions*



To: Prince Hall Masons beholding to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and its Jurisdiction, Adoptive Rites: Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho and Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter, Concordant and Appendant Bodies: Grand Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons, Lone Star Grand Commandery and Lone Star Grand Guild, Texas Council of Deliberations and Texas Council Golden Assemblies

From: Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis, Most Worshipful Grand Master

Date: April 1, 2013

Subject: **Regaling for Masonic Observances**

In agreement with the Masonic Head of Houses beholding to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Texas and Its Jurisdiction. It is primarily intended for those who are not familiar with and may be misinformed of Masonic Customs as it relates to Masonic Observances.

Each Masonic Body has its own annual public observances which require its members to regale for that occasion. The observance is so stated in the constitution or the general regulation of that Masonic Body. Some of the observances include ceremonies. All public observances by Masonic Bodies of the Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Texas, fall under the category of ***Masonic Customs***.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Texas and Its Jurisdiction, ARTICLE XII, Section 12d, that states all Adoptive Rites of the Grand Lodge shall be pursuant to the ***Masonic Customs***, under the Grand Lodge's direction and supervision. This also applies to the Concordant and Appendant Bodies beholding to the Grand Lodge under ARTICLE XII, Section 12; organizations that are extended Fraternal Recognition by the Grand Lodge.

When attending the public observances for a Masonic Body, it is customary that you regale as a member of that Masonic Body **ONLY**. It is respectful to that Masonic Body, proper protocol and common sense. The only Masonic Public Observance that allows all Masonic Bodies to be represented and regale is Prince Hall Americanism Day.

The annual public observances are listed on page 9 with proper attire for both male and female members:

NOTE: This does not include public events like parades and other functions. Those events are regulated by special dispensations from the Masonic Body Head.

Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

I remain...

Fraternally yours,

Wilbert M. Curtis

Masonic Body	Observance	Dates	Masonic Attire	Supporters Attire
Joint Observance	Prince Hall Americanism	Sunday closest to Sep 12	All	All
Master Masons	St. Johns Day	Sunday Closest To June 24	Master Masons	HOJ/OES
Royal Arch Masons	Zerrubbabel Day	Sunday closest to Apr 24	Royal Arch Masons	HOJ
Knights Templar	Ascension Day	40 Days after Easter Thurs or Sunday service	Knights Templar	Guild
Scottish Rite	Maundy Thursday	Thursday prior to Easter	Scottish Rite	Golden Circle
Scottish Rite	Easter Extinguishing Lights	Easter Morning	Scottish Rite	Golden Circle
Heroines of Jericho	Palm Sunday	Palm Sunday	HOJ	Master Masons
OES	Palm Sunday	Palm Sunday	OES	Master Masons
OES	Norris Wright Cuney Day	Sunday closest to May 12	OES	Master Masons
Guild	none	None		
Golden Circle	none	None		

Grand Master's Calendar

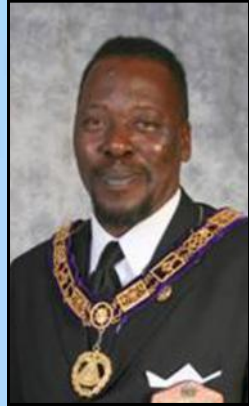
August - November 2013

Date	Location	Event
August 2013		
Saturday, Aug. 3	Belton, TX	District 24 Meeting
Sunday - Tuesday, Aug. 4 - 6	Chattanooga, Tenn.	M.W.P.H.G.L. of Tenn. Grand Communication
Sunday, Aug. 10	Killeen, TX	Leadership Symposium
Thursday, Aug. 15	Fort Worth	Set Dallas Lodge No 654 at Masonic Temple Grand Lodge Masonic Temple
Saturday, Aug. 17	Houston	Meeting with True Level Lodge No. 226
September 2013		
Saturday, Sept. 7	Fort Worth	Grand Lodge Board Meeting
Saturday - Sunday, Sept. 14 - 15	TBD	Prince Hall Americanism Day Weekend
Saturday, Sept. 28	Temple, TX	Ed Blair Consistory No. 286 Meeting
October 2013		
Friday - Tuesday, Oct. 11 - 15	Greensboro, N.C.	United Supreme Council, S.J.
Friday, Oct. 18	Missouri City, TX	Ever Ready Trail Blazer Banquet
Saturday, Oct. 26	Round Rock, TX	Ed Blair Consistory No. 286 Meeting

Elected Grand Lodge Officers



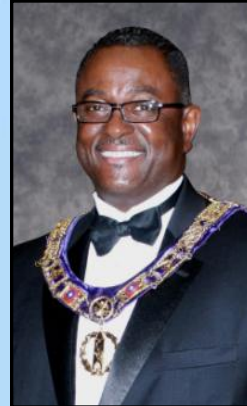
Past Grand Master
Hon. Edwin B. Cash



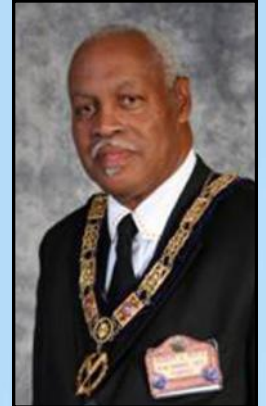
Deputy Grand Master
R.W. Michael T. Anderson



Grand Senior Warden
R.W. Bryce Hardin Sr.



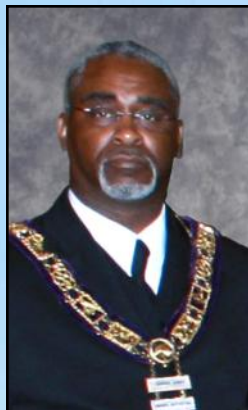
Grand Junior Warden
R.W. Frank D. Jackson



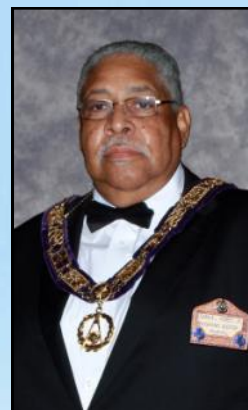
Grand Secretary
R.W. Hubert L. Reece Sr.



Grand Treasurer
R.W. Robert J. Datcher



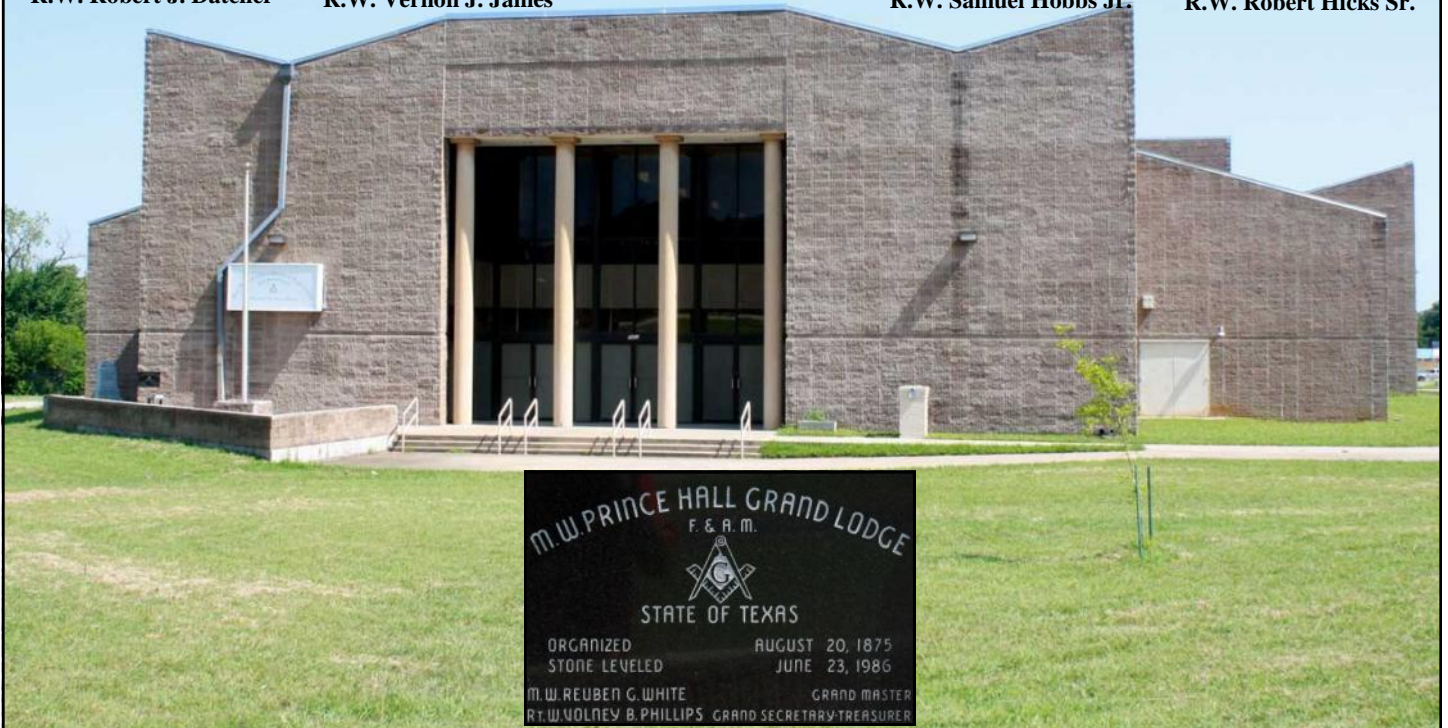
Grand Tiler
R.W. Vernon J. James



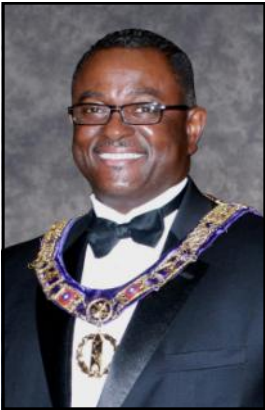
Grand Auditor
R.W. Samuel Hobbs Jr.



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



Grand Junior Warden
R.W. Frank D. Jackson

Kemetian Masonic Lodge of Research

Vision / Mission:

- To institute an organized system of study and inquiry into the epistemology of Free Masonry and the African American Masonic experience in particular.
- To foster processes designed to empower the Prince Hall Masonic Family in its aspirations towards developing a preeminent fraternal order.
- To nurture the evolution of a Masonic Craft, capable of continuously improving its abilities to provide excellence in leadership & methods of human uplift, in the myriad of diverse and ever evolving power matrixes on the frontiers of cultural change.

ARTICLE I

Section I – Name

This Lodge of Research shall be known as the “Kemetian Masonic Research Lodge.” It is a part of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas & Jurisdictions but Maintains a separate status as a non-profit organization. As such it is governed by the Laws of the State of Texas (U.S.A) in regards to not for profit organizations.

Section II – General Communications

There shall be no less than four meetings a year i.e. Vernal Equinox, Summer Solstice, Autumnal Equinox & Winter Solstice. The time and place of these meetings will be determined at the first meeting of the New Year, on or about the time of the Vernal (Spring) Equinox. A minimum of two of the scheduled meetings must be used only for Research Work e.g. Presentations, lectures, short talks, debates, think tanks, etc.

Section III – Special Communications

A Special Communication of this body shall be held on order of the Worshipful Master of the Lodge of Research. The time and place for assembling shall be so stated.

Section IV – Purpose of Special Communications

The Purpose of the Special Communications shall be so stated in the call and no other Business shall be transacted.

Section V – QUORUM

The Quorum at the General Communications shall be a minimum of five (5) Research Members holding voting rights.

Section VI – Interim Communication Business

During the Interim between Communications, the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Secretary and Treasurer are authorized to attend to any financial obligations or needs of this Lodge of Research. A proper record of transactions must be filed and presented in Detail at the next Communication.

ARTICLE III

Section I – Types of Membership

Research Member:

For Prince Hall Freemasons of Texas and its Jurisdictions only. Each Research Member carries one vote. Research Members shall be Titled – RM and a number corresponding to the time they joined (e.g. – Brother I. H. Clayborn who was the tenth Research Member would be so titled Brother I. H. Clayborn RM10, with CRM10 denoting that he is a Charter Research Member.

Associate Research Member:

For Regular Freemasons only. Regular being defined as any Master Mason who is a member of any Grand Lodge recognized as being regular by the M.W.P.H. Grand Lodge of Texas or the United Grand Lodge of England. Special exceptions to the rule may be made by a unanimous vote. The only Associate Research Member that carries a vote is Associate Research Members who are also members of the Board of Directors. Associate Research Members shall be titled ARM and a number corresponding to the time they joined, e.g. Brother I. H. Clayborn who was the tenth Associate Research Member would be so titled Brother I. H. Clayborn ARM10, with CARM10 denoting that he is a Charter Research Member.

Affiliate Member:

For Freemasons, Non-Masons and Masonic Bodies.

Section II – LITERARY AND FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**Research Member:**

The Literary Requirement for this membership is to submit a minimum of one short talk on the subject of Freemasonry every two years and one full-scale lecture every five years. The financial requirement for this membership is \$33.00 per year. That fee includes a yearly subscription to the quarterly publication of the Lodge of Research, but not the annual publication.

Associate Research Member:

The Literary Requirement for this membership is to submit a minimum of one short talk on the subject of Freemasonry, every two years. The financial requirement for this membership is \$15.00 per year. The fee includes a yearly subscription to the quarterly publication of the Lodge of Research, but not the annual publication.

Affiliate Member:

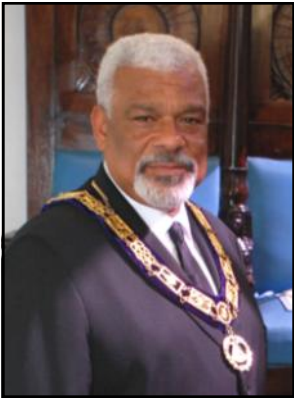
The financial requirement for this membership is \$24.00 per year. The fee includes a yearly subscription to the quarterly publication of the Research Lodge, but not the annual publication.

We are requesting a printing of the first 3 Articles of the Kemetic Lodge of Research in the upcoming issue of the PHA magazine for Those wishing to join. Brothers may contact Grand Junior Warden Frank D. Jackson at:

P.O. Box 475
Prairie View, Texas 77446
fjacksonTX@prodigy.net
(936) 857-5550 home
(936) 26102122 work
(281) 830-3388 cell

Fraternally,

Frank D. Jackson



*District Deputy
Grand Master (16)
Clarence B. Douglas Jr.*

Challenge Fund

Dear District Deputy Grand Masters,

I greet you in the name of the Grand Architect of the Universe, our Heavenly Father. May God continue blessing each of you.

On Saturday, June 22, 2013, during our 138th Annual Grand Communication, I was very proud to present Brother Roosevelt Petry, a member of Ever Ready Lodge No. 506, District 16 and CEO of GP Industrial Contractors, Inc., who made a presentation to Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis of several donations to the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation totaling \$21,509.31.

I then made a challenge to all District Deputy Grand Masters to ask 20 Brothers from their Districts to voluntarily donate \$100.00 each before June 1, 2014. With 25 Districts, that would total \$2,000.00 per District for a total of \$50,000. If the goal is met by June 1, 2014, GP Industrial Contractor, Inc. will donate an additional \$25,000.00 to the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation.

I was proud to see so many District Deputies and Brothers stand and accept the challenge and commit to the goal on the floor of the Grand Lodge in front of Grand Master Curtis, his guests, and the Brethren.

Working together, I am confident that we will meet our goal. I am asking each District Deputy to reach out to those 20 Brothers within their Districts. Donations should start as soon as possible and can be turned in to the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation at any time. We are asking all District Deputies to be prepared to make a status report at the Mid-Winter Meeting and a follow up reports on March 1, 2014 and May 1, 2014. Final reports and turning in all of District donations should be completed by June 1, 2014. The Districts are not limited to \$2,000.00. If some Brothers are able and willing to contribute more, then your District will be acknowledged for raising more than required.

I am also asking all District Deputies to proudly stand with me at the 139th Grand Communication and we will make our \$50,000.00 presentation to G.M. Curtis and to the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation, along with GP Industrial Contractor Inc.'s \$25,000.00 contributing donation.

District Deputies please make checks payable to the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation and write Challenge Fund in the memo.

Fraternally,

Clarence B. Douglas Jr.



THE PRINCE HALL MASONIC FAMILY

of Texas and Its Jurisdiction



5th Annual Christmas Gift Giveaway Saturday, December 21, 2013

11am to 2pm

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand
Lodge of Texas

3433 Martin Luther King Freeway ~ Ft Worth 76119

Please purchase items and/or gift cards
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Bring your items to Mid-Winter Session and to
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Orientation will begin at 9am.

Please call Bro. Robert B. Calloway at
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Leadership, Leadership, Leadership: Prince Hall Masonic Family convenes for Annual Grand Sessions

Story and photos by:
G.E. Burrell Parmer

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 138th Annual Grand Session held at the Masonic Grand Temple, June 20 - 23.

Concurrently, members of the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho and Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter convened their 129th and 17th Annual Grand Communications, respectively.

The Grand Lodge Session began with the opening of an Occasional Lodge by Worshipful Master Tracy Bittle and Mossier Valley Lodge No. 103 followed by workshops. Training and emphasis was placed on Leadership. The workshops were overseen by Grand Lecturer Ivory Johnson and a white paper was read at the start of the workshop titled "Masonic Leadership and Abuse of Power" authored by the R.W. Grand Senior Warden Lynn Lewis Jr. of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Iowa. The paper was delivered and read at the Prince Hall Conference of Grand Masters in May.

Additionally, "Leadership Tools



M.W.G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis welcomes members and guests to the 138th Annual Grand Communication..

for Current and Future Masters" was given by Deputy Grand Marshal Ronnie Jones, "Developing the Leaders around You" by W.M. Johnny Perez of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620, and "The Leader's Ten: Ten Ways to be a more effective leader in your lodge" by W.M. Dr. Ron. Kelley of Noble Star Lodge No. 277.

At the end of the workshop, the new Texas Monitor was announced. It contains all the ceremonies in one book, for example: Graveside Services and Installation Ceremonies.

In the District Deputy Grand Masters meeting, reports were delivered and numerous topics were discussed to include retention, J.T.

Maxey Scholarship Contest, Masonic Funeral Services, and the arrest of a Lodge's Charter.

It was also stated that the Robert Conner Youth Camp was at full capacity. In reference to attendance at Blue Lodge functions, M.W. Grand Master Curtis said that if you are at a Blue Lodge event,



D.G.Mars. Ronnie Jones

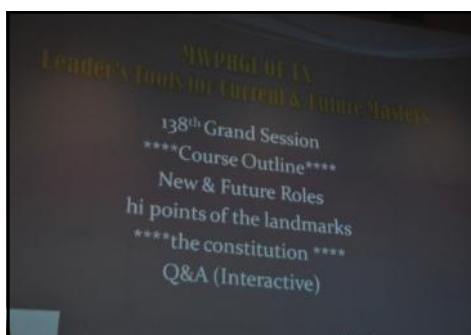




Photo by: G.P. Bryan Thompson

D.G.M. Anderson speaks to newly elected Masters on the importance of being a effective Masonic leader.

you are to regale as such. The only Blue Lodge function that you can wear other regalia is Prince Hall Americanism Day.

After lunch, a Council of Past Masters was convened and 48 Worshipful Masters and Hon. Past Masters received the Past Master Degree. Leadership was also emphasized.

In the evening at the Radisson Fort Worth North, a Joint Queen Contest was hosted by the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho and Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter. (see page 53)

On Friday, the Occasional Lodge resumed labor and the gavel was turned over to R.W. Deputy Grand Master Michael Anderson, who received appointed/elected Grand Lodge Officers and G.M. Curtis.

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

Distinguished visitors included the Grand Masters of Washington State, M.W. Gardner Torrence Sr.; Florida, M.W. Anthony Stafford; Tennessee, G.Chap. Brown representing M.W. Alvin Glass; District

of Columbia, P.G.M. J. Murray, representing M.W. John T. Doles, Jr.; Arizona, M.W. John Miller; 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.

After some reports, leaders of the Concordant bodies were received, to include R.E. Grand Commander Ronald Gerac, Lone Star Grand Commandery; R.E. Deputy Grand High Priest, representing M.E. 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 Conference G.H.P. Roosevelt Huggins of the General Conference Grand Chapters Holy Royal Arch Masons of the United States and the Bahamas.

The Grand Secretary's Report stated that the Jurisdiction of Texas possessed 145 Lodges, with a total membership of 3,300 members. Of this 3,300, 418 were new members and 300 were reinstated.

Stewardship reports were then delivered by R.W.G.J.W. Frank Jackson, R.W.G.S.W. Bryce Hardin, and R.W.D.G.M. Anderson.

In the evening, the Saints John/Memorial Service was held at the Radisson. The Grand High Court H.O.J. reported losing 72 Heroines during the past year. Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter lost 5 Sisters



D.D.G.M. Gerac, chairman of the J.T. Maxey Scholarship Committee, stresses the importance of the J.T. Maxey Scholarship Contest to Districts Deputies and Special District Deputies.



Photo by: G.P. Bryan Thompson

G.M. Curtis delivers his annual Allocution.

and the Grand Lodge lost 49 Brothers. (see page 20)

A Lodge of Sorrow was conducted by Districts 14 and 24 followed by the sermon delivered by Grand Chaplain Dr. John Butler.

After the service, the Knights of the Noon Day Sun hosted its annual White Linen Dance.

On Saturday morning, the day started out with a Devotional Service by Deputy G. Chap. Ralph D. Sampson Jr. followed by G.M. Curtis' Allocution held in a joint session that included the Heroines and Eastern Stars.

After the Allocution, the Grand Communication reconvened, additional reports received, and awards presented (see page 21).

A report for the Jurisprudence Committee was read and approved which now allows Royal and Select Masters, and Ladies of the Circle of Perfection be recognized Masonic

Bodies within the Jurisdiction of Texas.

Before elections, the R.E.G.C. Gerac presented \$1,000 check to the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation, Deputy of the Orient Butler presented a check for \$1,200 dollars and D.D.G.M. Grady Peavy on behalf of the 19th Masonic District provided a check for \$1,050. There was a special presentation by a Brother Petry of Every Ready Lodge No. 507, whose company; G.P. Industrial Contractors, Inc. donated \$21,509.31 to the P.H.C.F.

Additionally, GP Industrial Contractors, Inc. further pledge \$25,000 if each Masonic District would donate \$2,000 to the P.H.C.F. by June 1, 2014. After hearing this pledge, Grand Lodge Officers, District Deputies and Worshipful Masters rose to voice their support.

In reference to elections, there

was a motion that all elected officers remain in their seats, it was seconded and more than more 3/4 of the members presented voted to approve the motion.

After elections, the membership gathered at the Radisson to attend the Annual Awards Luncheon.

There were 14 of 17 participants who competed in the J.T. Maxey Scholarship Contest. There were two first place winners: Jessica Featherston (District 24) and Kyle Crumpton (District 2), who both were awarded \$2,000 each. The J.T. Maxey Scholarship Program demonstrates the Grand Lodge's commitment to youth and education. A total of \$16,000 was awarded. (see page 23)

Before the conclusion of the event, the King of the Court Committee presented a \$1,000 donation to the P.H.C.F., \$500 to the Most Venerable Thomas H. Rutt Grand



Photo by: G.P. Bryan Thompson

G.M. Curtis, on behalf of the P.H.C.F., graciously receives three charitable contributions from GP Industrial Contractors, Inc.. The donations were presented by Bro. Roosevelt Petry, a member of Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 and C.E.O. of GP Industrial Contractors, Inc.

Council Knights of Pythagoras, and \$500 to Open Doors for Women.

Other awards were presented by the Grand High Court and Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter. (see page 22)

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

Two Lodges Under Dispensation received their Charters, Logos Lodge No. 659,

G.M. Curtis congratulated the re-elected officers and for all who attended the Grand Communication, he then proceeded to close the 138th Annual Grand Communication.

To close out the night, the Prince Hall Family attended the Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Banquet at the Radisson where Elder

James Ford was the keynote the Joint Grand Installations were speaker, and on Sunday morning, conducted. (see page 26)



Photo by: G.P. Bryan Thompson

W.M. Troy Cousin of Logos Lodge No. 659 receives the Lodge's Charter from G.M. Curtis.

St. John's Celebration/Lodge of Sorrow



Annual Grand Lodge Awards 2013



*Secretary of the Year
P.M. Freddy Jamerson*



*Treasurer of the Year
Bro. Jerry Hampton*



*District of the Year
District No. 19*



*District Deputy of the Year
D.D.G.M. Clarence Douglas Jr. (District 16)*



*Master Mason of the Year
G.L. Ivory Johnson*

Lodges of the Year

District 1: Love Chapter No. 558
 District 2: Sunset No. 144
 District 3: Headlight No. 124
 District 6: St. Luke No. 173
 District 7: Pride of Beaumont No. 291
 District 10: Pride of Coolidge No. 282
 District 11: New Day No. 655

District 14: Jno G. Lewis No. 622
 District 15A: Highland Heights No. 200
 District 15B: Brumfield No. 516
 District 16: Ever Ready No. 506
 District 17: Brazoria No. 104
 District 19: J.T. Maxey No. 74
 District 20: Panther City No. 159

District 22: Key West No. 257
 District 23: J. Washington No. 191
 District 24: Nolan Creek No. 227
 District 25: Sunset No. 76
 District 26A: Cyrus Forbes No. 640

Annual Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho Awards 2013



Annual Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter Awards 2013



J.T. Maxey Scholarship Contest 2013



*Teranda Dunlap of District 26-A
Univ. of Dubuque - \$625*



*Destiny Lilley of District 14
Univ. of Texas - \$625*



*Kimberly Brown of District 3
Univ. of Texas at Arlington - \$1,000*



*Jaylin Thomas of District 15-B
Texas State Univ. - \$1,000*



*Janell Robinson of District 20
Tarrant County College - \$1,000*



*Willis Johnson Jr. of District 17
Southwestern Univ. - \$1,000*



*Brianna Jackson of District 18
Texas Tech Univ. - \$1,000*



*De'Ja Hadnott of District 15-A
Southern Methodist Univ. - \$1,000*



*Austen Wade of District 23
Unvi. of Mary Hardin-Baylor- \$1,000*



*Ashly Okoli of District 11
Univ. of Texas - \$1,000*



*Shevonna Ravenel of District 19
Texas A&M Univ. - \$1,250*



*Jacob Fisher of District 16
Univ. of Texas - \$1,500*

J.T. Maxey Scholarship 1st Place Award Winner Jessica Featherston (District 24) Texas A&M University

Topic: April 2013 marks the 45th anniversary of the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In your opinion, if he were alive today, what would he have to say about the state of our country?

In the 45 years since the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., our nation has come a long way. Together, we have worked alongside each other to form a unity much stronger than what it used to be. And though I believe he would be proud of where we are today and how far we have come, I still cannot help but think that he would probably see that there is plenty of room for improvement.



Dr. King's famous speech preached of his lifelong dream of equality for all men and women, from every walk of life, every race and every age. To Dr. King, it didn't matter who you were or what background you came from. All that mattered was that you were a human being who deserved nothing less than to be treated like every other human being. We all deserve equality. However, despite all of the heavy strides that we have taken as a nation, somewhere along the way, we have faltered.

We are currently living in a country where it is not okay to be yourself. Gays are shunned, Muslims are feared, women are degraded and Hispanics are profiled; but of course, these are just a few. The list of our nation's discriminatory faults could go on forever. This is not at all what Dr. King would have wanted. This was not his dream.

Unfortunately, I believe that people have lost sight of Dr. Martin Luther King's true wishes as time has gone on. They believe that because racism has decreased significantly, that our job, as a nation trying to fulfill Dr. King's aspirations, is over. However, it is not. Racism still exists, and not just for blacks. Many other races still receive the brunt of everybody else's hatred, solely because of their appearances or racial stereotypes. Realistically speaking, Dr. King probably never believed that we could change everyone, but he did believe that we could improve upon ourselves. In some ways, we have, but in others ways, honestly, we have not improved at all. Take the September 11th events, for example. For years, even still today, people in our county **feared** certain people, because of their Middle Eastern race, the way that they dressed, they way that they talked and even the way that they looked. If you were an American citizen who happened to be of Middle Eastern descent, then you were dubbed a terrorist and treated as a threat. Never once did anyone try to reach out to them or try to understand the fact that they were just as afraid for their safety as the rest of us. Nevertheless, because of their race, we treated them differently. How would Dr. King feel about that? Especially after having walked miles and miles in their shoes before. He would have been ashamed of our society in those moments.

This problem is not just limited to race, though. Dr. King's goal during the Civil Rights Movement was not to end only racism. It was to end all types of segregation and discrimination. His goal was to make America a hate-free country where everyone could walk amongst each other comfortably, without fear. He would be disappointed to know that, even after 45 years, this has yet to come to light. We don't all receive equal treat-

ment. Sexual orientation, for example, can determine a number of legal rights that somebody can receive. How can we call ourselves equal, if we live in a country where you cannot get married or receive the same life and health benefits as someone else, just because you have a different preference than what is considered "the norm". Again, how can we call ourselves equal if we live in a country where social class determines how far we go in this world and what all we can do with our lives? Finally, how can we call ourselves equal if we live in a country where we fear each other because "he's black" or "she's Mexican", and our opinions of others have been skewed by social media and stereotypes? The answer to all of these questions is that we cannot call ourselves equal, because we *are* not. We, as a nation, are not equal, and at times, we are not even close to this equality. All that Dr. King wanted was equality, and frankly, we are not quite there, yet.

If Dr. Martin Luther King were alive today, what would he have to say? What would he *think*? How would he *feel*? In my opinion, I believe that he would be proud of the influence that he had had on our country. He was the kick-start to our "common sense" and had one of the biggest impacts on the lives in this nation that we had ever seen. If united we stand and divided we fall, then so far, he would believe that we are still standing strong. However, he would also believe that there is *still* ample room for improvement. Discrimination and segregation continue to exist. There is so much growth that we could accomplish as a society. It is never too late to eliminate the inequality that we face, and if he were here, he would be by all of our sides, telling us to keep pushing and persevering until we could all walk together as a society, hand in hand. Without fear. Without hatred. Without separation. With love.

J.T. Maxey Scholarship 1st Place Award Winner Kyle R. Crumpton (District 2) Texas State University

Topic: April 2013 marks the 45th anniversary of the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In your opinion, if he were alive today, what would he have to say about the state of our country?

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was, and still is one of the most influential philosophers, peace makers, and civil rights activists of all time. Dr. King's ideals and beliefs helped African Americans and white Americans alike to realize the importance of judging a person "not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

If Dr. King were alive today, he would have mixed feelings about the current state of our great nation. Dr. King would realize that, thankfully, we as Americans have made great strides in the arena of civil rights, but racism and prejudices are, unfortunately still alive - burning with hatred in the hearts and minds of some citizens of "the Land of the Free."

Though we've made progress, we can't stop here, Dr. King would explain. We can't stop until we can see, "little black girls, and little black boys join hand in hand with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers." When people of all races are freed from the chains of racism and despair, then, we will have satisfied Dr. King, and truly honored his memory.



2013 Joint Grand Installations



Texas attends Conference of Grand Masters, Grand Matrons and Grand Patrons



Hardin, Grand Secretary Hubert Reece, General Grand Conference Grand Most Excellent High Priest Roosevelt Huggins, Grand Worthy Matron Martha Wolridge, Grand Worthy Patron Robert B. Calloway Jr., Grand Associate Matron Eula Bell, Grand Associate Patron Anthony Carr, GRM Lillie Calloway, and GOESFB Lanell Curtis.

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

COLUMBUS, Ohio - The Texas Delegation was looking very elegant at the conference held May 15

- 19. Those in attendance were Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis, President of the Conference of Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Master Michael T. Anderson, Grand Junior Warden Bryce (Big)

Texas attends Louisiana Annual Grand Session

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

SOMEWHERE, La. - Grand Master Wilbert Curtis and members of the Texas Jurisdiction traveled to Louisiana to help them celebrate the 150th Year Anniversary of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and the 75th Year Anniversary of Esther Grand Chapter.

Those representing with G.M. Curtis were G.S.W. Bryce (Big) Hardin, Brothers Anthony K. Reece, Troy A. Cousins, Anthony Price, G.W.M. Martha Wolridge, G.W.P. Robert B. Calloway Jr., G.T. Rhonda Davis, G.R.M. Lillie Calloway, and G.O.E.S.F.B. Lanell Curtis.



Mother provides thanks for Son attending the Robert E. Connor Jr. Masonic Youth Camp

Greetings,

On behalf of my son, Ro'Derec Bryant and I, we would like to thank you all for the chance to attend the Robert E. Connor Jr. Masonic Youth Camp that took place in July. My son learned a lot of things from the camp....how to make up his bed, CPR, friendship and brotherhood, exercise, etc, but most of all it taught me, being a single mother, that the brothers were preparing my son to be a man. Plus they sent him home with a nice backpack filled with school supplies!!! YAY!!!

I also want to thank Grand Worthy Matron Martha Wolridge, as well as, Sister Cynthia Darby for the push to get the paperwork in!!! Thanks to these ladies, my son's trip was sponsored!!!! Please put Ro'Derec on the list for next year....he will be going back!!!

Respectfully,

Sis. Chatauqua Bryant, Conductress
Hadassah Chapter No. 77
Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter



Texas K.O.P. performs at Joint Grand Installations Ceremony during 138th Annual Grand Session



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

FORT WORTH - A few years ago when the Texas Knights of Pythagoras was invited to attend and take their stations during the 136th Annual Grand Communication, as the State Director, I thought it couldn't get any better, I was wrong. At that time, M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis shared with the Craft the importance of the Texas K.O.P. program.

This year, thanks to Grand Marshal Ronald Gerac, who is responsible for the Joint Installations Ceremony, something occurred which has never been done previously.

He gave the Texas K.O.P. the high honor of participating in the installation service of their Grand Master. He allowed the Youth Knights of New Light Council No. 11 of Fort Worth to perform the opening proclamation ceremony.

Many thanks to their Senior Advisor A.J. Bennett and Youth Knights Joshua Green, Jonathan Torres, and Joseph Pollard all of Masonic District 20 K.O.P. Youth Program.

The ceremony was performed with excellence and left the audience applauding the efforts done by the Youth Knights.

As the presiding officer of the installation ceremony, M.W. Grand Master Cleveland Wilson of Arkansas said after the proclamation ceremony it was the first time in his life time he had ever seen the K.O.P. or any youth program open up the Grand Lodge Installation ceremony. Only in Texas...



2013 Young Men with a Purpose “Boot Camp for Young Leaders” Leadership Conference



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

FORT WORTH - After all of the planning, telephone calls, advertising, emails and etc, you never know how things are going to work out when a conference begins. However at the conclusion of the event when you see young boys from the ages of 9 – 20 shake hands, give hugs, smiling, have met new friends, and are looking forward to next year’s conference, then you know your conference was a huge success.

July 18 – 21, the Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council Knights of Pythagoras held its “Boot Camp for Young Leaders” Conference at Texas Christian University.

The conference began Thursday evening with military representa-

tives mentoring the group of young men on leadership. Representatives included: (Navy) G.J.W. Frank Jackson and Bro. Tiangelo Philip Parker; (Army) Bro. Michael Whitted; and (Army National Guard) Bro. Tracy Williams.

The Youth Knights then enjoyed an X-Box/Playstation tournament.

On Friday, the Youth Knights attended eight workshops. They were taught by Master Masons familiar with the subject matter and using PowerPoint presentations for their lessons.

Friday night, the Youth Knights held their bowling competition and played miniature golf, laser tag, and other games.

Saturday morning was the basketball and football competitions.

In the afternoon, the Youth Knights participated in an “Ask the Mayor” workshop hosted by City of

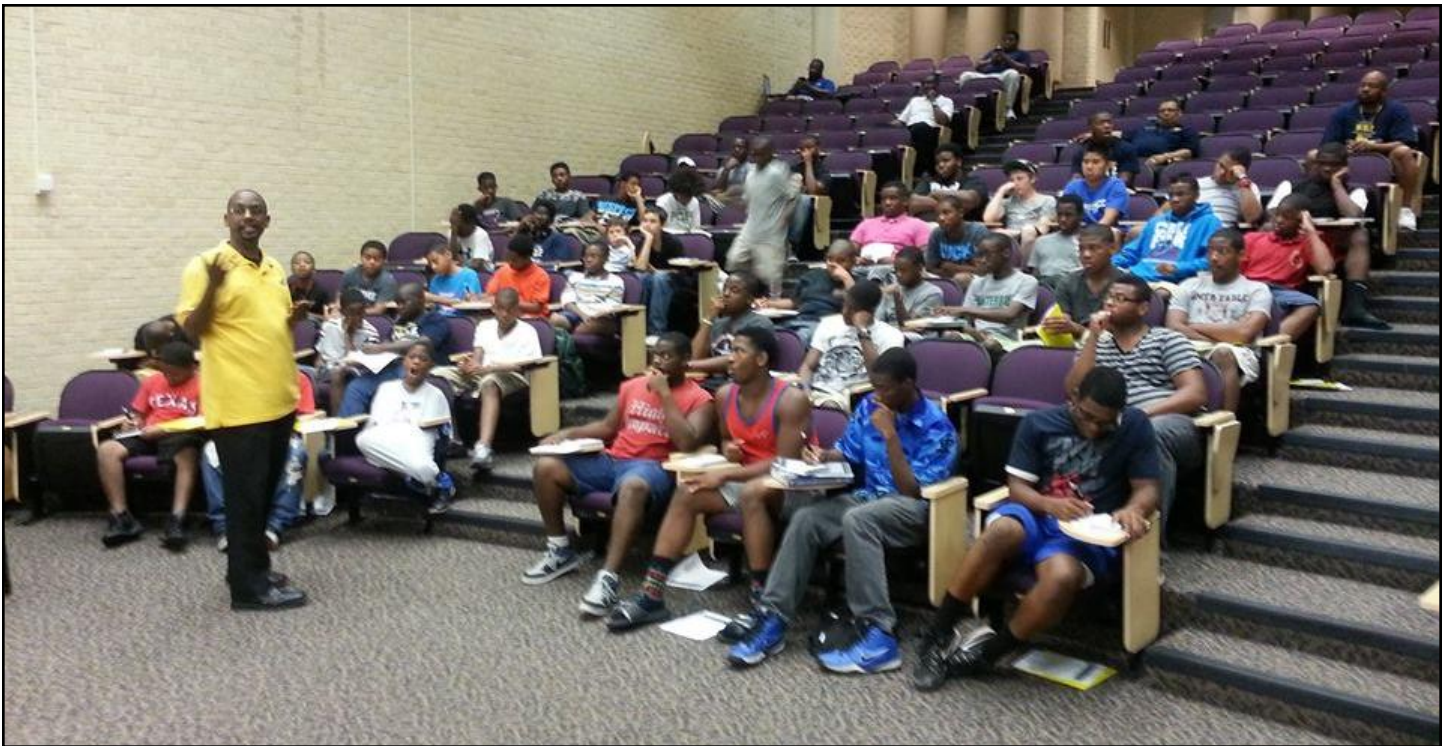
Prairie View Mayor Bro. Frank Jackson.

The rest of the day was filled with an oratorical competition, debate competition, and awards ceremony. The guest speaker for this event was writer and author Leo Hicks also with the City of Dallas.

The Knighting Ceremony also took place and was performed by Lone Star Grand Commandery of Texas by the Right Eminent Commander Ronald Gerac and his officers.

The class was named in honor of Past Grand Master Edwin B. Cash.

Sunday morning, the Master Knights met with the State Director and every Youth Knight and Sir Knights were given lunch bags for their travel home provided by Trinity Guild (Dallas), R. Lucille Samuel Guild (Red Oak), and St. Cecil



Guild (Fort Worth).

This event was chaired by Sir Knight Michael Levingston of Dallas and was hosted by K.O.P. Councils; W.E.B. DuBois Council No. 8 (Waxahachie), Prince Hall Council No. 9 (Dallas), New Light Council No. 11 (Fort Worth) and Lawrence "Pap" Anderson Council No. 16 (McKinney).



Lone Star Grand Commandery...

“It’s really about the youth”

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

FORT WORTH - It began when then Right Eminent Grand Commander Tony Moore performed the first Knighting Ceremony for the Texas Knights of Pythagoras during their Leadership Conference held at Wiley College in Wiley, Texas in 2009.

It was an event that probably has never been seen before at any K.O.P. conference/encampment in the United States.

Under the leadership of R.E. Grand Commander Ronald Gerac, who serves as the Texas K.O.P. State Educational Officer/Past President of State Board of Regents, he has taken that visitation of the Lone Star Grand Commandery to a new level.

A team of Sir Knights have appeared at the Texas K.O.P. Leadership Conferences to Knight their Juniors/Seniors in high school over the years.

This Knighting Ceremony highlights the training that the Youth Knights have received by Texas Master Masons in the K.O.P. program.

It says to the Youth Knights that no matter where they will go in life, take the leadership training that they have been given and use it.



Leaders are need within all communities. It’s time for the next generation of leaders to be prepared and ready to take over where past and current leaders have left off.

This Knighting Ceremony also sends another message. The Texas K.O.P. program is not just a blue house thing, but a Prince Hall Family thing. When or if the Youth Knights make a decision to join Masonry, he does so because of the relationships and lessons taught to him by Master Masons. His petition and membership then

becomes an opportunity for other houses in the Prince Hall Masonic Family.

This initial investment shouldn’t just be blue house, but every house. The Youth Knights and Sir Knights enjoy the bond and relationship they have with the Lone Star Grand Commandery.

They look forward to the Knighting Ceremony with excitement and anticipation...great Work Lone Star Grand Commandery!



Selection of Elected Worshipful Masters 2013 - 2014



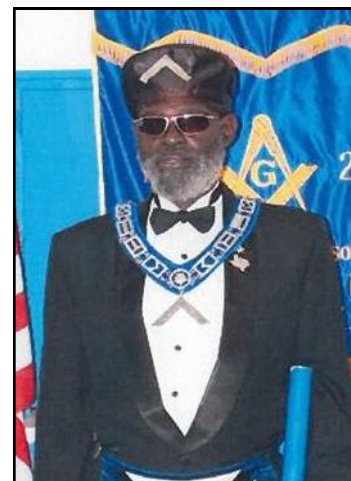
W.M. Kenneth Lightfoot
Mt. Bonnell Lodge No. 2
District 24
Austin



W.M. Richard Phillips
St. James Lodge No. 71
District 24
Temple



W.M. T.C. Bittle
Mosier Valley Lodge No. 103
District 20
Eules



W.M. Stanley Shider
Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227
District 24
Belton



W.M. Pete Borders
New Light Lodge
No. 242
District 24
Killeen



W.M. Harold Wells
Lyons Jr. Lodge No. 290
District 24
Austin



W.M. Johnny Perez
Pride of Killeen Lodge
No. 620
District 24
Killeen



W.M. Marlon Davis
Roger Hughes Lodge
No. 624
District 24
Austin

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**



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* 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.

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District 6

D.D.G.M. Napoleon Byrdsong Jr.

St. Luke takes Part in Annual Juneteenth Parade

Story by:
D.D.G.M. Napoleon Byrdsong Jr.

LONGVIEW, Texas - Continuing 173 participated in the annual their visibility in the community, Juneteenth Parade, June 15. Brethren of St. Luke Lodge No.



Lt-Rt: Brothers George Martinez, Arnold London, Otto Parker, Michael Bradford, W.M. Eddie Mason, Gaylon Graham, and Raymond Harris.



District 10 places “Tuition Assistance” first in 2013



Story by: District Staff

RED OAK, Texas – A District gathered in unity is a beautiful thing and that was the order of the day as Arthur L. Banks Chapter No.143 (H.R.A.M.), D.C. Collins Commandery No. 40, and R. Lucille Samuel Guild No. 41 attended to celebrate the 7th Annual 10th Masonic District Awards Banquet at the Red Oak Municipal Center, April 28.

The event was a huge success full of fellowship and Charity in which \$2,000 collectively was awarded in tuition assistance to

deserving college applicants perusing a higher education.

The emcee for the evening was the charismatic radio personality Dianne “Ms. Community” Gibson, who kept the event fun, yet focused on celebrating the District’s year in review.

The keynote speaker was the renowned Dr. Wright Lassiter Jr., chancellor of Dallas County Community College, the largest community college system in the state, who gave an inspiring speech on perseverance and staying focused.

Other highlights were the installation of newly elected subordinate Lodge officers for the 2013-2014

Masonic year, and recognizing individual Lodges and Brethren of the Craft for their hard work and service to Prince Hall Masonry within the 10th Masonic District. A great time was had by all and many comments were made looking forward to next year’s banquet.



A Brand New Day for District 14



D.D.G.M.-E. Ronnie Jones delivers instruction to Wardens of District 14 during a workshop, May 29.

Story and photos by: District Staff

WACO - April 2013 elections found the 14th Masonic District with five new Worshipful Masters, to move their Lodges forward, and several new Wardens to assist with that movement. District Deputy Grand Master Charles Clayborne felt that with that much new leadership, a workshop would enhance their knowledge as leaders.

On May 22, the first of two workshops was conducted by District Lecturer, D.D.G.M.-E. Ronnie Jones. The first workshop was entitled "Worshipful Master's Tools U Can Use" was held at Union Seal Lodge No. 64.

Besides the Masters of the District, also present were D.D.G.M. Clayborne and Grand Lecturer

Ivory Johnson.

Some of the topics covered included: how to handle the Grand Lodge's money, age factors and the main duties of the Worshipful Master, among others.

Congratulations are extended to: W.M. Patrick Bonner, Moriah Lodge No. 6, Waco; W.M. Broderick James, Holloway Lodge No. 7, Downsville; W.M. Wayne Butler, Wyatt Lodge No. 21, Waco; W.M. Anthony Johnson, Union Seal Lodge No. 64, Waco; W.M. David Scruggs, Hopeful Lodge No. 78, Marlin; W.M. Timothy Doman, True Friend Lodge No. 145, Mart; W.M. George Stuart, United Brothers Lodge No. 298, Reisel; W.M. Roderick Alexander, New Hope Lodge No. 400, Perry; and W.M. Vendal Adderley, Jno G Lewis

Lodge No. 622, Copperas Cove.

On May 29, the Pillars of Strength and Beauty (Wardens) came together for the second workshop held at Wyatt Lodge No. 21. The intent was for these future Masters to be introduced to parts of the Constitution and general principles of Masonic leadership.

The Brethren shared a meal and question and answer period followed. Learning was shared by all who attended.

According to D.D.G.M. Clayborne, education for our leaders is the path that we should be going down thereby ensuring better principle officers of our lodges in District 14.

Look out Texas, District 14 is on the move...

Districts 14 & 24 joined together to provide Necessary Relief to Citizens of West



D.D.G.M. Charles Claybone
District 14

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

WACO - When the West Texas explosion occurred, those in the Waco area knew that it was at their back doors. It then became a matter of what the community was going to do and how was relief going to be collected to assist those in need.

The spirit of one of the themes that Masons have, "Working Together Works", came into play.

Masonic Districts 14 and 24 joined together and came up with a plan of making a joint donation so that Prince Hall Masonry would be represented well. The goal was set at \$1,000. After the collection process was complete, the objective of \$1,000 was well exceeded with the assistance of the community.

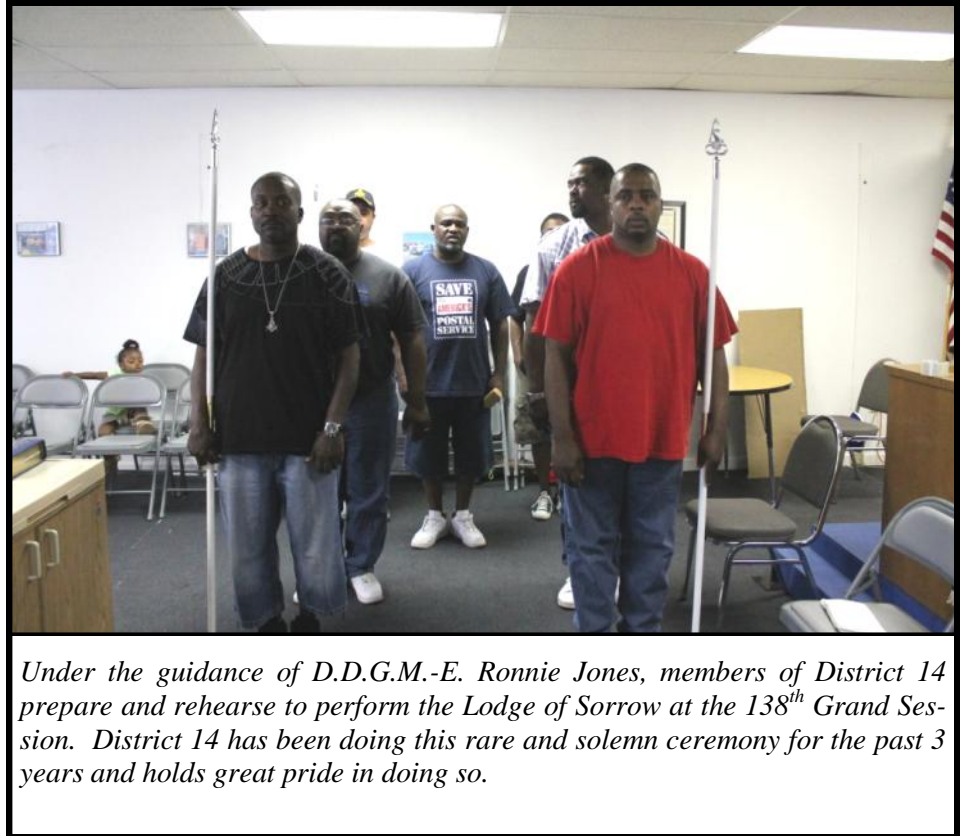
Churches in the Waco area joined together and decided to raise \$10,000 towards disaster re-

lief, and on May 5 at the Pleasant Olive Missionary Baptist Church, both Districts' presence became known as District Deputy Grand Masters Charles Clayborne and Marvin Kelker collectively contributed more than \$1,500 towards the \$10,000 goal. Along with the monetary donation, members of both Districts collected and donated clothing and shoes as well.

This demonstrates another example of Prince Hall Masons working together to achieve a common goal of disbursing Charity and relief for those in need.



D.D.G.M. Marvin Kelker, District 24



Under the guidance of D.D.G.M.-E. Ronnie Jones, members of District 14 prepare and rehearse to perform the Lodge of Sorrow at the 138th Grand Session. District 14 has been doing this rare and solemn ceremony for the past 3 years and holds great pride in doing so.

Silver Trowel Lodge celebrates 125th Anniversary



Story by: Lodge Staff

HOUSTON - Silver Trowel Lodge No. 47, under the leadership of Worshipful Master Alvin L.L. Monroe I, held their Quasiquicentennial Celebration Anniversary at the Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center, June 8. The formal evening banquet of silver and gold was provided for by AMC Original.

Special guests attending the event were Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis and District Deputy Grand Master Ronald D. Gerac of District 15-A.

After a receiving line with G.M. Curtis, P.M. Charlie Madison (24th Master of the Lodge), P.M. Arthur Cole (25th), P.M. Julius Cadoree (26th) and W.M. Monroe (27th) followed.

The program consisted of the

establishment of protocol by Junior Steward Brandon Citizen; a welcome and occasion by Junior Deacon Min. William Ervin; and prayer and blessing of dinner by P.M. Madison. All sat down to an excellent meal of blackened fish, baked chicken with a mushroom sauce, dirty rice, grilled asparagus and peach cobbler for dessert by Flavor of Favor Catering Services.

During the dinner, the guests were entertained by vocalist Ms. Tekia followed by a special acknowledgement of one of the Lodge's widows, Mrs. Sutton.

Also in attendance were W.M. Raeford Watts of Heights-Ionic-Pride No. 280; W.M. Troy Cousin of Logos Lodge No. 659; District Deputy Grand Matron Rhonda Davis of District 15, Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter; Deputy

Grand Joshua John N. Humphrey and Grand Queen of Palaces Barbara Monroe, both representing the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho; Most Ancient Matron Mary Smith of E. J. Johnson Court No. 520 (H.O.J.), and Ms. Waverly



Lt. to Rt.: J.D. Ervin received The Clay Meniffee Award (Master Mason of the Year) from Bro. Meniffee.



Lt. to Rt.: P.M. Madison presents Bro. Menifee with The Lee A Jordan Award (Past Masters Award).



Lt. to Rt.: G.M. Curtis presenting P.M. Madison with the 50 Year Certificate with the assistance of D.D.G.M. Gerac.

Grant.

Special Acknowledgements were presented by Treasurer Bobby Felder, along with the following: a Certificate of Congressional Recognition from the Office of Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee; Official Recognition from the State of Texas Office of the Governor; and a Proclamation from the City of Houston signed by Mayor Annise D. Parker.

The introduction of the keynote speaker was by Junior Warden Min. Marques Randall. The keynote speaker was Dr. Paul A. Landrew, who is the charismatic under-shepherd of Living Word Fellowship of Houston. The theme was "United As One."

Dr. Landrew spoke on what an organization should do in order for it to be united as one: 1) The "one" never argues with itself. 2) The group operates as one man. 3) The teachings or values must be passed down. 4) You must honor your past.

Three Lodge members were honored and presented with the 50 Years of Service Award Certificate and pin by G.M. Curtis and D.D.G.M. Gerac, to wit: P.M. Madison, P.M. Cole and Bro. Clay Menifee, the oldest living active member.

The 2013 awardees of the Lee A. Jordan Award (Past Masters Award) were P.M. Madison, P.M. Cole, P.M. Cadoree, and Bro.

Menifee.

The Clay Menifee Award (Master Mason of Year) was awarded to Bro. Ervin, and The Albert Baker Award scholarship recipient went to DeWayne Lee Buggs Jr., presented by W.M. Monroe, Senior Warden Harrison Hunter III, and J.W. Randall.

In remarks given by G.M. Curtis, he emphasized the importance of being called a "BROTHER."

Everyone left with a photo of themselves of the evening taken by the Grand Photographer Byran Thompson and a souvenir journal.

Special thanks and appreciation to G.M. Curtis, D.D.G.M. Gerac, and Dr. Landrew for their support, words of encouragement and their attending this historic event with other dignitaries, family and friends.

Thanks go out to the excellent and hard work of J.W. Randall and J.D. Ervin, the Banquet and Souvenir Committees for an evening that will always be remembered.

"Behold how good and pleasant it is for Brothers to dwell together in unity."

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"Behold how good and pleasant it is for Brothers to dwell together in unity."



Rt.: Lt. to W.M. Monroe I, Dr. Landrew (keynote speaker), and G.M. Curtis

AIDS Awareness, Testing a Great Concern for Members of Heights-Ionic Pride Lodge No .280



with and within the Lodge. Heights-Ionic Pride Lodge has taken its role and doing their due diligence to actively service the historic 3rd Ward Community. At a community event known as Trey Day, the Lodge passed out over 3,000 condoms and pamphlets. The Lodge also involved Planned Parenthood and Change Happens into the neighborhood to give free HIV/AIDS testing. With many people voluntarily stepping up, the Lodge felt that if it touched many people and provided a sense of urgency to people within the community.

Members of the Lodge also strived for the cause for the cure. They participate in the annual AIDS Walk every year, most recently in March at Reliant Park. More than \$325,000 was raised at this event.

Despite the brutal weather that day, the Lodge still mounted up and marched in the rain. They became one of many top teams to help raise money.

Heights-Ionic Pride Lodge No. 280 cares not only for our community but for their city and for the fight for a cure nation-wide. The Lodge encourages others to do the same for their people, communities, city, and nation.

Story by: Lodge Staff

HOUSTON - Houston ranks 8th nationally in the total number of reported AIDS cases. African-American and Hispanic women together represent less than 25% of all U.S. women but are responsible for 78% of the reported cases. AIDS is the leading cause of death among African-American women ages 25 to 34 and African-American men ages 35 to 44. CDC estimates 25% of Americans are unaware of their HIV infection and that 6 out of every 10 HIV infections in the Houston/Harris County area are African American.

Heights-Ionic Pride Lodge No. 280 has a sense of urgency and

knows that it is very important for people their communities to know and understand their status and prevent this deadly disease.

The Lodge feels that it is one with the community as they are one



Congratulations to Logos Lodge No. 659 on receiving their Charter during the 138th Annual Grand Communication.

District 19 continues assistance to Christopher Delight Chapter No. 1 in support of Project Fan



File Photo

Story by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

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, May 18.

The fans were collected and delivered to Meals on Wheels to be distributed to the elderly.

Now in its 4th year, the Chapter is looking to expand its visibility in the community by reaching out to

more of the deserving citizens.

Within the last 2 years, the 19th Masonic District collected and Christopher Delight Chapter distributed approximately 110 fans of hundreds lives.

"Summer months - June through August - inflict considerably high temperatures and humidity in San Antonio. Seniors living in homes without air conditioning or circulating air face a greater risk of heat-related injuries and fatalities during the summer.

Since 1997, the City of San Antonio (Human Services, Fire De-

partment) Catholic Charities of San Antonio, Inc., United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and community/corporate partners have coordinated Project Cool to provide heat relief to senior residents 60 years of age and older across the city through donation and free distribution of 20-inch box fans to seniors in need." <http://www.sanantonio.gov/comminit/seniorprojectcool.aspx>

San Antonio Lodge No. 1 honors Past Civil Rights Leader, Bro. Rev. Claude Black during Juneteenth

SAN ANTONIO - Members of San Antonio Lodge No 1, along with members of the District 19, conducted a processional carrying a \$10,000 portrait honoring Bro. Rev. Claude W. Black at Second Baptist Church, June 16. Bro. Black was a prominent civil rights leader in the city and a member of San Antonio Lodge No. 1. On July 7, the Lodge returned to Second Baptist Church for a visitation. The church is pastored by Bro. Dr. Rev. Robert Jemerson, a member of the Lodge.



Noble Star Lodge No. 277 starts Dynamic New Mentoring Program



Story by: *W.M. Dr. Ron Kelley*
Photos by: *Bro. Michael Ward*

SAN ANTONIO – After electing its new officers in April 2013, the new administration of Noble Star Lodge No. 277 decided to establish a strong focus on learning and education.

The first component of this new initiative is a strong focus on ritualistic detail and establishing an overall research-focused lodge. The community side of this new focus is a dynamic new mentoring program for students.

The first event of this new mentoring program was held on May 4, where the Lodge members led the featured session at the Embodi Conference at St. Philip's College. This citywide event which was sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., St. Philip's College, and Northeast Lakeview College is

a large annual conference for minority youth.

The Lodge mentored over 100 youth at the event. Worshipful Master Dr. Ron Kelley was the keynote speaker while members of the

Lodge served as mentors. Some of the dignitaries that participated included the Lodge's Secretary, Bro. Dr. Richard Williams who is a U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and nationally acclaimed dentist, Col.





Robert Jackson, who commands a large staff in the U.S. Air Force, was also a featured mentor at the event, and District Deputy Grand Master Grady Peavy Jr. who gave out neckties to the students who were then taught the importance of dressing for success.

The Noble Star Mentoring Program is a comprehensive mentoring program where minority youth are mentored in the areas of: study skills, college preparation, career preparation, etiquette, and general skills for success in the corporate world.



Being that the Lodge membership is composed of many Brothers who are executives in the fields of: medicine, law, business, education, professional sports, the military, and many other career fields, the Lodge is committed to sharing these members' success stories with students in San Antonio. Noble Star has quickly adopted the title of "The Learning Lodge" and remains totally committed to educating the youth and bringing quality men together to learn extensively about Prince Hall Freemasonry.



Grand Temple Lodge No. 75 holds Masonic Yard Sale for Scholarships



Story by: S.D. Brad Brooks

FORT WORTH - Brothers from Grand Temple Lodge No. 75 held a Masonic yard sale fundraiser at Macedonia Baptist Church, June 8, to help raise money for their annual college scholarship award banquet.

More than one hundred people supported the fundraiser by shopping for merchandise such as furniture, yard equipment, tools, clothes, toys, and educational books.

"The yard sale was absolutely fantastic, and the experience has set our minds on having another in the future," said Senior Warden Coreonte Jones. "We're excited

that we have the opportunity to help a deserving high school graduate pay for college expenses."

In addition to the support from the Brethren, many other organizations and volunteers helped make this event a success.

"This was a great way to start our Lodge's fund-raising initiatives for this Masonic year," said Worshipful Master Anthony Suttice.

"I would like to personally thank Macedonia Baptist Church of Fort Worth for allowing us to use their facility, those who donated (merchandise or funds), all volunteers, the "One Unit" Motorcycle Club of Fort Worth, and especially all of the Brothers of this great

Lodge for their hard work and dedication."



Mosier Valley Lodge No. 103 opens Occasional Lodge during 138th Annual Grand Session



Story by: P.M. Johnny Quarles Jr.

FORT WORTH - Mosier Valley Lodge No. 103, the 2011-2012 Lodge of the Year was chartered August 14, 1900. At the request of Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis, Mosier Valley Lodge made history opening the Occasional Lodge for the 138th Grand Session.

According to Worshipful Master T.C. Bittle, he was delighted to lead this history making occasion, and was very thankful and hum-

bled at the opportunity. He also mentioned because of his excitement he was unable to sleep a day prior to game time as he put it.

Dressed in all black Masonic attire and all white aprons, Mosier Valley Lodge made their marked recording their first Occasional Lodge opening in its 113-year history.

After the opening, W.M. Bittle expressed how blessed he was to be a part of a great Lodge, he also mentioned how proud he was of all

the Brothers of the Lodge, who took part in the opening.

Mosier Valley Lodge sincerely thanks G.M. Curtis for such a great opportunity and all the Brethren for their pillar of support during this year's Grand Session.

The Lodge looks forward to sharing this experience in the near future with all Brothers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.

Officers of the Occasional Lodge Opening:

Worshipful Master: T.C. Bittle
Senior Warden: Eddie Parnell - Junior Warden: Greg Allen
Senior Deacon: PM Johnny Quarles Jr. - Junior Deacon: Bryon Crawley
Senior Stewart: Len Kennedy - Junior Stewart: S.D.D.G.M. Anthony Bennett
Marshall: PM Jerome Calbert - Chaplin: Nelson Rowls - Tyler: Rick Upshaw

Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 donates Belton Educational Enrichment Foundation



W.M. Stanley Shider awards William Glassco with a scholarship letter at the West Belton – T.B Harris Senior Student Appreciation Award Dinner.

*Story and Photos by
P.M. Freddy Jamerson*

BELTON, Texas – Partnered with Belton Educational Enrichment

Foundation known in the area as B.E.E.F. The Belton Educational Enrichment Foundation was founded in 1992 as an independent, nonprofit corporation established by friends of Belton Independent School District. (WHEN)

The purpose of B.E.E.F. is to enhance the quality of education for all students in BISD.

It is governed by an elected Board of Directors who represents various segments of the Belton community.

The Board's primary purpose is to work together with the District to ensure student success. The Board oversees an endowment fund that will provide an ongoing source of funding to enhance the opportunities for students and staff of BISD.

Each year Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 donates \$500 to a deserving student under the name of one of the Lodge's deceased Past Masters. This year, the \$500.00 Scholarship went to Cori Miller who will be studying Radiologic Technology at Temple College.

The Lodge also presented a scholarship in the amount of \$300 to William Glassco, winner of Nolan Creek Lodge's JT Maxey Scholarship and went on to compete for the District 24 top spot.

Worshipful Master Stanley Shider awarded Glassco with a scholarship letter at the West Belton – T.B Harris Senior Student Appreciation Award Dinner.

Nolan Creek Lodge participates in Annual Juneteenth Celebrations

*Story and photos by:
P.M. Freddy Jamerson*

BELTON, Texas – Each year Juneteenth Celebrations take place in Killeen and Belton, Texas. This year, Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 was a sponsor of the Ms. Juneteenth Pageant hosted by the Killeen Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. which was held, June 13. Quinlaine Cisco was crowned Ms. Juneteenth 2013.

The Lodge also partner with the Belton and Killeen Communities to help and support the annual Juneteenth Celebration. The Lodge provided chairs, watermel-

ons, and opened the hall so that the food could be severed.



Ms. Quinlaine Cisco - Ms. Juneteenth 2013



Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227, K.O.P. participate in Annual 4th of July Parade



(277) and Worshipful Master of the Year Award (District 24) to P.M. Richard Williams. G.M. Curtis also presented P.M. Freddy Jamerson with the Secretary of the Year Award.



Story and photos by:
P.M. Freddy Jamerson

BELTON, Texas – Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227, partnered with members of the Sam T. Robinson Knights of Pythagoras Council No. 10 and other local Appendant bodies participated in the city's annual 4th July Parade.

This year, the Lodge was honored to have M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis and Sovereign Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Shirley Henry Gideon participate.

According to Chris Moore, who serves as committee chair for the city's Chamber of Commerce said, there were close to 200 parade participants and growing each year.

Holding the distinction of one of the largest 4th of July Parades in Texas. G.M. Curtis stated that this was one of the largest parades that he has had the pleasure of being in.

After the parade, the Lodge and their honored guests gathered in the fellowship hall of Greater Belton Church of God and Christ for refreshments.

During the gathering, G.M. Curtis presented the Lodge of the Year



G.M. Curtis and P.M. Williams



P.M. Jamerson and G.M. Curtis

Retired Command Sergeant Major honored for Years of Service to Army, Community



W.M. Perez holds a certificate in honor of Bro. Joseph Bufford Jr., a former command sergeant major, for his contributions to the community, June 30.

Story by: Brian Bradley
Photos by: Marianne Lijewski

HARKER HEIGHTS - Retired 30-year Army veteran Joe Bufford Jr. added another accolade to his list of recognitions Sunday afternoon, when 13 of his Masonic brothers presented him with a framed 25-year service certificate at Indian Oaks Living Center, an assisted living facility where Bufford has lived for 1½ years.

Wearing white gloves, metal-plated necklaces, and blue and white aprons, brothers of the Pride of Killeen Lodge 620 stood behind Bufford, as Worshipful Master

Johnny Perez, lodge leader, presented the recognition and a Texas Masons lapel pin to him. The commendation brought claps from the more than 30 people in attendance.

Joe Bufford Jr., 79, earned a Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal and Vietnam Service Medal during a career in which he rose to the rank of command sergeant major, the senior non-commissioned officer of the 13th COSCOM, now the 13th Sustainment Command, said his brother-in-law, Alphonso Davis.

He served in Germany, Korea and Thailand, and fought in Vietnam, before retiring in 1982, said his son, Joe Bufford III.

During the honoring, Joe Bufford Jr., reclined in a wheelchair, silent, eyes half open, but showed a smile after relatives asked him if wanted to cut the cake.

Joe Bufford III said the image isn't indicative of his father's story. "It was hard at first, but we're coping," said Joe Bufford III. "It's hard seeing him like this, as active as he used to be."

Before Joe Bufford Jr.'s dementia diagnosis 1½ years ago, he dedicated himself to the military



Joseph Bufford III, left, squeezes the hand of his father, Bro. Joseph Bufford Jr., after his father received a certificate in honor of his contributions to the community.

and civilian community, said his son.

Joe Bufford III said his father organized Easter egg hunts for children in his Willow Springs neighborhood, and would plant American flags in yards “all over Killeen” the nights before Independence Days, staying awake during most of the holiday to drive his children around.

In his various military roles, Joe Bufford Jr. was a “disciplinarian,” but a motivator as well, Davis said. Joe Bufford Jr. gave on-the-job training that allowed struggling soldiers to change their military occupational specialties, and counseled them.

“His first consideration was the Army’s needs.” Davis said. “After that, he would satisfy soldiers’

needs. ... He got people where they wanted to go.”

The Killeen Daily Herald named Bufford “Mr. Fort Hood” in 1983, as he served 20 years of his military career in Central Texas.

From 1984 to 1997, Bufford owned Joe Bufford Real Estate in Killeen, said Davis.

Past Master Willie Fields said he didn’t know if Joe Bufford Jr. had any hobbies because he spent “all his time” selling houses during those years.

Joe Bufford Jr. was also active in the NAACP and sponsored a little league baseball team, his son said.

Joe Bufford Jr. has lived in the Killeen-Harker Heights area 57 years, after being born in Camden, Ala., Davis said. After 52 years of marriage, his wife, Odessa Bufford, died last year.

The gathering communicated the depth of his father’s impact on others, Joe Bufford III said.

“Usually when people get older, people get left on the shelf,” he said. “This shows that people don’t forget. They still appreciate what he’s done.”

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SPOTLIGHT

Bro. Ronald D. Gerac is a native of Houston and is the last child of a family of three boys and two girls born to the late Herbert J. Gerac Sr. and Mrs. Johnnie M. Gerac. He grew up in Houston's Studewood Heights, attending Booker T. Washington Senior High School, where he graduated with highest honors and served as Section Leader of the Percussion Section in the Baby Ocean of Soul Marching Band. After high school, he attended Texas Southern University, majoring in Business Administration and continuing his talent for percussion in the Ocean of Soul Marching Band.

Bro. Gerac became a Master Mason on Oct. 23, 1993 and was elevated to the 33rd Degree in 2005. In his Masonic affiliation, he has served and held office as Worshipful Master of Maple Leaf Lodge No. 147, District Deputy Grand Master of District 15-A (Waller, Washington, and Harris Counties), Grand Marshal (M.W.P.H.G.L. of TX), Excellent High Priest of John Henry Birch Chapter No. 2 (HRAM), Honorary Past Grand High Priest, Illustrious Potentate of Doric Temple No. 76 (A.E.A.O.N.M.S.), Commander-in-Chief of Douglas Burrell Consistory No. 56 (A.A.S.R.), Worthy Patron of the Pride of Maple Leaf Chapter No. 43 (N.W.C.G.C.), Worshipful Joshua of Peace Abide Court No. 349 (H.O.J.), Honorary Past Grand Thrice Illustrious Master of the Charles F. Williams Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Tennessee, Senior Advisor of Arthur L. Banks Council No. 2 (K.O.P.), State Educational Officer and President of the State Board of Regents for the Texas Knights of Pythagoras, Eminent Commander of Sanderson Commandery No. 2 (K.T.), Right Eminent Grand Com-



*Bro. Ronald D. Gerac
Maple Leaf Lodge No. 147
District 15-A
Houston, Texas*

mander of the Lone Star Grand Commandery of Texas, and the Right Eminent Grand Recorder for the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States and the Bahamas. Included among the many Masonic awards he has received are Worshipful Master of the Year (1998), District Deputy of the Year (2008 & 2009), and Master Mason of the Year (2012).

Bro. Gerac earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Management at Texas Southern University and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration at the University of St. Thomas. He currently serves as a teacher in the Cypress Fairbanks Independent School District, after serving as a teacher in the Houston Independent School District for seventeen years. While employed with the school district, he has mentored hundreds of students, served as Percussion Direc-

tor at 5 different schools, and was a step team coordinator for the Starlite Steppers.

In 2006, Brother Gerac was among nine other finalists for the Houston Independent School District Teacher of the Year. He holds a Texas Education Agency Teaching Certificate in the areas of Elementary 1-6, Mathematics 4-8, Principalship EC-12, and Campus Curriculum Integration Technologist. He began his teaching career in 1996 at Ruby Lockhart Thompson Elementary School, named after the daughter of our late Grand Master Lucian L. Lockhart.

Several other organizations have Brother Gerac's name on its membership rolls. He pledged Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity, Incorporated in April 1991 on the campus of Texas Southern University, where he served as Chapter President and now holds a Life Membership in the Fraternity.

He pledged Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Incorporated in June 1999 on the campus of the University of Houston-Central Campus, where he served as Graduate Advisor, and currently holds a Life Membership with the Fraternity.

Bro. Gerac is also a member of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society for Education on the campus of The University of St. Thomas in Houston.

He is a member of Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, where its pastor, Reverend Danny Davis, holds the distinguished honor of being the first starting quarterback for the University of Houston Cougars Football Team.

Bro. Gerac has one son, Taylor Maxwell Gerac, whom he lovingly refers to as his "little buddy" and "the Little Grand Master."

Annual Joint Queen's Coronation of Grand High Court and Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter



Grand High Court Queen Her. Nicole Coleman of American Beauty Court No. 102 and Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter Queen Sis. Benitris Edwards of Naomi Chapter No. 26.

Story by: N.W.C.G.C. Staff
Photos by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

FORT WORTH - THEY WERE PHENOMENAL WOMEN! The 138th Annual Grand Session marked another successful year for the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter's Annual Queen's Coronation Ceremony held at the Radisson Hotel North, June 24. The Ceremony was a monumental event as the Grand Chapter joined with the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho's Matron's March.

The Queen contestants promenade through the ballroom (escorted by Master Masons and Companions of the Texas Prince Hall Bodies) saluting our Grand Officers. Mistress of Ceremony

Sister Kiwanna Givens shared amazing information with the audience about each Chapter and Court Queen as each ended their promenade with an elegant courtesy.

Sisters represented their local Chapters and Courts from all over the Texas Jurisdiction after having embraced their fundraising skills for the benefit of the Grand Chap-



ter and Grand Court Scholarships. As each contestant raised money on their local level their efforts were rewarded during Grand Session.

Grand Chapter and Grand Court Officers announced the winners as the contestants were crowned in each organization as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Runner up.

The top contestant for the Grand Chapter was Sis. Benitris Edwards of Naomi Chapter No. 26, who raised \$3,701 and will reign for a year as the "Grand Chapter's Queen." This royal coronation was the first joint venture put on by a committee of members from the Grand Chapter. The top contestant for the Grand High Court was



complishments as they chartered their history contributing donations to their respective Grand Chapter and Court to the tune of \$26,000 collectively. Each year college bound students are recognized and awarded scholarships at a luncheon held at the hotel.

The funds that were raised will help the Grand Chapter continue pouring necessary assistance into the lives of our young people as they strive to continue their education. Remember, it's about the children. In the words of the late Whitney Houston, "I believe that children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way!"

The efforts of all involved in the

Past Queens await the arrival of the Heroine and Eastern Star Princesses.

Her. Nicole Coleman of American Beauty Court No. 102.

The event climaxed to even higher heights as the Queen's and their royal ladies took their places. Mistress of Ceremony Givens introduced Fort Worth's own, Gospel Recording Artist Dalon Collins, who commemorated the gala serenading the ladies with new releases from his upcoming project.

The Queen contestants, who were royally dressed in their white formal gowns, showcased their ac-



Gospel Recording Artist Dalon Collins, who commemorated the gala serenading the ladies with new releases from his upcoming project.



local Chapters and on the Grand level are applauded as the Grand Chapter continues to plan to do bigger and better things in the years to come. Working together does work!

H.O.J./O.E.S. Princesses



H.O.J./O.E.S. Princesses



H.O.J./O.E.S. Princesses



Scholarship Recipients of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter

CONGRATULATIONS to the fourteen students who will receive scholarships from Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter this year. We are very proud to have the opportunity to assist these students. We look forward to hearing from each of them as they progress toward their road to success. The students receiving the scholarships are as follows –

Jackson Henry Turner, San Angelo, Texas - \$2,500.00
Derrick B. Williams, Desoto, Texas - \$2,500.00
Johnathan Jackson, Houston, Texas - \$1,000.00
Dennis Demerson II, Houston, Texas - \$1,000.00
Daniel E. Lee, Texas City, Texas - \$1,000.00
Brianna NJ Jackson, Beeville, Texas - \$1,000.00
Imani A. Graves, Killeen, Texas - \$1,000.00
Kierra D. Dean, Abilene, Texas - \$1,000.00
Natasha N. Frazier, Eagle Lake, Texas - \$1,000.00
Andrea E. Franklin, Texas City, Texas - \$500.00
Thommeria U. Holmes, Dallas, Texas - \$500.00
Joshau T. George, Hitchcock, Texas - \$500.00
LaDiamon J. Ruff, Dallas, Texas - \$500.00
Jordan S. Charles, San Angelo, Texas - \$500.00

The Grand Chapter wishes them the very best in endeavors.
Norris Wright Cuney Scholarship Committee

LaDonna M. Williams of Port Arthur, Texas was awarded a scholarship from the 2013 Conference of Grand Matrons and Grand Patrons. Williams is continuing her education in Health at Prairie View A&M University and plans to obtain a Masters Degree.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sis. Lillie Calloway



N.W.C. Youth Fraternity holds Annual Session



Story by: G.W.M. Martha Wolridge
N.W.C. Grand Chapter

HOUSTON - The Norris Wright Cuney Grand Youth Session was held on July 26 – 27 at the Houston Food Bank. On July 26, the youth were entertained by Jacob Darby, better known as Michael Jackson. Jacob just turned 3 years old. Bro. Reginald Thompson the Grand Youth Minister delivered an inspiring message on "Play the Game to Win."

On July 27, the youth worked at the food bank and did an excellent job. The Grand Youth Fraternity presented the Food Bank Director with a \$1,000.00 donation. Stanley R. Gibson Youth Fraternity from Dorcus Chapter No. 19, located in Dallas Texas also presented a check to the Food Bank. Together the Youth donations will provide food for 3,000 families in Houston.

Houston Dynasty and Young

Beacon of Light, a newly organized Youth Fraternity were awarded the Youth Fraternities of the Year. Five Youth members graduating this year were awarded checks in the amount of \$250 from the Grand Chapter as gratitude for remaining faithful members of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Youth Fraternity.



District 15 (O.E.S.) holds Prayer Breakfast



HOUSTON - District 15, Order of the Eastern Star, thanks everyone that participated in and supported the Houston Dynasty Prayer Breakfast, April 27.

For those of you who missed it, the present had a wonderful time.

The children did a phenomenal job and Rev. Thompson gave a message that all surely will not forget.

Again thank you all for helping make our first fundraiser of the year a success!



Covenant Sisters Chapter No. 74 hits the Streets to help the Less Fortunate



Story by: Chapter Staff

DALLAS - Covenant Sisters Chapter No. 74, Order of the Eastern Star, and Paul Drayton Lodge No. 9 donated 100 care packages to the homeless, May 25.

The recipients received deodorant, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, face towels, razors, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, water, chips, and menstrual products for the women.

The Chapter's heart goes out to those that are homeless and wanted to aid them with some of the bare necessities.



Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 continues to serve the Community

Story by: Chapter Staff

BRYAN, Texas – Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38, Order of the Eastern Star, traveled to the Hearne Rehabilitation Center to spend time with the center's residents during Seniors Day, May 17.

During our visit, the Sisters sang songs, assisted with provided cake and ice cream, and assisted the staff with transporting individuals back to their rooms. Members present for this event were Sisters Andrea Sales, Athena Nix, Latonia Chambers, Kimmie Daily, Sherry Heard, Tamika Bennett, Worthy Matron Tiffany Lee and Bro. Richard Lee.

Recently, the Chapter awarded scholarships to deserving high school seniors who excelled academically, but who also were involved in community service. This year, the Sisters presented two young adults with a \$500 scholarship: Daniel Adams, a senior at Bryan Collegiate High School who graduated in May with an Associate's Degree and will attend Baylor University, and Chanquis Robertson, a recent graduate of Rudder High School who will attend Texas A&M University.

Members present for the certificate presentation were Sisters Chambers, Daily, W.M. Lee and Bro. Lee.



Texas Heroines attend 29th Annual Session and General Conference in New York



Attending Grand Session were two jewels of the order, Heroine Bertha Hunter of Galveston and Heroine Francis Smith of Dallas, both 93 years of age.

Story by: Grand Court Staff



2013 scholarship recipient Camira Mouton with Grand Scholarship Chairperson, Heroine Callie Walker and Committee member Knight Vince Williams.

Huggins were the 2013 delegates to the General Conference Grand Court Heroines of Jericho of the United States and the Bahamas, Inc., in Rochester, NY, June 29 - July 3. D.G.J. Humphrey served again as General Conference Grand Chaplain; and the highlight

for the "Country of Texas" was G.M.A.M. Levingston being elected as General Conference Grand Senior Attendant.



The Grand High Court was honored to have Grand Most Ancient Matron June Lee and Grand Musician Aline Gallop from the Jurisdiction of Oklahoma to visit during the Grand Session.

FORT WORTH - The Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho - Texas Jurisdiction held its 129th Annual Session at the Radisson Hotel North, June 20 – 23. Over 150 delegates attended the Grand Session. The session opened with the Hattie D. Harrison Annual Prayer Breakfast with Heroines and Knights of the Jurisdiction and guests from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter participating on the program.

The weekend after the 29th Annual Session, Grand Most Ancient Matron Jackie Levingston, Grand Joshua Isaac G. Cary Sr., Dep. Grand Joshua. John n. Humphrey, Hon. Past Grand Most Ancient Matrons Marjorie Cary and Charmaine

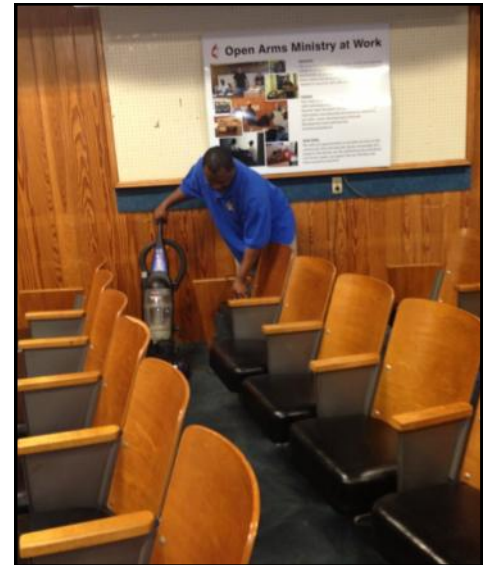


Conference Grand High Priest Roosevelt Huggins

“Spruce Up at Open Arms Ministry” Community Clean-up Project



The purpose of the project was to give something back to the Temple community and be so ever reminded of our dedication to community.



Story by: Court Staff

TEMPLE, Texas - Members of the Temple Masonic Family decided to spruce up the community by cleaning and making some minor repairs to the Open Army Ministry, May 25.

The Masonic Family has assisted Open Arms Ministry for the last four years by sponsoring an annual Christmas toy drive. Due to the excellent relationship, the ministry team allowed the PHamily to use their facility to give the less fortunate something for Christmas. It is the PHamily's pleasure and honor to be working hand-in-hand with Open Arms Ministry because it is also dedicated to making a difference in the Temple community. The Open Arms Ministry is a non-profit organization that provides prescription drug assistance and food for families in need in the city of Temple.

With the help of Most Ancient Matron Stephanie L. Phillips, Ris-

ing Sun Court No. 150, Worshipful Master Rick Phillips of St. James Lodge No. 71, and Worthy Matron Geri Ann Hopkins of Shiphrah Chapter No. 54, and the members, the semi-annual community clean-up project was a complete success. Everyone came together on a Saturday morning in their “get dirty” attire with mops, brooms, cleaning supplies and tools to get the job done.

All areas of the facility were given an old fashioned deep cleaning and minor repairs were made throughout the building. In addition, the installation of a sound system with microphone and speakers was completed.

The Open Arms Ministry and the St. James United Methodist Church greatly appreciated our dedication and support to the community.

The Director of the Ministry, Glenn Haynes said, “You all have truly blessed us today.”

Heroines of Jericho assist with “Summer Stretch” Food Drive/Donation Project



six weeks. The amount collected was more than enough to make a positive difference in the lives of the recipients.

During the last week of school, members delivered the food to the school campus. They were able to meet and fellowship with some of the families identified to receive the donations.

The families and school staff were appreciative of the Court's efforts to make a difference in the community. Plans are currently being made to repeat the project next year.

Story by: Court Staff

TEMPLE, Texas - Members of Rising Sun Court No. 150, Heroines of Jericho, held a food drive in April and May to help families in need stretch their food budgets over the summer months.

Most Ancient Matron Stephanie Phillips collaborated with Principal Carl Pleasant, Wheatley Campus of Temple Independent School District to implement an end-of-year food drive project that would help families during the summer months.

The principal and school staff identified five families at their campus who would benefit greatly from this type of project.

Court members went to work collecting food donations for the identified families. They contacted local merchants, church groups, friends and family members to help them achieve their goal. They collected over \$500 worth of food in



Rising Sun Court No. 150 with Temple PHamily participate in Juneteenth Parade



Story by: Court Staff

TEMPLE, Texas - Members of Rising Sun Court No. 150 participated in the Temple Juneteenth Parade and festivities again this year, June 15. After last year's event, the Court wanted to do this event bigger and better for 2013. To achieve that goal, the members collaborated with St. James Lodge No. 71 and Shiphrah Chapter No. 54 (O.E.S.)

A great time was had by walking/riding the parade route and fellowshiping with the community. During the parade, the members handed out candy to the spectators.

The members also sponsored a Temple Masonic Family vendor booth. The booth featured fried catfish sandwiches, sausage wraps, and a drawing for a gift basket.

Rising Sun Court No. 150 sponsored the fish sandwiches with as-

sistance from the Brothers of Wyatt Lodge No. 21. St. James Lodge No. 71 sponsored the sausage wrap lunch combo and Shiphrah Chapter No. 54 sponsored the men's and women gift basket drawing. Proceeds raised will support each group's community endeavors.

Members that participated in the festivities also had lunch together and enjoyed the Juneteenth program put on by event sponsors.

The day was also highlighted with the announcement of the Temple Juneteenth's Little Miss Juneteenth pageant winner, Ariunna Wilson (daughter of Heroine Brandee Phillips). During her reign, Ariunna will represent the Temple Juneteenth Association at several events in the coming year.

We Drill for Real! Lone Star Grand Commandery Drill Team takes Top Honors at G.E.K.T. 2013



Story by:
R.E.G.C. Ronald D. Gerac, M.Ed.
Lone Star Grand Commandery

ROCHESTER, NY - A smooth entrance, precision drills, and kaleidoscopic formations. These were just a few comments made about the

drill performance given by the Sanderson Commandery Drill Team (S.C.D.T.) at the 87th Annual Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, United States of America and Foreign Jurisdictions, PHA drill team competition, June 27.

Sanderson Commandery No. 2 is the second chartered Commandery in the Lone Star Grand Commandery, organized in 1914. The S.C.D.T., led by Drill Team Captain Sir Knight Rev. Reginald Thompson (147), organized in the fall of 2012 to compete in the annual state drill team competition of the Lone Star Grand Commandery. Being the only male team to compete, the S.C.D.T. was automatically chosen to represent the COUNTRY OF TEXAS at the annual drill team competition for the 87th Annual Conclave.

Other members of the S.C.D.T. who traveled to New York and competed were Sir Knights Joseph D. Cooper (3), Thomas Agnew (147), Dallas Singleton (350), and yes, believe it or not, Frederick "THE FRED" Walker Sr. (350). The entire drill team consists of





seven Sir Knights and is open to any member of the Commandery who wishes to DRILL FOR REAL.At the Grand Encampment Drill Team Competition, out of 28 Jurisdictional Grand Commanderies present, Texas was the only state with a competing drill team, sealing the deal that the Lone Star Grand Commandery of Texas remains National Champions. Since then, no other Jurisdiction has out-drilled Texas.Texas plans to defend its status as National Champions at the 88th Annual G.E.K.T. Drill Team Competition in Charleston, South Carolina on Thursday, June 26, 2014.

....At the 84th Annual G.E.K.T. Drill Team Competition, Sir Knights from South Central Commandery No. 37 (Killeen) represented Texas, besting the Melvin T. Williams Grand Commandery of Tennessee to be the National Champions.



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*

*"May Grace and Peace be multiplied to you..."
I Peter 1:2*

The Texas Council of Assemblies, Order of the Golden Circle has been involved in many events, fundraisers and celebrations. We donated a sum to the Killeen Ms. Juneteenth 2013, participated in the parade, Gospel Fest, and the free food picnic on the final three-day event.

The Texas Council of Assemblies attended Grand Session in Fort Worth this year and purchased tickets in several fundraisers in support of the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter.

We attended the Grand Encampment in Rochester, New York and enjoyed the performance of the Texas Knights as winners of many awards.

During April, we celebrated Texas Gala Days in the city of Austin with an outstanding visit to the Nursing Home singing with the choir. What a joy.

All Assemblies will be receiving a letter from the Ways and Means chairperson on an upcoming fundraiser which each Assembly will be expected to participate. We really need to increase our working funds within our organization. We will be hosting the United Supreme Council in the city of Houston in 2014

Each Assembly is expected to donate items to be included into gift bags for our visitors.

A Gold Dickie Shirt will be raffled at the Council of Deliberations 2014...it has all the information sewn on, also the winner's name will be included on the shirt free of charge, tickets are forthcoming.

Texas Council of Assemblies will be donating to the Wilbert M. Curtis Library the first Gold Crown presented to a Loyal Lady from San Antonio still attending meetings at the grand age of 100...what a wonderful opportunity.

Remember to love thy neighbor as thyself...and let's make less "Wrinkles."

Peace and Unity!

Shirley Henry Gideon

Sons of Solomon Motorcycle Club Chapters provide Relief to Community of West, provide assistance to Haven for Hope



Story by: Sons of Solomon Motorcycle Club, San Antonio Chapter

SAN ANTONIO - The Sons of Solomon Motorcycle Club of San Antonio and Killeen, along with motorcyclists along Interstate 35 between San Antonio and Dallas/Ft Worth, participated in a donation drive that brought relief to the town of West, Texas, (When) .

In April, a fertilizer plant exploded killing 14 and rendering hundreds of others injured and homeless. A collected donation of \$1,760 was presented to the American Red Cross Heart of Texas Chapter responsible for assisting West with recovery efforts.

American Red Cross representatives were thankful for the motorcycle community's gift.

The next project for the Sons of Solomon MC was Haven for Hope. Haven for Hope continuously

works to reintegrate San Antonio's homeless population back into the community through a structured transformation process. Their campus for the San Antonio community's homeless has brought together all the necessary services to address the root causes of homelessness. The campus provides food, clothing, shelter and an array of social services including but not limited to job training, medical and dental services and day care to Haven for Hope members, prospective members and the surrounding community.

Sons of Solomon MC members, and associates, spent a morning assisting with the preparation and serving of breakfast and lunch for residents of Haven for Hope. Approximately 250 meals were prepared and distributed to the residents. (When)

Other volunteer duties included

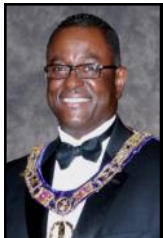
dishwashing, sweeping, and mopping. Volunteers also greeted residents as they arrived for their meals.

Lastly, the Sons of Solomon MC chapters from Killeen, Dallas, and San Antonio traveled to New Orleans to fellowship with other Prince Hall Masons from various jurisdictions and provide assistance to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Funds raised will support medical research in finding the cause of and cure for childhood brain tumors.



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

XIII

W.D. Matthews as National Grand Master

1866: Captain W.D. Matthews, as Past Grand Marshall, took over as National Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge.

1888: Grand Master W.D. Matthews issues his famous manifesto / edict calling for the state Grand Lodges that defected to reunite with the National Grand Lodge. Vowed to commission Grand Masters with full power and authority in those rebellious states and organized Grand Lodges according to the precedent which was laid down in 1733...

National Grand Lodge Historian, Matthew Brock noted that "The National Grand Lodge under the National Compact will forever be grateful to the National Grand Master William D. Matthews for bringing unity and harmony back to the National Grand Lodge for Masonic action of 1888. That action was followed up with the commissioning of Lodges in different States in substitution to those that had rebelled and were still recalcitrant, and secondly by commissioning of new grand lodges in states that hitherto had not had a Grand Lodge." (Walkes on Brock)

A New Grand Lodge in Texas

St. John – St. Joseph Grand Lodge of Texas (P.H.O.) was warranted by Captain W.D. Matthews.

Following the litigation between this Grand Lodge working under the National Grand Lodge, and the State Rightist Grand Lodge headed by J.A. Henry, Grand Master, Captain Matthews was there to give

eloquent testimony on behalf of the National Grand Lodge. The conclusion he, Captain W.D. Matthews, drew from winning the case goes as follows: "By the jury's vision, it was known conclusively that the Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons is the legitimate body of Colored Masons and has the right



o establish grand Lodges and subordinate Lodge in the United States of America.” (Walkes on Brock)

Prince Hall Masons in Texas P.H.A. and P.H.O., share a mutual history and were both founded by Captain William D. Matthews.

XIV

The Death of Grand Master W.D. Matthews

1906: Grand Master W.D. Matthews dies.

Served 15 years as Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge, York Rite. The strongest organization of the National Compact was in the south.

XV

Conclusion

This timeline is a brief look into to history of Prince Hall Masonry and its development in Texas. It only scratches the surface of a grand and glorious history of community development, leadership and service by Prince Hall Masons. The information provided here is intended to stir historical inquiry so that we may develop a more comprehensive history of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.

Black Masons and Prince Hall Masons in particular, like their Latino and White Mason Brothers, have had organizational issues among themselves and with their brothers outside of their respective Grand Lodges. It has taken exceptional men, irregardless of ethnicity, social practices, racist laws and polices to rise above these social, political and economic norms to cultivate communities of equals and as they saw fit, initiate Master Masons, regardless of ethnicity, religion or sex.

On a deeper level, whether one

is classified as regular or irregular, there is one composite world-wide Masonic family. The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas is a part of what can be termed as the regular historic Masonic Line. A Masonic lineage that goes back to African Lodge No. 459 and The Grand Lodge of England.

The historic Masonic line is as follows:

- MWPHGL Free & Accepted Masons of Texas – August 20, 1875
- Originated from King Solomon Grand Lodge of Kansas, which originated from...
- The Union Grand Lodge of Missouri, which was organized June 24, 1865 and is now known as The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri, which is a direct descendant of...
- The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio, instituted on May 3, 1849, which originated from...
- The First Independent Grand Lodge of the State of Pennsylvania and Jurisdiction, which is now known as the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, chartered in 1815, and is a direct descendant of...
- The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, which is a direct descendant of ...
- African Lodge 459 which was chartered by ...The Grand Lodge of England.

Masons always seek more light, and history teaches us that sometimes those in positions of power, often with the best of intentions, are most in need of enlightenment.

Captain William D. Matthews was the Grand Master of King Solomon Grand Lodge of Kansas and issued the charter to create The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Ancient York Masons of the State of Texas and installed Norris Wright Cuney as the first Grand Master. Once The Grand

Lodge of Texas decided to separate from the National Grand Lodge and operate as a sovereign State Grand Lodge, William D. Matthews, who in 1886 became the National Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge, issued an edit in 1888 demanding that the States Rights Grand Lodges rejoin the National Compact / National Grand Lodge.

By June 19, 1885 in Austin, Travis County, Texas – The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Ancient York Masons of the State of Texas had changed its name to - Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Texas. This action clearly demonstrated its break with the National Grand Lodge.

The rejection of the edit of 1888 caused National Grand Master William D. Matthews to charter The Most Worshipful St Johns Grand Lodge of Texas. These Masonic Brothers are of the Prince Hall lineage initiated into the Masonic Family by the same Master Mason that chartered The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas.

The Master Masons of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of England have exchanged correspondence of Mutual Recognition with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. These noble acts are testimony to Masons signaling an end to the long night of racial hatred and discrimination. The time has come for the States Rights Grand Lodges and the Grand Lodges of the National Compact to also exchange mutual recognitions and end the discord between Prince Hall Masons.

FORUM

Do You Consider Yourself A REAL Prince Hall Mason

Story by: P.M. J.R. Wilson
(M.W.P.H.G.L of Penn.)

Do you consider yourself to be a Prince Hall Mason, endowed with all the secrets belonging to that degree? I

Suggest to you to think before you answer that question! The answer may be easy for you at first, but I really want you to look at the question again, and then look inside yourself and answer it again. Maybe a better question would be....."what do you consider a real Prince Hall Mason?"

When I first joined this fraternity really had no idea what I was joining or what I was getting in to. I do know that for whatever reason Masonry has made the biggest impact on my life than anything. We have all been Raised, but that is only the Ritualistic side. We've all shown some sort of proficiency, and some have gone around the chairs; but did the true Light in Masonry ever unveil itself to you? Do you really know what it takes to be a "tried and true" Mason? What does your family think of you as a Mason? What do they think of Masons period? What I'm getting at is, we say we take good men and make them better, I know it has done that for me, but I practice what we teach. We are a Brotherhood, but how many of us are Brothers, or at least Brotherly?

I recently went to the funeral of a Brother's wife and was horrified to see just two of his Lodge members there. I can't imagine how the family felt; how or what would you or your family feel about your Brothers? I have witnessed the practice of personality vs principle, the attitude of I did my time, you got it

now. Those are just some Lodge issues, but I want to go back to what we as Masons are to teach and be about in our lodges. Faith, Hope, and Charity, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. I truly believe our lodges would be in much better shape if we taught and practiced Masonry. I know that business has to be taken care of, but even in taking care of business we're still Brothers. Even if we disagree, do we have to be disagreeable?

I love the ritualistic work, but learning it for degree work is totally different than practicing it in your life. The lessons taught in Masonry will guide you through life, at least help you along the way. I have met in this great institution some of the best men on this planet, not to mention some others, but my point is that those good men I met in the fraternity practice Masonry.

Ironically, those good men that I have met in life that aren't Masons, practice what is taught in Masonry too. We are all supposed to be good men. We have several faiths but we believe in God. We tend to the cries of our widows and orphans as well as our sick and shut ins.

We also have our neighbors' back as well as do good in our community. We are looked at and respected as upstanding citizens. No we are by no means perfect, but we are a cut above the rest, aren't we?

If our Brother is down or in need we do come to his aid, right. We do attend our lodge meetings to offer support to it, regardless of who is in the East, right? We do judge with candor, admonish with friendship and reprehend with justice, right?

All these things I have mentioned to you as Master Masons, Master Masons who are charged with teaching the new or younger members. So what are we passing down as Masons?

Personally, I didn't know any of you when I joined, and if I did, it wasn't through you that I came. Point, you were not the reason I joined, so you (singularly) won't be the reason why I leave or step aside from this, what I believe in.

You say you were first made a Mason in your heart, maybe you were, but at some point it also has to get in your head. Again I ask, do you consider yourself a real Prince Hall Mason? All I can say is that cold frosty ground ain't no joke. I leave you with this, author unknown...

(Article reprinted from the Fall 2012 Edition of The Light (M.W.P.H.G.L. of Penn.)

Prince Hall and His Organization of Black Free Masons in the United States

Article by: *Tarah S. Cherry*

(*Yale University: Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute*), <http://www.yale.edu/ynhti/>
(July 27, 2013)

I became fascinated with the reasons for Prince Hall becoming a Freemason. Why would a black man, in an era when slavery was the only social condition thought to be relevant to his existence, have the courage to embrace an organization associated with kings, noblemen and George Washington, etc., etc., and be of the opinion that the philosophy of such an ancient order of men be kindred to him and other men of similar circumstances?

Immediately, one can associate the plight of today's black people and the same struggle which existed over two hundred years ago as an ongoing situation. Black people in 1991, as a majority, are faced with the same degrading conditions as slaves in Prince Hall's time. Although education is available to everyone in the United States, it is the minority population which faces so many problems in obtaining an education. People of color throughout the world still suffer from hunger, do the most menial work for the lowest pay, live in the worst substandard conditions on earth, are suffering from the most deadly diseases. These conditions are no different than were had by slaves who died from smallpox, measles, etc. Minorities have been forced through generations of sub-human treatment to choose to kill one another either by guns or drugs, as though reading the subconscious exploits of a country and the world since their arrival to America. Challenging death seems to have far better chances than remaining on this earth as just a per-

son . . . a black person.

Since the societal circumstances of the black man are so similar, I thought it time to re-examine the strengths that Prince Hall must have seen in this establishment that might have answers to the possibility of solving some of our present problems.

I have extracted some of the principles of Freemasonry, and please remember that I am a lay person who has no affiliation with this organization, in order that those of us who are trying to guide, counsel and teach today's youth can find some additional resources by which we could all come up with some answers to the many perplexing problems facing our adult human and our children's existence.

The principal purpose of the freemasons is to strive for producing the finest type of character and culture through fellowship and mutual helpfulness.

Understanding that life as it exists has its roots in the past must be examined; so that one does not become trapped in what has already failed man.

Those seeking admittance into the order wish to elevate themselves socially.

Masonry serves to improve private conduct, and relationships through fellowship and discipline. All ritualism is primarily to increase the importance of the message conveyed.

Masonry should inspire and stimulate many interests because variety is wholesome and beneficial.

Ethics is the primary teaching of all Masonic work:

1. To produce a finer grade of

men.

2. Its many lessons are intended to make domestic relations cleaner and more binding.

3. To nurture the spirit of charity through tolerance and helpfulness.

4. To be concerned with the human behavior and the possibility for its improvement.

To seek the meaning of the Universe, its structure, workings and purpose, but most of all the place of man in the scheme of things. In other words, to seek the SUPREME ARCHITECT.

Every creation testifies to a creator.

Prince Hall seemed to recognize that the social attitudes which exist do not determine the legitimacy for one's existence. And although pigment can separate, it most assuredly cannot impugn the existing rights in order to deny the owner the protection of their rights.

Called to the Celestial Lodge

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



Frank R. Bonhomme.....	<i>Pride of the West No. 53</i>
Willie C. Brown.....	<i>Rainbow No. 445</i>
Michael O. Collins.....	<i>Pride of the West No. 53</i>
William H. Craig.....	<i>Beacon Light No. 50</i>
Ernest Curry.....	<i>Gulf Coast No. 361</i>
Jonathan Davis.....	<i>Lone Star No. 85</i>
Bobby Grant.....	<i>Hopeful No. 78</i>
Wilson Haynes Sr.....	<i>St. Luke No. 173</i>
Morris E. Hollins.....	<i>Roger Hughes No. 624</i>
Jet Arthur Johnson.....	<i>La Marque No. 373</i>
George Marrow.....	<i>Sunset No. 76</i>
Curtis Michael.....	<i>John T. Maxey No. 74</i>
Eural Smothers.....	<i>Lyons Jr. No. 290</i>

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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:

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Basic preservation and presentation

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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.



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INFORMATION TBA FALL OF 2012**

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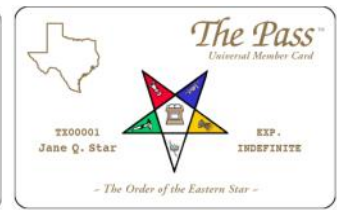
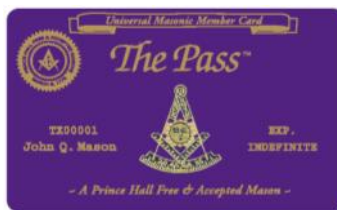
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Basic Membership

\$10 Initial Fee/\$10 annual renewal

Access to over 95 Corporate Affiliates featuring discounts and savings on Air/Hotel/Car, Books, Electronics, Handbags, Men, Women, Sport, Wine & Spirits, Athletic Apparel, Business, Event Tickets, Health & Wellness, Outdoor, Tobacco, Auto, Children, Fashion, Home Appliances, Party Supplies, Uniforms, Beauty, Collectibles, Flowers/Gifts, Jewelry, Pets, Vacation, Bed & Bath, Computer/Software, Groceries/Gourmet, Kitchen, Security, Vision, and Movies. New Affiliates are added daily.

Premium Membership

\$29 Initial Fee/\$12 annual renewal

- Access to all Corporate Affiliates
- Concierge Services
- Airline Ticket Rebates
- Grand Lodge Session Attendance Expense Account
- Automobile Insurance Deductible Reimbursement Relief
- 1 Year's Reimbursement of local Lodge Dues
- Survivor Annuity (Vested Membership)

www.tcc-thepass.org

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