



# The Texas Prince Hall Freemason



Official Publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas



**A FRESH START, A SECOND CHANCE & A NEW BEGINNING**

*TPHFM Volume 5 - Issue 15 - Fall 2022*

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Publications Committee Chairman  
P.M. Ronald D. Gerac

Greetings,  
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.

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## The Texas Prince Hall Freemason

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# ELECTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

2022-2023



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GRAND MASTER  
Wilbert M. Curtis**



**R.W. Grand Secretary  
Tracey C. Bittle**



**R.W. Grand Treasurer  
Robert J. Datcher**



**R.W. Deputy Grand Master  
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**R.W. Grand Auditor  
Samuel L. Hobbs Jr**

# MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER



Wilbert M. Curtis



I bring you greetings from the office of the Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and its Jurisdiction. It is my prayer that you are experiencing the bountiful blessings of Our Heavenly Father, the Grand Architect of the Universe. Once more, He has allowed us to see the dawning of a new Masonic Year, giving us another opportunity to perfect our works as men and Masons. With this new opportunity, we have re-established "The Texas Prince Hall Freemason newsletter to document and spread the word of the great works of the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family. Matthews 5:15-16, KJV it states "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house." This newsletter is the candlestick. Now all that is needed is for you as brothers, sisters and children of the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family to provide the light.

As time passes, so does technology changes. This includes the medium that we use for our newsletter. I believe that is one of the reasons of the rise and decline of our newsletter. In 2003 when I became Grand Master, "THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS FAMILY MASONIC QUARTERLY" issued quarter; Volume 116, Fort Worth, Texas, November 2003, NUMBER 1, was published in newspaper form, (11x14, folded) as it had been for the previous 9-10 years, under Grand Master Robert Connor, Jr. Prior to that it was published in a larger paper form. As the years passed, the interest in the Quarterly declined. In 2009, the new publication committee, with H.P.M. Burrell D. Parmer serving as editor worked to re-establish the quarterly publication "The Texas Prince Hall Freemason". The Publications Committee worked diligently to produce a high-quality Masonic magazine in color and professionally edited stories. After four years of publication, it was discontinued but due to the online website, the publications remain accessible to the public and Masonic members.

This year a new Publications Committee was formed with P.M. Ronald Gerac as chairman and P.M. Jesse Lee as Editor. They requested that the quarterly newsletter be re-established on a different medium as the previous. It will be accessible online on various platforms such as the website, social media and retained in our Grand View Membership System (GVMS).

I hope that you are as excited as I am to be able to see the light of our great organization called Texas Prince Hall Freemasonry.

I want to thank all for a very successful 147th Annual Communication. I believe that most were just happy to see and fellowship with each other. As was stated, the Grand Lodge is alive and well. We are aware that we must pray, one for another as we have to go through these trying times. We are not out of the COVID-19 pandemic yet. Still many lives are being lost to Covid. We are having to deal with high economically demands, systemic racism, law enforcement insurrection and gun violence, just to name a few. This is the time that we stand up and exhibit the true character of Freemason and Sisters. Some things you have no control of but many of the problems can be resolved when you VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

I remain....

Fraternally yours,

Most Worshipful Wilbert M. Curtis, Grand Master



**[Fun fact about Grand Master](#)**  
**[\(Click Here\)](#)**



# JUST A FEW WORDS

By Michael T. Anderson  
Rt. Worshipful Deputy Grand Master

Greetings Brethren,

I hope that this communication finds you in the best of health and under the protective arms of the GAOTU.

It has been a tough couple of years with the introduction of covid in our lives, but for the most part we have survived and persevered through this deadly outbreak. Most of us took the precautions needed to protect our families and ourselves. We are still here and moving forward with our lives. We must continue to advance with the knowledge it is the Lord's will and not our own. As we move ahead with our lives, we must not only think of ourselves as others may do, but of the lives of others. We, of the Masonic order, are concerned with the betterment of the communities, cities, states, and world that we live in. It is now time for us to step forward and do what we can to help. The world today is filled with so much divisiveness that it is hard to stay focused on what can be done to help someone else, let alone ourselves. As we move further in this year 2022, let us come up with ways to be an inspiration to others. Let us get out and do whatever we can to make this world a better place than it is now. Let us be about doing for our fellowman what we can to better their lives. It is not always the big things that matter, but the small things, something as simple as a smile can make the biggest difference in someone's life.



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## A Few Things Every Masonic Organization Needs to Be Successful!

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**BIG-BRYCE HARDIN, KYCH, 33  
RT. WORSHIPFUL GRAND SENIOR WARDEN  
MWPHGL OF TEXAS (PHA)**

Greetings, I greet each of you in the name of the “Grand Master of the Universe” whom all blessings flow! I would like to take this time to share some of my experiences during my 25 plus years as an active, participating member of the Craft. I’ve seen lodges flourish and prosper, but on the other hand I’ve also seen and experienced lodges fall to their demise and not know why.

I believe the members of the organization truly know the real reason why their organization has failed to grow or prosper as their peers and counterparts. You don’t have to experience your feet getting wet to know there is a hole in the boat! During this phase many become professional participants of the “Blame Game.” We can go on and on how the “Blame Game” can further ruin the organization and ruin the bonds of friendship and Brotherly / Sisterly Love in which our Masonic organizations promote. But how do we rectify or avoid these pitfalls? Many times the answers to our dilemmas are right under our noses. What could we have initially done to avoid these pitfalls and failures within our organizations? I have compiled a few tips that each of you can use as a guide to help your organization to succeed and hopefully avoid your organization not being successful.



## **Elect effective leaders!**

Many organizations fail due to the lack of effective leadership! Too many times we elect the wrong individuals to serve as our leaders. Just because they are considered a “Good Brother or Sister” does not mean they are capable to serve as an effective leader within our organizations.

Ensure the leaders you elect are servant leaders. They must be committed to the order, forward thinkers, possess good communication skills both written and oral. They should be willing accept new ideas from the membership. Remember, the success of any project is usually based the participation of its members.

Leaders must take ownership in the decisions they make, even if it's the wrong decision. True leaders are accountable for their actions. Our leaders need to have long and short-term goals for the organization. They should have a keen eye to identify members of the organization that possess special talents. He or she should provide those individuals the opportunity to be creative and find their niche within the organization. Last but not least, leaders should be good mentors, every leader should be eager to take it upon themselves to train their successor. The future and success of the organization relies highly on this.

## **Establish Local By-Laws**

We all live and abide by rules, regulations and laws of society. They tell us what's legal and what's illegal in various situations. Our Lodges, Chapters and Courts are no different. Every local masonic organization is highly encouraged to establish and maintain for all its members by-laws that mirror the organization's Grand Body.

Imagine your local by-laws as a living and breathing document that is your “go to” guide when questions are asked by the membership. Here are a few examples; “How much are my dues?” “What time and where are our meetings held?” “How much can our leader spend in case of an emergency?” Your local by-law should be able to answer all of those questions. Local by-laws should always mirrors those rules and laws of the Grand Body. Local by-laws should be transparent in nature, concise and available to each member either in hard copy format or by electronic means. By-laws are a vital part to every masonic organization!



## **Establish an Operational Budget**

Need I say more! In our homes we establish operational budgets to ensure we pay our bills in a timely manner, save for a rainy day, provide for our children's dream vacation and our personal entertainment.

We all know on a monthly or annual basis what is our personal annual income. We calculate our spending on monthly expenditures i.e.

mortgage / rent, utilities, food, transportation, and entertainment just to name a few. We know not to spend money we don't have, because we will end up in the red with a negative balance. So why don't we take the same approach in our lodges, chapters and courts? How many times have you gone to a local meeting and leader request each member to donate \$25.00 so that the organization underwrite a function that organization does annually? Or, how about this; "Rent is due, can everyone donate \$5.00 or \$10.00?" No one wants to be "Nicked & Dimed" each time they attend a meeting!

When this approach is made to gain financial support, usually the only members these effects are the "Faithful few." Not the Brothers and Sister that decided to stay home that evening, but those Brothers and Sisters that are considered the organization's "ride or die" members, always there willing and ready to go the miles due to their loyalty and love for the organization.

This just tells me the leader failed to plan the organization's finances for the ensuing year. He or she negated to establish the applicable committees necessary for the budget committee to present an operational budget to be voted on by the Craft.

Budgets are critical to your organization's success. Not establishing an operational budget, is a quick way for your organization to fail. When it comes to finances and the inconsistent appropriation of funds, members lose confidence in their leaders as well as the organization and slowly stop participating. Remember good leaders are forward thinkers with a plan.

## **Understanding of the Ritual and Masonic Law**

When we first became members of the Masonic Order, we were taught certain lessons contained in our rituals. We were eager to learn and quote passages and obligations verbatim! But at some point, we lost our zeal to dig deeper into the ritual and re-commit to really understanding what we have read. How can we hope to entice new members into our organizations, when we can't explain the concepts and principles of the ritual and masonic law. How much time if any is used to provide a lecture or some form of training? Is every meeting all about business? Our masonic organizations should practice both public and private ceremonies on a regular basis in order to be proficient in our Craft!

## **Level of Commitment of the Membership**

We all need to look deep inside ourselves and ask; "How committed to my organization am I?" I spoke earlier about selecting the right leader for your organization, but what is your commitment to the order? Do you attend local and District Meeting on a regular basis? Did you attend the Annual Session? Do you support the elected officers of your Lodge, Chapter or Court? Or are you the first to criticize the leaders when they make a mistake? Are you actively serving on a committee in your local organization? When was the last time you visited the sick and shut-in members of your organization? How familiar are you with the ritual, local by-laws and Constitution of the Grand Body?

Once you answer these questions for yourself, you should be able to gauge how committed you are to your organization.

As I close, remember nothing is foolproof or an exact science when it comes to human beings. We all have our different ways of understanding and navigating through problems. Our imbedded culture, perceptions may lead us to think there's nothing wrong in our eyes, but membership is steadily declining, your organization is not able to effectively serve the community and your bank account is nearly depleted. So, before it gets to that point, use the suggestions / tips I have to assist you organization on road to success!

Above all, always keep God in the forefront of your plan, he won't lead you wrong in making your decisions!

Fraternally,

Big-Bryce Hardin, KYCH, 33  
Rt. Worshipful Grand Senior Warden  
MWPHGL of Texas (PHA)

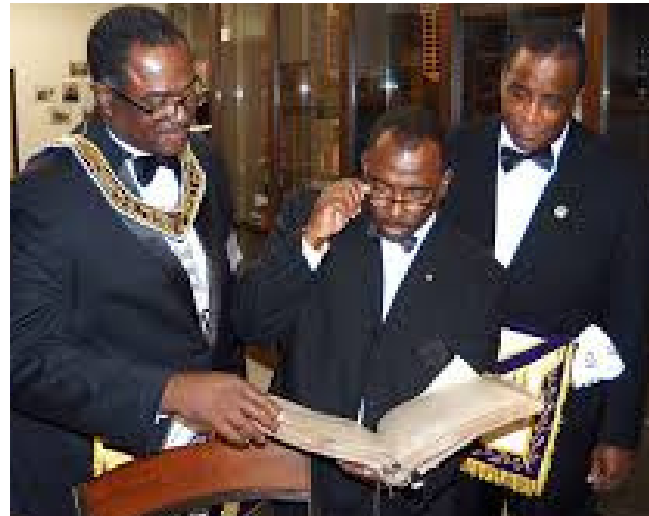
# TELLING OUR STORY

By Right Worshipful Frank D. Jackson  
Grand Junior Warden



## **THE WILBERT M. CURTIS TEXAS PRINCE HALL MASONIC LIBRARY MUSEUM/ARCHIVES AND THE KEMETIC MASONIC LODGE OF RESEARCH ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO TELL THE STORY OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS**

The late Most Worshipful Grand Master Robert E. Conner, Jr. recognized the great need to establish a repository for cultural artifacts relative to Prince Hall Masonry in Texas. The current Most Worshipful Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis wisely perceived the need to champion Masonic education first and foremost among the craft and charged the Lodge of Research Exploratory Committee to make recommendations to this 129th Grand Communication on establishing a Prince Hall Lodge of Research. He likewise authorized the building and dedication of the Library Museum / Archives to collect, research and display the history of the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family. The vision of these two great leaders of TMWPHGLOT guided the formation of the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Masonic Library Museum/Archives and the Kemetic Masonic Lodge of Research





## **THE WILBERT M CURTIS TEXAS PRINCE HALL MASONIC LIBRARY MUSEUM/ARCHIVES**

The Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum, located in the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Texas & Jurisdiction's (Grand Lodge) Grand Temple, at 3433 Martin Luther King Frwy, Fort Worth, Texas 76101 serves as the final repository for the historical records of the Grand Lodge, and as an archival repository for historical materials documenting the history of selective Texas Prince Hall Masons Masonic achievements related to: 1) the cultural history (to include the political, social, economic, religious, histories etc.) of the state of Texas and the Jurisdictions under the authority of the MWPHGL of Texas, 2) the activities and services rendered by the Local Lodges to their respective Communities, 3) the general interests, activities and services rendered to the state of Texas the Jurisdictions under the authority of the MWPHGLOT by its Appendant & Concordant Bodies.

The WMCTPH Library Museum welcomes gifts of books, papers, manuscripts, photographs, artwork, records, audio tapes, video tapes, maps, pamphlets, scrapbooks, oral history, memorabilia, and other archival records of historical value which will enhance the teaching, learning, research, and service of the members affiliated with MWPHGLOT and or is interested in the advancement of Knowledge related to Free Masonry.

Deposits/ Donations vs Transfer of Custody:

Donations or material on “deposit” in the WMCTPH Library Museum are usually acquired from outside of the WMCPHTPH Library Museum from organizations or individuals. Materials on deposit must be covered in a contractual agreement between the WMCTPH Library Museum and the depositing agency.

Donated material on “deposit” must be useful to the WMCTPH Library Museum and the MWPHGLFAAMOT and Its Jurisdictions within the WMCTPH Library Museum collection scope.

Custodial Transfer is the typical means by which most official MWPHGLFAAMOT records are acquired by the WMCTPH Library Museum. These records will be acquired through custodial transfer from various Districts and Local Lodges either by way of approved records retention schedules within the Districts and Local Lodges or ad hoc transfer of records to the MWPHGLFAAMOT with subsequent transfer to the WMCTPH Library Museum. Custodial transfer applies only to MWPHGLFAAMOT, District or Local Lodge Records in which legal custody has transferred from one office to another.



## **KEMETIAN MASONIC LODGE OF RESEARCH**



The Vision / Mission is 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.

The Kemetic Lodge of Research has four stated meetings each year as follows: 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.

### Types of Membership:

#### A. 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.

#### B. 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.

C. Affiliate Member:

For Freemasons, Non-Masons and Masonic Bodies.

All members of the Craft are asked to assist the Wilbert M Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum / Archives and the Kemetic Lodge of Research in their prospective plans of work, especially when the work is being conducted in their respective community.

The Data collection and Masonic Research includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Videos, Photographs, Audio / Oral Histories
2. Digitize artifacts, pictures, Church Service Programs, Funeral Programs, etc.
3. Records, books, and other documents germane to the lodge and activities of PH Masonry.
4. Receive donations of Artifacts, Bibles, Working Tools of the Craft, etc. and Regalia.
5. Take pictures & GPS coordinates of land, deeds to land, historic sites, Corner Stones of buildings, people, etc.
6. Document the impact of Prince Hall Masonry on the local culture, its impact on the political, social, economic and religious influences.

The great work of our Founders and Members of the MWPHGLOT since 1875 is being lost and misplaced at an alarming rate. We, the present Custodians of this Great Heritage have been given a sacred obligation to tell the story of this great organization and its impact on the lives of African Americans in Texas, to future generations. If we miss our Calling and do not Tell Our Own Story the way we know is True and correct, it may be told Unfavorably or not at all by others with different agendas.

# 2022 YOUTH PALACE GRAND SESSION

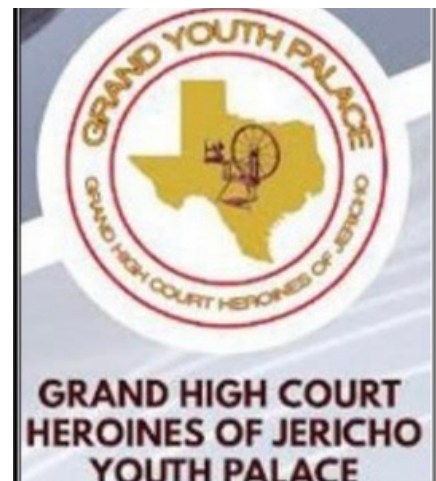


Heroine Alicia Fletcher served the 2022 Grand Youth session as Youth Secretary and Mistress of Ceremony during the Awards Luncheon. Alicia is a member of Sarah's Children Palace #322 of Galveston, Texas. Alicia also serves as Sarah's Children Palace secretary. She was a participant in the revitalization of the Palace in 2019. Her favorite color is yellow and if she were to choose three words to describe herself, they would be compassionate, trustworthy and outgoing. She loves people and getting to know them as well.

Alicia is a 2022 graduate of the Dickinson Independent School District this past May. Alicia is an Honor Roll student, and she always strives to the best of her abilities in her academic career. During the course of her high school years, she has been involved in various school organizations: Gifted and Talented Students for Dickinson Independent School District, NAACP Youth Chapter President for four years and Vice President for one year, Student Council for four years, Interact Club from 2021-2022, the National English Honor Society from 2019-2022, and a Nia Cultural Center Children's Defense Fund Freedom School Scholar for 13 years, two of them as Junior Intern. While being involved in these various clubs and groups, being a thespian has been at the forefront of her life. Alicia has been in theatre since middle school. She was Gator Theatre Club President during her 8th grade year, inducted into the International Thespian Society at the end of her 9th grade year, and served as President of International Thespian Society for her senior year. In the community, Alicia was the 1st runner-up in the Galveston Juneteenth pageant.

Alicia will continue her education at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas where she will major in Physics/Pre-engineering to become an Aerospace Engineer, and minor in Business and Education with plans to one day own a performing arts center to give back to the passion that gave so much to her. One of her favorite quotes is by Ella Baker: "Give light and people will find the way."

Grand Queen of Palaces Heroine Kharyn Floyd and Alicia Fletcher, Grand Youth Secretary, in attendance at the Grand Palace Youth Session held in Ft. Worth, Texas on June 23, 2022





# JADA LYNN JOHNSON

Heroines of Jericho  
Grand High Court  
2022 Scholarship  
1st Place Recipient



## Story by Heroine Sonya Baker

Jada is enrolled in Sam Houston State University. Her major is Finance, and Mathematics is her minor. In addition to receiving the Heroines of Jericho Grand High Court Scholarship, Jada also received a four (4) year Smith-Hudson Scholars academic honors scholarship offered through Sam Houston State University.

Jada Lynn Johnson is the recipient of the 2022 Heroines of Jericho Grand High Court Scholarship. Jada graduated with honors from Lovelady High School in the top 10 percent of her class. Her dedication to studies was evidenced by her membership in the National Society of High school Scholars and the National Honor Society.

Jada joined the Heroines of Jericho Walker's Village Youth Palace #28 on December 15, 2019, where she held the position of Princess. Her mother, Debra Johnson Cuney, is the Most Ancient Matron of Court Chapter #231, and Jada's father, Bruce Johnson Sr., is a member of the Fidelity Lodge #221. Jada's brother, Bruce Johnson Jr., is a member of Walker's Village Youth Palace #28 and he is the Grand Chief Marshall. It's all in the family!

In addition to staying on top of her studies and volunteering as Princess of Heroines of Jericho Walker's Youth Palace #28, Jada helped at her local nursing home, participated in the Juneteenth parade as well as Fun Day at the Park. Ten years from now, Jada plans to become the Chief Financial Officer of a major corporation.

One of Jada's favorite inspirational statements is



**"Opportunities don't happen, you create them." -- Chris Grosser**

# The 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Session Honors the Late Mrs. Gayle Hanson, Archivist for the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum

Story by Ronald D. Gerac, M.Ed.

**DALLAS, TEXAS** - During the 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation made several presentations and acknowledgements for dedicated service. No other presentation was as moving as the one presented to Brother John Hanson, the widower of our late archivist, Mrs. Gayle Hanson.



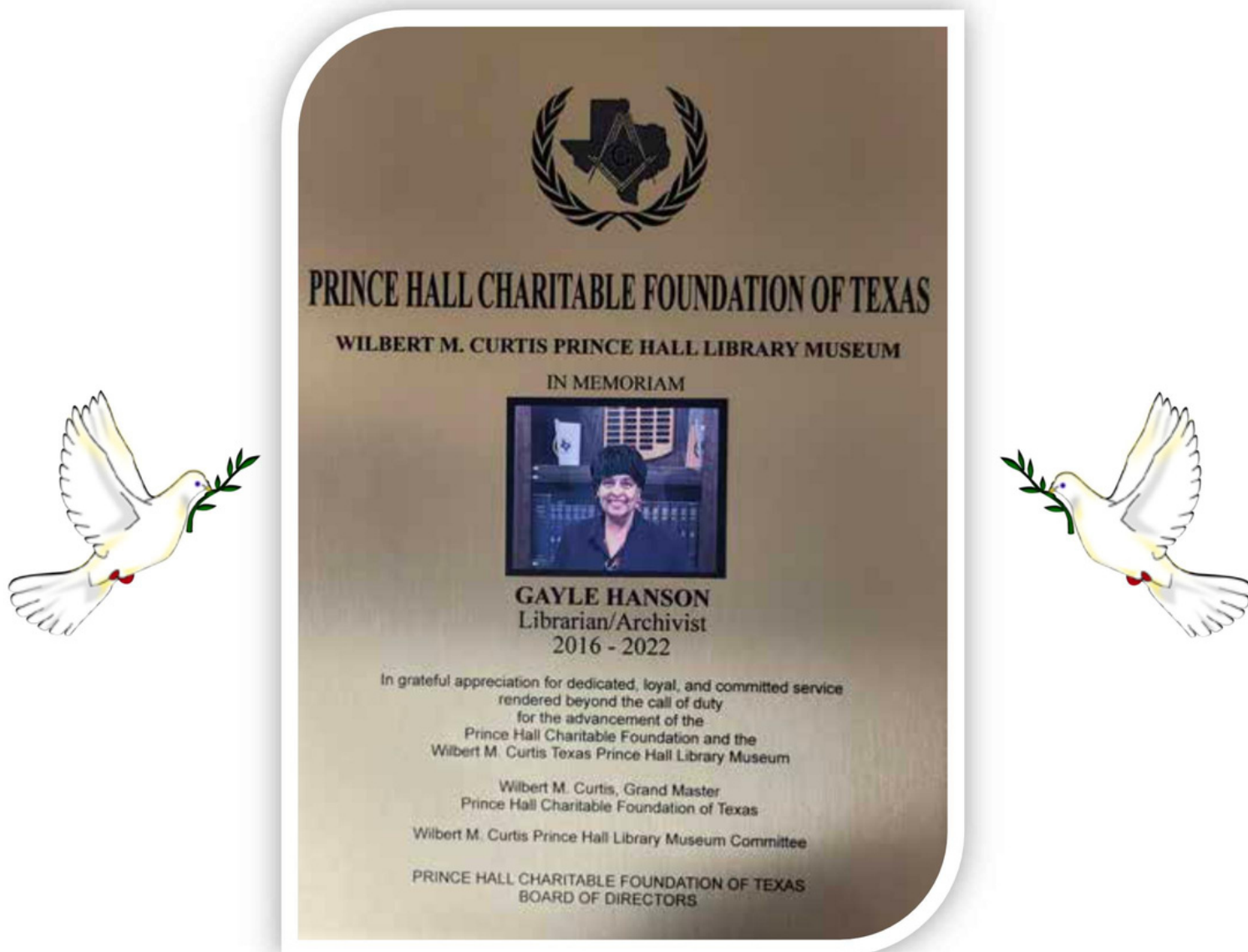
*Brother Hanson posing with the commemorative plaque bearing the image of his late wife.*

Gayle Patricia Williams Hanson was born on January 10, 1952, in Fort Worth, Texas. A graduate of Trimble Tech High, she later attended the University of Texas at Arlington. She married John Earl Hanson on December 8, 1973, and the couple had two children, Wesley Jevon and Erika Janae.

Gayle was best known for her radiant smile and selflessness, always thinking about others before herself. Above all she loved God, her family, and her community. Gayle is survived by John E. Hanson (husband); Wesley Hanson (son); Erika Murray (daughter); Victor Murray (son-in-law); Jaxson Murray (grandson); Michelangelo Williams, Sir Kim Williams, and Carlos D'La

Veccio (brothers); Sabrina Hamilton, Cassandra Blair, Stephanie Harris (sisters), and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Brother Willie High Coleman serves as the President of the Charitable Foundation, and he made the commemorative presentation of this plaque during the session. It is available for all to see upon visitation to the Library Museum.



From Grand Master Curtis:

*"Texas Prince Hall Freemasonry has lost one of our most passionate supporters of our history. We must accept The Lord's will as He wanted her more in Heaven. Please pray for Bro. Hanson and the Hanson Family during this time of their bereavement.*

*I can only imagine that if there is a library or a genealogy center up there, she has found it and has started her research.*

*Mrs. Gayle Hanson was "The Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum" since she started work as its Archivist. Her work went out all over the world through her research and inquiry responses. She has been acknowledged in many published Masonic and History Books. She really loved research on Fort Worth area Lodges and other organizations. She cared for her work like a mother hen over her brood of chicks.*

*There will never be another Mrs. Gayle Hanson. She will truly be missed."*

# The J.T. Maxey Scholarship Committee Announces Its 2022 Recipients for Scholarship Awards

*Ronald D. Gerac, M.Ed., Committee Chairman*

**DALLAS, TEXAS** - During the 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, the Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee announced the winning participants of the annual contest. This year, 12 Districts submitted a contestant for the contest. During the month of April 2022, participating Districts held their District-level essay contests for submission to the state level. A contest was not held in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; therefore, it was fitting and proper for the 2022 essay topic to be COVID-related. The topic of which contestants were asked to write was:

**What challenges have you and/or your family faced because of the COVID-19 Pandemic?  
How did it change you/them? How did you (they) overcome those challenges?**

The J.T. Maxey Scholarship Committee recognizes the Concordant, Appendant, and Adoptive Rites in the Country of Texas who collectively contributed \$107,335.43 in scholarships in the past 12 months. The seeds that these scholarship monies have planted will be sown in the communities of which we serve. For the Masons, the first-place scholarship award was sponsored by the Texas Council of Deliberation, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliation. The second-place scholarship award was sponsored by the Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Texas, Holy Royal Arch Masons.

In this issue of the Texas Prince Hall Freemason, we are showcasing the scholars who participated in the J.T. Maxey Scholarship Contest. We are also showcasing the essay of our first-place winner, Ms. Laurcy Belle Bender of Lampasas, Texas. Like Ms. Bender, all scholars who participated in this year's contest will receive a one-time monetary award that will be paid out upon receipt of their proof of enrollment.

Contest documents for next year's scholarship awards will be available via Grand View for all District Deputies during the weekend of the Mid-Winter Session of the Grand Lodge. This committee looks forward to awarding more money to deserving students who are graduating from high school, and are endeavoring to further their education at some institution of higher learning.



District #14

# Laurcy Belle Bender

Graduated from  
*Lampasas High School*

Plans to attend  
*Blinn Junior College*

Major:  
*Dental Hygiene*

District Deputy:  
*Vendal Adderley*

District #20

# Jasmine Arlene Burks

Graduated from  
*Burleson Collegiate High School*

Plans to attend  
*Texas State University*

Major:  
*Education (Mathematics 4-8)*

District Deputy:  
*Anthony J. Bennett*



District #24

# Kahla Yvonne Smith

Graduated from  
*Manor High School*

Plans to attend  
*Austin Community College*

Major:  
*General Studies*

District Deputy:  
*Tommy D. Levi, Sr.*



District #3

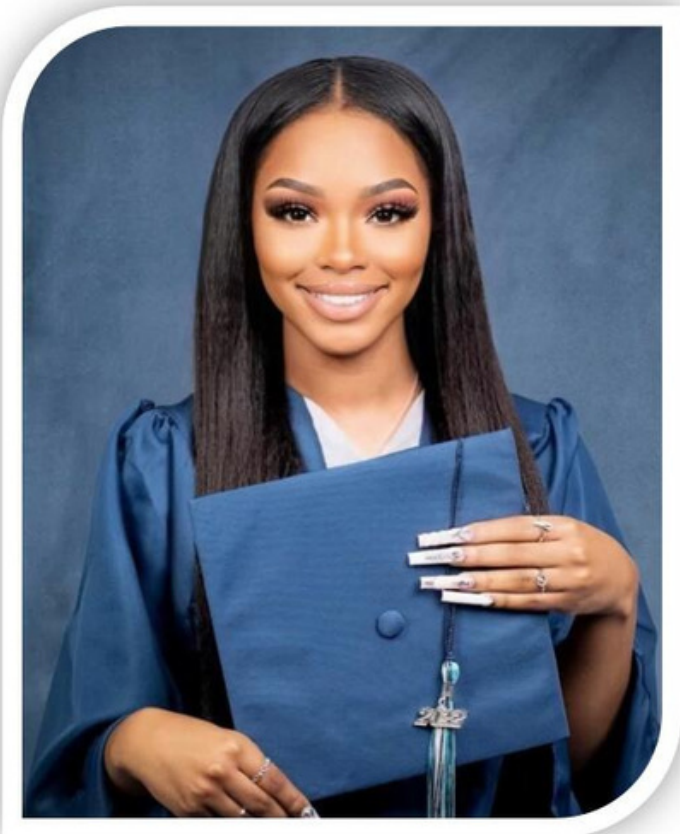
# Jernai Reann Mosley

Graduated from  
*Early College High School*

Plans to attend  
*Baylor University*

Major:  
*Neuroscience*

District Deputy:  
*Byron Davis*



District #22

## Kimora Rochael Bolar

Graduated from  
*Burkburnett High School*

Plans to attend  
*Vernon College*

Major:  
*Athletic Training*

District Deputy:  
*Patrick Brathwaite*



District #15-B

## Kayelan A. Watkins

Graduated from  
*Galveston Ball High School*

Plans to attend  
*Galveston College*

Major:  
*Undecided*

District Deputy:  
*Jeremiah Taylor, Ed.D.*



District #11  
**Questiyon Carlis**

Graduated from  
*Blanson CTE*

Plans to attend  
*Texas Tech University*

Major:  
*Mechanical Engineering*

District Deputy:  
*Andre McGaughey, Sr.*



District #10  
**Jaden Miles Pierre, Jr.**

Graduated from  
*School for the Gifted & Talented*

Plans to attend  
*United States Air Force Academy*

Major:  
*Astronomical Engineering*

District Deputy:  
*Terrance Suber, II*



District #15-A

## **Christian Henderson**

Graduated from  
*Westbury High School*

Plans to attend  
*Lamar University*

Major:  
*American Sign Language*

District Deputy:  
*Christopher Houston*



District #7

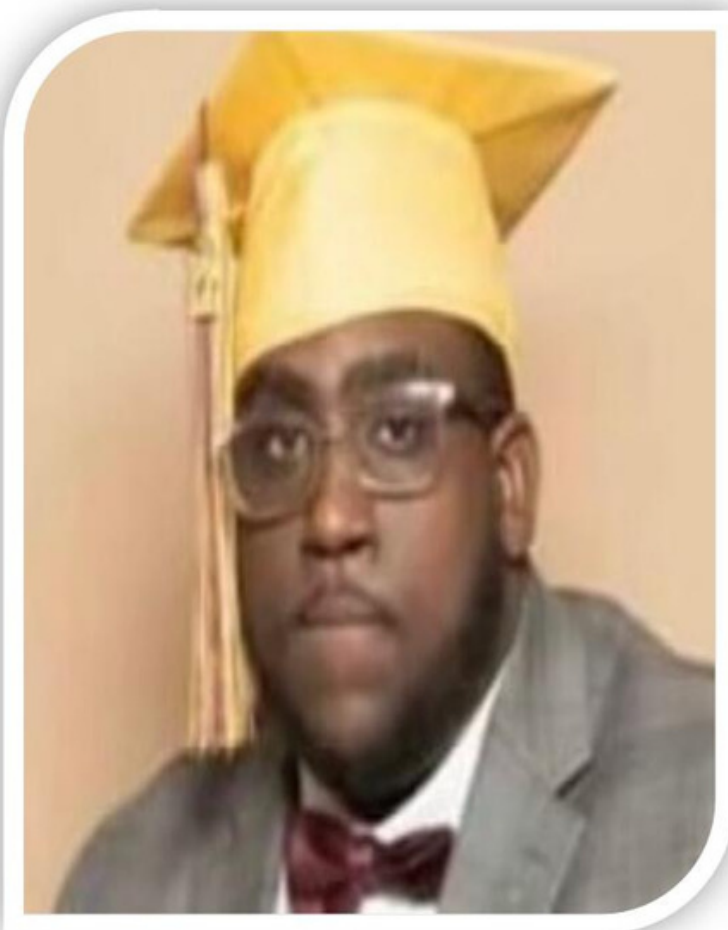
## **Joseph L. Ledet, IV**

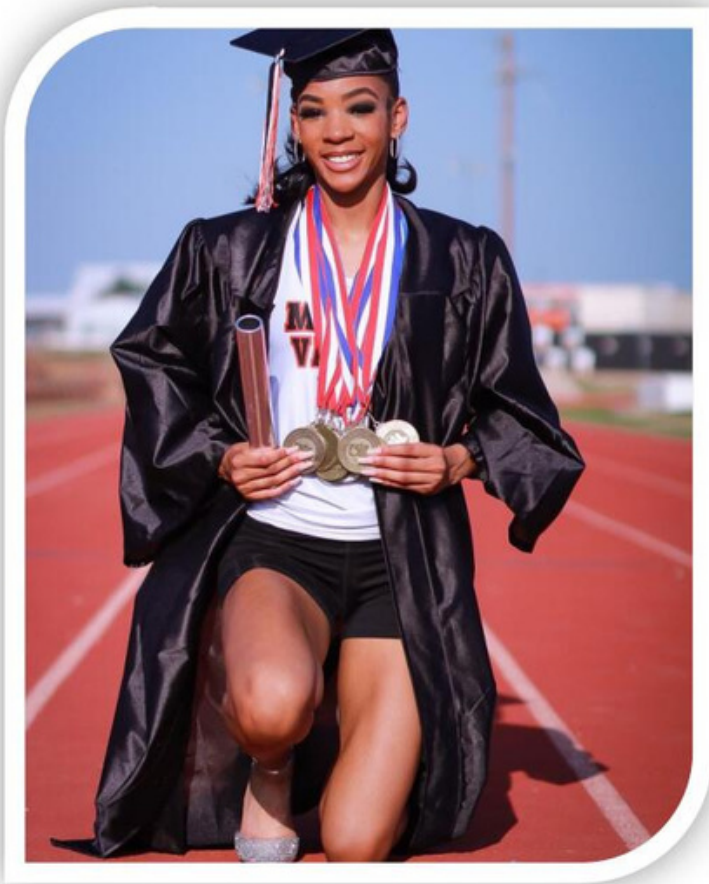
Graduated from  
*Beaumont United High School*

Plans to attend  
*Prairie View A&M University*

Major:  
*Electrical Engineering*

District Deputy:  
*Justin Fisk*





District #23

## **Jahnae McCain**

Graduated from  
*Medina Valley High School*

Plans to attend  
*Prairie View A&M University*

Major:  
*Nursing*

District Deputy:  
*Cliff Massey*

District #2

## **Myles LaWayne Boyd**

Graduated from  
*Commerce High School*

Plans to attend  
*Texas A&M – Commerce*

Major:  
*Undecided*

District Deputy:  
*Bryan Vaughn*



## Winning Essay by Ms. Laurcy Belle Bender, Representative for District #14

We received a phone call one day letting my family know Uncle David was in the hospital sick with Covid. For a second, the world stopped turning and the stories on the news were at our front door in real time. We all thought it would be okay because he was our rock and, in our eyes, invincible.

Our family immediately went to God with prayers of healing for him and strength for my aunt and cousins. Uncle David was a very devoted father of a daughter that just graduated from college, a son that was a senior in high school, and the youngest son that was in middle school. For two weeks we prayed and prayed. The doctors had a very hard conversation with my aunt letting her know it was time to let him go. My aunt refused to ever give up on my uncle... she needed him and has never been away from him since high school. She is a very kind woman, but she told the doctors in no uncertain terms will she ever give up on my uncle and neither will they. So, the fight for Uncle David's life continued.

I will never forget when we heard there was news. I truly thought he would be sitting up in that bed ready to pack it up and go home. It was the complete opposite... Uncle David was gone. It was heartbreaking for all of us, but I was devastated the most for my Aunt Tammy and wondered how she could conjure up the courage to tell my cousins that idolized their dad so highly.

The service honoring my uncle was tough as well in the middle of a pandemic. Not many people could come celebrate this wonderful man. The photos shown were of course filled with Uncle David's giant smile. His oldest spoke so kindly about her daddy, and story after story of his kindness was shared that day. There were laughs and love in the middle of a world that had been shut down because of a virus nobody could see. It was exactly how he would have wanted it!

So many people missed out on family time, baseball games, backyard cookouts, watching movies, and even going to the store. So many others lost loved ones, lost their jobs, and some even lost their way. I lost my Uncle David, my aunt lost her high school sweetheart, and my cousins lost their hero. God teaches us... "Even if, He is still good," and that is how our family overcomes the biggest challenge we have faced so far in our lives. We didn't live in fear after his passing because we knew that he would tell us, "You're crazy!" in his distinct El Paso twang. Uncle David was a man of God and we continued to find peace in the fact that his famous grin is shining down on all because we know he is now planning adventures in Heaven.



# **#UPLIFTING THE COMMUNITY**

The Annual Acres Home Community Back to School Resource Fair was nothing short of a total success today. Many thanks to all sponsors as well as the brothers of Highland Heights #200! Over 300 supply backpacks were disseminated as well as free haircuts, flu vaccines, voter registration and bike raffles. We showed up and showed out for our community!



**MWPHGLOTX-DISTRICT 15A**

# ST. JAMES LODGE NO. 71

## Commemorative Masonic Coin New Lodge Hall Building Fund Raiser



Support St. James Masonic Lodge No. 71 of Temple, Tx Building Project  
Purchase a Lodge Commemorative coin. It has the Grand Lodge emblem on one side  
and the Lodge Hall diagram on the other side.

Price: \$26.50 (includes first class mail in a bubble cushioned envelope)

PayPal link for ordering a Commemorative Coin

<https://www.paypal.com/instantcomm.../checkout/APAGLAGEWCAGE>

Coins will be mailed out within 48 hours of order being placed.

**Coins are limited so this fund raiser will be in effect until coins are sold out or October 30,2022**

St James Masonic Lodge No. 71

P O Box 215 | Temple, Tx 76503 | 469.699.8561 |

*If you would like to purchase by Zeller text 469.699.8561 for instructions*

# A BLAST FROM THE PAST



*Heroine Kharyn M. Floyd  
Grand Queen of Palaces*

*Heroines of Jericho  
Grand High Court  
Youth Department*



*Princess Jaliyah Scott  
Grand Ancient Princess*

**On behalf of the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho Grand Youth Department, I greet each of you in the name of our Heavenly Father from whom all blessings come.**

Our Fiscal Year 2019/2020 started out GREAT...the establishment of a new Palace, Walkers Village, sponsored by Cuney Court #321, located in Huntsville with Heroine Cassandra McNeil serving as Palace Queen. I thank Most Ancient Matron Allison Kelly, the Officers and Members of Cuney Court for stepping up to face the joys and challenges of sponsoring and supporting a Youth Palace...I also thank Grand Jr. Matron Monica Merchant, Special Youth Deputy Marilyn Parker, and Knight Mark Whitt who stood in as Father Joshua, for their assistance.

The joys of June were phenomenal .... June 28<sup>th</sup> through July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Grand Youth Department of Texas hosted General Grand Conference Youth Summit, held at the Westin Dallas/Ft. Worth, with guest Palaces from Arkansas, and Oklahoma...what a time, what a time. Fun filled activities started on Friday evening with an Icebreaker-Meet for Fun and Fellowship, followed by a splendid Talent Showcase. The Youth entertained us with songs, an instrumental solo, and written word; after which, a Pizza Party was enjoyed in the suite of Grand Most Ancient Matron Levingston.

Saturday Morning, promptly at 9:00 A.M., the Grand Youth Palace was beautifully opened with Grand Ancient Princess Jaliyah Scott presiding. GMAM Levingston, GCGMAM Kay Anderson, GCGMWJ Tim Darby, and GCG Youth Director



Charlene Bolden were escorted into the meeting by Chief Marshal Prince Tyrone Smith, Princess Chazmin Connor, and Grand Sr./Jr. Attendants Ashlyn Thatcher and Alyah Parker; the youth were astonished to find that in their midst were several adults who were former Palace Youth namely: **{GMAM Levingston, PMAM Britney Johnson, MAM Janet Smith, Grand Youth Lecturer Dorothea Pointer, and the oldest living Palace Youth ~ PGMWJ Isaac G. Cary, Sr.}**



Founders Day Observance was directed by Grand Lecturer Dorothea Pointer, and Youth Deputy Kathy Stephans, a special award for Academic Excellence was presented to Jr. Grand Ancient Princess Nadia Buckner, and a lovely instrumental rendition "Theme from Titanic" by Princess LeAnn Laws, Sarah's Children Palace #322, Galveston brought us to closing, what a totally awesome meeting!!!

Immediately following lunch, both the GGC Oratorical Contest, and Summit Session Breakout's

held. The of awards and monies right here in "Country of with seven of



were majority prize stayed the Texas," our

Palace Youth winning 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in either of the three Division Categories: Aleece

Phillips ~ L. B. George #100 {Mini Grand Sasha}, LeAnn Laws ~ Sarah's Children #322 {1<sup>st</sup> Place Jr.}, Golden Gate #78: Aija Scarbough {2<sup>nd</sup> Place Sr.}, Angle Goss {Sr. Grand Malia}, Howard Crowder {2<sup>nd</sup> Place Jr.}, Elijah Scarbough and Elton



Goss {3<sup>rd</sup> Place Sr.}. During the Parade of States Awards Ceremony, Texas Youth, marched in proudly, and exuded excellence in delivering their winning Contest Essay's to the Assembly.



follows:

The Summit Breakout Session Guest instructors were as

**Room 1:** State KOP Director Michael Simms, Jr. ~ S.T.E.M;

**Room 2:** Dr. Essence Johnson ~ Health/Wellness;

**Room 3:** Mr. Ade Gordon, and Mr. S. R. Wilkerson III, MBA ~ Virtual Technology; and

**Room 4:** Special Youth Deputy Britney Johnson ~ Base Coding. The youth were very

attentive and engaged in the presentations being offered, inspiring interest of the General Conference Grand Officers and our Guest Grand Palace Queens who peeked inside the instruction rooms, resulting in a pure sense of inner pride, with gratitude, I humbly voiced...THANK YOU LORD!!!



Several Youth brought Greetings to the General Grand Conference Grand Assembly...and during the Conference Red & White Banquet, with funds raised from their State Fundraiser of selling Texas themed cowboy hats and t-shirts our Grand Treasurer Princess MaeKenze Smith presented a sizable donation to Dual Kombo, a non-profit Youth Services organization located in South Dallas.

In adding to the work, fellowship, and excitement of hosting this General Grand Conference Youth Summit, another historical event occurred for the Masonic PHAimly of Texas; our GMAM Jackie Levingston was elected and installed as the General Conference Grand Most





Ancient Matron of the United States, and Bahamas, Inc., and several of our Palace Youth were there to witness this auspicious occasion.



I could never find enough words that qualify in expressing the level of my appreciation for the Youth, Queens, Assistants, PHAimly, Matrons, and Courts of the Grand Youth Department, and Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho who ALL went above and beyond...to each of you, "My Heart You Have!"



God Bless each of you!

Yours In Service to OUR Youth~Bound by the Scarlet Cord





Logos Lodge 659 & Auroras Wisdom #53

# FAN DRIVE

Saturday July 2, 2022

Cleme Manor

5300 Coke St, Houston, TX 77020 11am

Donating New Fans to help  
"KEEP THE COMMUNITY COOL".



# TO “BEE”

*Article by PM Julius E. Wright, II, 33°, KYCH  
Worshipful Grand Orator*



In today's climate, we are every reminded of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which, due to social distancing measures, caused Masonic systems to modify its activities and methodology by which it extends charity to mankind. As of 05 August 2022, there have been over 91,805,380 cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) resulting in 1,028,062 deaths within the United States.

Globally, there have been over 579,092,623 confirmed cases of coronavirus resulting in 6,407,556 deaths. The coronavirus pandemic caused the closing of physical lodge meetings due to federal, state, and local governmental social distancing mandates, illness and deaths of Masonic members, lack of stakeholders to receive benefits from the community services that Masonic Lodges provide, meeting building occupancy restrictions, etc.

One of the most sacred emblems that one is presented as a Master Mason is the Beehive. In being presented the Beehive, we are charged to be “industrious,” and it is recommended to “practice of that virtue to all men. As we came into the world rational and intelligent beings, so should we ever be industrious... never content to be idle, while our fellow creatures are in want, if it is in our power to relieve them”. In this charge, we should find intelligent, innovative methods of eliminating the barriers set by the pandemic, never sitting down when the Masonic Order has the resources to relieve some of the secondary and socioeconomic factors onset by the coronavirus pandemic.

It is vital to imagine driving in your vehicle and trying to view every bumble bee in your community. Many times, we vicariously pass bees going about their daily industrious work. Worldwide, there are over 260 bumble bee species. Throughout time, bees have been considered sacred. Ancient Egyptians considered honeybees to be the Tears of the Sun God, Ra, as well as a symbol of birth, life, death, and resurrection. Honey played an essential role in taking one into the afterlife. Ancient Greeks and Romans considered bees to be the Messengers of the Gods. In Ancient Mystery Systems, bees were considered regenerated souls, and the beehive was considered a type of “Ark.” The Bee and Hexagon symbolism has been traced back through time to sacred geometric teachings in various esoteric systems.

To conclude, both the bee and the beehive are not just symbols of Masonic lore or legend. It is a living embodiment of an essential component to mankind's survival. Even today, honeybees are the primary pollinator of food crops. It is estimated that 90% of the globe's 107 top food crops are pollinated by bees. An extinction of the species of bees would be catastrophic to mankind due to global food shortages. Honey produced by bees are also essential in health products such as anti-cancer agents, antioxidants, antimicrobial, medications, etc. So therefore, as the charge is given, we should take on the charge of the industrious bee into our lives despite our "new normal" due to the onset of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. From time immemorial, our ancient Brethren have seen many societal and environmental toils and snares. As those who have gone this way before us, we revitalize our Lodges as the sacred regeneration of the beehive and hexagon.

WE are the **INDUSTRIOUS INNOVATORS** who continue to bring solutions and resources to the socioeconomic needs of mankind and contribute to the relief of distressed Master Masons, their widows, and orphans. I charge you to remain vigilant as well as to stand ready for when the Craft is set to work and given proper instructions for your labor.



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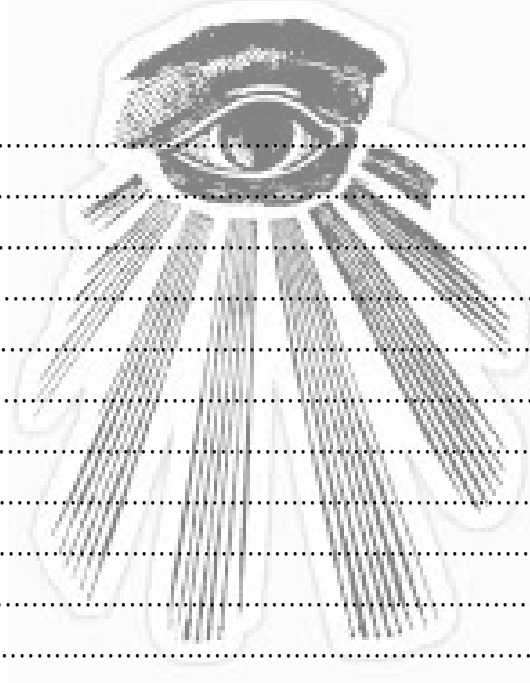
[egypt#:~:text=Honey%20bees%20were%20believed%20to,followers%20with%20liquid%20gold%20%2D%20honey](https://www.apicultural.co.uk/tears-of-re-beekeeping-in-ancient-egypt#:~:text=Honey%20bees%20were%20believed%20to,followers%20with%20liquid%20gold%20%2D%20honey).

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<https://covid19.who.int/>

# CALLED TO THE CELESTIAL LODGE

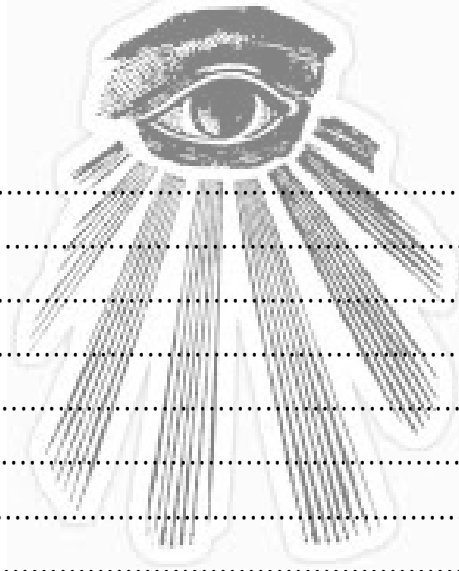
The Great Architect of the Universe has called the following Brethren Home.



Jimmy Ray Griffin.....	New Light, No.242
Mason Yarbrough.....	New Hope, No.400
Frederick Jones.....	Sons of Light, No.667
Andrew L. Howard Jr.....	Pride of the South, No.324
James Featherston.....	Thomas H. Keithley, No.45
Jalvie Joseph Fontenot.....	Highland Heights, No.200
Linton Green .....	Pride of the South, No.324
Gene A. Domon Sr.....	True Friend, No.145
James R. Holloway.....	Bethsaida, No.168
Peter J. Stith Jr.....	Noble Star, No.277
Franklin A. Devore Sr.....	Jackson, No.15
Charles E. Lomax.....	John T. Maxey, No.74
Reginald W. Alexander.....	Pride of Killeen, No.620.
Travis Washington .....	Bee Hive, No.105
Earl Freeman.....	Eureka, No.30
Mack E. Davis.....	Paul Drayton, No.9
Gene Wills.....	Noble Star, No.277
Alfredo P. Ball.....	True Level, No.226
Alford L. Hamilton.....	Key West, No.257
Ferenzo T. Watson.....	Cherubim, No.237
Horace O. Boston.....	Key West, No.257
James E. Hamms.....	Ever Ready, No.506
Milton Wright.....	St. Luke, No.173
Lawrence A. Foster.....	Blue Bonnet, No.192
Joe K. Nelson.....	Polar Star, No.33
Marshall O. Smith.....	Joppa, No.62
Roscoe Harrison Jr.....	Nolan Creek, No.227
Willie B. Criss.....	Rainbow, No.445
Thomas C. Hendricks Jr.....	Brazoria, No.104
LeRoy Wyatt .....	Star Tom, No.100

# CALLED TO THE CELESTIAL LODGE

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



Val J. Jackson Jr.....	True Square, No.108
Samuel Green Jr.....	Gulf Coast, No.272
Ronnie Horton.....	Nacogdoches, No.369
Fred Dial.....	Columbia, No.81
Paul T. Organ.....	Magnolia, No.3
Robert L. Lynch.....	H.A. Coleman, No.189
Eddie J. Hector.....	Heights-Ionic-Pride, No.280
King Moore Jr.....	Hopeful, No.78
Michael Bell.....	True Level No.226

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Committee Chair

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Full Page	\$100	\$175	\$300
Half Page	\$50	\$100	\$175

PayPal (FRIENDS & FAMILY ONLY) accepted. Be sure to delineate what the payment is for in the memo section. Or make your payments by check/money order to MWPHGLOTX, P.O. Box 1478, Fort Worth, Texas 76101-1478, ATTN: Publications Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on Publications

# The Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council, Order of the Knights of Pythagoras, Resumes its Annual Youth Leadership Conference



By Michael Simms, State Director

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS – In 2019 the Texas KOP made a historical journey with buses from three cities representing north, east, and central Texas. This trip allowed Texas Youth Knights and Sir Knights to visit historically black colleges and universities in Fort Valley State University (Fort Valley, GA) and Clark Atlanta University (Atlanta, GA). While in Georgia, visitations to CNN Headquarters (Atlanta, GA), the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Non-Violent Center (Atlanta, GA), and collaborating with four other KOP jurisdictions made this journey a huge success. It was our first time traveling outside the state. This trip provides this Texas Prince Hall Masonic Youth Mentoring Program with its visit to nine historically black colleges and universities, seven in Texas and two in Georgia. A total of thirteen various colleges and universities.

After this visit, the Texas KOP started planning its 2020 Youth Leadership Conference at Lamar University (Beaumont, Tx) when the novel coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) interrupted this nation's way of life. In-person conferences were canceled for 2020 and 2021, and it wasn't looking suitable for 2022. We completed numerous virtual workshops, training, meetings, and a Black History Program. However, after much research, planning, and discussion, we had to do something for our youth. The third year of a virtual summer conference wasn't looking favorable. Schools, sports programs/competitions, and college students on campus were back operating. Vaccinations & boosters have also become available.

A decision to move forward with a fun-filled conference for 2022. We shortened the meeting length from 4-days to 2-days and included a day at Six Flags Amusement park. The forum was named the 2022 Young Entrepreneurs and Leaders Summit. This conference allowed us to converse with our young men about entrepreneurship and what they can do today to own their businesses. One of the guest facilitators was Ms. Yolanda Jones, CEO of YOLO Expressions.

After a PowerPoint Presentation by the State Director, the Youth Knights were divided into teams. The goal was for each council to create their own company, identify a CEO, design a logo, and determine whether their company sold a product or provided a service. The panel then came before "Shark Tank" Investors for them to invest 1 million dollars into their company. The actual winners won a pizza party for their group.

The conference proved to be a successful event.





# The Grand Lodge Performs Cornerstone Ceremony for Church in Houston, Harris County, Texas

Ronald D. Gerac, M.Ed.

**HOUSTON, TEXAS** – The Honorable Wilbert M. Curtis, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Texas, charged Worshipful Troy A. Cousin, Grand Lecturer-At-Large, to assemble a team for the purpose of performing the time-honored tradition of the cornerstone ceremony.



The ceremony was conducted on Sunday, July 24, 2022. Among the invited were the Grand Most Ancient Matron for the Grand High Court of Heroines of Jericho, Heroine Fannie Bellard, and the Grand Worthy Matron of the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter, Sister Eula W. Bell. This is the church home of Brother Anthony R. Carr, Grand Worthy Patron, Past Master of Magnolia Lodge #3.

Master Masons and members from both Adoptive Rites were invited to sit in on the 8:00 AM service in the brand-new sanctuary. All were blessed with songs of praise and worship, a presentation from the Praise Dance Ministry, and a word from Reverend Carl Fontenot, guest speaker, who shepherds both the Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church in Beaumont, Texas and the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Port Arthur, Texas.

## From the Church Bulletin:

The late Reverend H.B. Bennett and trustees, Viree Williams, Fred and Lonnie Brown, T.R. and Ernest Carr organized Bethlehem MBC 84 years ago after purchasing the building from Sol and Gussie Coleman on July 2, 1938. It was dedicated to God on August 8, 1938, in an Entrance Ceremony Service on behalf of the Founding Members.

During its early stages, five different leaders served in this place of worship. In addition to Rev. H.B. Bennett, Reverends J.L. Gaston, George, W.L. Gayton, and J.E. Nettles utilized their pastoral skills to carry out God's mission for the church. Rev. Nettles was the first pastor to begin a remodeling program. That program consisted of a parsonage, which included remodeling both the interior and exterior of the church building in 1957. After the death of Rev. Nettles, Rev. M.L. Jackson became pastor in 1958. Through his leadership, the church grew both spiritually and numerically. Through God's vision and his obedience to God, Pastor Jackson remodeled the interior of the old church and added the education annex (*formerly known as the M.L. Jackson Fellowship Hall*). The new entrance date was May 3, 1987. Bethlehem became a beacon of light in the neighborhood where it still stands today and is still known in the Fifth Ward Community as one of the outstanding churches in the city of Houston and the state of Texas.



*Façade of the old church*

For 47 blessed years, Pastor Jackson lead and guided this congregation. Under his leadership, many souls confessed Christ as their personal Savior, and many preachers/pastors announced their calling to the ministry and were ordained by him. In May of 2005, Dr. M.L. Jackson retired after 47 years of pastoring and graciously accepted his role as Pastor Emeritus. Rev. F.D. Johnson served as Interim Pastor from August 6, 2005 until May 4, 2006. In May of 2006, the members of the Bethlehem Church Family unanimously approved the calling of Pastor Mose A. Jones to become pastor/overseer of this flock. Pastor Jones was installed on July 16, 2006.



Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Jones began making notable changes which have been a blessing to the lives of his parishioners. In January of 2018, Pastor Jones revealed to the congregation that God had given him a vision to build a new sanctuary. Through much faith and many laborious hours of hard work, the vision has now been manifested and in April 2022, our new edifice was completed! To God be the Glory for all of the wonderful, great, and marvelous things He has done!



*Façade of the new church*



*Brethren in worship service*

# **ANNUAL GRAND SESSION RECAP**



































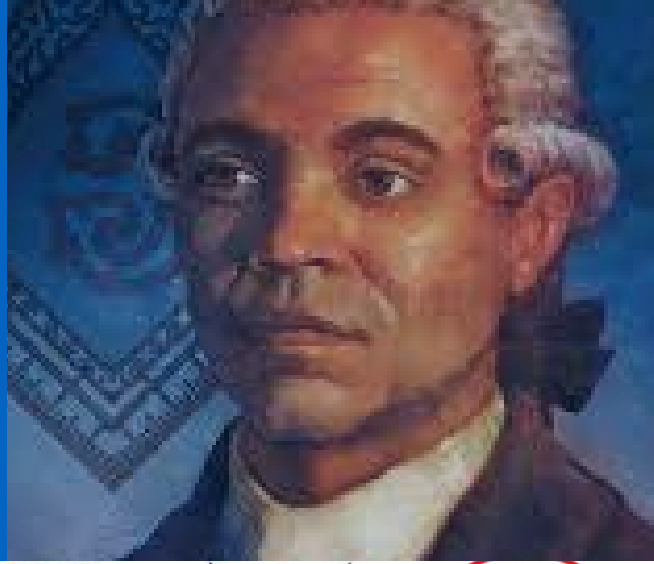






# T.P.H.F.M

THE TEXAS PRINCE HALL  
FREEMASON



M.W. PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE  
F.S.A.M.  
STATE OF TEXAS  
ORGANIZED AUGUST 20, 1875  
STONE LEVELED JUNE 23, 1986

