



The Texas Prince Hall Freemason



Official Publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas
Volume I - Issue 2 - Spring 2011



Prince Hall Masons honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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From the Editor

Greetings,

Once again it is an honor and pleasure to bring to you the second edition of *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason*. I had the unique opportunity to view numerous photographs and articles which the Prince Hall Masonic Family submitted. I want to personally thank each of the Lodges and the Masonic Districts for taking the time to capture History. I additionally wish to thank the Concordant and Appendant Bodies for their submissions. The publication is truly becoming a valued communication tool. Lastly, we would like to receive "Letters to the Editor" regarding Freemasonry or comments to articles which we have published. Have a great 2011!

Fraternally,
H.P.M. Burrell D. Parmer

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

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The Texas Prince Hall Freemason

Publisher

M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis

Editor

H.P.M. Burrell D. Parmer

Publications Committee

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

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Photography, **W.M. Bernard Brown**

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2010 - 2011

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Hon. Edwin B. Cash

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R.W. Michael T. Anderson

Grand Senior Warden

R.W. Bryce Hardin Sr.

Grand Junior Warden

R.W. Frank D. Jackson

Grand Secretary

R.W. Hubert L. Reece Sr.

Grand Treasurer

R.W. Robert J. Datcher

Grand Tiler

R.W. Vernon J. James

Grand Auditors

R.W. Ernie Williams

R.W. Samuel Hobbs Jr.

R.W. Robert Hicks Sr.

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

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

3433 Martin Luther King Freeway

Ft. Worth, Texas 76101

Office: (817) 534-4612

Fax: (817) 534-9289

Email: pha@flash.net



M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis

Message from the Grand Master

I bring you greetings in the name of the Grand Architect of the Universe, our Heavenly Father. As we embark on a new year, we can only say that we, the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family have been truly blessed. I am a firm believer in Psalms 37: 3-4 that states *"Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shall thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give you the desires of your heart."* We, the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family have truly been favored. It was not because of our deeds and services but because of the grace of the Lord. He has showered us with His grace and mercy.

As I reflect on the year of 2010, it was a year of reminders of the lessons taught concerning Prince Hall Freemasonry. I believe that each of my experiences was a significant reminder of what our Order teaches. 2010 was the most fulfilling of the 26 years of my Masonic existence since I first asked to become a Mason. The experiences I encountered over the last year cannot be found in a book, on Google, Facebook or Twitter, but were personal experiences that I will cherish for life-time. I feel that I've reached the pinnacle of my Masonic career all in 365 days. Now, I feel that I am ready to impart lessons learned from each.

On March 30, **I was reminded that since its inception, Texas Prince Hall Freemasons have been a part of and have helped mold our state government.** I, along with representation of our Grand Body participated in a ceremony unveiling the monument memorializing the 19th Century African American Legislators and Constitutional Convention Delegates of Texas, which included our second Grand Master, the Honorable Richard Allen and a host of other Prince Hall Masons. This teaches us that we are to be active in our local and state government so that we may help influence our future and not rely on others.



Prince Hall Freemasons honor and pay tribute to 52 Nineteenth Century Black Legislators and Constitutional Convention Delegates of Texas who served from 1868—1900.

On May 14, **I was reminded that our time here on earth is limited and we should take advantage of that time to do good for others.** Every 10 years the Conference of Grand Masters meets in Massachusetts, our Mother Jurisdiction. As President of the Conference, I had the honor of participating in a memorial ceremony and placing a wreath on the Prince Hall Monument at Prince Hall's gravesite at Copps Hill Burying Ground. Past Grand Master I. H. Clayborne was the last Texas Prince Hall Grand Master to do so in 1980. Because of our relatively limited time here on this earth, we should remember Galatians 6:1 that states, *"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all [men], especially unto them who are of the household of faith."* I truly believe that Prince Hall took advantage of every opportunity to try and improve the living conditions of his people. We too as Freemasons should take advantage of the time to help others.



Wreath laying upon the Prince Hall Monument at Copps Hill Burying Ground.

ter, on my visit back to Massachusetts on Dec. 11, I was able to see what is considered to be the actual Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England that was given to Prince Hall and African Lodge No. 459. The Book of Constitutions is signed by Prince Hall as "property of African Lodge No. 459". It is referenced in the charge to Prince Hall in the original charter that states, "such by-laws of said Lodge as shall be consistent with the general laws of the Society, contained in the **Book of Constitution** and we hereby will require you, the said Prince Hall, to take especial care that all and everyone of said Brethren are, or have been regularly made Masons, and that they do observe, perform and keep all the rules and orders contained in the **Book of Constitution**;"

These two items provide evidence of the relationship between Prince Hall and the Grand Lodge of England. As such, any Prince Hall Affiliated Grand Lodge that traces their lineage back to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts is legitimate and regular whether or not the counterpart Grand Lodge in its state chooses to recognize them as such. The Masonic Landmarks dictates this, not the opinion of those that refuse to accept the truth.

On May 15, I was reminded that **Prince Hall Freemasonry is to be used to improve the social and economical conditions for all of us.** In the City of Cambridge, Mass., I, along with Prince Hall Freemasons representing many Prince Hall Grand Jurisdictions from around the globe, attended the Prince Hall Memorial Dedication and unveiling of the Prince Hall Memorial. Prince Hall, the father of Freemasonry for men of color; all colors, was formally recognized by historians as a Founding Father of our nation. He "exemplified those principles on which the nation was founded and greatly influenced what this nation would become through his social works."



Prince Hall Memorial Monument in Cambridge, Mass.

Also, while in the Jurisdiction of Massachusetts, I was reminded of the proof of the legitimacy of Prince Hall Freemasonry. I was able to see the original charter that was issued to African Lodge No. 459 from the Grand Lodge of England. This charter unequivocally proves that Prince Hall did petition and receive a charter from the Grand Lodge of England. In addition to seeing the char-



Grand Masters of the Conference of Grand Masters, P.H.A., with the Original Charter of African Lodge No. 459.

principles on which the nation was founded and greatly influenced what this nation would become through his social works." Prince Hall petitioned the legislature of Massachusetts to start schools for children of color and to eliminate the export of slaves. He also petitioned Gen. George Washington to allow men of color to join the Revolutionary Army. We too should use Freemasonry as a means to make a difference in society.

On May 23, I was reminded of the tradition of leadership within the fraternity of Texas Prince Hall Freemasonry. At the request of the leadership of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter, representatives of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas assembled in Galveston, Texas at the gravesite of our first Grand Master, the Honorable Norris Wright Cuney. We assisted Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter with the wreath laying ceremony commemorating his leadership. Past Grand



G.M.A.M. Jackie Levingston, G.W.M. Martha Wolridge, G.M. Curtis, and G.W.P. Robert Calloway at the gravesite of P.G.M. Norris Wright Cuney.

Master Cuney was the leader of the Reconstruction Republican Party, elected alderman in Galveston, and founder of the Negro Screwman's Benevolent Association. As per Archie P. McDonald, the author of the book "Norris Wright Cuney", "*He was the most remarkable African American leader in Texas in the nineteenth century.*" Since the inception of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, there have been many well known Prince Hall Masons that were leaders in areas other than the Masonic Order. There have been many leaders in the areas of government, education, business, entrepreneurs, banking, medicine, religion and technical areas. This teaches us that Freemasonry should be a means by which one can utilize his leadership skills to promote the principles of charity and brotherly love but not use Free-

masonry for personal gain.

Last but not least, on Dec. 12, **I was reminded of where Freemasonry for men of color was initiated in America.** While meeting in Massachusetts with other national Prince Hall Affiliated Masonic Leaders to plan a Prince Hall Museum and Library, I along with several other Texas Prince Hall Masons visited Castle William Island in Boston Harbor where Prince Hall was "made" a Mason, along with 14 other men of color on March 6,



Plaque on wall at Fort Independence commemorating the initiation of Freemasonry for Men of Color.

1775 in Lodge No. 441 of Irish Register attached to the 38th British Foot Infantry. Today, it is known as Fort Independence. In the pentagon shaped fort is displayed a plaque commemorating the initiation of "Black Freemasonry."

It has been stated time and time again that one needs to know where he has been in order to know where he is going. In the year of 2010, I was able to experience sites and occasions that gave me a personal perspective of the history of Prince Hall Freemasonry and its impact in Texas and in America. The lesson learned is that Prince Hall Freemasonry is a means by which leaders can make a positive impact in society. Prince Hall did it. Norris Wright Cuney did it. Richard Allen and other Nineteenth Century State Legislators did it. Now it is our time as Prince Hall Freemasons to make a positive impact and leave a legacy for future Prince Hall Masonic Leaders.

I remain...

Fraternally yours,

Wilbert M. Curtis

Grand Master's Calendar

February - June 2011

Date	Location	Event
February		
Thursday - Saturday, Feb. 3 - 6	San Antonio	York Rite Weekend
Friday - Sunday, Feb. 25 - 27	Pine Bluff, Ark.	M.W.P.H.G.L. of Arkansas Grand Session
March		
Wednesday - Sunday, March 2 - 6	Tampa, Fla.	38th Phylaxis Annual Session
Thursday - Saturday, March 3 - 6	San Antonio	Orient of Texas, A.A.S.R. of Freemasonry, S.J. Council of Deliberation
Friday - Sunday, March 25 - 27	Las Vegas, Nev.	Four Corners Region, Conference of Grand Masters
Saturday, March 26	Arlington	King of the Court Charity Basketball Tournament
April 2011		
Saturday, April 9	Waco	District 14 Banquet
Friday - Sunday, April 15 - 17	Jacksonville, Fla.	M.W.U.G.L. of Florida Grand Session
Sunday, April 17	TBD	Palm Sunday Services
Thursday, April 21	TBD	Maundy Thursday Ceremonies
Saturday, April 23	Fort Worth	Grand Lodge Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday, April 24	TBD	Easter Sunrise Services
May 2011		
Wednesday - Sunday, May 11 - 15	Jacksonville, Fla.	Conference of Grand Masters Annual Conference
Friday - Monday, May 27 - 30	TBD	United Supreme Council, N.J.
June 2011		
Sunday, June 5	Baton Rouge, La.	M.W.P.H.G.L. of Louisiana Grand Session
Monday - Tuesday, June 6 - 7	Tulsa, Okla.	M.W.P.H.G.L. of Oklahoma Grand Session
Sunday, June 12	Fort Worth	Prepare for 136th Grand Session
Thursday - Sunday, June 23 - 26	Fort Worth	M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas, Grand High Court (HOJ) and Grand Chapter (OES) Grand Sessions

Elected Grand Lodge Officers



Past Grand Master
Hon. Edwin B. Cash



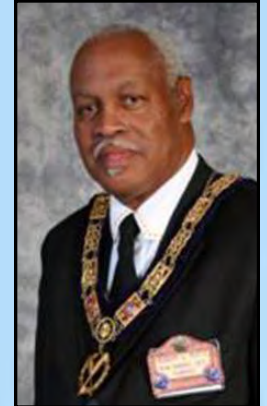
Deputy Grand Master
R.W. Michael T. Anderson



Grand Senior Warden
R.W. Bryce Hardin Sr.



Grand Junior Warden
R.W. Frank D. Jackson



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



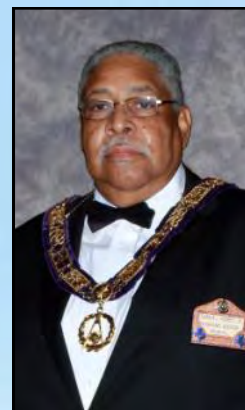
Grand Treasurer
R.W. Robert J. Datcher



Grand Tiler
R.W. Vernon J. James



Grand Auditor
R.W. Ernie Williams



Grand Auditor
R.W. Samuel Hobbs Jr.



Grand Auditor
R.W. Robert Hicks Sr.





R. W. Michael Anderson

Message from the Dep. Grand Master

Greetings, as I look back over time, I think about how far we as a people have come. We have come a mighty long way. We have endured the cruel treatment of slavery, the difficult time of Jim Crow and the harsh times of discrimination. We have been beaten, mutilated, raped, hung, shot and dragged to death. But we are still here fighting the good fight. From the 1600's, we have withstood all that have been thrown at us until now we stand with a Black man, Barack Hussein Obama as President of the United States of America. But where do we go from here?

Sometime in order to go forward we have to look back at the past. So let us go back in time and look at a few examples.

Let us go to the book of Judges 11th chapter where we find Adah, daughter of Jephthan. Now Jephthan was a mighty warrior and the 9th judge of Israel, who had one child, Adah. Now when the Ammonites made war against Israel, Jephthan made a vow to God that if he should defeat the Ammonites then "whatever come out of the door of my house to meet me when I return in triumph from the Ammonites will be the Lord's and I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering." Upon Jephthan return home the first thing to come out the door was Adah, his only child. This sadden Jephthan because of his vow to God and when told of his vow Adah agreed to honor it. This was a sign of fidelity. Let your yes be yes and your no be no. So many times we have had people to tell us things that they are going to do, but in the end they are no where to be found. We must be about knowing our limitations. Too many times we jump up and agree to do something, but really don't have the time or the talent to do what is needed. God has given us all a talent and we need to discover what that talent is and use it for the glory of God and others. Too many times we overlook the person who has the talent and wherewithal to accomplish a task because of our personal feeling about that individual. It is time out for picking our friends to do a task knowing that they don't have the skill set to perform the deed. In the Masonic family we all have taken a vow to use the best person for the job regardless of our personal feeling. Are we honoring that vow? Let us use the best that we have to promote our projects to the Glory of God and the benefit of our communities.

In the book of Ester we find a woman who was willing to give her life for her people. We find Ester, the wife of King Xerxes, king of Persia, willing to disobey the law of the land to save her people, the Jews. Ester was a Jewish woman who was left in Persia after the decree of Cyrus for the people of Israel to return home after years of bondage in Persia. Ester became the Queen of Persia after Vashti, the Queen, refused a summons by Xerxes to come to him. Because of Vashti disobedience to the king summons, she was not to be seen by the King ever again. A search was made thru out the kingdom for one to take Queen Vashti place and Ester was chosen. Ester was known for her beauty and her wisdom. She has been compared to Solomon in her wisdom and knowledge. When she learned of a plot to have all the Jews of Persia killed, she took it upon herself to stop this massacre of her people. John 15:13 says "No greater love than this, that a man should give his life for a friend." Are you my friend? Because a friend would be willing to come in love and tell of our wrong doing and give us wise council. Too many times we see our friends/associates doing wrong and we never say anything to them about what they are doing wrong. As a friend, brother, or sister it is our duty to say something to them. We should be willing to support you during the good and bad time. We should be willing to make some sacrifices for one another. Here we find Ester willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for her people. We are our brothers' keeper.

Electra or Lady Elect was a woman of wealth and status in the Roman Empire during the time of John the Evangelist. Having been raised to honor the gods of Rome, she decided to become a follower of Jesus, even though this was unpopular. She was known to help the poor and needy, especially those who was being persecuted by the Romans for their belief in Jesus Christ. When it was discovered that she was a follower, a group of Roman soldiers went to her home to test her. The test was to lay a cross on the ground, step on it and recant your belief in Jesus. Electra refused. She and her whole family were put in prison for a year. After the year was up, she was brought before the Roman judge and given another chance to denounce her belief in Jesus and again she refused. When Electra was being put to death her dying words were "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Here you have a woman of great wealth and status who was willing to put all that aside and help the needy. Are we willing to do the same? When we see someone in need do we attempt to help in some way or do we keep going. Too many times there are things that we can do to help the less fortunate. Maybe we are not able to help as an individual, but we can make a difference as a group. We can help feed the hunger by helping to keep the shelves full in the food pantries at our churches or homeless shelters. We can donate clothes that don't fit, yet fills our closets. We can donate furnishes, appliances, etc; that we are replacing because we are remodeling of we just want something new. If we just do some of the small things to help we can make a big difference in the lives of people who are struggling in these times of economic hardship. Brothers and sisters let us band together as the children of God and help one another.

I ask that we remember there are a lot of things that we can do to help this world be a better place than it is now. But it all starts with us. Remember to honor our parents as Adah did, when she gave her life to fulfill a promise that her father made to God. Honor thy mother and father so that thou days may be long. Be willing to sacrifice comfort for someone who we call friend and give them good and wholesome advise, support them during the good and bad times. Lastly, offer our support to those less fortunate, for Jesus said "that the poor shall always be among us" and let us be about our Father's business.

God Bless Us All!

Humbly Submitted, *Michael T. Anderson*



Message from the Grand Secretary

Greetings,

It's that time of year again. We're preparing for our 136th Annual Grand Communication. The Annual Grand Communication will be held in Fort Worth, June 23 through June 26, 2011. The Headquarters Hotel is the Radisson Hotel North, 2540 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas, 76106. The rates are \$92.00 plus tax. The deadline for reserving a room is Monday, May 23. To reserve a room you will need to call 817-625-9911 and reserve under the name of Masonic Prince Hall.

Worshipful Masters/Secretaries, once you receive your May Relief Report Package, please read, complete and return the necessary information requested. Please keep all material together upon receipt. If you receive the report and you are no longer the Secretary or Worshipful Master, please forward the report to the proper officer immediately. This will be greatly appreciated and it will not cause your Lodge and

members to be delinquent in any manner. Make necessary corrections to your report and the Grand Lodge Office will update your corrections.

Also, you may reinstate those who are on your dropped list or members who were once on your roll and were dropped for non-payment or for whatever reason. The cost to reinstate a member is **\$85.00**. A new member fee is **\$67.50**.

Worshipful Masters/Secretaries, please don't forget to register your Lodge with the **\$150.00** fee that is required of each Lodge to register for the Annual Grand Communication. Your Lodge has to register your three principal officers @ **\$75.00 each**. Lodge registration and the three principal officers' fee is required whether they attend or not. Each individual member who attends the Communication will also have to pay a registration fee of **\$75.00**.

If a local Lodge fails to register for the 136th Annual Grand Communication, that Lodge will forfeit all benefits and privileges. Please remember that your Lodge has to register or the members of your Lodge can not register.

May Reports should be in the Grand Lodge Office on or before May 15. Advance Registration should be in the office on or before June 1. Registration postmarked after June 1, will be considered as late registration and the cost will increase to \$100.00 to mirror the cost of on-site registration. **Tickets for the Awards Luncheon and Family Banquet will not be included in late registration and on-site registration.** Ads for the Souvenir Journal are due in the Grand Lodge Office on or before June 1.

Secretaries and members, please try to transact your business for your Lodge and yourself before the Annual Communication. When you are sending the May Report and registration, please specify the amount to be credited to each area. This will help us tremendously when it comes to accounting accountability.

A new Worshipful Master will have to attend the Past Master Degree Workshop on Thursday, June 23, held at The Grand Masonic Temple. The fee to attend the workshop is \$30.00. A form will be included in the May Report Package to be filled out.

Lastly, the Roof Assessment will be over at the end of this Masonic Year. I am looking forward to seeing you in Fort Worth for our 136th Annual Grand Session.

Fraternally,

Hubert L. Reece Sr.



Message from the Grand Treasurer

Greetings,

I trust and pray that The Great Architect of the Universe continues to bless you and your family.

As your R.W. Grand Treasurer for The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, I have worked very hard to ensure the success of this Grand Lodge. With a sense of pride and a feeling of thanksgiving to God, I will do all that I can to ensure that the Office of Grand Treasurer continues to meet all financial obligations.

Improvements for this past Masonic year have included:

- Moving to Online Banking
- Implementing a new filing system to enhance proper Audit Procedures and Compliance

In spite of the country's trying economy, you have contributed to moving our Grand Lodge to a financially stable organization. We are not where we are going, for God is not through with us yet. But, we will continue to be good stewards of that which God has blessed you to entrust with me as one of your financial officers. Likened to the parable of talents, it is my desire for God to be favorable of how we have used the funds we were granted, so He will bless and multiply. Whether it be regular financial obligations, scholarship to youth, funding to youth camps, toys and gifts for needed families, donations to worthy and approved charities, property upgrades, wise financial investments, etc..., I will ensure we are doing it with a wise and responsible process.

I am honored to have been accorded the confidence you have placed in me to render this esteemed service. Consequently, I strive to be diligent in the execution of duties and responsibilities that you have entrusted in me. It is my privilege and pleasure to serve you and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas as R. W. Grand Treasurer. I look forward to seeing you in Fort Worth in June.

Fraternally submitted,

Robert J. Datcher



The Living Will

In these trying and dangerous times, we as Prince Hall Masons know all too well the importance of preparation. We live our lives knowing that we all must take that final journey, that from whom no man can avoid. We prepare our hearts and shape our minds, knowing that we cannot escape the inevitable. Trusting in God and believing, knowing that if we have lived by the vows we took on bended knees, then our immortal souls will find eternal rest. But what of those whom we leave to grieve; have you done all that you can to prepare for those you leave behind? Hopefully you have made provisions for them financially but what of their emotional well-being. Have you discussed with your significant other your wishes if your departure from this world does not go as smoothly as you had hoped? We all know that it all rests in the Lord's hands but just as you have made plans in other areas, this discussion, although difficult as it may be, is no less important. Although, it may seem like there is no proper time to have this discussion, there is no time like the present. How many of us have heard someone say, "I just saw him" or "She seemed fine to me," and this person is in the hospital on life support. Discuss with your loved ones your and their wishes, should the unexpected occur. If you suffer a stroke or are involved in a devastating accident and are unable to make the decisions for yourself,

what do you expect from that loved one? In this day of medical advances, a person can be kept alive almost indefinitely by drugs and machines, but is this your Will. Do you want your spouse to make that decision with her heart while under amounts of unbearable stress or with her mind knowing that these were your wishes? In Texas and in most other states, we have what is called a Living Will. This is a document that spells out exactly what your wishes are should you become unable to make these decisions for yourself. It is a portion of what is known as Advanced Health Directives. These can be tailored to your individual wishes. Medical Power of Attorney is another legal document that is important to consider. This is a document giving a spouse or family member the legal right to make medical decisions for you. Discuss these items with family and at the very least have an idea of each other's thoughts on these issues. Should you need further assistance, discuss your concerns with your physician or legal personnel. At the very least, talk. You owe that much and you might learn something you never knew about that person you have loved a lifetime.

Fraternally submitted, *Martin Conner III*



THE GRAND LODGE NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!

Greetings,

At a recent board meeting of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis recommended, and the Board approved, the appointment of Trustees to oversee the management of the Grand Lodge Temple and property. Duties and responsibilities include oversight of Temple related revenue and expenses, maintenance and repairs, and Temple rental. If you are interested in being considered for this voluntary position, please contact the Grand Lodge Office and provide a resume of your specific qualifications, your availability to serve, and any information that may conflict with your service in representing the interest of the Grand Lodge.

G.L.A. Willie H. Coleman Jr.
P.H.C.F. Chairman

There will be a minimum of three Trustees appointed. Residing in close proximity to the Grand Lodge will be important to fulfill the duties of these volunteer positions. Please submit information concerning your interest before March 1.

Additionally, volunteer assistance at the Grand Lodge is required for data entry of membership and other information into the Grand Lodge database. If you have automation skills in this area and can volunteer, please contact the Grand Lodge Office.

Registration support will be required leading up to and during the Grand Lodge Session in June. Individuals will help distribute registration materials and also assist with on-site registration activities. Those interested in volunteering their assistance please contact the Grand Lodge Office and provide your contact information.

THE PRINCE HALL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!

On Jan. 15, Grand Master Curtis, representatives of the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation and members of the Grand Lodge Archive Committee met with a delegation from the Fort Worth Library to discuss the development of the Grand Lodge's library/museum. As a result of that meeting, it was determined that the Masonic Family possesses historical information, such as applications for membership with detailed data that other organizations do not have.

Local Lodges can assist us in providing information concerning current and past members. How far back do your Lodge records go? You may have some historical documents and we would like to archive them in our new library/museum.

Each Lodge is asked to gather their records, minutes, applications and membership rolls and contact Brother Willie Coleman, Foundation President. Bro. Coleman can be contacted at (713) 851-0865. Documents can also be scanned into PDFs and emailed to Bro. Coleman at whcolemanjr@sbcglobal.net. Additionally, the Foundation will pay the cost of copying your documents.

Historical artifacts are also requested for the library/museum. These artifacts may include photographs, newspaper articles, Lodge furniture, aprons, books, etc. These items can be donated to the Grand Lodge or placed on loan to the Grand Lodge for temporary display. Your response by March 1 is appreciated.

Fraternally submitted,

Willie H. Coleman Jr.



A Place called “There” I Kings 17: 8 - 9

Greetings,

I was studying the Word of God and came across this particular passage of scriptures that seem to fit all of us.

“And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee” (1 Kin. 17:8-9).

This scripture tells Elijah that it was time for him to leave an area of his life where God had provided for him, and now God is sending him to another place.

Let us first look at what had happen already; the Lord had commanded Elijah to go hide himself by the brook called Cherith, the brook provided him water to quench his thirst and the ravens were commanded to provide food for His servant Elijah. Elijah was sent to that place and God provided for him. Note in this text of scriptures God commanded and Elijah obeyed and went. If we are going to be blessed in our lives, we must obey the commands of God for our lives.

We must realize that if God sent us to that Place called There, He will take care of us while we are there. Some of us are at that place now and are wondering why we are here; things may not be going as they planned it and this place has cause hardships and disappointment in their lives. Well, let's try doing His Will while we are There, and there will become a place where God can use you for His Glory. Well, let's see what happen when Elijah obeyed and went to Zarephath and had to depend on the widow woman to take care of him. There was a blessing in store for him because he obeyed the command, now lets us see who else was blessed. It looked like he was taking from this woman, but he was actually giving to her. Instead of this being her last meal before dying, the Lord multiplied this woman's supplies, which kept her, her son, and Elijah alive for about three years (1 Kin. 17:15-16). She had been operating in faith everyday. She would use the last bit of oil and meal for Elijah and then find that there was always enough to make a cake for herself and her son. This was a great faith builder, which I'm sure figured into things to come for her and her son. What a great miracle!

That wasn't all that the widow received. Her faithfulness in giving and obeying the Word of God and taking care of God's man in a place called There caused her son to be raised from the dead, look at 1 Kin. 17:17-23. One of the great lessons we can learn here is that God doesn't reveal His complete plan immediately. He reveals His Will to us one step at a time. After we obey the first step, He shows us the next. Why should the Lord show us step two or ten if we haven't obeyed step one? That would just make us more accountable. So, don't try to figure out the next step until you have acted on what you know to do now. That's a powerful truth when you are in your Place called There.

Each of us has a place called “There,” where the blessings of the Lord are waiting. The Lord never fails to provide, but people often fail to receive because they aren't all “There.” If Elijah had not gone to his place called “There,” his disobedience would not have stopped God's faithfulness; however, he would not have received the Blessing; it was over “There,” by the Brook Cherith, it was over “There” at the widow house that Elijah received the Blessing.

Fraternally submitted,

Norris D. Jackson

Prince Hall Masons convene in Fort Worth for Mid-Winter Session, 86 made Master Masons



Photo by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

R.W. Deputy Grand Master Michael T. Anderson delivers the historical lecture at the Grand Masonic Temple, Nov. 12. Eighty-six Fellow Crafts were Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

Story by: G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)
Photos by: G.P. Rev. Bernard Brown (324)

FORT WORTH – By the Order of M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis, Prince Hall Freemasons within the Jurisdiction of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas journeyed to the Grand Masonic Temple to attend the 2010 Grand Lodge Mid-Winter Session held Nov. 12 - 13.

On Nov. 12, an Occasional Lodge was opened for the purpose of degree work which was conducted by District 15-A, where 86 Fellow Crafts were prepared and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

Spectacular lectures and Charges were given by R.W. Deputy Grand Master Michael T. Anderson, Past Master Frederic Milliken, and Grand Lecturer Ivory Johnson, who recited the Charge given by Prince Hall to his Brethren on June 25, 1792.

After the Raising, the new Brethren were addressed.

"Freemasonry is the father of all fraternities. We are the oldest civil rights organization in the world," said D.G.M. Anderson. "Prince Hall wanted to be a Mason to help advance his people..., Masonry is in your heart and if it is in your heart, it will spread."

G.M. Curtis thanked all the Worshipful Masters and District Deputies for having the Fellow Crafts attend the Mid-Winter Session.

"It is a pleasure to see these 86

worthy Master Masons. You all have experienced something special that you have not experienced before. Freemasonry is a way of life, stay within your due bounds, stay within your circle between two points, if you do that, you will have no problems," said G.M. Curtis.

For one family, history was made.

Brother Kenneth Murry and his son, Bro. Yanick Murry, both of Maple Leaf Lodge No. 147 were Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. A special guest was on hand to witness this event. Bro. Larry Murry of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Arkansas who traveled to Texas to see his brother and nephew become Master Masons.

Bro. Yanick Murry provided his reasoning for joining Freemasonry.

"It was in my heart. I was asking about our family history and discovered that many of our family are Masons and asked my dad why he wasn't a Mason."

According to Bro. Kenneth Murry, this was a grand occasion, he did not know what to expect, but it was beautiful.

"I have always had someone to guide me throughout the years; as a little brother, I always admired my older brother, Larry. I wanted to follow in his footsteps," said Bro. Kenneth Murry. "Our mother has



Photo by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

Bro. Yanick Murry



Photo by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

Bro. Kenneth Murry



P.M. Frederic L. Milliken (135) delivers "On Yonder Book" Charge. He was assisted by G.R. Edwin D. Moore.

gone on; she was an Eastern Star and always wanted all of us to be Masons. I know she is smiling down upon us."

On Nov. 13, the Grand Lodge officers were received and took their respective stations and places and the Grand Lodge received G.M. Curtis. The Proclamation was read and G.M. Curtis set the Rules and Agenda for the 2010 Mid-Winter Session.

During the Special Session, the following reports were delivered: Scholarship Committee, Ways and Means Committee, Archive Committee, Charity Committee, By-Laws Committee, and Treasurer's Report.

After the reports were motioned and accepted, the session began its break-out sessions that included, but not limited to, the Grand Lodge Publication, Medical, Secretary/Treasurer Workshop, Masters and Wardens Workshop, and a Masonic Burial Ceremony Demonstration lead by Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620.

G.M. Curtis then held a District Deputies/Special Deputies Workshop, where Hon. Past Grand

Master Kervin Carter informed the Deputies of the 2011 J.T. Maxey Scholarship Program.

Grand Youth Director Charles Dewitt informed the Deputies of the 11th Annual Robert E. Connor Jr. Youth Camp that will be held in Oakland, Texas from July 14 -17.

G.Y.D. Dewitt said that each District should be able to send at least one youth to the Youth Camp, who are required to between the

ages of 9 and 17 at the time of camp.

G.M. Curtis then lectured about the duties of the Deputies, which are in the Constitution and he thanked the Deputies for what they are doing in their districts and for their assistance with the scholarship and youth camp programs.

After the workshops, the Brethren, Heroines and Eastern Stars (who were holding separate sessions) sat down to a Joint Luncheon and then returned to their respective sessions.

The Special Session resumed and all the heads of the Concor-dant Masonic bodies of Texas were recognized, to include Deputy General Grand High Priest Roosevelt Huggins of the General Conference Grand Chapters Holy Royal Arch Masons of the United States and the Bahamas, and provided the opportunity to give remarks.

P.G.M. Edwin B. Cash gave remarks and said that G.M. Curtis is doing something right, that his talents are being shared throughout Masonry.

G.M. Curtis thanked all who came to the Mid-Winter Session and that we all have received some



2010 Mid-Winter Degree Team



P.G.M. Edwin B. Cash.

Light, now it's time to take that Light back to our Lodges. He hopes to see everyone at the 136th Annual Grand Communication in June 2011. He then proceeded to close the 2010 Mid-Winter Session.

After the closing, the leadership of the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family gathered for a photo opportunity with a sample of the toys donated for the 2nd Annual Christmas Giveaway to be held on Dec. 18.



Photo by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

A 2011 Chevy Malibu will be the grand prize of the 2011 Joint Grand Car Raffle being held by the Grand Lodge, Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho and Norris W. Cuney Grand Chapter. Second Place prize is \$500 and Third Place prize \$250. Sis. Joyce G. Peavy of Cubie Horton Chapter No. 19, N.W.C.G.C was the winner of a 2010 Ford Mustang during the previous raffle.



Photo by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

Prince Hall Masonic Family brings Joy to Children during its Annual Christmas Giveaway



A family poses with Santa Claus during the Prince Hall Masonic Family of Texas' 2nd Annual Christmas Giveaway held at the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Dec. 18.

Story by: G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)
Photos by: G.P. Rev. Bernard Brown (324)

FORT WORTH, Texas – Ensuring that each child leave with a smile on their face was the mission given to members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family of Texas during its 2nd Annual Christmas Giveaway held at The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Dec. 18.

The Prince Hall Masonic Family, which consists of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge; Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho; Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter; Lone Star Grand Guild; Order of the Golden Circle; Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons; Knights Templar Masons; and Scottish Rite Masons, donated new unwrapped toys and gift cards to benefit children age 16 and under in the Fort Worth community who may not otherwise experience the joy of

a gift this Christmas.

The Prince Hall Masonic Family with the support of the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation of Texas (501(c)(3)) distributed more than 1,000 gifts to children of Fort Worth, an additional 200 gifts to the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Social Services Center of The Salvation Army of Tarrant County, and Walmart gift cards totaling \$450 to One Church One Child (OCOC) of Dallas/Fort Worth.

Parents and their children began forming the line as early as 6 a.m. For one family it was worth the wait.

"We came last year and the line was very long," said Markie

Martin, who was the first in line to ensure her five children received gifts for Christmas.

"My kids are ecstatic! It is good that the (Prince Hall Masonic Family) care enough to ensure children are happy this Christmas. A lot of parents don't have the money to buy their kids presents; with jobs hard to find and keep, this helps out tremendously."

Santa Claus was also in attendance to the delight of the children and was available for Christmas photos.

Nora Harris and her daughter, Syniah, were informed by a close friend about the Christmas Giveaway.

"My daughter just had surgery and she received gifts today that I was unable to provide her. This was my first time attending and I loved it."

Grand Princess Captain R. Lucille Samuel and members of the Lone Star Grand Guild gave out Christmas cards to parents as they exited the Grand Temple.

"All the smiles and thanks were



Children of Markie Martin are the first to enter The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge during the Prince Hall Masonic Family of Texas' 2nd Annual Christmas Giveaway, Dec. 18. Families started arriving at the Grand Temple at 6 a.m.



Photo by: W.M. Samuel Albert

Santa Claus, Grand Commander Tony Moore (Grand Commandery of Knights Templar), Grand Princess Captain R. Lucille Samuel, and Grand Master Wilbert Curtis pose with children who received bicycles during the Prince Hall Masonic Family of Texas' 2nd Annual Christmas Giveaway held at the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Dec. 18.

the best present I could have ever received," said G.P.C. Samuel. "Christmas is not about how much money you spend on gifts but the thought that goes behind the effort of making these children happy. We have provided gifts to families that may be destitute and cannot afford Christmas for their kids. These families will know there is a God and miracles do happen."

Wanda White, a lodge attendant with The Salvation Army, said that the donations were a blessing. She remembered the donations from 2009 but didn't expect another large donation this year.

"These toys will support our Angel Tree Program. Those children who are not sponsored will receive a gift."

Jeanette Willis, executive director of OCO, was very appreciative of the Christmas Giveaway.

"The Masonic Family is one of the most gracious and humble or-

ganizations I've ever had the pleasure of meeting," said Willis. "OCOC is honored to have been a recipient of their generosity."

The Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis, Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons of Texas was on hand and provided the significance of the annual event.

"The importance of this event is multi-fold. It is an example of how the Masonic Family can work together as one unit to make a positive impact in a community. It also makes the community aware of our presence and to discover the purpose of Prince Hall Freemasonry."

Grand Master Curtis recalled an incident that touched his heart when a little boy was having a severe asthma attack while waiting in line.

"Even though the child was sick at home, his young mother felt the need to bring him and put him in line just so he could receive a gift

for Christmas. Emergency services were dispatched and the child was taken to the hospital for treatment. His young mother was overjoyed when we brought gifts to the hospital for her son and daughters."

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge has a large facility that could be used to provide holiday meals, health clinics and/or clothes and blanket giveaways said G.M. Curtis.

"We are just scratching the surface of the services and Charity that we can provide with cooperation and support of the general public," said G.M. Curtis. "In the future we may be able to partner with other charitable and religious-based organizations to provide more Charity."

More than 100 members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family from throughout the Lone Star State traveled to the Grand Temple to assist in making this year's event a success.

"Without the support of Masonic Family, this year's event would have not been as successful. This was a team effort and I thank all who were able to attend," said G.M. Curtis.



Photo by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

P.G.M. Edwin Cash celebrates 80th Birthday

Story by: Bro. Dr. Bob Uzzel (420)

Photos by: G.P. Rev. Bernard Brown

ENNIS, Texas - November 30, 2010 was the 80th birthday of my good friend Edwin Bernard Cash, the only living Past Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons in Texas. This outstanding fraternal leader is a native of Dallas and has been a member of Good Street Baptist Church since 1936 and a deacon since 1957. He is married to the former Maxine Lola Turner and they have a daughter, Sherrie, who is now an attorney.

P.G.M. Cash graduated from Lincoln High School in Dallas and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bishop College in Marshall in 1952. He did graduate work at Southern Methodist University and received a Master of Education degree from North Texas State University in 1963. He served four years in the U. S. Air Force and worked for Dallas Independent School District from 1953 until his retirement in 1994. Much of his career with D.I.S.D. was spent as a visiting teacher.

P.G.M. Cash credits P.G.M. I. H. Clayborn (1913 - 1994), a long-time member of Good Street Baptist Church, with awakening his Masonic interests. P.G.M. Clayborn was determined that his church would be the first in Texas to have a Prince Hall Lodge operating under its roof. When a quorum of fifteen, all members of Good Street Baptist Church, was reached in May 1973, a meeting was held at the church and Good Street Baptist Lodge No. 182 was organized. Degrees were conferred and officers



P.G.M. Edwin B. Cash, 19th Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons of Texas.

were elected, with P.G.M. Cash chosen as the Lodge's first Worshipful Master. He held this position from 1973 to 1991.

P.G.M. Cash received the degrees of the Scottish Rite in Dale Consistory No. 31 and of the Mystic Shrine in Zakat Temple No. 164. In 1975, he received the 33° of the Scottish Rite when the United Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction, convened in Dallas. The degree was conferred by the late Sovereign Grand Commander Jno. G. Lewis Jr., who served for many years as Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana. P.G.M. Cash was appointed to the office of Grand Junior Deacon by P.G.M. Clayborn. In this capacity, he led the 1975 Grand Lodge Centennial Parade in Fort Worth. He served as Grand Senior Warden from 1979 to 1981 and as Deputy Grand Master from 1981 to 1991. In the latter capacity, he served under P.G.M. Reuben G. White (1917 - 2002) and P.G.M. Thomas H. Routt (1930 - 1991). Following P.G.M. Routt's funeral on Jan. 8, 1991, a delegation assembled at the Houston Hilton to install P.G.M. Cash as the 19th Grand Master of Prince

Hall Masons in Texas. In his first "Grand Master's Column" for *The Texas Prince Hall Masonic Quarterly*, he wrote, "I woke up the other morning and discovered that I am the captain of a sailing ship. I never thought that I would be captain of such a fine vessel, but here I am. I have found that this is a fine ship. It is a proven seaworthy ship that has been afloat since its first captain, Grand Master Norris Wright Cuney, was in charge. The ship of which I speak is the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and Jurisdiction. In order to be a good captain, a good crew is definitely needed. I have found that I inherited a crew of exceptional ability."

P.G.M. Cash provided outstanding leadership during his three years in the Grand East. The highlight of his administration was the meeting of the 75th Conference of Grand Masters of Grand Masters and the 46th Conference of Grand Chapters, which jointly convened at the Westin Oaks Galleria in Houston on May 11 - 14, 1994. He described this meeting as "an unqualified success." He took much pleasure in being able to meet and greet many officers from various jurisdictions who were able to enjoy a great deal of Texas-style hospitality.

Since his term ended in 1994, P.G.M. Cash has remained active in the Craft and community. He sought to provide wise counsel to his successor in the Grand East, P.G.M. Robert E. Connor, Jr. (1953 - 2003). Following P.G.M. Connor's funeral at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Columbus, Texas, he installed the Honorable Wilbert M. Curtis (1954-) as the 21st and current Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons of Texas.

I extend a Happy 80th Birthday to P.G.M. Cash, a man who is respected throughout Texas and beyond. I am proud to claim him as a friend and appreciate his support for my work as Grand Historian during his administration. It is my prayer that our Lord will continue to bless him with life and health so that he may inspire men and Masons for many years to come.



Texas K.O.P. Youth Leadership Conferences geared towards our Youth...

Story by: .

State Dir. Michael L. Simms Sr.
Thomas H. Routt Grand Council Order
of the Knights of Pythagoras

I remember back in 2001 when we held our Knights of Pythagoras (K.O.P.) conference that lasted half of a day on a Saturday at Paul Quinn College in Dallas. During that conference, the Youth Knights held their business meeting, had lunch, and returned to their respective cities.

Approximately 15 Youth Knights and eight Sir Knights attended. Years later, we began hosting our conferences at hotels or at the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

Today, I can proudly say we have transitioned our youth conferences from half a day to encompass an entire weekend and changed venues from hotels to college/university campuses throughout Texas.



This transformation has allowed us to take our youth to centers of higher learning in hopes to prepare them for college life.

Since 2005, the Texas K.O.P. has benefited from hosting their youth leadership conferences at a college or university. If you had a 9-year-old boy (or other older young boys/men) that has participated in the Texas K.O.P. program, he would have had the opportunity to visit the following colleges/universities:

2005 – Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View.

Focus: Building Leaders of Tomorrow, Today...

2006 – Texas Southern University, Houston.

Focus: Building a Generation of Community Leaders

2007 – Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View.

Focus: Engaging our Youth in Leadership and Decision Making





himself sought out equal educational opportunities when it came to educating our youth and was turned down on numerous occasions. We may not have the same brick walls that he faced; however, we still have other barriers that our youth are facing today. Helping them to overcome these barriers should be our primary goal as Prince Hall Masons.

Information on 2011 Youth Leadership Conference

Location: Huston Tillotson University, (Austin)
 Focus: The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens – Training the next generation of leaders
 Dates: July 29 – 31, 2011

Hosts:

Area Director: D.A.S.D. Herb Loring, Sam T. Robinson Council No.10

Chairman P.D.D.G.M. Arthur M. Sauls, President of Local Board of Regents of MLK Council No. 5

Co-Chairman Senior Advisor, Donald Brooks, Martin Luther King Jr. Council No. 5

Co-Chairman Senior Advisor, Fred Jones, Charlie F. Ware Council No. 14

District: 24th Masonic District – D.D.G.M Marvin Kelker

Books are to be purchased for our youth at the 2011 conference. If you would like to donate towards our 2011 Youth Leadership Conference please contact State Director, Michael Simms at koptexas@yahoo.com, State Recorder Clary Glover at State.Recorder@texaskop.net, or State Treasurer Robert Datcher at Rdat1961@msn.com.

2008 – University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington.

Focus: Engaging our Youth in Leadership and Decision Making
 Part 2: Developing the Right Attitude

2009 – Wiley College, Wiley.
 (The film “Great Debaters” was based on this college debate team)
 Focus: Is there a need for change within our youth today?

2010 – Texas Southern University, Houston
 Focus: Facing Your Giants – How to face your challenges.

Future

2011 – Huston Tillotson University, Austin
 Focus: The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens – Training the next generation of leaders.

The 9-year-old who began attending K.O.P. conferences in 2005 would be 15 in the year 2011. At the conclusion of the 2011 conference, the young man would have had visited five colleges with four of

them being a historically black college or university (H.B.C.U.) and would have benefited from the training provided as well.

Also during our conferences, the Youth Knights participate in debate competitions, oratorical contests, report card competitions, statewide basketball tournaments, Knighting Ceremonies for high school seniors (with assistance from our Texas Knights Templar), panel discussions on youth topics, elections of state youth officers, and focus-based training. Other things such as sleeping in a college dormitory, dining in a college cafeteria, and experiencing a college campus gives our youth a feeling of what it's like to be a college student.

As we prepare to celebrate Black History Month in February 2011, our goal is to host our youth leadership conferences at every H.B.C.U. in Texas. After our visit to Huston Tillotson University this summer, the Texas K.O.P. would have had visited five of nine HBCU's including Paul Quinn College in 2001.

As Texas Prince Hall Masons, we are truly proud of the success of our K.O.P. program. Prince Hall

Pythagoras & the Knights of the Pythagoras

What is the connection?

Over the years I have asked Youth Knights who serves as a member of the Knights of Pythagoras (K.O.P.) program in several jurisdictions on who is Pythagoras. Often the responses have described him in two ways; (1) a scholar and (2) a mathematician. Although these two answers are correct, the next question would be how do a scholar and mathematician impact our youth program today? Is the K.O.P. program made up of scholars and/or mathematicians only? Does the program help our youth to better understand mathematics? In order to better understand the relationship between Pythagoras and the K.O.P. we need to first understand Pythagoras. Pythagoras was chosen as the name for this organization by the Conference of Prince Hall Grand Masters during a meeting held in Denver, Colorado back on May 8 - 10, 1951. What was their thought process about naming this program after Pythagoras? I haven't ran into anything in writing about why Pythagoras name was given so the only choice I have is to look at his history. So let's take a look into his history to make the connection....

Pythagoras

There are several and different accounts of when and where Pythagoras was born. Some parts of history has it recorded that Pythagoras was born around 580 - 574 BC. He is thought to have been born on the Greek Island of Samos and traveled widely in his youth, visiting Egypt and Persia. His father name was Mnesarchus who lived and died in Samos and his mother's name was Parthenia (a descendant of the first king of Samos). He had two brothers named Eunomus and Tyrrhenus and a sister named Themistocleia. Pythagoras was taught early as a child by some of the greatest minds of that time. It was said that Pythagoras headed to Memphis in Egypt to study with Priests who were renowned for their wisdom. It may have also been in Egypt where he learned some geometric principles which eventually inspired his formulation of the theorem that is now called by his name. Pythagoras also settled in the city of Croton in southern Italy. It was there he began his teaching and soon had a clutch of students who lived a structured life of study and exercise, inspired by a philosophy based around mathematics. This circle came to be known as the Pythagoreans. As Pythagoras got older he also founded a philosophical and religious school in Croton that had many followers. So based upon what I have read here are the basic things we take away from Pythagoras?

<u>Pythagoras</u>	<u>How</u>	<u>What does this mean to the K.O.P.</u>
Leader	→ <i>Formed several organizations</i>	→ Leadership training for our youth
Community Activist	→ <i>Formed community groups</i>	→ Importance of serving your community
Scholar	→ <i>Mathematician & Philosopher</i>	→ Importance of education
Religious Thinker	→ <i>Study religion</i>	→ Importance of having God in your life

Knighthood

Knighthood provides us as masons a way to train our youth. During our Texas K.O.P. Youth Leadership Conference we use Knighthood also as a method of training. We break our youth into three groups; Page (males 9 - 12), squire (males 12 - 15), and knights (males 16 - 20). This allows us to focus our specific training with three separate age group.

The K.O.P. & Masonry

The Knights of Pythagoras is a program that allows our youth to experience the brotherhood we have in masonry. We must keep this program going nationally, statewide, and citywide. The leadership we experience on our level we must have our youth experience as well. The community service we provide as masons, we must have our youth experience as well. The brotherhood we have on our level our youth must experience as well. Every district and lodge should have a K.O.P. program or at least be involved with one.

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. January 17, 2011

Districts 10 & 11 - Dallas



Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. January 17, 2011

District 15-A - Houston



District 19 - San Antonio



Prince Hall Masons and Knights Templar donate Food Baskets for Thanksgiving Holidays



Thanksgiving dinner. The recipients, including senior citizens, the homeless, and others in need, not only appreciated the food baskets, but the personal door-to-door delivery service.

The food baskets consisted of a Turkey and all the trimmings.

Worshipful Master Karlous Morgan Sr. and District Deputy Grand Master Jerry Brown Sr., who both attended felt that the event was a complete success.

Both leaders said they are dedicated and committed to conducting more charitable events within the

Story by: D.D.G.M. Jerry Brown Sr. (648)

RED OAK, Texas – Thanksgiving arrived early for residents of Western Oaks Housing Unit as Prince Hall Freemasons of Phoenix Lodge No. 648 and Knights Templar of D.C. Collins Commandery No. 40 combined efforts to conduct their 5th Annual Thanksgiving Feed a Family Charity Event, Nov. 23.

The Lodge, which has been a pillar of Red Oak since 2005,



has participated in several charity events throughout the Lone Star State and in Red Oak. Members of the Lodge and Commandery provided families with a complete

Red Oak community.

Phoenix Lodge 648, which prides itself on giving, is composed of approximately 30 members.

"Today is our cornerstone event for the organization, which demonstrates the true meaning of giving back," said W.M. Morgan. "It's just so nice to see how grateful the recipients are to have those meals delivered."

Phoenix Lodge No. 648 brings Cheer to Residents of Western Oak Housing Unit



"This is truly a blessing from God, before this my children would not have had any toys for Christmas," said one of the recipients.

The membership of Phoenix Lodge thanks the Red Oak Community for its support in their endeavors.

"This is how they are able to give back to the Community," said District Deputy Grand Master Jerry Brown Sr. of the 10th Masonic District.

The Lodge's mission is to disseminate Charity; promote the spirit of Brotherly Love; teach and encourage the idea of peace, harmony and good will among the people; and promote loyalty to the constituted authority of our state and country.

Phoenix Lodge No. 648 meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at the Red Oak Lions Club starting at 7:30 p.m.

Story by:
D.D.G.M. Jerry Brown Sr. (648)

RED OAK, Texas - Prince Hall Masons of Phoenix Lodge No. 648, under the leadership of Worshipful Master Karlous R. Morgan Sr., brought early Christmas Cheer to seven families of the Western Oak Housing Unit at the Red Oak Lions Club, Dec. 22.

"Brothers tonight we are getting back to the basics of what Freemasonry is all about," said W.M. Morgan as he addressed the members of the Lodge.

The apartment manager of the housing unit was notified and asked if there were any families residing in the complex that were in need of assistance during the Christmas Holiday Season.

A list of families was provided to the Lodge and the membership assembled to prepare a home cooked meal for the families that consisted of turkey, dressing,

green beans, corn and chocolate cake. In addition, ten children were presented with gifts for Christmas.



Members of Phoenix Lodge No. 648 and residents of Western Oak Housing Unit.

Labyrinth Lodge No. 96, Sisters of Agape Chapter bear gifts in Brazos Valley



Left to right: J.W. Ricky Belle, an Angel Tree Representative, Bro. Richard Lee, Treas. Kevin Harris, and Sec. Derren Williams.

Story by: P. M. Edward Jones (1)

Bryan, Texas – Since being chartered in 2009, Labyrinth Lodge No. 96 has been on a mission to serve a community in desperate need of positive presence. Less than two miles from one of the nation's finest universities, Texas A&M, is a community ravished with poverty, an increasing crime rate, and a cloud of hopelessness for some of the residents who can view the sports complex of the Aggies.

With its mission statement, "To be pillars for our community that will be seen in the dark as well as in the light. To continue the legacy of Masonry that had been passed from Brothers before me," Prince

Hall Masons of Labyrinth have been on a relentless pace to assist in removing the dark cloud of despair hovering over Bryan/College Station.

Partnering with Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38, a newly created organization under the Order of Eastern Star, Labyrinth continues to display the charitable attributes that Prince Hall Masonry brings to communities.

Over the past holiday season Labyrinth, partnered with Sisters of Agape, brought cheer to those in need by donating to Scotty's House (for battered and abused children) and the Angel Tree Program.

"Being that Scotty's House serves at least six counties, we

wanted do our best to assist them with their cause, and it is always a pleasure to serve anyway we can," said Worshipful Master Tommy Jerkins.

When asked what cemented the decision to donate to the Angel Tree Program, Worthy Matron Tiffany Lee shared, "I had always wanted to take a name off of the Angel Tree, so this year I wanted to do my part to make a child's dream come true."

Sister Lee and her husband, Bro. Richard Lee of Labyrinth, contribute year around to organizations that benefiting the youth of Bryan/College Station and surrounding areas.

"The charitable donations that Labyrinth Lodge made will have a very positive impact in our community and surrounding areas," said Bro. Lee. "It has truly been a Blessing to have an opportunity to make a child's wish come true and also give a helping hand to Scotty's House by providing a \$300 donation."

With the charitable mind set of Labyrinth and Sisters of Agape, Brazos Valley seems to be on a path heading towards positive change.



Wyatt Lodge No. 21, Union Seal Lodge No. 64 pave the way in the Community of Waco

Wyatt Lodge No. 21



Story by:
S.D.D.G.M. Michael E. Whitted (21)

WACO – Members of Wyatt Lodge No. 21 have been very instrumental in participating in community projects since their reintegration into District 14 in July 2010.

On Thanksgiving Day, Worshipful Master Jerry L. Martin Sr. and members of the Lodge partnered with the Meals-on-Wheels Program and fed over 750 members of the community.

This program was the first of its kind for the Prince Hall family, in that they also partnered with the Scottish Rite Bodies of Waco (non-Prince Hall). The event established a foundation in which Prince Hall and non-Prince Hall Masons can work together for the benefit of the community.

Collectively, these are just a few of the programs that exist in District 14, and Wyatt Lodge is proud to be a part of that effort of spreading

that cement of Brotherly Love that unites us into one common band of Brothers serving the needs of the community in which they exist.

On Oct. 30, Prince Hall Masons of Union Seal Lodge No. 64 hosted their 1st Annual Masons in the Park event which supported the community with donations to the Caritas Foundation and helped implement their Lodge scholarship

fund in honor of Brother William Black.

This event was supported by the Texas Workforce Commission, the local chapter of the N.A.A.C.P., local churches and members of the community.

According to Worshipful Master Demetrius Waples, the community work in which the Lodge is engaged in is the foundation of the principles of the Masonic Order was founded upon.

“The event was a huge success for the members of Union Seal,” said W.M. Waples. “Charitable donations included \$300 to the Caritas Foundation that fed over 250 people and \$200 to the establishment of our scholarship fund.”

Union Seal Lodge No. 64 is paving the way for other Lodges to emulate through their community service programs. District 14 continues moving in the right direction with joint efforts throughout the District and the communities in which it serves.



Union Seal Lodge No. 64

Jno G. Lewis Lodge No. 622 ends 2010 through Charitable Works



Photo by: Jason Burke

Members and family members pause in front of Copperas Cove High School after delivering Thanksgiving Food Baskets.

Story by:

W.M. Vandal Adderley Sr. (622)

COPPERAS COVE, Texas – Over the course of the last quarter, Jno G. Lewis Lodge No. 622 participated in many events within the community.

On Oct. 30, Lodge members participated in the city's annual Safe Halloween, where businesses and organizations hand out candy to trick or treaters. The event, which was held in the downtown area, was closed to motor vehicles and the businesses and organizations had to be registered with the city, for additional safety. Approximately 2,500 children, dressed in their costumes passed through the area. The event provided a safer environment than allowing the children to go door to door in search of treats.

The month of November was a active month for the Lodge. On

Nov. 20, the Lodge kicked off their Thanksgiving Basket Drive to help the less fortunate. With Honorary Past Master Henry Gibson taking the lead, the Lodge assisted 29 families who otherwise may not have had a traditional holiday meal. The members assembled and delivered baskets consisting each of a turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, corn, green beans, green peas, cranberry sauce, cheese cake, gravy mix, dinner rolls, and drink mix. The membership's hearts were warmed to see the smiles of the families receiving the baskets.

On Dec. 10, the Lodge combined efforts with Devine Glory Chapter No. 3, Order of the Easter Star and Mount Sinai Chapter No. 42, Holy Royal Arch Masonry (Copperas Cove Masonic Family) to participate in the quarterly State of Texas' Adopt a Highway Road-

side Clean-up. The Masonic Family adopted two miles of highway on FM 3046. After the cleanup, the Family conducted its annual holiday potluck dinner at the Lodge.

Bringing joy to the elderly, the Lodge and O.E.S. Chapter visited Wind Crest Nursing Home to hand out Christmas gifts, Dec. 12. At the conclusion of the visit, the two organizations visited Hill Country Nursing Home and sang songs for the residents. P.M. Ivory Baker and Senior Warden Charles Lilley provided the musical arrangements.

Assisting those in need, the Lodge donated food items and gifts cards for the Hale family, Dec. 13. Sponsoring a family that needs assistance during Christmas is an annual event for the Lodge.



Christmas donations.



Roadside Clean-up.

District 15-A

D.D.G.M. Ronald Gerac

Brothers, Sisters of District 15-A celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Story and photos by:
W.M. Samuel T. Albert (108)

HOUSTON – Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday is celebrated in a number of events around town. The citizens of Houston honor Dr. King's birthday by having parties, sponsoring concerts, or just by having a simple back yard barbeque. Prince Hall Masons and Eastern Stars of District 15-A chose to honor Dr. King and celebrate his birthday by participating in the Black Heritage Society's 33rd Annual "Original" M.L.K. Day Parade, Jan. 17.

The event is one of the largest most energetic and colorful events given in Houston. The parade was held downtown near Minute Maid Park. This was a community event, and our Brothers and Sisters were honored to be requested by the Society to represent the Prince Hall Family of Texas.

District 15-A's participation was coordinated by Brother Mike Tatum under the leadership of District Deputy Grand Master Ronald Gerac. Among the Lodges that participated in this grand event were Magnolia Lodge No. 3, True Square Lodge No. 108, Maple Leaf Lodge No. 147, True Level Lodge No. 226 and Highland Heights Lodge No. 200.

Grand Worthy Matron Martha Wolridge, Associate Grand Matron Eula Bell, as well as, members of McCullough P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12 also participated in the festivities.

Thank you all for representing our Prince Hall Family.



Prince Hall Masons and Eastern Stars of District 15-A chose to honor Dr. King and celebrate his birthday by participating in the Black Heritage Society's 33rd Annual "Original" M.L.K. Day Parade, Jan. 17.



District 15-A makes a Difference in Fifth Ward Houston during Thanksgiving Holiday



Story by:
W.M. Samuel T. Albert (108)

HOUSTON — In a struggling economy, some families were wondering where their next meal was going to come from. Fortunately several of our local Lodges and Chapters in District 15A were willing to lend a helping hand during the Thanksgiving Holiday.

During the week of Thanksgiving, Worshipful Masters Dedrick Finister, Samuel Albert and Past Worthy Ma-

tron Rhonda Davis teamed up and combined their efforts to sponsor a Thanksgiving Food Drive in the Fifth Ward. Each person contacted their perspective Lodges or chapters and requested food donations ranging from turkeys, hams, and non-perishable food items. True Level Lodge No. 226 served as the staging center.

In the previous years, District Deputy Grand Master Ronald Gerac utilized one central location to distribute Thanksgiving baskets throughout

Houston. However, during the 2010 Thanksgiving Holidays, D.D.G.M. Gerac issued an initiative for each Lodge in the District to target their perspective communities.

This effectively allowed each Lodge to forge a stronger relationship with families in their immediate community. The concerted effort resulted in more than 30 families receiving meals in the Fifth Ward area, as well as, a multitude of families being fed throughout the District.

Lodges that participated in the Thanksgiving Food Drive were True Level No. 226, True Square No. 108, Silver Trowel No. 47, James E. Carter Lodge No. 157, and Purple Heart Lodge No. 205. Participating Chapters included McCullough P. Wolridge Chapter No. 12, Pride of Maple Leaf Chapter No. 43, Maple Leaf Chapter No. 59, Hosanna Faith Chapter No. 63, and Nefer-titi Chapter No. 17. Special thanks to Heroines of Jericho's Booker T. Washington Court No. 99 and H.O.J. Matrons' Forum for their participation.

Good Job! Your efforts truly made a difference in the community.



HOUSTON — Members of Highland Heights Lodge No. 200 with assistance from Purple Heart Lodge No. 205, Wesley Chapter No. 39 (O.E.S.), Arthur L. Banks Council No. 2 (K.O.P.) and New Jerusalem and True Love Missionary Baptist Churches provided turkeys and canned goods to



needy families in the local community, Nov. 20.

San Antonio awards Scholarships



Jorge Rodriguez

From left to right: Amanda Aguilar, D.D.G.M. Grady Peavy Jr., and Sherri Johnson stand with Prince Hall Masons of San Antonio after the two mothers received \$500 each on behalf of their children who were awarded scholarships.

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

SAN ANTONIO – Obtaining a higher education is one of the fundamental rights that human beings can pursue in life. Not only does an education provide someone with more opportunities in securing a high paying job, but also to enjoy college life.

To assist two students with their financial commitments, Prince Hall Masons of District 19, The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F.&A.M. of Texas awarded \$500 scholarships to Jorge Rodriguez and Myjorca Johnson at the Masonic Temple, Oct. 16.

Their parents, Amanda Aguilar (Jorge) and Sherri Johnson (Myjorca) accepted the awards on behalf of their children, who were

both away at school.

According to Aguilar, who was informed of the scholarship by Special District Deputy Grand Master Julian Jenkins, her family was very grateful and excited.

"We would like to first of all thank the Prince Hall Masons for the opportunity to participate and secondly we are very grateful that Jorge was able to receive an award," said Aguilar. "It is greatly appreciated. It is groups like you... that give young people the means to continue their education. Thank you."

Through email communication, Myjorca said, "I am sincerely grateful to God and to the Prince Hall Masons for awarding me this wonderful opportunity. I feel empowered by this scholarship because I honestly feel they believe in me. I

will always try my best knowing that the Prince Hall Masons and God have reached out to help me."



Myjorca Johnson

Prince Hall Masonic Family of San Antonio honors P.M. William H. Craig aka “Ole Barracuda”

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

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – “Allowing him to smell his flowers while he is still here” was the key theme stressed for a man, whom for more than 44 years has given his time, love, and fortitude for Prince Hall Masonry. On Nov. 19, at the John J. McCarthy Golf Clubhouse, the Prince Hall Masonic Family of San Antonio honored and paid tribute to such a man, Past Master William H. Craig aka “Ole Barracuda.”

The tribute, which was organized by Beacon Light Lodge No. 50, provided an opportunity for the Masonic bodies, friends and family to join in together to thank P.M. Craig for all he has done for Prince Hall Masonry.

The guest speaker, Bro. Rev.. Robert L. Jemerson of 2nd Baptist Church and member of San Antonio Lodge No. 1, asked for a moment of silence to honor P.M. Craig and said that he was grateful for the privilege to serve as the speaker for the hour.

Bro. Jemerson referenced a movie named “Schindler’s List” and renamed it “Craig’s List” and on that list stated three attributes referencing P.M. Craig: Kindness, Commitment, and Celebration.

“The man we honor tonight is totally committed..., this man I know has kindness... and he loves to celebrate,” said Bro. Jemerson. “This man has taken us to another level...it is good that you allowed him to smell his flowers while he is still here.”

Not only were kind words devoted to honor P.M. Craig, but also in song. Musical selections from



P.M. William H. Craig gives praise to his Lord during a tribute honoring him at the John J. McCarthy Golf Clubhouse, Nov. 19.

True Vine Baptist Church and Humble Praise Gospel Groups filled the room with spirit.

After the selections, a special video tribute was delivered by P.M. Albert C. Thomas, Secretary of Beacon Light Lodge No. 50, who has been friends with PM Craig for more than 30 years, but was unable to attend the event.

The following organizations gave remarks and presentations: Star Tom Lodge No. 100, Beacon Light Lodge No. 50, Blue Bonnet Lodge No. 192, and Lone Star Consistory No. 113.

P.M. Anthony L. Davis of Beacon Light Lodge No. 50 delivered remarks and said that Bro. Craig, who had served over 20 years as the Treasurer of Beacon Light Lodge No. 50, is like a father figure and that his heart is full of joy because so many of his friends and family came out to honor him.

P.M. Burnell White Jr. of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 remarked that the 19th Masonic District will be establishing the W. H. Craig Scholarship, not only to establish a legacy for P.M. Craig, but for all those who came before us.

A special presentation was delivered by P.M. Frederick Jacobs of Blue Bonnet Lodge No. 192 in honor of P.M. Craig; an original minute book of Beacon Light Lodge No. 50 dating back to 1890's.

After the presentation of awards, P.M. Craig was handed the microphone.

“I thank you for your consideration and I am delighted.”

P.M. Craig said that he had prepared a long speech but kept his remarks short. He ended his speech with, “One more time we rise up TOGETHER; one more time we pray TOGETHER; one



Bro. Rev. Jemerson served as the speaker of the hour and praised P.M. Craig for his endeavors not only in Masonry but also those in the church.



P.M. Craig listens to P.M. Thomas's video message.

more time we ate TOGETHER; one more time we sung TOGETHER; and one more time we bind up the unbreakable cord TOGETHER for the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost."

Closing remarks were delivered by District Deputy Grand Master Grady Peavy Jr., who alerted those in attendance that Bro. Craig has done a lot for the 19th Masonic District.

"We have had too many Brothers leave here without extracting that knowledge from them. We will be doing just that," said D.D.G.M. Peavy.

D.D.G.M. Peavy then presented a token on behalf of the District to P.M. Craig.

The night ended as it began, paying tribute to a man who was able to smell his flowers while he was still here.



Prince Hall Masonic Family of San Antonio donates Food for the Thanksgiving Holiday

Story by:

G.E. Burrell D. Parmer (1)

SAN ANTONIO – In a continuing effort to bring relief to the distress, the Prince Hall Masonic Family of San Antonio donated turkeys and canned goods to church ministries at the Testimony of God's Greatness, Nov. 23.

Minister Delores M. Richardson, president of International Alignment of Ministers, Inc., explained the ministries' purpose.

"This is a collaboration of ministries to accomplish the work of God, serving His people. This is the season of thanksgiving and the unfortunate have an opportunity to celebrate God and give Him praise."

Min. Richardson spoke of her feelings when the Prince Hall Freemasons entered the facility.

"I felt unspeakable joy, it's hard to describe. When I saw the men bringing in those turkeys and other donations, I saw Him working," said Min. Richardson. "It was great to see well-dressed men, men of stature, coming in the door and serving the community. In fact, their assistance extends beyond



The Prince Hall Masonic Family of San Antonio poses for photos at the Masonic Temple, Nov. 22. Turkeys and other food items were distributed to needy families throughout San Antonio.

the community."

Sister Angnet Norman of Testimony of God's Greatness was conducting her daily live radio broadcast and gave praise to God and thanked the Prince Hall Masonic Family. She alerted her listeners that the donations were available to them.

Pastor Frank Ynclan of I Am International Church of San Antonio, along with his wife, Irma, was present at the facility and said that many families lack adequate funds during the holidays.

"A lot of people's resources are limited," said Pastor Ynclan. "Donating food provides an opportunity for them to have a Happy Thanksgiving."

District Deputy Grand Master Grady Peavy Jr. of the 19th Masonic District led

the contingent delivering the donations and said why it is important for the Prince Hall Masonic Family to assist the joint ministries.

"Our donations to charities is one way to let the local community know that one of our main purposes is to look out for our fellow man and woman, especially those in need."

The Prince Hall Masonic Family of San Antonio has been assisting Testimony of God's Greatness for approximately five years by donating turkeys and food items for Thanksgiving, Christmas Toys, and monetary donations according to D.D.G.M. Peavy.

"The Prince Hall Masonic Family of San Antonio is here to assist any charitable organization when asked to do so, after careful investigation and the need is warranted," said D.D.G.M. Peavy.



Prince Hall Masonic Family of San Antonio brings Christmas Cheer to Children of T.o.G.G.

Story by:

G.E. Burrell D. Parmer (1)

SAN ANTONIO – The Prince Hall Masonic Family of San Antonio brought Christmas a day early to families taking part in Testimony of God's Greatness' (T.o.G.G.) annual Christmas dinner held at the T.o.G.G. facility, Dec. 24.

Two busses of men, women and children arrived at T.o.G.G. to have a Christmas meal not knowing that the children would be receiving gifts.

Sister Angnet Norman and T.o.G.G. have been providing Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to the homeless for over 30 years.

"We have supported Sis. Norman for many years," said Past Master C.W. Bankston of San Antonio Lodge No. 1. "She feeds the hungry every year, some of them being children. We wanted to bring some Christmas cheer to those children."

Sis. Norman was thankful for the



Photo by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

Members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family pose with Sis. Angnet Norman and recipients of toys at T.o.G.G.'s annual Christmas dinner held Dec. 24.

Prince Hall Masonic Family's gifts.

"I thank these men and women who cared enough to provide the children with Christmas gifts. The

Lord sent His finest," said Sis. Norman. "The Lord knows how to send people to us."

Sis. Sylvia McDonald of T.o.G.G. spoke to the families and gave the blessing of the meal.

"People from all over the city have provided for us today; some have cooked food, sent money and some have sent clothing," said Sis. McDonald. These are all blessings."

All were expecting just a meal; the visit by the Prince Hall Masonic Family was a surprise.

"The children didn't have any idea that they would receive toys today," said Sis. Norman. "I thank the Lord for the gifts. Christmas is not Christmas without the children being happy."

The Prince Masonic Family continues to support worthy charitable organizations throughout the city of San Antonio.



Photo by: P.M. Clary Glover Jr.

San Antonio Lodge No. 1 helps feed the Homeless

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

SAN ANTONIO – In continuance of serving their fellow man and women, Prince Hall Masons of San Antonio Lodge No. 1, District 19, gathered together at the Haven for Hope's Campus to assist in providing lunch for the homeless, Oct. 30.

Eleven Freemasons volunteered their time to augment the four, full-time servers of the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul, a national non-profit organization, which is comprised of men and women who strive to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those in need. It operates a tenant location at the Haven for Hope Campus.

The Society of Saint Vincent De Paul (at Haven for Hope) provides cold meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner for approximately 300 patrons per meal daily. Additionally, they provide meals for SAM Ministries, a non-profit organization with the mission of overcoming homelessness and Prospects Courtyard, where guests can receive safe overnight and outdoor lodging.

According to Robert Logan, a Sous Chef with the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul, the homeless in



Prince Hall Masons of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 volunteered to prepare and serve lunch to the homeless at the Haven for Hope Campus, Oct. 30. Twelve Freemasons volunteered their time to augment the four, full-time volunteers of the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul, a national non-profit organization, which has a tenant location at the Haven for Hope Campus.

Prospects Courtyard are awaiting residency at the Haven for Hope's Campus, where live-in residents make a life plan and commitment to leaving homelessness.

Residents of Haven for Hope's Campus are fed by the San Antonio Food Bank which provides three hot meals daily. The Food Bank also provides one hot meal for dinner for Saint Vincent DePaul

many volunteers show up, he had not been informed that a Masonic Lodge was coming that day.

"It's wonderful, so wonderful to have more volunteers," said Logan. "We have several organizations that volunteer, some once a month, some every week and others every fourth Friday of each month."

"We are very grateful to have the Masons here to volunteer. We have a lot of people here who are very satisfied. We would like for the Masons to come back again."

According to its website, Haven for Hope's mission is to transform and save lives of the homeless. Its purpose is to provide homeless individuals and families with the training, skills and assistance needed to help them become self-sufficient.

guests every Monday said Logan. He said that they are planning on having a stove installed in order to have hot meals served.

Chef Logan, who has been in the kitchen for over 30 years, was surprised to see so



Prince Hall Freemasons assist S.S.F.C.U. and SA Food Bank by donating Turkeys for the Holiday Season

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

SAN ANTONIO – In a continuing effort to assist the distressed in the Alamo City, Prince Hall Freemasons of San Antonio Lodge No. 1, District 19, donated frozen turkeys in support of the Security Service Federal Credit Union's Turkey Round-up held at their Stone Oak Branch, Nov. 20.

The Turkey Round-up supports the San Antonio Food Bank's 8th Annual Food 4 SA Campaign, a community-wide effort held each November to collect a million pounds of food to help make this a happy Thanksgiving to thousands of needy families in Southwest Texas.

According to Zuani M. Villarreal, chief development officer for the SA Food Bank, the Turkey Round-up has been around since 2003 and the turkeys collected on Saturday will be distributed to needy families on Monday.

"The San Antonio Food Bank's goal is to collect 18,000 turkeys for families in need," said Villarreal. "Turkeys collected will be distributed throughout 16 counties through the Food Bank's network



of partner agencies."

Past Master C. W. Bankston of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 said that it is our mission to help those less fortunate.

"We all have to be able to give back to the community," said P.M. Bankston. "Providing Charity and supporting worthy charitable organizations is a part of Prince Hall Masonry."

According to P.M. Edward S. Jones of San Antonio Lodge No. 1,

contributing to the needy brings people joy.

"I feel it is extremely important to help those in need during the holidays," said P.M. Jones. "Helping families not only provides them some form of cheer, but the hope that this form of Charity is

just the beginning of future blessings. It warms my heart to see the smiles that are a derivative of good deeds. That is the true reward."

Turkeys are not the normal items received through donations said Villarreal.

"Families are struggling due to the economy and need help throughout the year. This assistance gives them strength and hope to get them through the tough times.

We want to say thank you to all who donated. One turkey will help a family; you're not only nurturing their stomachs but also their souls. You are truly making a difference."

San Antonio Lodge No. 1 and other Prince Hall Lodges of the 19th Masonic District are donating turkeys and accessories to needy families throughout the city for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays.



San Antonio Lodge No. 1 continues its Tradition of Family Fellowship, welcomes Visitors

Story by: P.M. Edward Jones (1)

Photos by: G.E. Burrell D. Parmer (1)

SAN ANTONIO – Tis the season, and San Antonio Lodge No. 1 did its part to share in the holiday tradition of family and friends with its annual Fellowship Night, Dec. 21.

Spearheaded by Senior Warden David Grimes, the event captured the true spirit of its namesake.

When asked why the Lodge held this type of event, Worshipful Master Nathaniel Tennyson Jr. said, "We have these types of events to continue to invoke harmony among our Masonic Brothers and their families. In addition it promotes a relaxed environment to communicate openly, free from protocol or structure."

He further explained the importance of inviting family members.

"Without the support of our family, our Masonic travels would suffer. It is important to invite families because it allows them to feel more of a part of the Masonic family. This is a perfect way to thank them for their support," said W.M. Tennyson.

In addition to meeting the member's immediate families, the membership was equally pleased to have extended Masonic family at-



Lodge and family members socialize during San Antonio Lodge No. 1's Annual Fellowship Night, Dec. 21.

tend.

Past Masters Henry Buckley, Donovan Jackson, and Balfour Wright, all from the Washington State Jurisdiction, took time to visit and fellowship with the Lodge.

To be able to visit with these Brothers gave cemented meaning to dwelling together in unity.

The world is geographically enormous, but not large enough that Brothers cannot cross the same paths during Masonic

travels. It was amazing that just seconds into conversations, Brothers found that they had quite a bit in common. Attendees enjoyed an abundance of great food and company in addition to a raffle sponsored by the Bee Hive Social Club.

Children assisted Junior Warden Curtis Davenport in pulling the winning tickets. The prizes were 100 lbs. of beef, one night's stay at the Western River Walk Hotel, and a \$50 American Express Gift Card. Winners were Junior Deacon Michael Nelson (1st), Bro. Michael Hall (2nd), and Diana Lawrence (3rd).

The significance of the event was best summarized by P.M. Buckley. "I thought the event was very sociable and family oriented; great event with great food. Fellowship is always good and I enjoyed the night and look forward to attending regular communication in the near future."

To witness the interaction of all ages and people from different places reminds us that when you put good people together, the warmth of meaningful fellowship is sure to follow.

Children assisted



Pride of San Marcos “Sharing the Wealth”

Story by:

S.W. Robert Lamkin III (494)

SAN MARCOS, Texas – Charity has always been one of the strongest duties known to Prince Hall Masons. The Brothers of Pride of San Marcos Lodge No. 494 have always striven to perform acts of unselfishness to those in need. For the Thanksgiving holiday, the Brothers once again took the opportunity to bless a San Marcos resident in need, Nov. 23.

Junior Warden Chris Jones received the name of an elderly woman from the local Hayes County Food Bank whom because of her financial status, could not afford to have a proper Thanksgiving dinner.

Digging deep within their pockets, the Brothers purchased a turkey and canned/boxed goods. The membership assembled to personally deliver the food basket and offer their pledge of further assistance to the recipient, if the need should arise.

This annual Thanksgiving ges-



Senior Warden Robert Lamkin III and Senior Steward David Case prepare to deliver food donations to a needy family, Nov. 23.

ture of goodwill is part of a Charity activity adopted by the Pride of San Marcos known as “Our Brother’s Keeper.”

The purpose of this outreach is to offer personal aid to those in the

community who are “unknown” to the larger, more established Charity groups and thus are passed by. Throughout the year, specifically each quarter, a food basket is given out to a needy recipient of the community.

Names are gathered by word of mouth from the Brethren and a group is assigned to make the deliveries. This not only allows Pride of San Marcos Lodge to extend the cable tow of Charity, but also to strengthen bonds with those that are in need of service in the community.

Let us not forget that Prince Hall Freemasonry exhibits that Brotherhood and Friendship which should be shared by all men. Allow those outside the fraternity to see “Light” by the actions of the fraternity’s duties to God and man.



New Light Lodge No. 242 provides Bikes, hold Annual Christmas Dinner



Story by:
Sec. Michael Acierno (242)

KILLEEN, Texas - Prince Hall Masons of New Light Lodge No. 242 held its 1st Bicycle Give-A-Way incorporated with its annual Christmas Dinner held at the Lodge, Dec. 16.

The purpose of the Bicycle Give-A-Way and the Christmas Dinner was to give the members of the Lodge a blessing with GOD's divine energy and to share that blessing with others within the community by giving to those less fortunate.

More than 70 adults and children attended the event with each of the 43 children receiving a bicycle. Additional guests included State Grand

Loyal Lady Ruler Shirley Gideon, Texas Council of Assemblies/Order of the Golden Circle and District Deputy Grand Master Marvin Kelker.

The members and guests enjoyed a Christmas meal with all the trimmings that consisted of chicken, brisket, ham, turkey, dressing, rice, beans and ham hocks, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, corn on the cob, rolls, bread, pies, cakes, and pastries.

After the meal, the mood and tempo was set for the power of giving.

As each name was called, a child would wait in anticipation to hear their name. No only did smiles come to the faces of the children but that also of the families and guests.

This is the first time the Lodge has

conducted the Bicycle event, it was accomplished by volunteerism of the Brethren and through donations.

The Lodge is constantly looking for ways to provide support to the community and the event was one of many ways to improve and maintain a strong relationship with the community.

New Light Lodge looks forward to continuing the event in the years to come. The Lodge members and the invitees had a great time and enjoyed themselves through fellowship.

The evening was filled with warmth, friendship, and Love. The Lodge was satisfied with knowing they brought pleasure into the lives of children.

Lyons Jr. Lodge No. 290 donates Clothing to Lisa's HOPE Chest

Story by:
S.W. David Featherston (290)

AUSTIN – Prince Hall Freemasons of Lyons Jr. Lodge No. 290 conducted their annual clothing drive, Nov. 13. The Lodge donated 12 bags, five boxes, and clothing, in addition to shoes, assorted sundries and accessories to Lisa's HOPE Chest.

Lisa's HOPE Chest is an Austin-based, non-profit organization that provides gently-used professional clothing to men and women in need. This organization is different from others because it is designed specifically for people in transition.

Lisa Benford, Lisa's HOPE Chest's founder, said, "Lyons Jr. is the only group of black men that donates to us on a regular basis. I can always count on them. When we were short on cash and about to have our doors closed, Lyons Jr. came through with a \$1000 donation that kept us going until addi-



Members of Lyons Jr. Lodge No. 290 pose with Lisa Benford and her staff at Lisa's HOPE Chest, Nov. 13.

tional funding came in."

Worshipful Master Riley Stevenson said, "Past Master Gerald Henderson always led this clothing drive with Lisa's HOPE Chest.

This is our first clothing drive since he passed away and we dedicate this effort to his memory."

Lyons Jr. Lodge conducts Canned Goods Drive



Story by:
S.W. David Featherston (290)

AUSTIN – Prince Hall Freemasons of Lyons Jr. Lodge No. 290 conducted their annual Canned Goods

Drive to fill Christmas Baskets for needy families, Dec. 16.

The Lodge placed empty grocery bags with donation information in two neighborhoods in November and collected them up the

following two weekends.

The canned goods collected from the neighborhoods combined with the Lodge's donation were sufficient to fill 30 boxes with canned goods, bread, and a whole chicken. The boxes were distributed to 18 families in the Austin community. In addition, the Lodge donated a dinette set to a family that recently located to Austin.

Brother Kenneth Staples, the canned goods drive organizer said, "This was a great team effort, Brothers came out several days and walked many miles putting out and picking up bags. It feels good to help out the community during Christmas."

Pride of the West Lodge No. 53, American Legion Post 832 host Annual Charity Christmas Party



lationship with Post 832.

The toy event was coordinated by Past Master Ruber Banks and Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Bro. Gregory Alford. These Master Masons combined resources and made the event a major success. American Legion Post 832 and Pride of the West Lodge will continue to work in harmony and provide Charity to those in the El Paso community.



Story by:

W.M. Emanuel Tucker (53)

EL PASO - John F. Kennedy once said, "Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future." In keeping with the past president's theme, Prince Hall Masons of Pride of the West Lodge No. 53 combined efforts with American Legion Post 832, with assistance from Operation Santa Claus and the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots Program, provided over 120 toys to children in need around the city, Dec. 18.

Over 90 percent of the members in Lodge are active duty, retired or former military service members. Having a military-related family has assisted in developing a strong re-



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

Districts 26-A, 26 O.E.S. work Together for the Betterment of Mankind



KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – Prince Hall Masons of District 26-A and Eastern Stars of District 26 joined together to provide food donations to worthy families during the Thanksgiving Holiday. Although away from Texas, the Masons and Eastern Stars continue to represent Texas Masonry to its fullest.

HISTORICAL CORNER

Reconstruction in the South, its Politics of Change



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

(Editor's note: This is
continued from the
Winter Edition)

In the South prior to 1865 it was illegal to teach African slaves to read and write. Legal ignorance prevailed among the so-called Negroes. When slavery ended, the great questions became; how to transform the culture of an entire region and in particular, what to do with the newly freed African people? Do you kill them, ship them back to Africa or transform them into wage earners, a condition that would best fit the best interest of the growing industrial economy of America.

Slaves had no purchasing power, but wage earners would feed an ever expanding consumer driven marketplace. The northern capitalist, who emerged victorious after the Civil war, decided to use education as that technique of social control, to raise these newly freed people from slaves to wage earners. A wage earner is one level above a slave.

The war essentially moved from the field of battle to the classroom. It became a struggle for the minds of the youth. Blacks were very concerned about the political and economic empowerment of African Texans, during July 3 and 4, 1873, called for delegates for a Colored Men's State Convention to gather at Brenham, Texas with Norris Wright Cuney, a Republican Party leader, as president.

They announced support for friendly race relations, a federal civil rights act, open political meetings, black landholding, internal improvement, and immigration to the United States to President U.S. Grant, the Republican Party. The delegates criticized the violence faced by Blacks and efforts to repudiate state debts.

Cuney was born in on the Sunny Side Plantation, in Waller County which was a part of Stephen F. Austin's Colony. He was sent back east to

Pittsburg, Pa. to be educated at the Wyle Street School for Negro Boys, by his White father at the insistence of his Black (slave) Mother.

The Wyle Street School was headed by a Prince Hall Mason named George Vashon. Eventually after the Civil War, Cuney returned to Texas and in 1874 was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason and designated by Grand Master W.D. Matthews as Deputy Grand Master of King Solomon Grand Lodge of Kansas & Jurisdictions.

Through the movement of White Secret Societies, churches, and the efforts of the Democratic Party, Southern Blacks from 1874 - 1877 were fully disenfranchised. Deputy Grand Master Cuney and District Deputy Grand Master Richard Allen on Aug. 19, 1875 answered the call to assemble in Brenham, Texas for the purpose of organizing the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Texas.

Prairie View A&M University was created under an act of the state legislature on August 14, 1876. This action was to correct the oversight of not providing for the education of Colored Youth, initially in the same Act that created Texas A&M University.

In the Texas Senate, African American Senators Walter Burton and Walter Riptoe maintained a vigilant watch on the affairs of education in the state. In the House of Representatives, during the Fifteenth Legislature, African American Legislators Meshak R. Roberts, Henry Sneed, Allen W. Wilder and William H. Holland made their presence known. Representative Holland served on the Education Committee and is credited with introducing the legislation that created Alta Vista College for Colored Youth. He was called the "Father of Prairie View."

Our first Prince Hall Grand Master, the Honorable Norris Wright Cuney, was very active in state and national politics and in time would become the Chairman of the Republican Party in Texas.

While in power, the Reconstruction

Era Legislators and leaders set as their primary objective, the education of their children. In 1876 Prairie View A&M University became the first state supported Historically Black University in Texas. It opened its doors to admit students on March 11, 1878 and in 1879 admitted the first female students.

With the compromise of 1877, the Republican Party and the Southern Democrats worked out a deal to withdrawn Union Troops from the South leaving African Texans at the mercy of their former masters. Eventually this compromise would lead to the betrayal of Norris Wright Cuney by the Republican Party and the enactment of many "Jim Crow Laws" designed to neutralize African American politically and economically.

By the close of the 19th Century (1899), the last African American Texas Legislator, Robert Lloyd Smith left Austin. Blacks would remain absent as members of the Texas Legislature until the election of Barbara Jordan & Curtis Graves in 1966.

These institutions, Prairie View A&M University & Texas A&M University, are branches on the same tree and impartial provisions were to be made for their operation and maintenance. What is provided to Texas A&M should also be evident at Prairie View A&M University.

Texas Masons helped to create this institution and the legacy has been bequeathed to us to continue the struggle for excellence in education.



Campus of Prairie View A&M University.

Masonic Mystery: 4th Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons of Texas, P.G.M. Rev. Abraham Grant

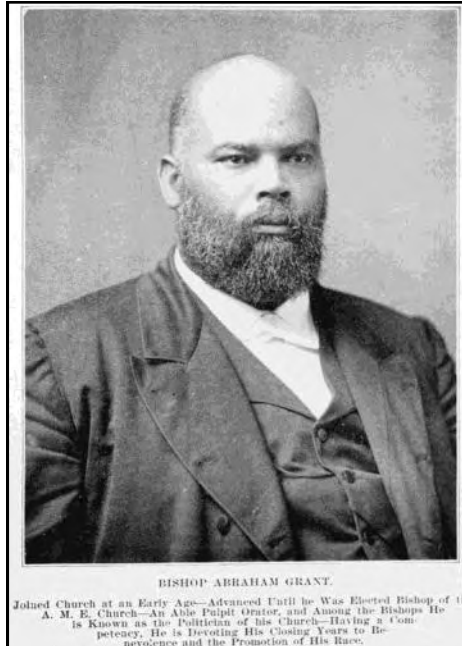
Story by: G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)

SAN ANTONIO – This article provides a brief account of a man who was elevated from “Slave to Prelate,” who was born into slavery upon a moving ox cart; who served as Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons of Texas and possibly Florida; and was elected the 19th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Abraham (Abram) Grant was born near Lake City, Fla. on August 25, 1848. He was owned by Franklin Raulerson, a planter in central Florida. In his adolescence, Grant was taken to Columbus, Ga. and was sold for \$6,000 (Confederate). After running away from his new owner and possibly fighting for the Union Army, Grant returned to Lake City where he clerked in a grocery store owned by Raulerson. (1,2)

Raulerson became an alcoholic and Grant went to be a steward at the Cathey House where he attended missionary school for an hour a day. Mr. Cathey liked Grant and taught him many things. When Grant decided to go to Jacksonville, Cathey provided him with a letter of recommendation to be given to a judge who recommended Grant to the Stickney House where he served as a steward. While at the Stickney House, Grant attended night school in the dining room and then went on to attend Cookman Institute. He then worked at two other houses and in 1868 was converted at a camp meeting and joined the A.M.E. Church in Jacksonville. (3)

He received his license to preach and was ordained by Rev. John R. Scott Sr. at Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church in April 1873, became a deacon in the following December and ordained an elder by Bishop Thomas M.D. Ward in March 1876. (4,5,6) While in Jacksonville he was inspector of customs and was also appointed county commissioner of Duvall County by Florida Gov. Marcellus Stearns from 1876 to 1877. (7) Rev. Grant pastored several churches throughout the state and also



BISHOP ABRAHAM GRANT.
Joined Church at an Early Age—Advanced Until he Was Elected Bishop of the A. M. E. Church—An Able Pulpit Orator, and Among the Bishops He is Known as the Politician of his Church—Having a Competency. He is Devoting His Closing Years to Reconciliation and the Promotion of His Race.

Courtesy of the New York Public Library

built a church in Tallahassee. (8)

In 1878, Rev. Grant was transferred to San Antonio and assigned pastor of St. James A.M.E. Church. (9,10) It was Bishop Ward who sent the “ecclesiastical giant” from Florida to San Antonio “due to the almost disorganizing condition owing to internal dissensions. In less than two years, the church became the largest, most spiritual, most active and most harmonious church in the state.” (11) Florida Gov. George Drew and Secretary of State William Bloxham provided Rev. Grant with a letter of recommendation to the people of Texas which according to Rev. Grant was of great service. (12)

Rev. Grant became a mighty force in San Antonio, relied upon by the mayor to provide advice relating to interests of the black race. (13) “His popularity among blacks and whites rose steadily and continued the unbroken line of leaders that sprang out of the A.M.E.” (14)

Once again Bishop Ward called upon Rev. Grant and sent him to Austin, whose black congregation was worshiping in an old shanty. (15) Grant was sent to transform the church as he did in San Antonio. He led the Metro-

politan A.M.E. Church from 1881 until 1885, building a new church building by 1884. (16,17) While in Austin, he was made presiding elder and was recommended by the governor and cabinet of Texas to be the U.S. minister to Liberia, but declined. He later became vice-president and president of the Board of Trustees of Paul Quinn College at Waco. (18)

Rev. Grant's elevation to bishop came May 24, 1888 at the General Conference of the A.M.E. Church in Indianapolis. Abraham Grant died Jan. 22, 1911 in Kansas City, Kansas and was buried in the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows Cemetery in San Antonio on January 29, 1911. (19)

Masonic service in Florida?

Documentation as to P.G.M. Rev. Grant's early Masonic beginnings is limited, closer to none. In December 2010, I was contacted by Past Master Jerome Rapley of the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Florida asking for the tenure of P.G.M. Rev. Grant as Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons in Texas. He said that both Florida and Texas enjoyed the leadership of P.G.M. Rev. Grant.

We started a dialogue and the more we spoke, the more intriguing the subject became.

It started with a January 1942 article of the N.A.A.C.P. Official Publication, *The Crisis*, which published an article referencing the M.W.U.G.L. of Florida and states, “The first Grand Master of this honorable institution was M.W. Harry H. Thompson, who served from 1870 to 1872; he was succeeded by M.W. John R. Scott Sr., who served from 1872 to 1880. Mr. Scott died as Grand Master of this Order. His unexpired term was carried out by the Rev. Abraham Grant who was Deputy Grand Master. He was later made bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1880, M.W. Tillman Valentine was elected Grand Master....” (20)

Remember 1878 as the date that Bishop Ward transferred P.G.M. Rev. Grant to Texas and that he served in

San Antonio from 1878 to 1881 when Bishop Ward then again transferred him to Austin.

While in San Antonio, P.G.M. Rev. Grant became a member of San Antonio Lodge No. 1, but there is no information that he was made a Mason in the Lodge.(21) P.G.M. Rev. Grant was a member of the Knights of Pythias, a Scottish Rite 33rd Degree Mason and also served as a grand officer in the Grand United Order of Old Fellows of Texas.(22)

According to the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas' Proceedings of 1881, P.G.M. Rev. Grant was Grand Chaplain and was elected the 4th Grand Master during that annual Grand Communication.(23)



Additionally, Texas Proceedings of 1911 contain the eulogy of P.G.M. Rev. Grant and states, "He came to Texas early in manhood, where the breadth of the rolling plains was a prototype of his broad judgment and sympathies; where the varied soil typified the fertility and resourcefulness of his great magnetic personality; where the lofty pines and stalwart oaks sang together of his future gigantic manhood both in body and soul. He was elected Grand Master of Masons in 1879. He served the jurisdiction with such satisfaction that he won the admiration of all who came under the sound of his gavel."(24)

Remember 1881 as the date in the earlier Proceedings that stated P.G.M. Rev. Grant was first elected to be Grand Master of Texas. An assumption is made that he was appointed Grand Chaplain in 1880 or earlier.

The 1911 Proceedings states that P.G.M. Rev. Grant was elected Grand Master in 1879. Could it be an error or

that it was referring to P.G.M. Rev. Grant's service in Florida? Remember that P.G.M. Rev. Grant was transferred from Florida to Texas in 1878.

In the 1910 Florida Proceedings, G.M. John H. Dickerson addressed, "Let us reflect a moment and think of the great and good men who have been identified as leaders of this old institution (referring to M.W.U.G.L.) and the foundation upon which they builded it. Harry H. Thompson, Jno R. Scott, Abraham Grant, Tillman Valentine, Rheohe S. Mitchell, Samuel H. Coleman were the Grand Masters with able associates..."(25)

Each of the above men mentioned by P.G.M. Dickerson was elected Grand Master of Florida with the ex-

Florida in 1877.(28)

The Masonic Mystery lies with the timeline. Could it all be typographical mistakes and misreporting by our past Brethren and others, could it have been two Rev. Abraham Grants, who both later became A.M.E. Bishops? Maybe one day this Masonic Mystery will be solved.

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25. Proceedings of the Thirty-Ninth Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge, A.F.&A.M. (Pensacola, Fla., 1910), 8.
26. Rev. S.B.N., "Visiting Behind the Curtain II," *The Christian Recorder*, April 5, 1877.
27. Brown, 20-40, 148.
28. Rev. S.B.N.

Remembering P.G.M. Judge Thomas Henry Routt

Story by: Bro. Dr. Bob Uzzel (420)

ENNIS, Texas - January 3 marked the 20th anniversary of the death of a dear friend, Judge Thomas Henry Routt, the 18th Grand Master of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.

Past Grand Master Routt was born on March 5, 1930 in the Baker's Hill community, near Nava-sota, Grimes County, Texas. On Dec. 22, 1954, he married Richie L. Wilson. To this union, two children - Lora Dean and Thomas, Jr. - were born.

P.G.M. Routt received a Doctorate of Jurisprudence degree from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 1961. He practiced law in Houston for many years and also held a number of positions in the office of the Attorney General of Texas in Austin. In 1977, he was appointed as judge of the 208th District Court of Texas in Harris County. He was elected to this position in 1978 and re-elected in 1982, 1986, and 1990.

Freemasonry played a major role in the life of P.G.M. Routt, who was a member of Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 in Rosenberg, Texas. He served as Worshipful Master and later as District Deputy Grand Master. He was a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and held a number of positions in the Lone Star Grand Commandery of Knights Templar (York Rite) and the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

P.G.M. Routt had a great interest in Masonic research. Thus, in 1979, he joined the Phylaxis Society, a Society for Prince Hall Freemasons who seek more Light and who have Light to impart. He attended a number of annual sessions of this research organization. On March 5, 1986, he delivered the



*P.G.M. Judge Thomas H. Routt
18th Grand Master*

opening speech at the 13th Annual Session of the Phylaxis Society in Albuquerque, NM. At the time, he was serving as Grand Senior Warden. I was present at this meeting and talked with him about his efforts to become Grand Master. He agreed that, when elected, he would create a new office of Grand Historian and appoint me to it. In June 1987, he was elected and kept his promise. In March 1990, he hosted the Phylaxis Society Convention in Houston. At this meeting, I conducted a workshop on "Norris Wright Cuney: Our First Grand Master." He was always very supportive of my efforts to preserve Masonic history.

In June 1990, at the Grand Lodge Communication in Fort Worth, Grand Master Routt was very weak from colon cancer and required assistance from his Brethren in order to stand. Nevertheless, he delivered an inspiring charge to the Craft, closing with the following words: "The allocution of this year will be short because of my present state of health. However, I want

you to know that my love for the organization and my prayers are by no means limited for the welfare of this organization." On Jan. 3, 1991, he received his summons from the Supreme Judge and Grand Master of the Universe.

I attended G.M. Routt's funeral at Trinity United Methodist Church and Masonic graveside services at Paradise North Cemetery in Houston on Jan. 8. After the interment, the Masonic delegation led by Past Grand Masters I.H. Clayborn and Reuben G. White assembled at a hotel, where Deputy Grand Master Edwin B. Cash was installed as G.M. Routt's successor.

There can be no doubt that Thomas Henry Routt, Grand Master and Judge, contributed much to the legal and judicial fields, his community, his family, his church, and Prince Hall Freemasonry. He had a very positive influence on the lives of many individuals during his sixty-year earthly pilgrimage. His memory is honored by the Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council of Texas of the Knights of Pythagoras, an organization that trains young men ages of nine through twenty in the areas of leadership, responsibility, and brotherhood and is regarded as the Prince Hall counterpart to the Order of DeMolay. His legacy also continues in the Thomas H. Routt Memorial Scholarship which is sponsored by Doric Temple No. 76 and has funded awards to further the education of high school seniors who exhibit great dedication to community service and academic accomplishments.

For more information on P.G.M. Routt, my book *Prince Hall Freemasonry in the Lone Star State: From Cuney to Curtis, 1875-2003* can be ordered through the Grand Lodge.

FORUM

Knowledge is Power - Why Back to Basics



Story by:
M.W.G.M. Lewis Brent
M.W.P.H.G.L. of Arizona

This year's theme reaches the heart of the problem (lack of support and attendance) facing our ancient and honorable fraternity, which is slowly decimating our numbers and community involvement. The challenge to our future existence as a fraternity will not come from outside sources, but from within by the apathy and inaction on the part of the membership.

Back to basics – We must begin with the question and answer. Why did you join?

In spite of one of our often used slogans, “we make good men better,” we honestly don't join just because we want to better men. We can grow in many ways in many venues without subjecting ourselves to test and rituals.

The Cardinal Virtues are part of our teachings, but again, we have been selected by our peers because we have already presented these qualities. The fact that we believe in a Supreme Being can be inferred that we have a sense of Morality, and Brotherly Love.

So I ask the question again, why did you join? I recently read an article by the Grand Master of Arizona that made the point and I totally agree that – Belonging doesn't count much if anyone can drift in and out of our group, if membership is easy to attain, commitment will be hard to find.

In this presentation we will attempt to answer the question by starting with the present (current times), and work our way back to history.

Freemasonry has attracted men from all walks of life, religions, and caste.

Remembering the “Charge” in the 1st Degree, “Men of all ages have never deemed it derogatory from their dignity to level themselves with the fraternity, extend the privileges, and attend its assemblies.”

A quote by Cantrill states, “In the midst of the probabilities and uncertainties people want some anchoring points, some certainties, some faith that will serve either as a beacon light to guide them or as a balm to assuage them during the inevitable frustrations and anxieties.”

I submit to you that those who have grown up around Masons have seen qualities in these men (fathers, brothers, friends, neighbors, co-workers) worth emulating (service to community, church, family, friend), and played a part in the decision to become a Mason.

Today that still applies, but our lack of community involvement, commitment to the Lodge and its activities has resulted in loss and/or non-participation by members.

The activities of and by the Lodge hold no interest for the young Brother, or the recently initiated. I would like to put some emphasis on the initiated because in too many cases we are losing them at this time (even though they have paid the fees and indicated the willingness to meet all financial obligations). Why? Because the expectation of becoming a part of something unique, camaraderie, supporting and developing worthwhile programs, and the fellowship with men of like aspirations spoken of in the interviews and investigation NEVER happened.

What our forefathers displayed is no longer the norm (knowing everyone in the community, knowing the family members of the Brothers, interacting as a group).

Too often our Lodges are isolated (doing their own thing) which on the surface isn't bad or wrong, but we're suppose to be a fraternity with a dedicated goal of working together to reach goals. A good idea or project should be replicated by others to reach more people. Small Lodges should be supported in their public and internal programs to make them a success, and in turn all Lodges should be supported in any worthwhile endeavor by all members of the jurisdiction, when possible.

We have no problem calling ourselves Masons, but in practice when called upon to give of our time and resources we become very selective. If it sounds like I'm challenging our membership, I am! We're supposed to be honest with one another, but sometimes I think some take advantage of that. The good news is that there are members who do stretch their CABLE-TOW and sacrifice time and resources to support the efforts of the order (this includes attending functions, giving lectures, accepting positions of responsibility, and being a sounding board and teacher).

How is this for a statement! “Freemasonry is a system of individuality.” Whatever else we say in our lectures and teachings - that is a true statement. Though we succeed as a team, it requires THE individual to realize his needs, attain his goals, meet the stated requirements, and have a vision in order for the Lodge/Jurisdiction to be relevant and/or successful. All the teachings are worthless unless/until the individual accepts them and adheres to them.

We debate the question – what role does the ritual play. My answer is that within the ritual lies the historical, allegorical, and princi-

pled teachings of our Craft. We must continue to reflect and demand excellence to this part of our teachings, because through this part of the new member's entry we begin the process of impressing him with our sincerity, and impress upon their mind and conscious what the principles of our fraternity are and what it means to protect the secrets of our time honored society.

I visited a Lodge recently where the candidates were given the 1st Degree with such conviction and deliberation (a nudge of the conscious on what it means to take those first steps into a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, what was expected of us in conduct, the trust to keep the secrets, and a glimpse of what would be the outcome if only we believe) that even the old Masons in attendance had a moment of reflection and appreciation.

Do YOU believe any or part of the legacy of Prince Hall? In my mind you must answer sincerely in the affirmative, otherwise your Masonic life is on shaky ground, and the lessons inculcated will not stick to your soul. Those laudable attributes chronicled about Prince Hall are what we should be trying to emulate (teaching, getting involved in eliminating inequities, fighting against poverty, disenfranchisement, ignorance, societal destruction (gangs, drugs, lawlessness), fighting for better teachers, leading by example the role of parent or spouse, and support for our youth in any of their positive pursuits (education, trade, and sports) to name just a few.

Back to basics must remind all that the Grand Lodges are the basis of Freemasonry since the Grand Lodge is made up of the leadership of the subordinate Lodge (past and present). The officers of the Grand Lodge serve dual roles. They're Lodge officers, Past Masters, or Past Grand Lodge offi-

cers. The Grand Master comes from the rolls of a subordinate Lodge. We cannot elect the Grand Lodge staff and not support them at the subordinate Lodge level.

The Grand Lodge represents and upholds the Constitution, Code and laws approved by the voting members of the jurisdiction. Lodges have parochial interest and the Grand Lodge must meld all of these interests into a collegial program that allows ALL to reap the benefit of ideas, programs, and recognition. At the same time we must remember that negative impressions impact the success up and down the line.

The Exposés' and media attention continue to be a challenge that influences many people in/out of our circle of acquaintances. It has prompted questions of our legitimacy and our worth and involvement in community life. This is where I remind each of you of the sacrifices of our forefathers. "Patronize the assemblies" is a phrase that can't be emphasized enough. We MUST attend our meetings, we MUST meet financial obligations, we MUST lead by example, and we MUST be active not passive contributors to the works of the Lodge/Grand Lodge.

To make the case I ask these questions and ask you to answer them with honesty. (1) Are we offering wholesome instructions on the mysteries of the fraternity; (2) are we setting examples to follow, by action as well as word; (3) are the symbols used on behalf of the fraternity explained and everyday relationships tied together; (4) are our leaders really leaders, or are they just filling squares, selfishly promoting themselves and their agenda's, and who when they have taken all that the fraternity offers in protections and exposure throws the organization away as something not worthy of their time and energy; (5) are we demanding leadership from our leaders or just

going along to get along; (6) are we doing justice to the solemnity of the degree work by being proficient, knowledgeable, and effective; and (7) finally have we forgotten our vow "to see that none past or repast except those who are duly qualified, and have permission?"

History – Prince Hall Masonry is a very integral element of the Black Man and Woman's experience, and history in the United States. The achievements and contributions in many instances have fingerprints from Freemasons (the court cases; sometimes carrying communities literally on the backs of the members). It often wasn't easy as much of our past was besmirched, clothed in controversy, veiled in mystery, and very often defined by untruths, half-truths, and intentional misrepresentation of true facts from individuals and groups with agendas and misinformation. That's why it's important that we are emphasizing the importance of our history.

At one time there were more than 4,000 Masonic Lodges throughout the Continental U.S. and its Territories, totaling more than a quarter of a million members. We have been in decline for many years, attributable to many factors. Look around..., you see a lot of men with gray hair or no hair and that defines the majority of our Lodges. Hopefully, this forum will offer suggestions, and reminders of what it means to be a Mason, and how that can translate into a win-win situation for our fraternity and our communities.

When our Craft is practiced as inculcated in the lessons of Masonry, it doesn't matter if you're young or old, belong to social clubs or business clubs, our tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth fit. We should want to succeed, be proud of our heritage and look forward to being an important member of our respective communities.

It's not Where you Sit, it's How you Serve



Story by:
P.M. Tracy J. House (5)
M.W.P.H.G.L of Kentucky

Some Brothers have in their mind what a Mason is before they ever enter a Lodge, to some it means wearing the Square and Compass on their hats, shirts and emblems on their vehicles.

After a period of time some eye that wonderful seat in the East and some strive for that marvelous seat in the Grand East, while striving for these positions are fine, some fail to see the big picture, its not where you sit, its how you serve.

If serving your fellowman is not on your menu and going high as you can in Freemasonry is, the good and bad news is, its not where you sit, its how you serve.

One of the key issues in today's world of why we are losing our young men to the streets is that many times we want to have fundraisers and not put any of the funds back into the community.

In today's world, some youth see us as thus: there go those men with that funny little design on their hats, shirts and cars. We are losing youth because they see us collecting money for our own Lodges' upkeep but not seeing or knowing where the funds go in the community while the drug dealer is in the park hosting neighborhood cookouts at no charge.

When that young man weighs his options on the scales of where he wants to go in life, the streets generally win over Freemasonry. It's time for all of us individually and collectively to be leaders and be of service to God, be of service to our families, be of service to our Lodges, be of service to our Brothers, and be of service to our communities.

Service makes the Difference and Service is the Difference; if you want to be blessed, bless somebody or be a service to somebody. If you look around in some Lodges and wonder why some Brothers have been in the Lodge for 20 years but never held a elected office, check his record and

you will find that those are the Brothers who are doers and workers of the Lodge and do what they can and receive very little recognition.

Leadership is not a position, it is an attitude. It is formed and developed before someone is a Worshipful Master, a Senior Warden or Junior Warden, so for the sake of friendship, stop putting your friends in the seat if all they are worried about is being the head of the house and have no goals of being a servant.

Our closing charge says Brethren you are now to quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mix with the outer world amid its employment and concerns, forget not the duties so frequently inculcated and forcibly recommended in this Lodge, be diligent prudent temperate and discreet remember at this altar you have promised to befriend and relieve every Brother who should need your assistance. It goes on to say, let the world see how Masons love one another and again it tells you to recommend it to the household of the faithful.

What does this mean to me? It means the foundation that is spread with Brotherly Love and Charity that is learned inside the Lodge should also be spread outside the Lodge, in a small way, it is side by side with the church. One can do all the work he wants in the church and get the praises of men but that kingdom building outside the church will change your name to servant.

Brothers should be careful of the friends that are eager to put you in a seat because the same that lobby for you will sometimes be those who want you out of the seat and will do what they can to get you out.

Those are the friends that if they will not increase you, they will decrease you; if they don't want to see you walk; they want to see you crawl, so when taking these positions don't ask God to order your steps if you are afraid to move your feet and never forget that the shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor and keep Freemasonry in your heart by

knowing it's not where you sit its how you serve.

In the Lodges today we discover they are full of bones, like in the valley of drive bones.

1. There are the lazy bones - these are Brothers who do nothing in the Lodge but occupy a seat, who do not give any extra financial support, but complain the most when there are no funds available.

2. There are the jawbones - These are the Brothers who have a telephone Lodge; the gossipers, the ones who talk too much and worry you to death, the ones who sit in judgment in their seats, the ones whose body parts with the exception of their mouth, see very little action.

3. There are the wishbones - These are the Lodge Brothers who wish they had done this or wish they had done that who wish they could help, but find nothing helpful to do, the ones who like to do all of the thinking and planning for the Lodge but never seem to do any of the work associated with Lodge's needs.

4. There are the skull bones - These are the stubborn, hard-headed, self-willed Lodge Brothers, the ones that are most likely to resist anything that the Lodge desires to do, the ones most likely to say "we never done it that way before, we've always done it this way." The ones who seem to relish their comfort zones never willing to take a chance and step out on faith.

5. There are the knuckle bones - These are Lodge Brothers that love to tear others down! Nobody can ever do anything right but themselves, not even the Master. These are the ones who love to sit in judgment of every issue acting like they are all that plus tax and interest to boot. They think that by tearing down others they are enhancing or edifying themselves when in point they are merely demonstrating their ignorance concerning their obligation and showing their disobedience to God.

6. There are the worn bones - These are the Brothers who have retired from their duties and responsibilities by saying, "I've done this or I have done that for all these years and now I am tired, let somebody else do this job. I have no more to give, I'm too weak, I'm too burned out to go anymore," when in point of fact they could still do the work of they wanted to.

7. Finally there are the back bones - These are the Brothers that are doers not hearers, the ones who obey and support their Lodge and the leadership in it, the ones always willing to help, the ones who care more about how they serve than

SPOTLIGHT

Brother Kevin D. Patton was born in Alexandria, La. and is owner and operator of Kevin Patton State Farm Insurance Agency, which he started on Nov. 1, 2003 in Richmond, Texas. Since then, Patton has qualified every year for the Chairman's Circle (top 5% of State Farm Agents), Lone Star Leaders (top 40 of Texas Agents), and Ambassador Travel (Recognition for the Sale of Financial Services), and has become part of the President's Club (top 50 Agents in State Farm) for the past two years.

Prior to starting his agency, Bro. Patton worked as a claim representative for the Auto Catastrophe Team and a claim representative and trainer for the Fire Catastrophe Team. He was a pioneer of the Auto Catastrophe Team.

Bro. Patton started his career with State Farm in 1993 as a Bodily Injury Claim Representative in Oklahoma, and returned to Louisiana in 1995.

He graduated with a dual degree in Math and Physics from Dillard University in 1992. Bro. Patton attended both Dillard and Oklahoma State Universities from 1988 to 1992.

In order to earn the Physics portion, he had to complete his studies in Physics at OSU (Dillard did not have the required research portion to obtain the Physics degree).

He began his career as a Physics researcher for Oklahoma State University.

Bro. Patton plays a vital role in his community, belonging to numerous organizations. He is on the board of directors for the



*Bro. Kevin D. Patton
Owner/Operator
Kevin Patton State Farm Insurance Agency
Richmond, Texas*

YMCA, a member of the Fort Bend County Chamber of Commerce, Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance Board of Directors, Rotary Club of Rosenberg, Houston Live-

stock Show & Rodeo Speakers Committee and volunteers at local schools to help teach life skills and financial literacy.

In addition, Bro. Patton and his office team deliver "meals-on-wheels" to local Fort Bend County seniors.

Recently, he was named Fort Bend County "Business Person of the Year."

When Bro. Patton is not working, he loves spending time with his wife Margaret and two children.

Bro. Patton is a member of Ever Ready Lodge No. 506 in Rosenberg, Texas, where he serves as Senior Steward.

If you're ever in Fort Bend County area, stop by Bro. Patton's office where he cooks lunch for the community every first Friday of the month.



Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter holds Annual Luncheon, demonstrates Volunteerism, Charity



Story by:
Sis. Gloria McGill (23)
Bro. Steve Crayton (2)

HOUSTON – The Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter hosted its 4th Annual Grand Luncheon held at Brady's Landing, Jan. 8. This event was introduced at the 2007 Grand Session by the Ways and Means Committee as a Charity benefit for the Grand Chapter. It was discussed and voted on with the majority ruling. The first luncheon was inaugurated in January 2008 at Brady's Landing.

This year's luncheon was appropriately titled, "An Elegant Affair." More than 250 guest attended.

Toastmaster, Brother Charles Gray, Worthy Patron of Nefer-Titi No. 7 established protocol followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation and blessing was given by Grand Board Member Bro. Franklin Devore followed by Grand Associate Matron Eula Bell, who delivered the welcome. Sis. Bell stated that, "Everyone has tradi-

tions special to them and she hoped that the Grand Luncheon tradition become one of our special occasions to attend annually."

Invited musical guest, LaTonya Earl, music director for the Church at Bethel's Family, sang a beautiful musical rendition of, "To God Be

the Glory."

After lunch, Grand Associate Matron Anthony Carr introduced M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis, Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons of Texas, and his lovely wife, Sis. Lanell Curtis.

Entertainment for the luncheon was presented by "40 Plus Models," whose The Hats on Parade and Fashions Extravaganza was deemed the exciting highlight of the program. The 40 Plus Models modeled business, casual, church, evening, and western attire, along with furs, short furs, and beautiful coats with shoes and boots. To the delight of the models, the audience clapped, waved napkins in the air, and rendered vocal approval of the models.

During the intermission, and to settle the excitement, Sis. Johnnie Campbell sang "Jesus is the Best Thing That Ever Happen to Me" by James Cleveland.

The 2011 Grand Luncheon wasn't the traditional luncheon that has





G.W.M. Martha Wolridge presents a \$1,000 check from N.W.C.G.C. to Aisha Williams who lost her 30-year-old twin sister. Williams takes care of her sister's two children.

been hosted before. Numerous approvals of the event were voiced.

G.M. Curtis said that this was an excellent luncheon and that he enjoyed the new format.

Sis. LaTosha McGill Clayton said "This luncheon has been the most entertaining because of the fashion show. It has been well worth the money. The donations and giving are always a blessing, especially when it is one of our own. Great Job!"

The most delightful and special highlight of the luncheon was presented by Grand Worthy Matron Martha Wolridge to Aisha Williams.

Williams' twin sister had passed away and she has taken on the responsibility of rearing her sister's two children, ages 8 and 10. To assist Williams with child care expenses, G.W.M. Wolridge presented her a check from the N.W.C.G.C. for \$1,000. Williams is not a member of the Order of Eastern Stars, but expressed that she is going to join her sister's Chapter, New Violet No. 10.

G.W.M. Wolridge stated that the N.W.C.G.C. would continue to support the children as needed in the future.

Teary eyes filled the banquet room, not for sadness but for joy that another angel has left this

earthly home to be with God in His Heavenly home. Remember Proverbs 3: 5 – 6, Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.

Closing prayer was delivered by Deputy Grand Joshua John Humphrey, Grand High Court of Heroines of Jericho.

In San Antonio, the Stars of Texas Chapter No. 2, Order of the Eastern Star joined together on a sunny day to serve meal to volunteers of the Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio (H.F.H.S.A.), Dec. 18. The Eastern Stars served lunch to approximately 45 volunteers during the building of a new home for a deserving family.

According to H.F.H.S.A.'s website, "Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio, Inc. is an ecumenical Christian non-profit housing organization working in partnership with God's people in need to build simple, decent and affordable houses without interest or profit, thereby witnessing God's love in action."

For most low-income families



Members of Stars of Texas Chapter No. 2. serve lunch to volunteers of Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio, Dec. 18.

home ownership is a mere dream.

H.F.H.S.A. works with low-income families who would not otherwise be able to afford a house. They partner with families in need and help them build affordable houses for at no interest and no profit.

According to H.F.H.S.A., it is not a charity or a "hand out" program, but rather helps families help themselves.

Sarah Arredondo, volunteer coordinator with H.F.H.S.A. said, "The best part of doing this is for the kids. They get their own rooms and are able to live in safe neighborhoods."

According to Arredondo, several volunteer organizations helped with the build. They included Marshall, Brackenridge, Reagan, and Brandeis High Schools along with military, college and church organizations.

To qualify for the program applicants must meet certain guidelines. They must have a need for affordable housing by meeting the income guidelines, have a workable credit history and possess a stable income history of two years to name a few.

When accepted to the program applicants must commit to 300 hours of "sweat equity." Sweat equity consist of assisting with the building of their home, serving meals and/or working in the H.F.H.S.A. warehouse. Educational classes on finance, pest control and landscaping are also mandatory.

Applicants are required to have a down payment of \$1,300 to pay the first year of insurance, property taxes and closing costs. In return, they receive a 1,100 square foot 3 - 4 bedroom house with a 20-year, no interest loan with payments approximately \$375 to \$425, insurance and taxes included.

Worthy Matron Delelia Bonds simply stated, "Habitat for Human-



Sisters of Royal Princess Chapter No. 23 prepare for clothes, shoes, food to be given away to need residents of the Third Ward in Houston, Oct. 16.

ity of San Antonio supports a worthy cause of helping low income families. Our organization, through our community service, was happy to assist them."

In Houston, members of Royal Princess Chapter No. 23 and volunteers were humbled to supply clothing, shoes, and lunches to approximately 40 children, women and men in our "Jerusalem" (the community in which we serve) commonly known as the Third Ward," Oct. 16.

It began with a young woman who came to see what the Chapter was giving away. She had first pick at the clothing and shoes and was given two sack lunches. Although the Chapter displayed signs advertising free clothing, shoes, and lunches, it is believed that the woman spread the word, which was more effective than the signs.

People, young and old, children, men and women, some on mobile scooters and crutches, came from near and far to gather all the clothing and shoes they required plus a noon meal.

Each person that visited was

cordial, polite, thankful, and appreciative to receive the items. One older lady asked if she could take some clothing and lunches to a neighbor who couldn't get out of bed in which the Chapter kindly approved. Members had to hold back the tears and thanked God for how fortunate they should be for the simple things in life.

Royal Princess Chapter No. 23 has chosen to serve in "Jerusalem" because it has learned that the community is made up of ordinary people just like themselves. Poverty and homelessness is now more of a reality within many communities than ever before, no matter where one lives.

Questions were asked "When are you all going to be here again?" In response, the Chapter committed to donate items every three months. The people requested that blankets and warm clothing be available due to the winter season. Royal Princess Chapter fulfilled their commitment on Jan. 15. The Bible teaches that "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho ends 2010 with Benevolence, Training



EL PASO – The Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho of Texas ended the year 2010 with benevolence and a focus on training.

Bringing joy to children, Heroines of Magnolia Court No. 28 sponsored a Christmas party for 30 foster children, Dec. 16.

The party, chaired by Heroine Maria Jackson, provided an environment of food, hospitality, toys and entertainment that was enjoyed by all.

There is no greater joy than seeing the faces of these children at a time of year. The Court sponsored

children ages three months to 18 years old.

A special thanks to the El Paso County Sheriff's Office and to the members of Magnolia Court who were so supportive and hard working. For the Heroines, it is never about the organization but what they can do to assist others.

In Houston, Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho held its 2010 Coastal Regional Session at True Level Lodge No. 226, Nov. 6.



G.M.A.M. Jackie Livingston and the Most Ancient Matrons of District 7.



Lone Star Grand Commandery, Lone Star Grand Guild end 2010 with Giving Hearts



Story by:

E.C. Charles D. Gray (2)

D.D.G.C. Clary Glover Jr. (7)

HOUSTON – Sir Knights of the Lone Star Grand Commandery under the leadership of Right Eminent Grand Commander Tony Moore and Princesses of the Lone Star Grand Guild under the leadership of Grand Princess Capt. R. Lucille Samuel have concluded the year of 2010 with hearts full of giving.

On Nov. 24, Sir Knights of Sanderson Commandery No. 2 and Princesses of Sanderson Guild No. 3 joined together to participate in their 2nd Annual Feed the Hungry Program that was held at Magnolia Lodge No. 3 in Houston. More than 125 people of the Third Ward were served turkey, dressing, various other sides, desserts, bread rolls, and drinks. The purpose of this event was to serve those whom would normally go hungry in this economically depressed neighborhood.

The plights of this predominantly African American community are many, which are compounded by an America in a recession. But, when America goes into a recession, those in the African American community experience a depres-

sion. The hot meals that were provided at least eased one of their many worries away for a day. The smiles and thanks that follow with the passing of each meal provide a great sensation to continue on throughout the years.

The successful coordination of this event with our Princesses of Sanderson Guild No. 3 made this event equally successful. Working together makes a great charitable cause even greater. The goal for 2011 is to serve 175 persons or more.

On Nov. 22, Sanderson Commandery No. 2 donated 11 backpacks to Blackshear Elementary School where Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander Ronald Gerac serves as a teacher. School Principal Linda Bellard was very thankful for the donations from the Sir Knights as well as School Counselor Linda Cade, who said that students come to ask her constantly about backpacks because their parents simply cannot afford them.





Photo by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

Sir Knight Charles Wilson, Princess Captain Beverly Sledge, and Princess Karen Allen-Mirabeau serve residents of Wheatley Courts Housing Community during Alamo Commandery No. 7 and Flowers of Alamo Guild No. 8's 2nd Annual Halloween Community Event, Oct. 30.

On Oct. 30, Alamo Commandery No. 7 and the Flowers of Alamo Guild No. 8 hosted their 2nd Annual Halloween Community Event at Wheatley Courts Housing Community in San Antonio.

The housing community, consisting of 248 units, is the largest housing community managed by Vickie Adams, community manger III for the San Antonio Housing Authority and Past Princess Captain of the Flowers of Alamo Guild No. 8.

"It is a wonderful thing that the Flowers of Alamo Guild No.8 and Alamo Commandery No. 7 are doing to promote a safe Halloween environment for the kids and parents," said Adams.

According to Adams, who manages four additional housing communities (Spring View, Village East, Olive Park and Park Square), she appreciated the time that the Guild and Commandery took out of their busy schedule to support the community.

Erica Torres and Margie Orozco said that they had received a flyer for the event and felt that it was good for the community, especially in these hard times. It gave the residents a chance to come together and communicate.

Walter and Gloria Williams, past residents of New Orleans' 7th Ward, relocated to San Antonio after Hurricane Katrina devastated their city, said that they enjoyed the event and stated it was God sent.

"Alamo Commandery No. 7 is always ready to aid and provide support to the poor and afflicted within the San Antonio community when call upon," said Sir Knight Benjamin Burleson, Eminent Commander of Alamo Commandery No. 7. "The Flowers of Alamo Guild No. 8 and Alamo Commandery No. 7 provided meals that included hot dogs, chips, sodas and candy to approximately 100 children and parents of the Wheatley Courts Housing Community."

Sir Knight Anthony Davis, the Commandery's Senior Warden echoed E.C. Burleson's remarks.

"Giving back to the community is what we are all about, which makes a difference in people's lives. Alamo Commandery No. 7 and the Flowers of Alamo Guild No. 8 are active in the San Antonio community and we look forward to participating in other community events."



Photo by: G.E. Burrell Parmer

Ennis Odd Fellows Initiate First Black Members



Story by: Bro. Dr. Bob Uzzel (420)

ENNIS, Texas - On Oct 19, Ennis Lodge No. 227 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) conferred the Initiatory Degree on three candidates: McCain Bodie, Marcel Middlebrooks, and Kris Marshall. This marked the first time that Ennis Lodge, which was founded in 1876, has had African American members. None of the three new Brothers are strangers to fraternalism since all are members of Pride of Ennis Lodge No. 420. The latter organization was in operation as early as 1930, demised during the 1990s, and was reactivated in 2009. While Masons and Odd Fellows are separate organizations, many of us belong to both.

In England during the 18th century, farmers, mechanics, and laborers formed "friendly societies" or "workingmen's lodges" that sought to mitigate the effects of the Industrial Revolution and the English Poor Laws.

Members who were out of work and facing other reversals could depend on help from lodge brothers and could also expect to receive a decent burial. Eventually, some of the "friendly societies" became known as "Odd Fellows."

Various theories seek to explain the derivation of the name. One says that they were called "odd" because in the beginning of Odd Fellowship in the 18th century, at the time of industrialization, it was rather odd to find people who fol-

lowed noble values such as benevolence, Charity, and fraternalism. Another theory states that Odd Fellows were people who engaged in miscellaneous or "odd" trades.

In the 18th century, major trades were organized in guilds or other forms of syndicate, but smaller trades did not have any social or financial security. For that reason, people who exercised unusual trades joined together to form a larger group of "odd" fellows.

Like other orders, the Odd Fellows have had their share of factions. In 1789, two rival groups settled their differences and organized the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows (G.U.O.O.F.). In 1813, another merger occurred as various lodges organized the Manchester Unity. While several unofficial Odd Fellows Lodges were already operating in New York City, American Odd Fellowship is regarded as being founded in Baltimore, Maryland at the Seven Stars Tavern on April 26, 1819, by Thomas Wildey and some associates, who assembled in response to a newspaper advertisement.

The following year, the Lodge affiliated with the Manchester Unity and was granted the authority to institute new Lodges. In 1842, after an elementary dispute on whether the American Lodges were to be involved in decision-making procedures, the American lodges separated from the English order and formed the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Eventually, the order spread to all fifty states and to many other countries.

Rejected by white Odd Fellows, African Americans organized a parallel order, just as they did in the face of rejection by white Masons, Knights of Pythias, and Elks. The predominately black G.U.O.O.F. maintains affiliation with the English order of the same name.

The founder of the G.U.O.O.F. in

America was a black sailor named Peter Ogden who, while employed on the ship *Patrick Henry* between England and America, was initiated into Victoria Lodge No. 448 in Liverpool. Upon his return to New York, he learned of the desire of local African Americans to obtain the benefits of Odd Fellowship.

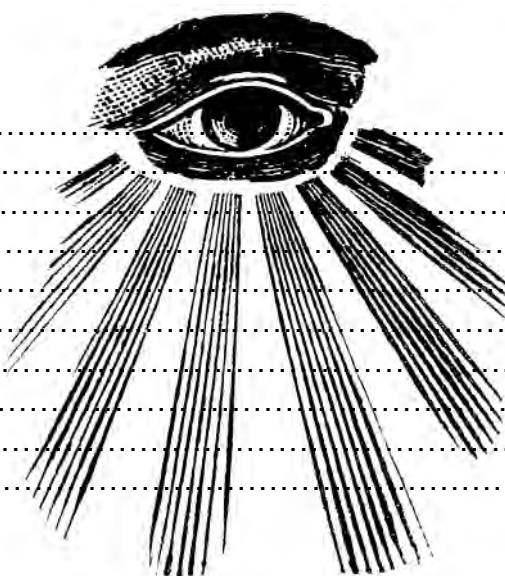
He then obtained a dispensation from the Committee of Management of the English Odd Fellows for the organization of Philomathean Lodge No. 646 in New York. This lodge began work on March 1, 1843. The English brethren seemed to regard Ogden as their agent of expansion in the New World and continued to support him despite protests by white American Odd Fellows.

After the Civil War, G.U.O.O.F. spread in both the rural South and the urban North. A number of G.U.O.O.F. Lodges once operated in Texas and laid the cornerstone for Wayman Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Ennis in 1905. After decades of inactivity, G.U.O.O.F. was revived in Texas several years ago. Members participated in the dedication ceremonies for Wayman Chapel's Texas State Historical Marker in 2007 and Electronic Cross Sign in 2009.

For much of I.O.O.F.'s history, membership was limited to white males. In 1971, the door was opened to non-whites. In 1991, Terrell Lodge No. 232 in Terrell initiated my friend Leonard C. DeGrate Jr., director of social services at Terrell State Hospital. Eventually, Leonard worked his way up to the office of Noble Grand, the Odd Fellows' counterpart to Worshipful Master. Thus, he became the first black member of an I.O.O.F. lodge in Texas and the first black officer of an I.O.O.F. Lodge in the United States. Since then, a number of Texas I.O.O.F. Lodges have initiated black members.

Called to the Celestial Lodge

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



Alfred J. Jernigan.....	<i>New Light No. 242</i>
Alton H. Irving.....	<i>Fidelity No. 221</i>
Charles Liggins.....	<i>Pride of Beaumont No. 291</i>
Joseph E. Mikle.....	<i>Cleveland Star No. 394</i>
William D. Mozee.....	<i>Good Street Baptist No. 182</i>
Jesse J. Pettis.....	<i>Cherubim No. 237</i>
Levi Rivers.....	<i>Pride of the South No. 324</i>
Bobby Stokes.....	<i>True Square No. 108</i>
Benny L. Williams.....	<i>Pride of the South No. 324</i>
Herbert Tron Williams.....	<i>Markwell No. 415</i>



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South Central Heroines of Jericho Regional Meeting

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by
Rebecca Court No. 2

Saturday, February 5, 2011
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For additional information contact:
District Deputy Sharon Carter
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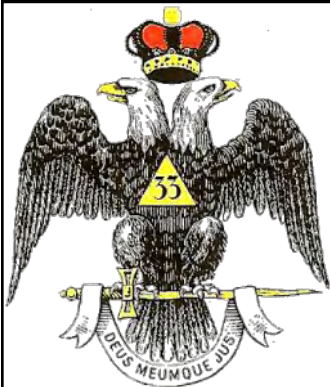
6th Annual Youth Spelling Bee
Saturday, February 5, 2011
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Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

2011 Live Stone Annual Masonic Banquet
Saturday, February 26, 2011
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Spelling bee is for all DFW students in grades 5th, 6th and 7th. Cash scholarships in the amount of \$500, \$300 and \$100 will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Sponsorship slots are still available. Study guides and official rules may be found at www.livestonelodge152.com.

This year's theme is "Preserving the Past and Enriching the Future." Our guest speaker will be the dynamic Dr. Alexander from the Grand Prairie Independent School District. www.livestonelodge152.com/2010/2011-live-stone-annual-masonic-banquet.

*For additional information contact Bro. Clack:
(979) 255-5179 or email BroClack@me.com*



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