

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason



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



“The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.”

– *Denis Waitley*

Table Of Contents

Page 2. Table Of Contents
Page 3. MWPHGLOTX, Elected Grand Lodge Officers
Page 4. Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 Attends Killeen City Council Meeting
Page 5. Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 Packing the Polls Voting Day
Page 6. Pride of The South No. 324 Hosts Inaugural Mother's Day Brunch
Page 7. Cornerstone Laying Ceremony
Page 9. J.T. Maxey Scholarship Recipients
Page 12. Key West No.257, Supports Local Wichita Falls Olympian
Page 13. B.T. Washington Court No.99 (HOJ, HTX)
Page 15. Brothers From Pride of the West Lodge No. 53, Volunteer at the Fisher House
Page 16. Dr. Curtis Reed Speaks at Health Symposium
Page 17. Pride of the West Lodge No.53, Volunteer work
Page 19. Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227, Host Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Page 20. Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620, Supports Community
Page 21. Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227, Hosting Annual Worshipful Master Banquet
Page 22. Xiomara Guild No.5 (HOTC) and Queen Makeda Court No. 4 (LOCOP), Hosts Joint Deputy Retreat
Page 23. Xiomara Guild No.5, Making Moves
Page 24. Houston Dynasty Youth Fraternity
Page 26. Lakeview Court No.262, Extra! EXTRA!
Page 27. Austin Area Prince Hall Masonic Family Inaugural Banquet 2024
Page 28. Grand Session For District 1&2 (HOJ)
Page 28. Pride of Columbia Masonic Family
Page 31. Pride of Columbia Court No.490 (HOJ), Celebrating 74 Years of Service
Page 32. Celebrating Community Spirit: Austin Area (PHA) Family
Page 33. Texas Oldest (HOJ) Court Celebrates 140 Years
Page 34. Pride of Killeen No. 620, Host Meet and Greet
Page 35. Sarah Court No.1 Celebrates First Miss Junior Juneteenth
Page 36. LaMarque Lodge No.373, Supports Community
Page 38. ERTAS - Every Ribbon Tells A Story
Page 39. J. Washington Lodge No. 191, United Football League
Page 40. Granville C. Coggs Lodge No. 668, A Quarter of Dedication
Page 42. Independence Recognized

Page 44. Ever Ready No.506, Crosses the Centennial Mark
Page 46. Texas KOP Holds Silver Anniversary
Page 48. Highland Heights Lodge No. 200, Celebrates Community Service Heroes
Page 52. LaMarque Lodge No. 373, Faithful Servants Award Banquet
Page 54. HOJ, Celebrate Palm Sunday in Point Blank, TX
Page 56. Margaret A. McDow Grand Court March 2024
Page 73. Mount Horeb Chapter 117, Still making noise in the community of Huntsville TX
Page 74. MWPHGLOTX, 149th Grand Session

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

2023-2024

Grand Master

M.W. Michael T. Anderson

Deputy Grand Master

R.W. Big-Bryce A. Hardin

Grand Senior Warden

R.W. Frank D. Jackson

Grand Junior Warden

R.W. Ronald D. Gerac

Grand Secretary

R.W. Tracey C. Bittle

Grand Treasurer

R.W. Robert J. Datcher

Grand Tyler

R.W. Marcus Thomas

Grand Auditors

R.W. Joseph Thomas, III

R.W. Samuel Hobbs, Jr.

R.W. Norman Thomas

ELECTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

2023-2024



Michael T. Anderson
Most Worshipful Grand Master



Big-Bryce A. Hardin
R.W. Deputy Grand Master



Frank D. Jackson
R.W. Grand Senior Warden



Ronald D. Gerac
R.W. Grand Junior Warden



Robert J. Datcher
R.W. Grand Treasurer



Tracey C. Bittle
R.W. Grand Secretary



Marcus Thomas
R.W. Grand Tiler



Samuel L. Hobbs, Jr
R.W. Grand Auditor



Joseph Thomas, III
R.W. Grand Auditor



Norman Thomas
R.W. Grand Auditor

Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 Attends Killeen City Council Meeting

Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 Attends Killeen City Council Meeting
Story by: PM Kenneth B. Jones Sr.
Killeen Texas, The Brothers of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620, members of the masonic family and some family members attended a Killeen City Council meeting on 4 June 2024 from 5-7pm. The intent of the meeting wasn't due to a political agenda or affiliation, but to exercise our rights as citizens of this great republic. Also to observe and learn how some of our city operations take place and the methods that guide them.

The gavel was sounded promptly at 5pm by City Council Member Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Gonzales, as the mayor Debbie Nash-King was not present at this meeting. Inside the chamber was a diverse group of citizens representing the city of Killeen. There were reports and presentations from many various entities requesting funding approval of current and ongoing city functions such as bus transportation services, National Mounted Warfare Foundation, Bell County Communication Center, Bell County Public Health, and Killeen Economic Development Corporation. Citizens comments spoke on several topics important to them and their futures.

Several wives and ladies who are also masonic affiliated representatives of their various organizations were present. Worshipful Master Davenport stated, "This opportunity was many of our 1st times visiting the council and it was very informative and educational for a regular citizen to be able to receive this info. It also shows us how many dissatisfied people that are also here in the city. We hope things get better for everyone involved." The members had to depart the city council meeting before they concluded to get ready for our stated lodge meeting that was held at 730pm. The consensus was a very positive outcome for all involved. It is the intent of the membership to return as a group on a semi-annual basis.



Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 Packing the Polls Voting Day

Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 Packing the Polls Voting Day

Story by: PM Kenneth B. Jones Sr.

Killeen Texas, The Brothers of Pride of Killeen Lodge No.620 hosted and participated in “Pack the Polls Day” on 26 October 2023 from 11am to 1pm. The date was part of the early voting timeframe provided. This event was held at the Dock Jackson Professional Learning Center located at 902 Reverend R. A. Abercrombie Drive. This polling location was chosen due to it being in Killeen’s historically black Marlboro Heights neighborhood, also located on the street named after a past member of Pride of Killeen No.620, Rev R. A. Abercrombie. The namesake on the building was the 1st black teacher and principal in the city of Killeen. Members of the lodge and family members came out to cast their vote on 14 very important constitutional amendments that affect many in our community as well as across the entire state of Texas. Worshipful Master Adrian Davenport stated, “I’m happy to be here in the midst of history trying to help make history.”



Members of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 along with some of the members from the concordant bodies show up to vote.

The members present, their wives, and friends showed up and made their votes count at this event. There was virtually no wait time with no lines at the voting polls on this day. The voting clerk staff was very courteous and provided the assistance necessary for all to vote in a timely manner. “It was great to come together as a lodge to help make an impact in our community”, Worshipful Master Adrian Davenport stated., Although we were few in numbers, we were huge in our voices being heard and the next time we will grow in both.” The lodge plans to “Pack the Polls” again at the next voting opportunity.

Pride of The South Lodge No. 324 Hosts its Inaugural Mother's Day Brunch

By Darrell Bell, Worshipful Master, Pride of The South Lodge No. 324, District 20

Fort Worth, TX - On Sunday, May 5, 2024, Pride of the South Lodge #324 out of District 20, hosted its inaugural Mother's Day Brunch at Diamond Oaks Country Club in Fort Worth, TX. This served as an excellent opportunity to celebrate with our significant others and family. We spend a lot of time away from our families; therefore, having the ability to embrace them and capture not only an exhilarating view, but even more memorable quality of time, makes the biggest difference with regard to maintaining healthy relationships. The event was a huge success, and we all had a great time fellowshiping, listening to music, and enjoying the wonderful talent of our two poets who graced us with their spoken word. Lastly, but certainly not least, the buffet brunch we were able to enjoy was magnificent with the variety of options. Additionally, the staff treated us like family and celebrated the event in amazement, viewing our Craft's interaction with each other and our families. We are eagerly anticipating our future Mother's Day brunch events celebrating and appreciating all that our spouses do on a day-to-day basis in support of us!



Cornerstone Laying Ceremony Performed in Woodville, Texas

Ronald D. Gerac, Grand Junior Warden

WOODVILLE, TEXAS – Grand Master Michael T. Anderson called on Master Masons near and far to meet with him in Woodville, Texas on Sunday, April 14, 2024 to help lay a cornerstone for the Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church. District Deputy Grand Master Justin Fisk (District 7) collaborated with the church's pastor, Reverend Michael Hadnot, to set things in motion for the event.

History of the Cornerstone Ceremony



The Masonic cornerstone ceremony, like most complex customs, has evolved over years of use. The Masonic cornerstone ceremony first appeared in the middle 1700s and in less than a century had finished evolving, except for minor grammatical changes. The procedure, at least as used in America, can be traced fairly well through its entire evolution, though Grand Lodges differ on the exact details of their cornerstone ceremonies.

The church chose to combine several celebrations into one event. Their premier event was the celebration of the Church Mothers. The four women (featured on the program cover) were instrumental in the foundation of Pilgrim Rest. They were lauded for their hard work and long service to the church, and they were given flowers and other gifts of appreciation. The church's secondary event was the recognition of Family and Friends. Special gifts were given to the largest family in attendance, the family who traveled the farthest to the church, the longest married couple, and the "newest" newlywed couple. The tertiary event was the guest speaker, Pastor Gerald Domoneck, who shepherds the Warren Chapel Baptist Church in Warren, Texas. Pastor Domoneck has served as the pastor of Warren Chapel for eight years. The day culminated with the church's final event, the laying of its cornerstone by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. Many Brothers from District 7 and beyond were in attendance to lend a hand for Most Worshipful Anderson's first cornerstone ceremony as Grand Master of Texas. A short video pictorial can be found here: <https://zenfolio.page.link/ywxft>.



The J.T. Maxey Scholarship Committee Announces Its 2024 Recipients for Scholarship Awards

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

FRISCO, TEXAS - During the 149th 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, 15 Districts submitted a contestant for the contest. During the month of April 2024, participating Districts held their District-level essay contests for submission to the state level. The topic of which contestants were asked to write was:

How would Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reflect on the 60 years since his "I Have a Dream" speech?

The J.T. Maxey Scholarship Committee recognizes the Concordant, Appendant, and Adoptive Rites in the Country of Texas who collectively contributed \$112,240 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 announcing the scholars who participated in the J.T. Maxey Scholarship Contest. We are also showcasing the essay of our first-place winner, Ms. Lynaya Williams of District 6, Henderson, Texas. She plans to attend University of Texas at Tyler in the Fall, and major in Nursing. She also graduated 5th in her class out of 225 students! Like Ms. Williams, 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 in the Resources Section for all District Deputies between March 1st and 15th in 2025. 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.

If you would like to donate to the J.T. Maxey Scholarship Program, please make your payments to *Prince Hall Charitable Foundation* with "Scholarship" in the memo line. The Program also accepts PayPal at [paypal.com/paypalme/PHCF3579](https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/PHCF3579).

The Prince Hall Charitable Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, and your donations are tax deductible.

"I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had grand aspirations for the future of the United States and its behavior towards race. In Dr. King's speech, he wanted everyone to treat each other as equals despite race.

In 2024, sixty years after his influential speech, racial barriers have started to become more pronounced. The aggression towards minority races has been micro-compared to sixty years ago. They are still causing the same levels of damage to society. Dr. King would not have been fond of the microaggressions. In today's society, it appears as if the United States is reverting to ways before his influence and speech. For example, white supremacy groups, The Good Ole Boys, and other activists have been operating at their highest peak since the late 1900s. Also,

other minority groups, such as Hispanics and other cultures, are facing prejudice because of the stereotypes that all Hispanics are "illegal." Dr. King is probably turning in his grave at the fact that all of his hard work and aspirations are being ignored. Even his own people, African Americans, are starting to turn on each other and not stick together to continue to achieve a common goal.

To conclude, Dr Martin Luther King Jr. would be disappointed in how the citizens and the legal system of the United States of America have started to decrease in their progression. He wanted all to be treated equal, no matter their race or ethnicity. If Dr. King was still alive, he would still try to incite change to better the future of the American people.



*Ms. Lanya Williams, c/o 2024
Henderson High School*

RECIPIENT NAME	DISTRICT #	AWARD
1. <u>Lynaya Williams, UT-Tyler (Nursing)</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>\$4,000</u>
2. <u>Nathaniel Monroe, Jr., SHSU (Business Mgmt)</u>	<u>15-A</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>
3. <u>Scarlett Bellfield, Tyler JUCO (Nursing)</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
4. <u>Jada C. Calloway, SHSU (Criminal Justice)</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>\$750</u>
5. <u>Estevan Portillo, Texas Lutheran (Sports Medicine)</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>\$750</u>
6. <u>Ma'Kayla Grandberry, UNT (Special Ed.)</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>\$750</u>
7. <u>Wesley Donner, Jr., Westminster College (Sports Medicine)</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>\$750</u>
8. <u>A'nylah Barrett, Tuskegee Univ. (Veterinarian)</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>\$750</u>
9. <u>Jaida Harris, Neosho County Community College (Undec.)</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>\$750</u>
10. <u>Trinity Dailey, Texas A&M (Biomedical Sciences)</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>\$750</u>
11. <u>Trinity Randle, SHSU (Biomedical Sciences)</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>\$750</u>
12. <u>Pete J. Smith, Full Sail Univ. (Cinematography)</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>\$750</u>
13. <u>Daylon Gibbs, Hardin-Simmons Univ. (Knesiology & Food Science)</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>\$750</u>
14. <u>Paris Williams, Northwestern Oklahoma St. Univ. (Sports Medicine)</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>\$750</u>
15. <u>MyKeriah Johnson, Houston Christian Univ. (Undecided)</u>	<u>15-B</u>	<u>\$750</u>



Key West #257 Supports Local Wichita Falls Olympian

Submitted by Patrick Brathwaite, District Deputy Grand Master

Wichita Falls, Texas – On July 4, 2024, members of Key West #257 (and concordant bodies) attended a local meet and greet for Wichita Falls native and 2024 Olympian Ms. Taliyah Brooks. This event was hosted by Nissan of Wichita Falls. Ms. Brooks qualified as a member of the track & field contingent to represent the USA, in the heptathlon event.

We were able to have her sign some local merchandise, we also made a small donation to support Ms. Brooks and her family as they travel to the 2024 Olympics in Paris, France.



Pictured: PM Taylor, WM Jones, Ms. Brooks, PM Bolar (EC), PM Woodard (IM), & PM Hampton



B.T. WASHINGTON COURT #99

Heroines of Jericho - Houston TX

Chartered February 7, 1998



Embracing the Legacy, Empowering the Present, Envisioning the Future

The theme for the B.T. Washington Court #99 end-of-the-year celebration on April 21, 2024, was a heartfelt tribute to the legacy and future of our court. The event honored all past Most Ancient Matrons and Past Worshipful Joshuas, recognizing their invaluable contributions with commemorative plaques inscribed with their leadership terms. Our court proudly boasts five Past Most Ancient Matrons and four Past Worshipful Joshuas.

Every member present received a small gift bag as a token of gratitude from the current Most Ancient Matron, Desiare Duplechan. In a special tribute, MAM Duplechan presented the senior members, whom she affectionately calls the "Jericho Roses," with custom-embroidered pashminas and personalized poems, expressing her deep appreciation for their wisdom and guidance.



The brunch, well-attended and filled with camaraderie, featured a delectable menu of chicken and waffles, crab cakes, and other delicious items.



Before concluding the event, Most Ancient Matron Duplechan shared a glimpse into her vision and mission for the upcoming Masonic year, inspiring all members to continue embracing our rich legacy while empowering the present and envisioning a brighter future..

B.T. WASHINGTON COURT #99 SUPPORTS DISASTER RELIEF AT HOUSTON FOOD BANK

In response to the devastating tornado that struck Houston in May 2024, B.T. Washington Court #99 demonstrated their commitment to community service by volunteering at the Houston Food Bank. Leading the efforts were Most Ancient Matron Desiare Duplechan, Worshipful Joshua Marius, and Senior Matron Smith, who joined other members of District 15A.

They jointly packed food boxes to aid families affected by a disaster in Houston, showcasing compassion and solidarity during challenging times.



IN MEMORANDUM

In the month of May 2024, B.T. Washington Court #99 remembered two cherished Heroines who were called to rest by our Heavenly Father. As He walked through His garden, He found a beautiful roses and chose to pick them. Those roses were HPMAM Paulette Robinson and charter member Heroine Maryland Gail Ray, who have now joined Him in eternal peace.

We find comfort in our grief, knowing that their passing has brought them everlasting joy and fellowship with God. They have received the crown of righteousness promised to all the faithful. Both were deeply dedicated to the principles upheld by the Heroines of Jericho and were sincere in all their endeavors.



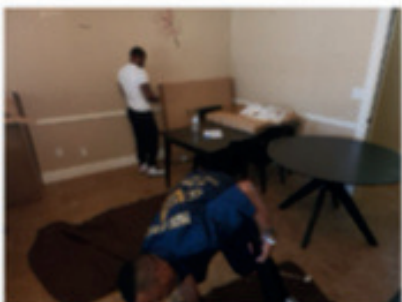
Brothers From Pride of the West Lodge No. 53 Volunteer at the Fisher House

Author Unknown

EL PASO, TEXAS – On May 4, 2024, Brothers from Pride of the West Lodge No. 53 of the 25th Masonic District volunteered at the Fisher House in El Paso, Texas. The Fisher House is an entity of the Fort Bliss military installation and the William Beaumont Army Medical Center. The Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military and veteran families can stay free of charge while a loved one is in the hospital. These homes are located at military and VA medical centers around the world. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room, and an inviting living room. During that day, the Brothers put together shelves, tables, and chairs for the William Beaumont Army Medical Center Fisher House to give back to the local community. These furnishings will enhance the comfort and convenience of military and veteran families staying there.



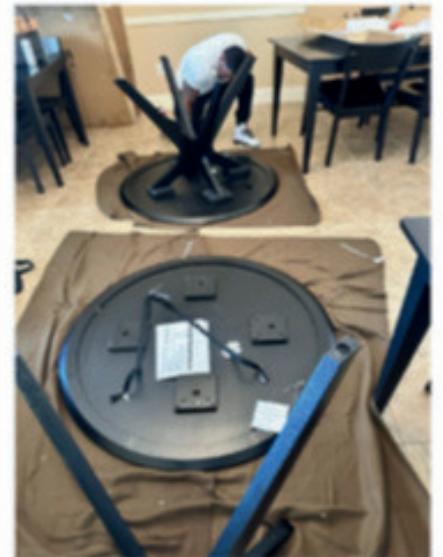
Bros. Pantoja and Deshannon



Bros. Steven Bizell and Robert Deshannon



Bros. Edward Wyche and Jose Pantoja



Dr. Curtis Reed Speaks at Health Symposium

Author Unknown

EL PASO, TEXAS – On June 29, 2024, Brother Curtis Reed, a member of Pride of the West Lodge No. 54, spoke at the El Paso Panhellenic Council Men's Health event in support of Men's Health Month. The event was held at the historical McCall Neighborhood Center. A Men's Walk Challenge was held in June, encouraging men to exercise and eat healthier. Dr. Reed spoke on diabetes in the black community and expounded on the causes, signs, and ways to prevent it. He educated the men in attendance on the types of diabetes and the seriousness of each type. After the event, they served healthy food to encourage men of color to eat right. Dr. Reed has a Doctorate in Medical Science from Andrew Taylor Still University of Health Sciences. He holds a Masters Degree of Physician Assistant Studies in Family Medicine, a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Nebraska, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Grambling State University.



Pride of the West Lodge No. 53 Volunteers at the Annual Women's Conference

Author Unknown

EL PASO, TEXAS – On May 18, 2024, the Brothers of Pride of the West No. 53 volunteered at the 2nd Annual Pink and Pearls Women's Conference in El Paso, Texas, hosted by Bethel International Pentecostal Fellowship Church. The theme for this year's event was "Keep It Classy: I Am a Woman of Principle, 1 Timothy 2:9." The Brothers were asked to come out and provide assistance with ensuring the attendees, who were majority women, were safe. We also assisted in passing out information for the event and seating the guests. They offered a continental breakfast and had four guest speakers at this year's event, which were local female Pastors and Evangelists.



Pictured L to R (Bros. Bizell and Anderson)

Pride of the West Lodge No. 53 Volunteers at the 9th Annual Ronald McDonald 5K Kids Walk/Run

Author Unknown

EL PASO, TEXAS – On June 15, 2024, Brothers from Pride of the West volunteered at the 9th



Annual Ronald McDonald 5K Walk/Run for kids at the Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino. The brothers arrived at 6 AM to assist with setting up tables, recession booths, and the vendor booth

area. They were stationed throughout the racetrack, providing cups of water to the runners and walkers who participated in the event. Proceeds went to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of El Paso, and their mission is to give HOPE to the families of seriously ill or injured children. This event is one of many hosted in El Paso to provide much-needed funds to the Ronald McDonald House.



Ronald McDonald House Charities of El Paso keeps families close during their child's severe illness or injury while receiving medical care in El Paso, Texas. Since 1984, the RMHC of El Paso has provided a place for children and their families to rest and refresh. This place feels like home and keeps families of seriously ill children close while undergoing treatment in nearby hospitals. In addition to providing lodging and love, RMHC of El Paso has also been a steward of goodwill in the border region, helping to develop and support programs/services that directly improve children's health in this community.



Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 Host Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Contributed By: Past Master Gregory Benton

Belton Texas- Nolan Creek Lodge 227 conducted their Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 30, 2024. "This is one of those events that makes you feel good inside and out; the big smiles on the kids' faces will stay with you for a lifetime," stated Past Master Gregory Benton. The members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 started the event at approximately 2pm. The kids were divided into different age groups from 5 to 15 years old by some of the members of the Lodge, while some of the members were busy hiding eggs. The kids were all excited, waiting for their turn to find eggs to fill their baskets. After the hunt for Easter Eggs, the members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 also fed the kids and their family members with hot dogs, chips, and drinks.

Worshipful Master Sammie Jordan stated, "Many are aware of the meaning of Easter and what it symbolizes, but for the members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227, it is a time for encouragement and remembrance; that we are servants who should be prepared to do what is required to make this community a better place. For the kids, it is a time to get some sweet treats and maybe find the golden egg and receive a nice gift."

The members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 always look forward to this annual event to hang out with the kids in the community. We are always looking for a way to give the kids an experience to remember and hopefully their parents will bring them back next year.



Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 Supports Community

Story by: Adrian Davenport, Worshipful Master

Killeen Texas, Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 ventured out and adopted the Families in Crisis Shelter in Killeen, Texas as their community initiative project. Families in Crisis is a nonprofit organization that houses, supports, and empowers people experiencing family violence, sexual violence, and homelessness. It was established in 1980 to assist and empower victims of family violence and sexual assault in Bell, Coryell, and Hamilton Counties in Texas, including Fort Cavazos, the largest U.S. military installation. What started as a grassroots effort by volunteers has since evolved into a multi-program, comprehensive social service organization that continues to serve

survivors of family/sexual violence as well as veterans and their families, the homeless, and at-risk for homelessness populations. Services include emergency safe shelter for survivors of family/sexual violence, transitional and permanent housing assistance, crisis intervention counseling, case management, 24-hour hotline, hospital accompaniment, provision of food, clothing, personal care items, household items, support groups, life



WM Adrian Davenport and some of the members of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 receiving an award from the Families in Crisis Center

skills classes, and information and referral services. Family in Crisis services, which are confidential and free of charge, promote stabilization and self-sufficiency through a goal-oriented approach, helping clients become more effective as individuals, as parents, and as citizens. Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 makes monthly and periodical donations to their causes and particular needs for the upcoming months. In the month of May 2024, the lodge donated numerous boxes of new and used men, women, and children's clothes and blankets. The director and staff were highly appreciative of the Lodge donation and welcomed the members of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 with open arms. The Lodge was given a certificate of appreciation and an invitation to come back. In June, their items of importance were infant hygiene needs, diapers, baby wipes, lotion, body wash, bottles, and infant clothes. Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 answered the call and met their request with over 100 lbs. of donations. The goal of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 is to serve the community of Killeen, Texas and surrounding areas, to assist those in need, and sell the brand of Prince Hall Masonry in Texas.

Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 Hosting Annual Worshipful Master Banquet

Contributed By Past Master Gregory Benton

Belton, TX - On March 16, 2024, Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 held its Annual Worshipful Master Banquet at the Harris Community Center in Belton, Texas, honoring Worshipful Master Sammie Jordan. The theme for this year's banquet was "Unity within the Community." The guest speaker for the event was Pastor Patrick Russell from Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Belton Texas. Pastor Russell spoke on how Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 has consistently united itself within the community of Belton Texas by performing various tasks such as school supplies give away, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to the needy families, and monetary donations to charities in need within the Belton community.

Worshipful Master Sammie Jordan presented the Master Mason of the Year award to Brother Gilbert Miller, and Past Master of the Year was awarded to Past Master Richard Williams. In appreciation of WM Jordan's leadership during the 2023-24 Masonic year, the Past Masters and members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 presented WM Jordan with his Past Master's jewels. There was also a tribute to one of our fallen members, Past Master Freddy Jamerson.

In attendance were over 114 brothers and sisters representing their Lodges, Chapters, and other Masonic Heads of House. Also in attendance was Past Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis and all nine of the Worshipful Masters of District 24.

The Banquet concluded with Worshipful Master Sammy Jordan, on behalf of all the members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227, presenting a check for \$500.00 to The Helping Hands Ministry of Belton, who provides financial assistance, Neighborhood Food Pantry, and educational events within the Belton community.



Worshipful Master Sammie Jordan & District 24 Secretary Lora Taylor presenting the certificate to the Helping Hands Ministry with a Secretary member.



Brother Gilbert Miller receiving the Master Mason of the Year award during the WM Banquet.



Worshipful Master Sammie Jordan presenting Pastor Patrick Russell a ribbon for being the guest speaker.



Past Master Richard Williams receiving the Past Master of the Year award during the WM Banquet.



Worshipful Master Sammie Jordan receiving his Past Master's Jewels from the Past Master of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227.



Members of the Sam T. Robinson Council No. 10 of the B.G.P. receiving an award at the banquet.

Xiomara Guild No. 5 (HOTC) and Queen Makeda Court No. 4 (LOCOP) Hosts Joint Deputy Retreat

Story by Taia Smith



HOUSTON, TEXAS - On May 18, 2024, officers and members of Xiomara #5 (Heroines of the Templars Crusade) and Queen Makeda Court #4 (Ladies of the Circle of Perfection), under the direction of Deputies Ima Ekanem (Guild) and Taia Smith (LOCOP), joined together for an afternoon of fellowship at their joint deputies retreat at the Hilton Garden Inn-Hobby.

During this time, the members were able to enjoy lite bites while they participated in painting activities. Members were able to discuss upcoming events, fundraisers, and ways to grow the memberships while enjoying each other's company in a relaxed environment.

Previous retreats have included vision boarding and special guest Judge Ramona Franklin of the 338th Criminal District Court. Judge Franklin has joined the guild activities to stress the importance of having a vision and manifesting those visions to reality.

Xiomara Guild No. 5 Making Moves

Taia Smith, Princess Treasurer

TEXAS CITY & HOUSTON, TEXAS – Xiomara Guild #5 celebrated the Lone Star Grand Guild's Founder's Day on June 9, 2024 at the Church Without Walls, Queenston Campus. The service of the day was officiated by Pastor Ralph West, II. Immediately following the service, Xiomara #5 officers and members joined together for fellowship at Orleans Kitchen in Katy, Texas. June's services at The Church Without Walls highlights educational accomplishments from all areas of education. Xiomara Guild #5 had the pleasure of being accompanied by Miss Alyse Shepherd, Grand Princess of the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Youth Fraternity and Houston Dynasty Youth Fraternity, who fellowship with us as well. Ms. Alyse will be heading to Florida A&M University this Fall, and we wish her much success in her educational endeavors.



From L-Right: Princess Alicia Shepherd, Princess MeShanda Phillips, Princess Captain Julicia Minor, Pastor West, Past Princess Captain Stacy Vincent, Princess Taia Smith, Past Princess Captain Ima Ekanem, Past District Deputy Princess De'Edra Bond-Hodrick, Royal Advisor Joseph Cooper

Houston Dynasty Youth Fraternity Stays Active and Busy

Article by Taia Smith, Sponsor

HOUSTON, TEXAS – Houston Dynasty Youth Fraternity has been on the move this year under the direction of Princess Alyse Shepherd. This year, Houston Dynasty Youth Fraternity has been busy within the community.



In February 2024 at the Annual York Rite Weekend Session, Princess Alyse was awarded a scholarship from the Margaret A. McDow Grand Court Ladies of the Circle of Perfection. Princess Alyse will be heading to Florida A&M University.



On May 25, 2024, members of HDYF participated in a day of services at the Houston Food Bank - Portwall location. They were joined by members of True Square Lodge #108 (Master Masons), B.T. Washington Court #99 (Heroines of Jericho), and various members of Prince Hall Masonic

District 15-A. The youth prepared over 1500 lbs. in disaster relief pallets for those that were affected by recent storms. The youth sorted, packed, and recycled items during the shift.



This year, the youth fraternity had the honor of recognizing not one, but five graduating seniors. This year's graduates include Alyse Shepherd, Ciarra, Cianna, Cierra Stanley and Taylor Watts. We are super proud of all our graduates and wish them much success as they start this new chapter of life. All these young ladies have been members since they were younger, and we know that their leadership, dedication, and tenacity will serve them well.

Houston Dynasty Youth Fraternity meets the 1st Saturday of the month in the Third Ward area. If you have children, we would love to have them join us. No Masonic affiliation is required. If you are interested in working with the youth, please contact Sponsor Taia Smith at 720-515-8242 or via email tsmithjb@hotmail.com for more information.

Cira
Cianna
Cierra

Alyse S.

Taylor W.

Houston Dynasty Youth Fraternity
2024 HS Seniors



LAKEVIEW COURT #262 EXTRA! EXTRA!



NEWSLETTER - NEWSLETTER - NEWSLETTER - NEWSLETTER - NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATING

103 YEARS!



History tells us that as far back as 1282 AD., the Heroines of Jericho were well known and practiced by Master Masons, their wives and daughters. These degrees did exist, but there were no organized courts until 1790 AD. Courts were organized in France and presided over by some of the most eminent ladies of Paris and other cities in France.

It was June 30, 1884, the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho was organized in San Antonio, Texas by Grand Master Bishop Abraham Grant. A total of five courts were organized in this time period. The five courts were Sarah Court #1, Galveston, Texas; Rebecca Court #2, San Antonio, Texas; St. Mary's Court #3; Victoria Court #4 Victoria, Texas; and Elizabeth Court #5, Dallas, Texas. Lakeview Court #262 was chartered on July 21, 1921.

HONORARY PAST GRAND
MOST ANCIENT MATRON



Betty Thomas

MOST ANCIENT MATRON



Virgie Hill
2024 - Present



Heroine Laura McKensie, Jr. Matron
Heroine Nakia Bryant, Treasurer
Knight John N. Humphrey, Joshua
PMAM Heroine Betty Thomas, Jr.
Attendant

Court Directors: Heroine Delores Randle,
Heroine Mary Gamble, Heroine Leah
Fanuel
Heroine Bettie Hill Britton, Recording
Secretary

Heroine Gia Robinson, Sr. Matron
Heroine Henrietta Ramirez, Secretary
Heroine Jackie Randle, Outer Gate Keeper
Heroine Georgia Jones, Sr. Attendant

Members of
THE COURT
2024 - 2025



D. Jones - Pointer

Austin Area Prince Hall Masonic Family Inaugural Banquet 2024

Story By: Anthony R. Davis, Worshipful Master, Mount Bonnell Lodge No. 2

Austin, TX – On April 13, 2024, the Austin Area Prince Hall Masonic Family (AAPHMF) had its inaugural Community Awards Banquet at the Holiday Inn Midtown, Austin, Texas banquet room. The event was created and designed to shine a light on community leaders and their accomplishments within our Austin area communities. The Banquet was planned by the Worshipful Masters of the area and will be an annual event going forward.

Included as community awards recipients, AAPHMF was able to show recognition to Austin Fire Chief Joel Baker, Austin NAACP President Nelson Linder, Pflugerville Police Department Commander Makeba B. Lewis, Elaine and Michael Lofton, Principal of Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy Jose Mejia, Dr. Saldana from the City of Austin, along with local masonic lodge awards.



Community Achievement Award presented to Austin NAACP President Nelson Linder

Lodges present and responsible for much of the planning were Mount Bonnell Lodge No. 2, Thomas H. Keithly Lodge No. 45, Lyons Jr. Lodge No. 290, and Roger Hughes Lodge No. 624. The event was sold out. There were over 130 people in attendance, including Deputy Willie Tate, Deputy of the Desert of Texas of the Imperial Council of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Good food was served, and the event was a total success.

Austin Area Prince Hall Masonic Family has already reserved the venue for the 2025 AAPHMF Annual Awards Banquet.



Principal Jose Mejia, presented with Community Achievement Award



Pflugerville Police Dept. Commander Makeba B. Lewis



Austin Fire Chief Joel Baker

Grand Session for District 1 and 2 Heroines of Jericho in the Books

Article by Her. Elvira Mingo, Regional Director

Frisco, Texas - Celebrating 140 years of black excellence for the Heroines of Jericho in the Country of Texas at the annual Grand Session, Districts 1 and 2 were in the house and ready for work. Heroine Kori Henderson received her Matrons Degree to serve as the Most Ancient Matron of Love Chapel Court #429, District 1. The officers and some newly made members of Pride of Columbia Court #490, District 2, also attended the annual Grand Session.

Officers and members attended the Youth Palace Grand Session and the Coronation of Queens on Thursday, Joint Opening on Friday morning, St. John's Day Memorial Service on Friday evening, Saturday morning's Joint Devotional, and Saturday evening's Officer Installation and the Prince Hall Family Banquet.

Memories were made and shared! The relationships among the sisterhood were made stronger!

It's a GREAT DAY to be a Heroine of Jericho!!! 🤍💙💖



Pride of Columbia Masonic Family Says “Breakfast is Served”

Article by Her. Elvira Mingo, District Deputy Grand Most Ancient Matron

SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS - On the early morning of Thursday, June 6, 2024, the officers and members of Columbia Lodge #81 cooked breakfast and the officers and members of Pride of Columbia Court #490 Heroine of Jericho helped prepare and serve the breakfast to the adult team members and the youth work camp volunteers. The crew members enjoyed fresh cooked crispy bacon, nicely scrambled eggs, golden brown biscuits, sausage, cereal, and fresh fruits, with the choice of milk, juices (apple or orange), and/or water to start their work day off right.

Pride of Columbia #490 also helped prepare and package the lunches for the work camp crew members for that day. The youth camp members volunteer their time and energy painting and working on homes for the elderly in Sulphur Springs.



Pride of Columbia Masonic Family Says “Breakfast is Served”

Article by Her. Elvira Mingo, District Deputy Grand Most Ancient Matron

HUGHES SPRINGS, TEXAS - On Saturday, May 4, 2024, the Most Ancient Matron and Past Matron, officers and members of Love Chapel Court #429 Heroines of Jericho attended, served, and supported the Love Chapel Lodge #558 Women’s Day Breakfast held at Traylor High School Community Center in Hughes Springs, Texas. Also in attendance were the District Deputy Grand Master Bro. Rodney Hartfield and the DDGMAM Sis. Elvira Mingo, both from District 1.



Celebrating 74 years of Service and Dedication for Pride of Columbia Court #490 Heroines of Jericho, PHA

Article by Her. Elvira Mingo, North Central Regional Director

Sulphur Springs, Texas - On Monday, July 1, 2024 at 6:30 pm, the officers and members of the Pride of Columbia Court #490 Heroines of Jericho, PHA celebrated 74 years of service. The court was established on June 27, 1950 in Sulphur Springs, Hopkins County, Texas. Current and Past Officers and current and prospective members of Pride of Columbia Court 490 met at Juan Pablo's Restaurant in Sulphur Springs, Texas for dinner to celebrate the birthday of the court. A lot of laughter, good food, and memories were shared by all in attendance.



Celebrating Community Spirit: Austin Area Prince Hall Affiliated Family Shines at 2024 Sertoma Independence Day Parade

Article by: Coreyon Norris, WM-Lyons Jr. #290

AUSTIN, TEXAS - The vibrant spirit of community service and camaraderie was on full display as members of the Austin Area Prince Hall Affiliated Family came together to participate in the 2024 Annual Sertoma Independence Day Parade in Round Rock, Texas. The esteemed family comprised of Thomas H. Kiethley Lodge No. 45, Mt. Bonnell Lodge No. 2, Roger Hughes Lodge No. 624, and Lyons Jr. Lodge No. 290, with dedicated members from District 24 including SDDGM Ford traveling from Killeen, Texas and gracing the event with his presence.



Dressed in their distinguished regalia, the members of the Austin Area Prince Hall Affiliated Family were met with a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the citizens of Round Rock as they prepared to start their parade duties. Among the highlights of the day was a special moment captured with Allen Banks, the esteemed Police Chief of Round Rock, as a testament to the strong community bonds forged during the event.

The volunteers embraced their roles with passion and dedication, assisting in navigating two important floats - the majestic American Flag and the endearing Dog for Texas Children's Hospital. With grace and pride, they marched alongside the floats, covering a distance of 1.5 miles, while joyfully waving to the cheering spectators lining the parade route.

The experience was nothing short of memorable, filled with shared laughter, teamwork, and a deep sense of fulfillment in contributing to a meaningful cause. A heartfelt thank you is extended to WM Derrick White, Thomas H. Kiethley Lodge No. 45, and the city of Round Rock for orchestrating a seamless and inclusive event, inviting the Austin Area Prince Hall Affiliated Family to play a vital role in the community celebration.

The 2024 Sertoma Independence Day Parade served as a shining example of unity, service, and goodwill, showcasing the unwavering commitment of the Austin Area Prince Hall Affiliated Family to uplift and support their community in every possible way.



Texas' Oldest Heroine of Jericho Court Celebrates 140 Years

Story by Heroine Mary Waddell

GALVESTON, TEXAS - Sarah Court #1 Heroine of Jericho, Texas Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliated was organized and chartered June 16, 1884 by the Grand High Court. Sarah Court #1 is the oldest court in the state of Texas.



To celebrate its accomplishment, the court celebrated with festivities during the month of June. The celebration began Week 1: Saturday, June 1, 2024, with an indoor picnic at Wright Cuney Park, 718 41st Street in Galveston, Texas. The sack lunches were catered by a local business. The event activities included games, dominoes, cards, L/R/CUNO, and Line Dancing.

Sarah Court at the Galveston County Food Bank in Texas City



Week 2: Saturday, June 8, 2024: Our weekend celebration began with court and palace members joining efforts by volunteering at the Galveston County Food Bank in Texas City. Five hundred fifty food boxes for homebound seniors and shut-ins were prepared. Sunday, June 9, 2023 was a day of worship and celebration with a church service. The service was held at Live Oak Baptist Church in Galveston, where Rev. Dr. V. L. Baines serves as Pastor. Visiting Courts were Forever Faithful, B. T. Washington, Isaac Newton,



Sarah Court celebrating with an indoor picnic at Wright Cuney Park

Lakeview, Sweet Aster, M. E. Harrison, and Masonic Brothers of District 15-B. A proclamation from the City of Galveston was presented by Councilwoman Sharon Lewis, and a proclamation from the County of Galveston was presented by Commissioner Stephen Holmes to the court, followed by a fellowship luncheon at Golden Corral.

Week 3: June 15, 2024: The celebration continued with member participation in the community



Members of Sarah Court with GMAM R. Lucille Samuel

Juneteenth activities. Galveston being the birthplace of Juneteenth, there were lots of community activities. Father's Day and the Grand High Court Session followed. On week 4: June 22, 2024, our final week of celebration included Sarah Court Day on the town and ended with lunch at Saltgrass.

Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 Hosts Meet and Greet

Story by: PM Kenneth B. Jones, Sr.

Killeen Texas - The Brothers of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 hosted and participated in the 2nd Central Texas Prince Hall Affiliated Meetup for lunch and fellowship of the year on the 5th of July 2024. This event began at 11am and went on until 1pm. The weather was "perfectly hot" in the Central Texas area and allowed many to come out. It was very welcoming for everyone that attended.

Pride of Killeen Lodge hosts this event twice a year on the Fort Cavazos (formerly Ft. Hood) military base at the Main Post Exchange Food Court located off Clear Creek Road. It is hosted once in January and once in July every year. The primary goal when hosting this event is to try and bridge the gap between a vast amount of sojourning active-duty Military Master Masons, Eastern Star Sisters, and other members of the Masonic PHAmily whose daily activities are only limited to the confines of the military base and its amenities. Many never travel outside of the installation. They primarily go from their workplace on the base to the Main PX and back to their home and families. It is the sincere intent of the lodge to meet and fellowship with those who attend and help create and build strong bonds while encouraging and assisting them in becoming active in the Central Texas Masonic community. It is always a work in progress and always successful on many levels.

There were approximately 20 or more in attendance at our event, including our very own Worshipful Master, Adrian Davenport. WM Davenport was very welcoming as he shook hands and spoke with everyone in attendance. We had the pleasure of having some of our Golden Circle and Heroines of Jericho ladies attend and support as well. We also had the pleasure to sit and chat with a couple of gentlemen whom are very interested in joining our esteemed fraternity. All around, we had a very nice time in fellowship with each other. While some were able to stay the entire time, unfortunately, others had to depart and return to their workplace and homes. Overall, we had a great time breaking bread and will be looking forward to the next opportunity.

Our next meetup on the base will be the 1st Friday in January 2025. We will send invites via social media to target many of our military members as well as our local community. This will continue to be a milestone event, one which will help Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 and the Central Texas Masonic Family grow and be the bridge to assist many who think they are traveling alone.



Members of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 at the Meet & Greet Luncheon

Sarah Court #1 Celebrates First Miss Junior Juneteenth for Texas



Sarah Court #1 Heroine of Jericho, Texas Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliated, proudly announces and congratulates Jermoni Vernessa Taylor of Sarah's Children Palace #322. Jermoni was crowned the First Miss Junior Juneteenth for the state of Texas. The 2024-2025 Miss Junior Juneteenth pageant was held June 13, 2024 at Texas City High School in Texas City.

Jermoni attends Odyssey Academy and is 12 years old. She currently serves as Recording Secretary for Sarah's Children Palace #322. She served as Grand Junior Attendant during the Grand Youth Palace Session in Frisco, Texas held on June 19, 2024. She is the daughter of Jeremiah Taylor, District Deputy Emeritus for Masonic District 15-B.

Galveston Island, Texas is the birthplace of Juneteenth, where Union General Gordon Granger read the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all slaves were FREE on June 19, 1865.



LaMarque Lodge 373 Supports Community Organizations

Submitted by Bro. John N Humphrey

Galveston County Teen Parenting Coalition

LaMarque Lodge 373 continues to support the Texas City/LaMarque community. In June, while members were at the 149th Grand Session, Bro. Jerome Bell and Bro. John N. Humphrey attended the ribbon cutting and official opening ceremony of the Galveston County Teen Parenting Coalition. Bro. Bell and Bro. Humphrey presented a check from the lodge to Mrs. Carla Geters, the director of the Coalition. Several special guest organizations in attendance were the Texas City Chamber, Galveston County area officials, and Mike Evans of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who has been a great support to the Coalition. A room in the new office is dedicated to him. The Coalition Parent Support Group provides comprehensive and integrated support services and resources to families who have children ages 0-3. This includes young teenagers, women, foster parents, adoptive parents, and fathers who are facing difficult and unplanned pregnancies to assist with their immediate needs.



LaMarque Lodge #373 Holds Annual Fish Fry

Submitted by Bro. John N Humphrey

LaMarque Lodge 373 Annual Fish Fry is an event that the Texas City/LaMarque community waits for each year. The Brothers got together early to prepare for this event. It is held on the first Saturday of June each year at END's on FM 1765 in Texas City, a venue owned by LaMarque Lodge member, Bro. Emery Williams.

Even through a little rain, dinners of fish, potato salad, green beans, cake, bread, and a drink were sold between 10:45 AM and 2:30 PM on June 1st. Bryan Warren purchased the first of 300+ dinners sold that day. This was another great and successful event chaired by Brother Emmanuel Harris, Junior Warden. The lodge also thanks the local Heroines and other Brothers for their part in the success of the event.



Well done is better
than well said.

Benjamin Franklin

ERTAS – Every Ribbon Tells A Story



Every Ribbon Tells A Story, a 501c3 non-profit organization, was founded by Lorna Hardeman-Jackson on November 10, 2014. Lorna was inspired by her mother, Linda Mayhan-White, who is a 2x Breast Cancer Survivor and the Ambassador for Every Ribbon Tells A Story Organization. Their message is to increase the awareness that cancer care and preventive treatments are vital.

Their MISSION is to assist underinsured and uninsured persons with mammograms, prescriptions, co-pays, and other medical evaluations in quest for the best health and wellness. This

VISION is accompanied by working side by side with other organizations providing the same and/or similar resources and services.

After much PRAYER, ERTAS decided to extend their MISSION to include ALL RIBBONS, not just the "pink" Ribbon. They are dedicated to ALL RIBBONS because ALL RIBBONS MATTER! On June 8th, ERTAS sponsored a Skating Party for the youth. Because of their dedicated service to the community, LaMarque Lodge sponsored kids to attend the event.

We support our community!!



J. Washington Lodge No. 191 United Football League Community Outreach Initiative

Written by, Brother Kevin Lindquist, Community Outreach Committee Chair

Cibolo, Texas – The brothers of J. Washington Lodge No. 191 kicked off the 2024-25 Masonic year with the same vigor as they concluded the last one, ultimately leading to their recognition as the Lodge of the Year for District 23. The signature event executed by the brothers of the lodge was the partnership with the San Antonio Brahmas of the United Football League. In May 2024, J. Washington No. 191 hosted over 157 students, teachers, first responders, and parents from the Seguin, Cibolo, Marion, and San Antonio Independent School Districts during their United Football League Community Outreach Initiative. The Most Worshipful Grand Master Micheal T. Anderson and Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden Ronald Gerac attended the final game on 25 May 2024. For many of the youth, these UFL games were their first experience with an in-person professional



athletic event. The lodge aims to create invaluable youth programs that thrive within the community and are meaningful.

Following the game, J. Washington Lodge No. 191 presented Steele High School's Mr. Pete Smith from Cibolo, Texas, with a \$2,000 Educational Assistance Grant on the field, courtesy of the lodge and District 23, with support from Most Worshipful Grand Master Anderson.

There are exceptional leaders who make all the magic happen in the background when building these culminating events. As an example, District 23 recognized Mr. Shane Sharp of the San

Antonio Brahmas for his invaluable contributions in arranging the mentorship engagements, pre-and post-game autographs, and on-field experiences for 200 District 23 guests. The brothers ensured that "No good deed went unrecognized when the community comes together."

We would like to thank The Most Worshipful Grand Master Michael T. Anderson, Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden Ronald Gerac, and Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Cliff Massey, District 23, PHA Masons of Texas, for your support and attendance.

This J. Washington Lodge No. 191 and District 23, PHA Mason of Texas initiative stands as a premier platform, honoring and rewarding underrepresented communities, students, first responders, and educators. These engagements synergize leadership development, mentorship, athleticism, and commitment to educating and inspiring the next generation of junior leaders, making a significant impact in our community.



Granville C. Coggs Lodge No. 668: A Quarter of Dedication to Family, Youth, and Community

John Fitzgerald, Worshipful Master

Cibolo, Texas – Granville C. Coggs Lodge No. 668 honors and is named after the esteemed original Tuskegee Airman, Granville C. Coggs. The red numeral 668 symbolizes the iconic squadron along with its aircraft's distinctive red tail.

GCC 668 emphasized valuable assistance by enhancing support for children, educational efforts, and community health. Our commitment to youth development was demonstrated as we collaborated with Buffalo Soldiers Knights of Pythagoras Council No. 20 in a mentorship program where our members guided five young males. An exemplary Steele High School graduate, now a first-year student at the University of Texas at Austin, received a scholarship reflecting our commitment to education. Working with SCU ISD counselors and teachers, we supported the academic growth of 1,500 students by supplying necessary resources.

Beyond our focused efforts on children and education, Granville C. Coggs Lodge No. 668 engaged in various other community activities, demonstrating our broad commitment to service. We donated 1,000 pounds of clothes, furniture, and other essentials to Cibolo Goodwill, supported the City of Cibolo with flag details on major holidays, and fostered community spirit by participating in events such as the Cibolo BBQ Cook-off and Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. Our lodge's diverse activities, from health and veterans' support to civil rights initiatives, reflect our unwavering dedication to making a positive impact. We are proud of our achievements this year and remain committed to serving and uplifting our cherished community.

Acknowledging that unity is an essential pillar to our masonic order, Granville C. Coggs Lodge No. 668 supported John T. Maxey Lodge No. 74 10th Annual Charity Gala with five tables of brothers and family members. It was amazing for our families to witness what we do as masons, dress up, and enjoy socializing.

Quoting Sai Baba, "Selfless service alone gives the needed strength and courage to awaken the sleeping humanity in one's heart."



Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas



**“The Brothers of Granville C. Coggs Lodge 668
would like to wish JT Maxey Lodge 74 a successful
Black and White Charity Gala.**

WM Neal Willis Harris III

SW Joshua Themann

JW Raymond Thompson “



Independence Recognized: Pride of San Marcos Participates in Juneteenth Celebration

Story by: Bro. Edward S. Jones, Pride of San Marcos Lodge No. 494

SAN MARCOS – (June 15, 2024) As a leading event to the national recognition of Juneteenth National Independence Day, members of Pride of San Marcos Lodge No. 494 (494), District 23, gathered in the hometown of the 36th President of the United States to honor the holiday's significance and to participate in the city's Juneteenth Unity Walk and a community discussion on Juneteenth's impact on our nation. Gathered at the corner of Lyndon B. Johnson Dr. and Martin L. King Dr., which by all accounts lists San Marcos as the only city in which roadways named after these two history-making men intersect, participants were treated with a brief history and significance of the holiday.



Figure 1: POSM 1229



Figure 2 POSM 1112

After opening statements and a moving prayer, participants started the historic walk winding through the beautiful South Texas city with the trek ending at the Willie Mae Mitchell Center, located at 715 Valley Street. Joining the brothers of 494 were local civic members, representatives of Greater Bethel Baptist Church, local law enforcement, Masonic District 23 leadership, the newest Chapter of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, AREME's Light (UD), and youth from the Texas Knights of Pythagoras (KOP).

There were no shortages of smiles throughout the route and the day's joy carried over as participants and nonprofit organizations fellowshipped with food and outstanding support. Following on-site photo sessions, a few participants walked over to the church for the Juneteenth Freedom Talk hosted by Pastor Derrick Benn and Minister Craig Hudson. Guests were greeted by Pastor Benn, who sparked the day's topic by asking how we would like Juneteenth to be represented from now on and what the day means to us, both individually and collectively.

Guests took turns expressing their thoughts, both personal and professional, on how we all can do our part to continue building on the foundation of the holiday's significance and pushing for true freedom and equality. All in all, the program was extremely informative and provided a safe platform for those willing to share, to do so.

Before closing the session, Pastor Benn took time to recognize community members and organizations who have made significant differences in their communities, starting with a South Texas living legend, Mrs. Georgia Hoodye Cheatham, who, according to Texas State University, is one of the first five women to desegregate the university 61 years ago. A San Marcos native, Cheatham shared her story of how she desired to attend Southwest Texas State Normal School, now known as Texas State University, after graduating high school, admittedly to stay close to her

then-boyfriend, but the school didn't allow Black students to enroll. Cheatham didn't let prejudice stop her pursuit of higher learning, so she enrolled in a college located in Houston, but according to a 2023 Texas State article, a federal judge forced Texas State to admit Black students (Joyce, 2023).

Due to the historic decision and the resilience of Cheatham, Helen Jackson Franks, Dana Jean Smith, Gloria Odoms Powell, and Mabeleen Washington, who died in 2017, Black student enrollment had consistently grown annually. The "First Five," as they are affectionately known, have openly shared their experiences over the years, all while accepting their flowers from those who recognize them as trailblazers. With the 2021 approval to rename two campus residence halls, the Angelina Hall was renamed the First Five Freedom Hall.

In further recognition, Pastor Benn recognized Brother Alex Banbury, Dunbar Heritage Association (DHA), and Pride of San Marcos No. 494.



Figure 3 POSM 1324

References

Joyce, M. (2023, February 24). *TXST honors the first five, Living Legends of Civil Rights at the University*. Newsroom: Texas State University. <https://news.txst.edu/inside-txst/2023/txst-honors-first-five-living-legends.html>

PHOTO CAPTIONS

POSM-1112: SAN MARCOS – (June 15, 2024) As a leading event to the national recognition of Juneteenth National Independence Day, members of Pride of San Marcos Lodge No. 494 (494), District 23, gathered in the hometown of the 36th President of the United States to honor the holiday's significance and to participate in the city's Juneteenth Unity Walk and a community discussion on Juneteenth's impact on our nation. Gathered at the corner of Lyndon B. Johnson Dr. and Martin L. King Dr., which by all accounts lists San Marcos as the only city in which roadways named after these two history-making men intersect, participants were treated with a brief history and significance of the holiday. (District 23 Photo by Bro. Edward S. Jones, District Public Affairs Officer)

POSM-1229: SAN MARCOS – (June 15, 2024) Pride of San Marcos Lodge No. 494 members pose with its District 23 members post walk. (District 23 Photo by Bro. Edward S. Jones, District Public Affairs Officer)

POSM-1324: SAN MARCOS – (June 15, 2024) Mrs. Georgia Hoodye Cheatham, who, according to Texas State University, is one of the first five women to desegregate the Texas State University 61 years ago, is recognized for her contribution to history. (District 23 Photo by Bro. Edward S. Jones, District Public Affairs Officer)

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS: <https://www.facebook.com/POSM494/>

Ever Ready #506 Crosses the Centennial Mark of Existence with Celebrations and Dedications

Article by Romanus Iheanacho, Jr., Worshipful Master

Rosenberg, Texas – On July 17, 2024, Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 proudly celebrated its centennial anniversary, marking 100 years of dedication to the principles of Freemasonry since its chartering on July 17, 1924. This historic milestone was commemorated with a series of events that reflected on the lodge's rich history and commitment to the community.



The celebration began on Saturday, July 20th with a Centennial Breakfast, hosted at Safari Texas in Richmond, Texas. Worshipful Master Romanus Iheanacho, Jr. led the festivities, with members and guests coming together to honor this significant occasion. During the breakfast, Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 was presented with multiple proclamations, recognizing its century-long contributions to the community and the Masonic tradition. We were blessed with the presence of many community and national dignitaries, namely U.S. Congressman Rev. Al Green (Congressional District 9), State Representative Ron Reynolds (District 27), and Missouri City Councilman Jeffery L. Boney (District B).

The breakfast event also featured the sale of centennial coins and lapel pins, commemorative items that symbolize the lodge's rich heritage and future aspirations. Coins were available for \$200 each, while lapel pins were sold at \$15 each, with proceeds supporting the lodge's ongoing initiatives.

Following the breakfast, the Monument Unveiling Ceremony took place at the lodge in Rosenberg, Texas. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Past Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis, along with Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Big-Bryce Hardin and Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden Ronald D. Gerac, who led the unveiling. Their participation underscored the importance of this event within the broader Masonic community and honored the contributions of all those who have been part of Ever Ready's journey.

Throughout the day, members and guests reflected on the lodge's century-long history, sharing stories and memories that highlighted the brotherhood and service that define Ever Ready Lodge No. 506.

Ever Ready Lodge No. 506's centennial anniversary was not just a celebration of the past, but a reaffirmation of its mission to foster brotherhood, provide community service, and uphold the values of Freemasonry for the next 100 years and beyond.





Texas Knights of Pythagoras Holds Silver Anniversary Leadership Conference

Article by Ronald D. Gerac, Grand Junior Warden



CLEAR LAKE, TEXAS – Armed with the tools needed to sharpen the facets of Leadership, Responsibility, and Brotherhood, the Sir Knights of the Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council, Order of the Knights of Pythagoras, made their way to the University of Houston in Clear Lake to conduct the 25th Annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC). This year's leadership conference was attended by 9 councils around the state, with Sam T. Robinson Council No. 10 bringing the most Youth Knights (17) from Killeen, the City Without Limits. Arthur L. Banks, Jr. Council No. 2 (Houston) hosted the state event from Thursday, July 25th thru Sunday, July 28th. Throughout the existence of the Grand Council, each conference has focused on a particular leadership trait, academic area, or business acumen in general. This year, the emphasis was placed on Robotics, Coding, and Legos.



The 2024 YLC began on Thursday with a scripture read by Youth Knight Brenton Hardin, Venerable Grand Junior Knight. Venerable Grand Knight Chaplain Jonathan Whitworth gave an invocation, followed by a welcome from Youth Knight Taylor Gerac, Venerable Grand Knight Orator. Greetings on behalf of the Most Worshipful Grand Master were brought by Right Worshipful Ronald D. Gerac, Grand Junior Warden. State Director Michael L. Simms, Sr. addressed the group and set the agenda and standards for the weekend. After eating dinner in the campus cafeteria, the Youth Knights were participants in a brief lecture about mentorship. Day 1 of the YLC concluded with the investiture of 16 new Youth Knights and two Master Masons from several Councils across the state, led by all of the Master Knights.



Friday morning saw our Youth Knights participating in robotics and coding presentations by Master Masons and university staff. The younger Youth Knights got an opportunity to work with Legos. Later, all participants (young and old) were treated to an afternoon at the NASA Johnson Space Center. Many of our Youth Knights and Master Masons had never visited this landmark establishment before and were thrilled with everything it had to offer. After spending a few hours exploring the wonderment of space, the bowling competition took place soon after at The Main Event. A cut-throat competition ensued between representatives of the Grand Council and the Grand Lodge. If anyone wants to know who won this year's competition, please feel free to ask any Sir Knight of the KOP.



Day three of the YLC has always been reserved for athletic competitions in the morning. With the grounds being soggy and wet from the excessive rain, all activities were relegated to the inside. Three-on-three basketball and, in lieu of football, DODGEBALL was played. It seemed as if the Youth Knights had more fun with that than with basketball. Everyone traveled back to the hotel to eat and get cleaned up for the afternoon activities, namely presentations on coding and banking/credit card use, and the annual oratorical and education contests. The Youth Knights held their annual election of officers, and Youth Knight David Loud was elected Grand Master Knight along with a host of other Youth Knights from several councils being elected and appointed to several positions.

The YLC concluded with a banquet that was filled with many awards, great food, and a guest speaker. All were graced with the presence of Dr. Jamal Rasheed, first State Director for the Grand Council. Both he and his son, Dr. Hassan Rasheed, who was the first Texas Youth Knight to be raised as a Master Mason, received awards of recognition. Brother Broderick Hammonds of Jeremiah Smith Council #17 was recognized as Senior Advisor Emeritus by State Director Simms, who, himself, received huge recognition from the Grand Council for his hard work to ensure that Texas continues to have an outstanding youth program in existence. Plans are now under way to take a Texas KOP delegation of Youth Knights to Charlotte, North Carolina for the Inaugural National Youth Leadership Conference.

The weather did not cooperate with the YLC this year, with steady rain pouring down each day...but that did not stop our Youth Knights from taking part and enjoying all that the 25th Annual Youth Leadership Conference had to offer.

Many more pictures from this year's YLC can be found on the Texas KOP's Facebook Group page.



Highland Heights Lodge No. 200 Celebrates Community Service Heroes at Lodge Banquet

Article by PM Juston Barnett, MPA

HOUSTON, TEXAS – The brothers of Highland Heights No. 200 PHA (District 15-A) hosted a lodge banquet on Saturday, March 23rd, 2024. The purpose of the banquet was to celebrate the accomplishments of charity and community service dispensed by the brothers in the Acres Homes community located within the city of Houston, Texas. The brothers of Highland Heights No. 200 invited their respective spouses and families to also assist in commemorating the occasion.



The banquet began with Worshipful Master James Hughes conducting introductions followed by Bro. Eddie Phillips (Junior Warden), who served as the Master of Ceremonies, and a brief lecture on the history of Prince Hall Freemasonry and its establishment in the Country of Texas was given by Past Master Juston Barnett.



Additionally, words of expression were also given by Past Masters Charles Potter and Leroy Simmons respectively. Following the introductions and words of expression, the brothers of Highland Heights No. 200 took part in prayer and prayed over the food, served by "I Just Kook LLC," a Black-owned catering company specializing in the preparation of Cajun soul food and Texas BBQ in the city of Houston. As everyone was embellishing dinner, old-school R&B music filled the air of the lodge adding to the ambiance of the occasion, and small gift bags of appreciation were disseminated to the spouses of the brothers for their unwavering support of the lodge. Upon the conclusion of dinner being served,

Past Master Leroy Simmons gave positive words of encouragement to the brothers who were recently raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in 2023 at Highland Heights No. 200. Upon the conclusion of the banquet, Worshipful Master James Hughes thanked all the brothers and their families for attending and supporting the banquet and endeavored the families to continue to support brothers of the lodge as they continue to provide charitable service to humanity in the Acres Homes community and within the city of Houston.



Highland Heights Lodge No. 200 Makes a Presence at the Annual Juneteenth Parade

Article by PM Juston Barnett, MPA

HOUSTON, TEXAS – On Saturday, June 15, 2024, the brothers of Highland Heights No. 200 (District 15-A) participated in the 15th Annual Juneteenth Parade held in the city of Houston, specifically in the heart of the historic Acres Home community where the lodge resides, to commemorate 159 years of the emancipation of slavery in the United States. The parade began promptly at 10:00 AM with the brothers lining up beginning at the Acres Home Multi-service Center located at 6719 West Montgomery Road, Houston, Texas, and ending at Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church, which spans a distance of three miles. The brothers of Highland Heights No. 200 also were followed in succession by the Nobles of Doric Temple No. 76 (Prince Hall Shriners) under the auspices of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Inc., who were present to commemorate and support the Juneteenth parade.

On June 19, 1865, news of the emancipation finally reached Galveston, Texas, solidifying the end of slavery in the United States. This day represents freedom, resilience, and the enduring spirit of African Americans. In 1979, Juneteenth became a statewide holiday through the resilient efforts for Former State Representative Albert Ely Edwards with the passing of H.B. 1016. Subsequently, on June 17, 2021, Juneteenth became a recognized federal holiday through the signing of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law, making Juneteenth the eleventh American federal holiday and the first to obtain legal observances since the enactment of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in 1983. As Prince Hall Freemasons abroad commemorate Juneteenth, we should continuously reflect on the struggles and triumphs of those who have fought for freedom and equality against the tyranny of injustice and inequality in all forms.



Highland Heights Lodge No. 200 Named “Lodge of the Year” for Masonic District 15-A

Article by PM Juston Barnett, MPA

FRISCO, TEXAS – On Saturday, June 22nd, 2024, during the 149th Grand Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Texas and its Jurisdictions, the brothers of Highland Heights No. 200 received the “Lodge of the Year” plaque for the 2023-2024 masonic year representing District 15-A, which encompasses all of Harris, Waller, and Washington counties. This award was bestowed upon the brothers Highland Heights No. 200 under the leadership of the 22nd Most Worshipful Grand Master of Texas, the Honorable Micheal T. Anderson, and the respective grand lodge administration during the Grand Lodge’s award luncheon, highlighting and commemorating the lodge’s charitable service to the Acres Homes



community, where the lodge resides.

During the past Masonic year, the brother of Highland Heights No. 200 initiated, passed and raised sixteen fellowcrafts to the sublime degree of Master Mason, conducted and supported various community service initiatives (*including making college care packages for incoming students attending various HBCU's in Texas in conjunction with the Simply Helping Foundation*), participating in the annual Acres Homes school drives and health fairs in partnership with Shell, ConocoPhillips, and the Houston Health Department, hosting a Thanksgiving food drive in the Acres Homes community, and hosting a fellowship meet and greet at the lodge with Grand Master Anderson. Other notable activities conducted by the lodge included participating in the “Christmas Day of Giving” in conjunction with the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and Lil Grove Baptist

Church, hosting a lodge gala for the brothers and their respective families, participating in a church sit-in service for Palm Sunday, hosting a lecture meeting with the presence of Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden Frank Jackson, and participating in the annual Juneteenth parade in the city of Houston Acres Homes community.

On behalf of Worshipful Master Derek Tucker, Senior Warden Eddie Phillips, and Junior Warden Kendrick Lindsey, the officers and the brothers of Highland Heights No. 200, in the spirit of humility, would like to graciously express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Grand Master Anderson and to the administration of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas as we continue representing the great District 15-A!



RW Frank Jackson Stops By Highland Heights Lodge No. 200 As Guest Lecturer

Article by PM Juston Barnett, MPA

HOUSTON, TEXAS – On Thursday, May 2nd, 2024, the brothers of Highland Heights No. 200 (District 15-A) had the pleasure of hosting Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden Frank Jackson during one of the lodge's monthly lecture meetings. His topic was about the history of Prince Hall Freemasonry and its establishment in the Country of Texas. Before the scheduled lecture took place, the Lodge Hospitality Committee provided supper for RW Jackson's arrival, and the brothers had a pleasurable experience of engaging in positive fellowship and Masonic intercourse with our Right Worshipful Brother as they feasted on supper consisting of succulent stuffed turkey wings with dirty rice and homemade red beans with sausage.

Following the conclusion of supper, the Brethren opened the lodge. Worshipful Master Derek Tucker introduced RW Jackson and gave a brief biography of his professional resume, as well as his civic, social, and Masonic involvement. RW Jackson thanked the lodge for the invitation and then began his lecture on the establishment of Prince Hall Freemasonry in Texas. During his lecture, the Brethren were awed with excitement as he spoke passionately about the importance of Prince Hall Freemasonry, its inception in the Country of Texas, and discussed notable Prince Hall Masons who worked tirelessly to help establish its foundation. For example, RW Jackson spoke about Norris Wright Cuney, a former American politician, union leader, and advocate for the rights of African Americans in Texas, who served as the first Grand Master of Prince Hall Freemasonry in Texas from its inception in 1875 through 1887. Subsequently, Past Grand Master Cuney was also very active in Texas politics in the city of Galveston and served as an alderman and a national Republican delegate following the end of the American Civil War on April 9, 1865, during the beginning of the Reconstruction Era. RW Jackson also spoke about how the growth of Prince Hall Freemasonry spread across Texas following its inception in 1875 and about the importance of how Prince Hall Freemasonry has assisted people of color in Texas and abroad socially, politically, and economically



throughout its existence and the importance of cherishing its historical legacy.

Upon the conclusion of his lecture, the Brethren graciously applauded RW Jackson for disseminating his historical lecture to the craft and for taking the time out of his schedule to fellowship with the brothers of Highland Heights during refreshment. RW Jackson humbly expressed his gratitude and stated that he was elated and thankful for the invitation, and he would be open to returning to the lodge for more lectures.



LaMarque Lodge #373 Faithful Servants Award Banquet

Submitted by Bro. John N Humphrey

LaMarque Masonic Lodge #373 held its 2nd Annual Faithful Servants Award Banquet on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at Greater St. Matthews Baptist Church in Hitchcock. The banquet was originally scheduled for Friday, April 26, 2024, but due to the passing, service schedule and respect of Rev. Dr. D. N. Benford, Sr., who was one the 2024 honorees, it was postponed. Pastor Benford, a Guinness Book record holder, had pastored one church for 73 years.



This year's event, "A Black & White" Affair, honored 24 men of Galveston County who have given dedicated service to their respective communities. The afternoon began with a reception for the honoree with music provided by saxophonist Charles "C-Note" Thomas of Houston and the fruit table by "Events with You in Mind" by Chantea.



The MC of the hour was Bro. (Rev.) Marrquell Jones, secretary of the lodge. Other participants were PM Bro. Norman B. Jones, Jr., who read scripture; Bro. Joseph Mose, who rendered the invocation; Bro. Jerome Bell gave the welcome; Bro. John N. Humphrey did the introduction of special guests and honorees; and remarks were given by Worshipful Master Bro. Terry Caldwell.



The event's speaker was Dr. Chad E. Rankin, pastor of House of Hope Church, League City, Texas. Music was provided by Mr. William Stinson.



About 200 guests enjoyed the afternoon with a dinner of baked chicken, brisket, green beans, and potatoes with tea and water. There was great fellowship, laughter, and smiles with family and friends. Special Guests included several elected officials of Galveston County and many friends, namely Sis. Maggie Jones, widow of Bro. James Jones (373), Bro. & Sis. Corey (Yolanda) Stanley of Houston, and the newest Pastor of the Texas City community, Pastor & Sis. Bradley A. Hale and daughters of Fellowship Baptist Church. He is also a candidate for membership in LaMarque #373. Special recognition was given to First Lady Regenia Randall of Greater St. Matthews Baptist Church for her assistance with the preparation of the banquet after the venue change.

Presentations were made to each of the honorees from the Lodge and from family and friends to each honoree. Yolanda Benford Proctor, along with her sons, accepted the award in memory of her father and also gave remarks. Door prizes were given and everyone in attendance enjoyed this memorable event.



Heroines of Jericho Celebrate Palm Sunday in Point Blank, Texas

Author Unknown

POINT BLANK, TEXAS – Silver Stone Court #65, Heroines of Jericho, hosted the Annual Palm Sunday Service at Liberty Primitive Baptist Church (Pastor J.A. Richardson). The theme was "King of Kings" preached word by Pastor Jack Washington of New Hope Church in Coldspring, Texas. The participants of the service included Silver Stone Court #65 (Point Blank), Cuney Court #231 (Huntsville), and Stars of Esther #87 OES (Huntsville). The Masonic Brothers of Ancient Square Lodge #375 (Point Blank) and Fidelity Lodge #221 (Huntsville) were also in attendance. Youth Palaces Walker's Village #28 (Huntsville) and Blr #92 (Point Blank) were present as well. The ladies were excited about marching on Palm Sunday. It took us back in time when we would see the older women march and dressed in white. We marched from Liberty Masonic Hall to Liberty Church waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna, Behold our King Cometh" escorted by the brothers. We dared not forget the donkey – Punkin. Punkin attended Palm Sunday Service about 12 years ago at this same location. The Masonic Family marched to the cemetery where we placed a wreath on the grave of Past Most Ancient Matron Bessie Richardson, who service about 34 years as the Most Ancient Matron of Silver Stone Court #65 before passing in April 2023. The Palm Sunday Service was BEAUTIFUL and one for the history books.



Sisters Marching



Punkin





Honoring M.A.M. Bessie Richardson



Cuney Court #231



Silver Stone Court #65



Stars of Esther #87



Masonic Family



BLR Palace #92

Margaret A. McDow Grand Court

March 2024

Demetra Jackson, Royal Grand Perfect Matron



In the Rite of Perfection,

RPM Shuntai Mitchell
Grand Marketing
Coordinator
Kitra Court No. 8

RM Taia R. Smith
Grand News Editor
Queen Makeda Court No. 4



Royal Grand Perfect Matron *Demetra Jackson*

Inside this issue

Margaret A. McDow Grand Court	1 - 6
York Rtie Weekend	7 - 8
Grand Charity / Community Outreach	9 - 11
Student Aid Committee	12 - 13
Queen Makeda Court No. 4	14 - 16

Important Dates

Margaret A. McDow
Grand Court
Ladies Of The Circle Of Perfection
Texas
Prince Hall Affiliation

Demetra Jackson, P.R.P.M
Royal Grand Perfect Matron
texaslocop23@gmail.com



LaSonde Jones-Griggs
Royal Grand Secretary
txlocopsec@gmail.com

Spring, Texas -A time was had in Spring, Texas February 2024. I pray that you all made it home safely and have had a opportunity to recover from the York Rite Weekends activities. Thank you for Queen Makeda Court #4 Houston, Texas for your hospitality to ensure that the weekend was successful. Thank you to each court that was represented during the weekend. Congratulations to Amethyst Court #9- Court of the Year. Congratulations to Taia Smith, Queen Makeda Court #4, Royal Perfect Matron of the Year. Thank you to our out of state guest who venture to the country of Texas to join us for the weekend. We look forward to seeing you all in Dallas, Texas 2025.



*Below are the elected and appointed Grand Officers
for the 2024-2025 ensuing year.*

Royal Grand Perfect Matron- Demetra Jackson

Royal Grand Chief Advisor-Fredrick “The Fred” Walker Sr.

Royal Grand Deputy Matron- Conwaja Brunson-Grice

Royal Grand Principal Conductress- Patricia Thomas

Royal Grand Associate Conductress: Meshanda Phillip

Royal Grand Conductress of Ceremonies-Patina Alexander

Royal Secretary- LaSonde Jones-Griggs

Royal Treasurer-Sonya Wilkes

*The Margaret A. McDow Grand Court,
Ladies of the Circle of Perfection,
Texas PHA
List of Committees
2024 - 2025*

Credentials Committee

RGS LaSonde Jones-Griggs -Madam Chair
RGR Stacy Vincent
RGOA Arika Morris
HPRPM Veloria Watts
HPRPM Tracy Harris

Budget and Finance Committee

RGPM Demetra Jackson
RGPC Patricia Thomas- Madam Chair
RGS LaSonde Jones-Griggs
RGT Sonya Wilkes
RGR Stacy Vincent
RGOA Arika Morris
RGDM Conwaja Brunson-Grice
RG Exe Admin Asst Demetria Fields

Charity Committee / Community Outreach Committee

HPRPM Tracy Harris -Madam Chair
All Royal Perfect Matrons (The Host Court selects the Charity)

Rules Committee

RGDDM Chosett Davis -Madam Chair
RGPME R Lucille Samuel
RGDM Conwaja Brunson-Grice
RGDDM Valerie Brooks
RGDDM Taia R. Smith
RGDDM Trina Powell

Prayer /Comfort

RGCRachael Levingston – Madam Chair
All Royal Secretaries

Ursula Alston Queens Contest Committee

RGAC Meshanda Phillip -Madam Chair

Margaret A. McDow Student Aid Committee

PRPM Taia Smith -Madam Chair
HPRGPM Shirley H. Gideon
RM Kharyn Floyd
RM Shuntai Mitchell
PRPM Patina Alexander
PRPM Trina Powell

RGPM Special Projects Committee

RGPC Patricia Thomas -Madam Chair
RGM-West Cassandra Robinson Gossett
RM Stacy Vincent
PRPM Taia Smith
RM Britney Johnson

Audit Committee

RGA Pamela Mitchell Royal Grand Auditor
RGA Joy Cowins Royal Grand Auditor
RM Diane James
RM LaShell Ricks
RGPC Patricia Thomas

Grievance and Appeals Committee

HPRGPM Shirley H. Gideon -Madam Chair
RGAC Meshanda Phillip
RGDM Conwaja Brunson-Grice
PRPM Taia Smith
PRPM Diane Shepard-Hill

Warrants and Charters Committee

RGPM Demetra Jackson -Madam Chair
RGCA Fred Walker
RGS LaSonde Jones-Griggs
RGR Stacy Vincent
RGOA Arika Morris

Initiation Committee

RGCC Patina Alexander-Madam Chair
RGM-East Taia R. Smith
RGM-West Cassandra Robinson Gossett
All RGDDM

Regalia and Paraphernalia Committee

RG Trustee No. 1 Sonya Baker -Madam Chair
RG Trustee No. 2 Monique Calbert
RG Trustee No. 3 Shakendra Hawkins

Medical Committee

RGMD Marcel Merrill -Madam Chair
RGDM Conwaja Brunson-Grice

Historian / Lecturer Committee

RG PME R. Lucille Samuel -Madam Chair
RGDM Conwaja Brunson-Grice
RPM Ima Ekanem

Scrapbook Committee

RG Exe Admin Asst Demetria Fields -Madam Chair
RGM West Cassandra Robinson-Gossett
RG Trustee No. 1 Sonya Baker

Hospitality Committee

RG Exe Admin Asst Demetria Fields- Madam Chair
HPRPM Veloria Watts
RM LaShell Ricks

Toy Drive Committee

RGPM Demetra Jackson
HPRPM Linda Williams

Constitution and Bylaws/ Ritual Committee

RGPM Demetra Jackson -Madam Chair
RGCA Fred Walker
RGDM Conwaja Brunson-Grice
RGPC Patricia Thomas
RGAC Meshanda Phillip
RGCC Patina Alexander
RGS LaSonde Jones-Griggs
RGR Stacy Vincent
RGOA Arika Morris
RGPME R. Lucille Samuel

Jurisprudence Committee

RGDM Conwaja Brunson-Grice -Madam Chair
All RGDDMs

Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence-CCFC

PRPM Diane Shepard-Hill
Exe Admin Asst Demetria Fields

Ways and Means Committee

HPRPM Veloria Watts -Madam Chair
RPM Tina Jackson– Madam Co-Chair

RGPM Special Projects Committee

RGPC Patricia Thomas -Madam Chair
RGM-West Cassandra Robinson Gossett
HPRPM Stacy Vincent
PRPM Taia Smith
RM Britney Johnson

Audit Committee

RGA Pamela Mitchell Royal Grand Auditor
RGA Joy Cowins Royal Grand Auditor
RM Diane James
RM LaShell Ricks
RGPC Patricia Thomas

Grievance and Appeals Committee

HPRGPM Shirley H. Gideon -Madam Chair
RGCC Meshanda Phillip
RGDM Conwaja Brunson-Grice
PRPM Taia Smith
PRPM Diane Shepard-Hill

Music Committee

RPM Edwina Evans

Voices of Inspiration – Choir (open to all RMs)

Arts & Crafts Committee

RM Rochelle Cottingham -Madam Chair

RM Jonna'e Wilson

All Royal Matrons

Military Salute to Veterans

RGPME R. Lucille Samuel -Madam Chair

HPRGPM Shirley H. Gideon

Newsletter / Media /Photography Committee

RPM Shuntai Mitchell -Royal Grand Marketing Coordinator

PRPM Trina Powell -Grand Photographer

PRPM Taia Smith -Editor

Royal Grand District Deputy Matron's

Austin / Killeen: PRPM Trina Powell

Waxahachie: RM Chosett Davis

San Antonio: RM Valerie Brooks

Houston: PRPM Taia R. Smith

El Paso: RGPME R. Lucille Samuel

FTW, Tyler: RGDM Conwaja Brunson-Grice

Dallas, Irving: RGDM Conwaja Brunson-Grice



York Rite Weekend 2024





Grand Charity/Community Outreach Committee

Margaret A. McDow Grand Court Ladies of the Circle of Perfection, PHA

Tracy Harris-Grand Charity and Community Service, chair



Spring, Texas- During the 6th Annual Assembly the Margaret A. McDow Grand Court, Ladies of the Circle of Perfection participated in our annual charity event. This year we partnered with Montgomery County Women Center (MCWC) for community service on Saturday, February 3, 2024. Due to the disclosure for their client's safety, we will not be able to have a tour of the facility. Items collected were dropped off at their retail store Something Special located in Shenandoah, Texas. The various courts collected cleaning supplies, toiletries, personal hygiene items and so much more to assist those affected by domestic violence. Thank you to our out-of-town guest from the Oklahoma Jurisdiction who joined us for a day of service Glorietta F. Duncan, Grand Guild, Grand Princess Captain Dr. Petrice McKey-Reese, Grand Princess 1st Lt. Tara Coombs, Grand Princess Commissary Regina Flora and Grand Secretary Lucy M. Harmon.





On that Saturday evening the Margaret A. McDow Grand Court, Ladies of the Circle of Perfection, PHA presented Mr. Ronald Marshall of The Beacon with a monetary donation on behalf of the Grand Court charity and community service committee.



Tracy Harris, Grand Charity and Community Service Chair

Ronald Marshall, The Beacon , Royal Grand Perfect Matron Demetra Jackson

The Beacon is a non-profit organization that serves individuals experiencing homelessness by providing daily services, civil legal aid, counseling and mentoring and housing case management. Ultimately, The Beacon seeks to assist these individuals through a community-wide homeless response system known as The Way Home which links them with appropriate supportive housing. Often, The Beacon is the first point of entry for individuals to begin their journey which is why the focus on build a strong rapport with their clients and serve them with dignity and respect.



Queen Makeda Court #4, Ronald Marshall, The Beacon

Thank you to all of the courts who participated via donation and monetary donations. It is because of your hard work and dedication that we are able to continue to create a impact in our local communities.



*Margaret A. McDow Ladies of the Circle of Perfection,
PHA Grand Student Aid Committee*

Houston, Texas- This year the Margaret A. McDow Student Aid Committee received 4 high school senior application and 4 continuing education applications. Due to your continued support the Margaret A. McDow Student Aid Committee was able to award not just two but four scholarships this year. It is with great pleasure the Student Aid committee would like to announce the 2024 Scholarship recipients. Thanks to all our applicants and thank you to all of you for your continued support of our students.

Our 1st place graduating Senior award recipient is Ms. Alyse Shepherd, graduating from Texas Connections Academy in Houston, TX. Alyse looks to attend Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas . in the fall to study Nursing with a minor in Psychology. Alyse has a 3.8 GPA and is also graduating with an Associates of Arts in 2024.

Our 2nd place graduating Senior award recipient is Ms. Kyra Waters graduating from Kathlyn Joy Gilliam collegiate Academy in Dallas, TX. Kyra looks to attend Texas A&M Commerce majoring in Pre-Veterinary Medicine/ Animal Science. Kyra also volunteers at the YMCA and is a member of the Xplosive Dance Team.



Our Continuing Education Scholarship Recipient for the 2023-2024 year is Mr. Isaiah Llorens a 2nd year college student at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX. Isaiah was our first high school recipient winner for the Margaret A. McDow Student Aid committee and has continued to pursue his college education working toward his degree in majoring in Graphic Design. Isaiah essay topic focused on overcoming obstacles to strive towards success. Isaiah is also a peer mentor of ELITE an on-campus organization that helps young minority males on their journey through college.

Our second continuing education scholarship recipient is Mr. Michael Simms Jr. Michael is a second-year student at the University of Texas at Tyler. Majoring in Computer Science and Cyber Security. Michael is also a member of the Patriot Singers and works with his church Bridgeway Christian Koinonia Church in Cedar Park Texas.



Isaiah Llorens
Sam Houston State

Michael Simms Jr
University of Texas @
Tyler



Queen Makeda Court #4

Meshanda Phillip, Royal Deputy Matron

Spring, Texas-Queen Makeda Court No.4 had the distinct pleasure of hosting the 2024 York Rite weekend in Spring Texas February 1st to February 3rd, 2024. Queen Makeda Court opened the 6th Grand Assembly of the Margaret A McDow Grand Court, Ladies of the Circle of Perfection under the direction of Royal Perfect Matron Ima Ekanem.



Saturday of session, Queen Makeda participated in our Grand Court community service, donating toilet paper (315 rolls) to Something Special retail store which services Montgomery County Women Center. Due to the disclosure of their clients safety, we were not able to tour the facility but were able to deliver our donations personally to the Something Special retail store.



Saturday evening, Queen Makeda was represented at our annual joint banquet via the Margaret A. McDow Grand Student Aid Contest winner Ms. Alyse Shepherd who is the daughter of Royal Matron Alicia Shepherd. We were present for the Grand Charity donation to The Beacon of Houston which services those experiencing homelessness in the Houston and surrounding areas.

As the session ended, Queen Makeda Court #4 walked away with not only hosting and serving a successful York Rite weekend but with some profound accolades that showcased the dedication and hard work of our membership.

Congratulations to the members of Queen Makeda Court and these distinguished Royal Matrons on their well-deserved achievements:

- HPRGPM Meshanda Phillip, was duly elected and installed Grand Associate Conductress.
- PRPM Taia Smith 2023 Royal Perfect Matron of the Year, 2024 Lady of Leisure Margaret A. McDow Grand Court Queen contest and Grand Marshall in the East.
- HPRPM Stacy Vincent Grand Recording Secretary.
- RM Mesha Ned Grand Sentinel.

It was our pleasure to represent the Margaret A. McDow Grand Court Ladies of the Circle of Perfection during York Rite Weekend 2024. We look forward to joining you all in Dallas, Texas in 2025.



***Newsletter Submissions Send to:
TXLOCOPNewsletter19@gmail.com***

Mount Horeb Chapter 117 still making noise in the community of Huntsville TX

EHP Richard Lee, DDGHP Rickey Davis , King HendersonSpringer and companion Jermaine McNeil



Mount Horeb Chapter 117 Awards four Scholarship at Huntsville High School Awards Program . These Scholarship are given every year and each year the Chapter will give an extra scholarship to a deserving student in the community. The Chapter also honored to provided several Cap and Gowns to four High School Seniors . and just a few days later Mount Horeb Chapter 117 made a book donation to the Huntsville Library

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas



Grand Session 2024 RECAP

















149th Annual Grand Session June 20- thru June 22, 2024

149th Grand Session Lodge Opening & Luncheon 20 June 2024

<https://ljaustinjr.zenfolio.com/p318216107>

PassWord: 149thGrandSession

149th Grand Session HOJ & OES Queen's Coronation 20 June 2024

<https://ljaustinjr.zenfolio.com/p655579917>

PassWord: 149thGrandSession

149th Grand Session Friday 21 June 2024

<https://ljaustinjr.zenfolio.com/p144979137>

PassWord: 149thGrandSession

149th Grand Session Friday Memorial Service 21 June 2024

<https://ljaustinjr.zenfolio.com/p794305709>

PassWord: 149thGrandSession

149th Grand Session Friday Night Sneaker Bash 21 June 2024

<https://ljaustinjr.zenfolio.com/p873419757>

PassWord: 149thGrandSession

149th Grand Session Saturday 22 June 2024

<https://ljaustinjr.zenfolio.com/p639583183>

PassWord: 149thGrandSession

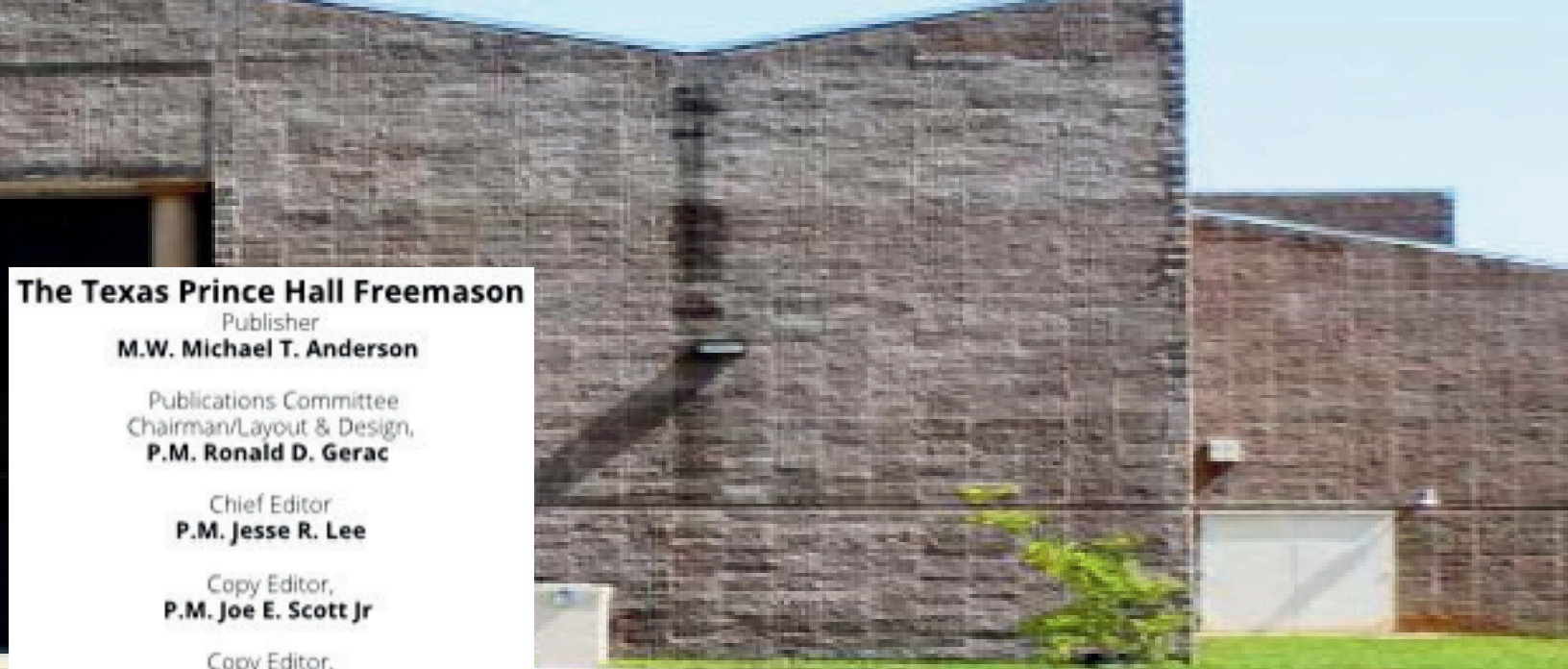
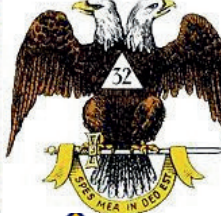
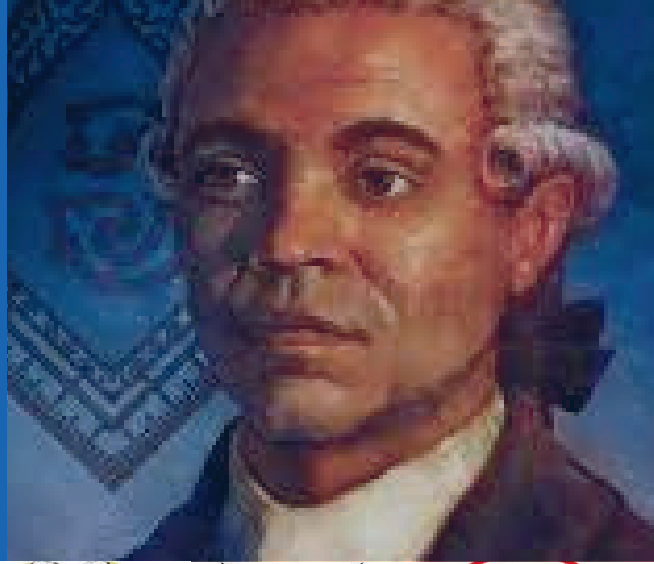
149th Grand Session Saturday Night Banquet 22 June 2024

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T.P.H.F.M

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Columnist
Heroine Sonya Baker



The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Texas
P.O. Box 1478
Ft. Worth, Texas 76101
Office: (817) 534-4612
Fax: (817) 534-9289
Email: pha@flash.net



The Texas Prince Hall Freemason
www.mwphlotx.org