



The Texas Prince Hall Freemason



Official Publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas
Volume 2- Issue 5 - Winter 2011



**Prince Hall Americanism Day
“Pilgrimage to Brenham”**

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From the Editor

Greetings,

Texas Prince Hall Masonry continues to strive in the great "Nation of Texas". We have made History with the opening of the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum and revis-

ited History by taking a "Pilgrimage to Brenham" to celebrate Prince Hall Americanism Day and attend the re-dedication of the memorial honoring Norris Wright Cuney, the first Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. Brenham is also the location of the establishment of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Texas. I want to thank my Brother, Past Master Edward Jones for assisting me in completing the 5th Edition of this publication. I look forward to returning home from the War.

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 bro_edward.jones@yahoo.com and parmer-masonictraveler@hotmail.com. Permission to reprint original articles appearing in *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason* is granted to all recognized Masonic publications.

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason

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H.P.M. Burrell D. Parmer

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2011 - 2012

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

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Message from the Grand Master

Greetings,

It is my prayer that this letter finds you experiencing the bountiful blessings from the G.A.O.T.U., our Heavenly Father. I pray that this letter is one of encouragement by letting you know that no matter what you are going through, God is still in control and if you lean and depend on Him, He can and will see you through whatever you are going through. As the Grand Master of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas, I am a living witness to this. Have faith and believe.

M.W. Wilbert M. Curtis

I am writing to say thank you and to give you some information from the Grand East.

First, I want to thank you for a most successful One Hundred and Thirty-Sixth Grand Communication. We took care of the business of the Grand Lodge and when the gavel sounded, closing the Grand Communication, there prevailed nothing but peace and harmony. You should be proud to know that we supported our youth. We gave over \$12,000 in scholarships thru the J. T. Maxey Scholarship Contest. Other youth support includes over 60 boys attending the Robert E. Connor Jr. Youth Camp and the support of the Knights of Pythagoras Leadership Conference that was held at Huston Tillotson College in July. Brothers, this is your Masonic Charity money at work.

Once again, we had a successful automobile raffle with the winner of the automobile being from San Antonio for the second time. The ticket sales were down from the previous year but we did make a profit. Brothers, I thank those of you that do your part of supporting the annual raffle and selling tickets because it brings in revenue to the Grand Lodge to offset expenses that will otherwise cause us to increase the annual dues. I ask that more of you support this effort; otherwise you will be facing a dues increase.

The highlight of the session was the Grand Opening of the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum (WMCTPHLM). This was the culmination of years of planning and hard work by those who wanted to have a place to store and display the History of Texas Prince Hall Freemasonry. It is the first of its kind for Prince Hall Grand Lodges. This will allow the history of our Lodges and members to be researched by our members as well as genealogists who are researching if and when a family member was a Texas Prince Hall Mason. The WMCTPHLM is a work in progress. If you have not seen it, you need to make a special effort to come and see YOUR Masonic Library Museum. Go to the website: www.wmctphlm.com for more information about the Library Museum. If you are interested in purchasing a video of its Grand Opening and/or a tour of the Library Museum the link is www.videobymcgill.com/PHA.html. Voluntary donations are welcome and may be made out to: WMCTPHLM and mailed to the Grand Lodge Office.

Secondly, I want to thank those of you that made the Pilgrimage to Brenham for the Prince Hall Americanism Day Weekend. If you missed it, you missed a Texas Prince Hall Freemasonry Historical Event. This was the first time that our Prince Hall Masonic Family had returned to the place of our beginning since 1995. It marked the 70th anniversary of the Commemorative Memorial Stone being erected at the site of convention that constituted our Grand Lodge. A word of gratitude and thanks goes out to Pastor Alvin Larke and the St. John A.M.E. Church for opening their doors to us for our Prince Hall Americanism Day Service and rededication ceremony.

Finally, as you know, our Mid-Winter Special Grand Session and Workshop will be held November 11 - 12 at the Grand Masonic Temple. Masonic knowledge is greatly needed throughout the jurisdiction. As I travel over the state, I am finding out that we are not all on the same level in our ritualistic work, our understanding of the relationship between the local Lodges and the Grand Lodge, the responsibilities that a local Lodge and its members have to the Grand Lodge and most

importantly, the positive things that the Grand Lodge provide to its members and the community. Those things are what we will be concentrating on at this session. I ask that each and every Brother that is able, to attend this session for instruction.

Once again, we are asking each local Lodge represented to bring at least 10 unwrapped toys to the Mid-Winter Session for the Third Annual Christmas Gift Give-Away. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, you will find a place on the Advanced Registration form to select and include a donation along with your \$25 registration fee. Also, I remind you to bring your Fellow Craftsmen to be Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.

Brothers, I close with these words of wisdom from our Past Grand Master Wm. Coleman in his Grand Master's Address at the Sixty-Eighth Annual Communication:

Importance of Our Meeting

We meet today, brethren I believe, in the most critical time in the world's history; a time when Masonry and all that it stands and has stood for so nobly, is being tested as never before. This supposed Democracy by which we are governed through Free-Masonry which enables us to practice its teachings and demonstrate its serviceableness to all mankind as well as brother Masons, is being besieged on all sides. Amidst the raging storms of hatred, and prejudice circumscribing us in all of our earthly existence, may "He who doeth all things well," be our guide, directing us in all of our deliberations today and tomorrow that we may so continuously labor for the advancement of Masonry that it may be for the Glory of God and the good of humanity.

This still holds true today. I look forward to greeting and meeting you in November.

I remain...

Fraternally yours,

Wilbert M. Curtis

Grand Master's Calendar

November 2011 - April 2012

Date	Location	Event
November 2011		
Saturday, Nov. 5	Fort Worth	Preparation for Mid-Winter Session
Friday - Saturday, Nov. 11 - 12	Fort Worth	Mid-Winter Session
December 2011		
Saturday, Dec. 3	Temple	Temple Masonic Family Banquet
Saturday - Sunday, Nov. 17 - 18	Fort Worth	Prince Hall Masonic Family Christmas Give-Away
January 2012		
Friday, Jan. 13	Houston	Head of Houses Meeting
Saturday, Jan. 14	Houston	Norris Wright Cuney Annual Luncheon
Saturday, Jan 21	Fort Worth	Districts 10, 11, & 20 Workshop
Saturday, Jan. 28	Houston	District 15-A Drum Line Competition
February 2012		
Thursday - Saturday, Feb. 9 - 11	Dallas	York Rite Weekend
Friday - Sunday, Feb. 24 - 26	Pine Bluff, Ark.	Arkansas Grand Session

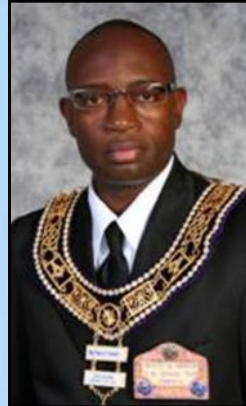
Elected Grand Lodge Officers



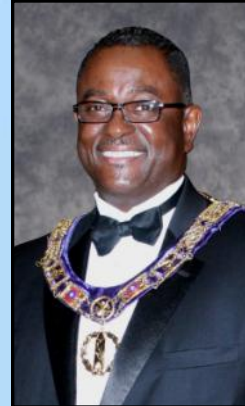
Past Grand Master
Hon. Edwin B. Cash



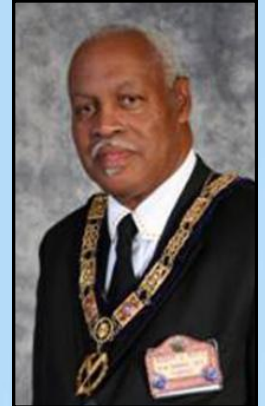
Deputy Grand Master
R.W. Michael T. Anderson



Grand Senior Warden
R.W. Bryce Hardin Sr.



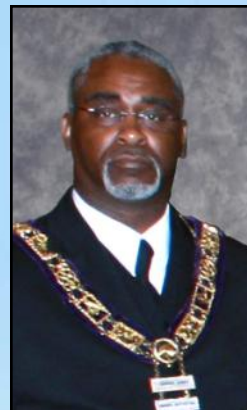
Grand Junior Warden
R.W. Frank D. Jackson



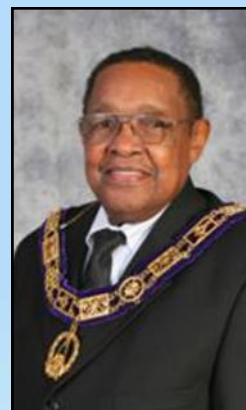
Grand Secretary
R.W. Hubert L. Reece Sr.



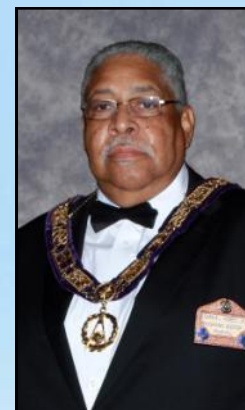
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R.W. Robert Hicks Sr.



*The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons
of Texas and its Jurisdictions*



To: All Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, All Past Masters, Honorary Past Masters, Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Local Lodge Officers and Master Masons

From: Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis
M. W. Grand Master

Date: September 14, 2011

Subject: 2011 Mid-Winter Session

By the authority vested in the office of the Grand Master and in accordance with the Constitution of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, Article III, Section 2, I, Wilbert M. Curtis, am hereby calling the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas into the 2011 Mid-Winter Session for degree work on November 11, 2011, a Special Session and workshops on November 12, 2011 at the Grand Masonic Temple, located 3433 M.L.K. Freeway, Ft. Worth, Texas. **The headquarters hotel will be the Radisson Hotel North, 2540 Meacham Blvd, Fort Worth, Texas, 76106.**

In support of the **3rd Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Toy Drive and Christmas Give-Away**, each brother attending the Mid-Winter Session is asked to bring one un-wrapped toy for children 16 and under, with a minimum of 10 toys per Lodge.

I am asking each District Deputy Grand Master to bring a minimum of 7 Fellow Craft Masons to be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by the Grand Lodge Degree Team and the Grand Master. The Fellow Craftsmen will be required to register for the Mid-Winter Session. They are to report to the Grand Lecturer at 5:45 p.m. An occasional Lodge will open promptly at 6:00 p.m. by **District Deputy Rufus Phelps** and **Masonic District 14**. Ritualistic work will begin at 6:45 p.m. The Worshipful Master of the Fellow Craftsmen is responsible for properly preparing and clothing your candidates. I want to raise a minimum of 100 Master Masons that night. The dress for Master Masons is **Masonic Dress** for both Friday and Saturday Sessions.

The 2011 Mid-Winter Special Session will officially convene at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 12, 2011 at the Grand Masonic Temple to transact business that requires the attention of the Grand Lodge. Afterwards, the Grand Lodge will be called from labor to refreshment for the purpose of training, workshops and other presentations on topics of importance. This year's Mid-Winter session will include a luncheon.

There is a \$25.00 per Lodge registration fee and a \$25.00 advanced registration fee for each Master Mason that attends the Mid-Winter Session. The on-site registration will be \$35. (This includes candidates that will be raised at this Session). New, this year, when you register for the Mid-winter Session you may make a \$5 donation for the WMCTPH Library Museum and the Christmas Gift Give-Away. (See the Mid-Winter Registration form) Donations for the library will help purchase a much needed document scanner to preserve our documents.

Note: The **subordinate Lodge, Master and both Wardens are required to register for the Mid-Winter Session whether or not they attend. Any Lodge that does not fulfill these obligations will be declared un-square and will not be represented at the 2012 Grand Communication until the Mid-Winter Session obligations are fulfilled.** It must be paid in order for the Lodge and members of the Lodge to participate in the Mid-Winter Special Grand Lodge Session and have a voice in the very important issues that will come before the Grand Body.

I look forward to seeing all of you there, ready to learn and ready to go to work.
Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

I remain...

Fraternally yours,

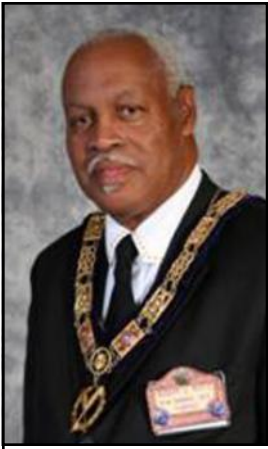
Wilbert M. Curtis

Wilbert M. Curtis
M. W. Grand Master

Attested by:

Hubert L. Reece

Hubert L. Reece
R. W. Grand Secretary



Grand Secretary
R.W. Hubert L. Reece

Message from the Grand Secretary

The Mid-Winter Session will be held Nov. 11 - 12, at the Grand Masonic Temple located at 3433 Martin Luther King Freeway, Fort. Worth, Texas, 76119. The Headquarters Hotel will be the Radisson Hotel North, 2540 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth. The telephone number to make reservations is (817) 625-9911. Rooms are \$92.00 plus tax.

There is a \$25.00 registration fee for each Lodge and a \$25.00 advance registration fee for each Master Mason that will attend the Mid-Winter Session. Fellow Crafts who will be raised during the Mid-Winter Session are required to pay the \$25.00 advance registration fee. The deadline for advance registration is Nov. 1.

The late and on-site registration will be \$35.00 per person after Nov. 1. Fellow Crafts to be raised will also pay a late or on-site registration fee after Nov. 1.

Each subordinate Lodge must register their Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden for the Mid-Winter Session. This is mandatory whether they attend or not. Any Lodge that does not fulfill these requirements will be un-square and will not be represented at the 2012 Grand Communication until Mid-Winter Session requirements are fulfilled. These obligations are to be paid in order for the members to participate in the Mid-Winter Session and to have a voice in the very important issues that will come before the Grand Body.

Each member attending is asked to bring one unwrapped toy for children ages 16 years old and under for the Prince Hall Family Christmas Toy Giveaway to be held Saturday, Dec. 17. A minimum of ten (10) toys are requested per Lodge.

All members are asked to donate \$5.00 to the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum and a \$5.00 donation in support of the Christmas Toy Giveaway Drive. Information is on your Registration Form for donations.

Registration packages can be picked up Friday, Nov. 11, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The packages can also be picked up Saturday, Nov. 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

The Occasional Lodge will open at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 11. The Grand Lodge will be called upon to transact required business on Saturday, Nov. 12, starting at 8:30 a.m. sharp.

Please take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Fraternally Submitted,

Hubert L. Reece



Bro. Martin Conner III
Asst. G.M.A.

Diabetes

It is the fall of the year and God's goodness is in its most abundant form. The radiant colors and hues remind us that another year is about to turn and it is God's Grace and Mercy that has brought us through. On our knees is how we should thank him, remembering, how fortunate we are. When we see those who have fallen on hard times, not only should we, but we must share the blessings God has allowed us. Remember, that if not for the grace of God, there go I.

I bring you greetings from the Grand Medical Advisor, Honorary Past Grand Master Dr. Ulysses Watkins and myself.

Diabetes Mellitus or Diabetes affects over 25 million people or more that 8% of the population of the United States. It affects over 3.7 million African Americans or 14.7% of all African Americans over the age of 20. Twenty-five percent of all African Americans between the ages of 65 - 74 have Diabetes. In Diabetes, the body's ability to produce Insulin is impaired. Insulin is a hormone that is needed by the body to convert sugars, starches and other foods, which the body converts to glucose, into energy for daily use. There are several different types of Diabetes, but for this article we will focus on two, Type 1 and Type 2.

Type 1 or Juvenile Onset Diabetes, as it was once known, is when the body produces no insulin. It is normally diagnosed in children or young adults and affects approximately 5% of all people with this disease. The treatment for Type 1 diabetes is multiple daily injection of insulin, along with glucose monitoring and exercise.

Type 2 Diabetes is when the body does not make enough insulin or use it well enough, allowing glucose to remain in the bloodstream and not move into the cells. Type 2 Diabetes can be treated with a combination of oral medication, exercise, and glucose monitoring. Your doctor may choose to add insulin to this regiment depending on how long you have had the disease and other medical conditions.

In both of these conditions the danger is allowing this excess glucose to remain in the blood stream, where it will attack and feed on other organs. In time it can cause heart disease or stroke, kidney disease, blindness, difficulty in wound healing or even amputations.

Some warning signs for Type 1 Diabetes are, but may not limited to, frequent urination, extreme thirst, extreme hunger, sudden weight loss, and extreme fatigue and irritability. With Type 2 you may see all of the signs associated with Type 1 plus, frequent infections, blurred vision, wounds slow to heal, tingling to extremities and skin, gum or bladder infections.

Several tests are used to determine whether the amount of glucose in your blood is within normal limits, whether you are pre-diabetic, or have diabetes. These test include the Fasting Plasma Glucose test (FPG), which is a measurement of your glucose level after fasting, the Oral Glucose Tolerance test (OGTT), a test measuring glucose levels at intervals after given a sugary drink, or the A1C test. This test is a measurement of your average glucose levels over the past 2 or 3 months.

Just as in all aspects of medicine, recent discoveries have taken Diabetic treatment to great new levels, i.e. insulin pumps. With early diagnosis, aggressive treatment, regimental glucose monitoring, and exercise, a diagnosis of Diabetes need not be the dreaded news that it once was.

Brother in Christ and in Masonry,

Martin Conner III

Prince Hall Freemasons Pilgrimage to Brenham to Honor their Founder, celebrate their History



Grand Chaplain Rev. John Butler leads the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family in prayer during the re-dedication ceremony of the Memorial honoring Past Grand Master Norris Wright Cuney in Brenham, Sept. 10.

Story by:

P.M. Edward Jones (1)

Photos by G.R. Edwin Moore (135)

BREHAM, Texas – With vested authority from M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and its Jurisdiction, the Prince Hall Masonic family celebrated Prince Hall Americanism Day in the city, Sept. 10 – 11.

More than 200 members, including membership of the Grand High Court of Heroines of Jericho; Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter; Lone Star Grand Guild; Order of the Golden Circle; Holy Royal Arch Masons; Scottish Rite Masons, and Knights Templar of Lone Star Grand Commandery was in Brenham to celebrate.

The weekend was eventful and allowed first-time visitors the opportunity to fully enjoy the city of Brenham. The celebration kicked off with a Saturday morning Church Service at St. John A.M.E Church

located at 1012 Main Street. Rev. Dr. Alvin Larke Jr., Pastor, was the speaker for the service and re-dedication of the memorial honoring Norris Wright Cuney, the first

Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and which commemorates the establishment of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Texas.

With the Prince Hall Grand Lodge being established in Brenham on August 19, 1875, Prince Hall Freemasonry has been a constant in the Lone Star State. To honor this historic lineage, and with assistance from his cabinet and members, G.M. Curtis conducted a wreath laying during the dedication ceremony at the monument. This monument sits upon a hill located across from St. John A.M.E. Church. The memorial was placed at its present sight in 1941 by then G.M. William Coleman.

At the conclusion of the dedication ceremony, guests were treated to a fun afternoon in Fireman's Park. There were a number of activities that provided fun in the sun and refreshments for those who attended.



Members of the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family attend Church Services at St. John A.M.E. Church in celebration of Prince Hall Americanism Day.



Saturday's events ended with a wonderful Fellowship Dinner at Brenham Fireman's Training Center located at 1101 Hwy 290 West and a social activity provided by members of the Grand Lodge's social Club, the Knights of the Noon Day Sun.

The monumental weekend ended Sunday morning with church services at St. John A.M.E. Church, where members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family received a stirring message from Pastor Larke.

When asked the significance of the Pilgrimage, G.M. Curtis shared, "The significance of the Texas Prince Hall Masons' Pilgrimage to Brenham is the return to the place that the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas was organized over 136 years ago. The last time we returned to Brenham was in 1995 and it was long overdue. This Pilgrimage was a renewal and

re-dedication of our commitment interests, honesty, industry and up- as Masons, and Sisters of right living. It cultivates Charity, the Adoptive Rites to the principles Friendship, Harmony and Brotherly Love." advancement of moral and social



Texas Prince Hall Masons are Telling Their Own Story: Historical, Genealogical Gold



Genealogist Sharon Johnson Styles of Sacramento, R.W. Grand Secretary Hubert L. Reece, and Historian/Genealogist Gayle Hanson of Arlington.

Story by: Sharon Johnson Styles

I was in the planning stage of my trip to Texas, when I received an e-mail from a fellow genealogist with information about the newly opened Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum in Ft. Worth. The newspaper article went on to say the Library Museum had information that is genealogical gold. My grandfather, Marvin Johnson, was a member of Merry Rose Lodge in Chilton and the men of Hopeful Masonic Lodge in Marlin were very supportive of our Bull Hill Cemetery Dedication in 2010. How could I resist? I left a voice mail message at the Library Museum and sent a letter asking for an appointment.

On Saturday evening, after a full day at the Paul Family Reunion in Marlin, Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis called to invite me to tour the Library Museum and meet the staff. He also said he would look for information on my relatives.

On the last day of my trip, Gayle Hanson and I arrived early for my 10:00 a.m. appointment. We were buzzed in and escorted to a beautiful room with photos, uniforms, books, capes, cornerstones, ledgers, original Lodge Charters, paintings, and much more. Grand Secretary Hubert L. Reece and Assistant Grand Secretary Sharp Fields gave us a personal tour while providing the history of Texas Prince Hall Masons. An archivist is painstakingly cataloging boxes of information. Once the collection is processed, a more accurate account of individual applications and Lodge records will be available upon request. This information will produce even more historical and genealogical gold.

Although G.M. Curtis was not in the office the day of my visit, he instructed, Angie Scroggins, the office manager, to give me copies of documents from 1912 and 1929 which included information about

my family members. G.M. Curtis led the effort to create and fill the Library Museum with treasures from the 136-year history of African-American Freemasonry in Texas. He is dedicated to preserving the rich legacy of Texas Prince Hall Masons and more importantly, telling their story with the dignity, honor and respect these men are due.

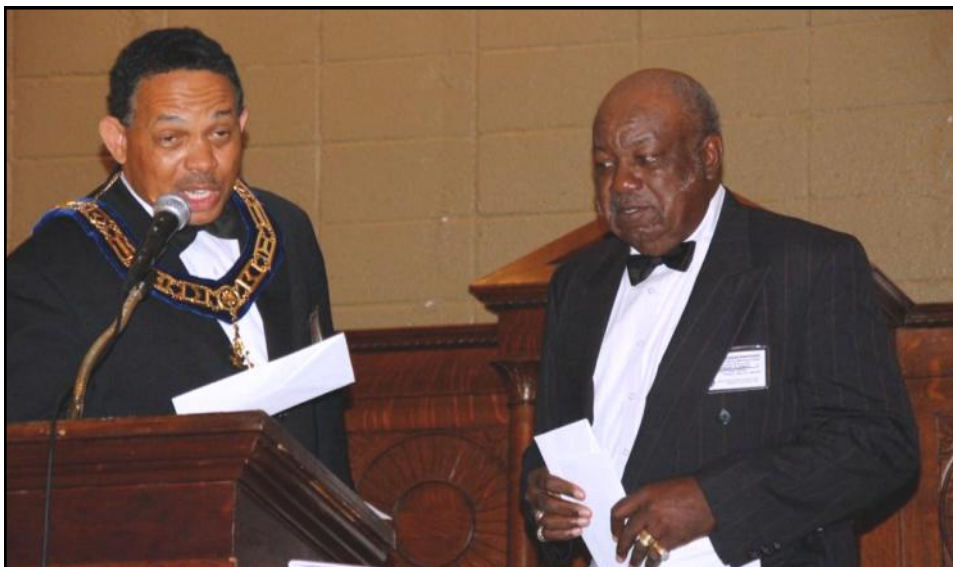
If you plan to be in the Ft. Worth area, make time to visit The Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum. The Library Museum is available to the public by appointment Monday thru Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information contact the Grand Lodge Office at 817-534-4612 or by visiting www.wmctphlm.com. Everyone was very kind and helpful. Extra special thanks to Grand Master Curtis for going out of his way to help me with my research.

Gayle Hanson is extremely knowledgeable in regard to African American History in Texas. If you need assistance with Texas research or history, contact Gayle Hanson, Historian / Genealogist, Texas Historical and Ancestry Researchers, PO Box 122058, Arlington, TX 76012-8058, 817-276-1640 or ttexashistory@aol.com.



Assistant G.S. Sharp Fields, Office Manager Angie Scroggins, and G.S. Reece

Donate to the Robert E. Connor Jr. Masonic Youth Camp, a Great Program, in many Ways



Story by: P.M. Edward W. Brown (350)
Assistant Youth Camp Director

Recently, I was asked by Past Master Willie H. Coleman Jr., Chairman of the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation of Texas, to provide information about the contributions received yearly from individuals, as well as, corporate donations from my employer.

About 13 years ago, one of my best friends, then Grand Master Robert E. Connor, came up with a vision that The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas should have an annual youth camp for our young men to attend. He envisioned a camp which would be organized and conducted by Prince Hall Masons.

The camp would provide a wholesome environment which the youth could meet other young men ranging in age from 9 - 17 from around the state. They would engage in various activities including morning exercising, playing basketball, swimming, playing flag football, sharing movie night, receiving information about Prince Hall, as well as, meeting and talking with professional role models about

education (its advantages) and career choices.

These young men would also learn valuable lessons regarding conduct at home and individual responsibilities. G.M. Connor, along with Brother Charles Dewitt, and others concerned about our youth moved forward, and two years later organized our first youth camp at Cathedral Oaks in Oakland, Texas. I was very fortunate to be asked to work on this endeavor at the camp and have done so for 11 years.

I was assigned the task by our Grand Youth Director Charles Dewitt, to secure speakers/lecturers for the camp each year. We have been blessed by positive role models from the Prince Hall Family and others. Past speakers have consisted of bankers, attorneys, teachers, engineers, Insurance agency owners, business consultants, police chiefs, policemen, fire fighters and accountants to name a few.

We have Masonic Districts who sponsor young men for the camp. There are some youth who would like to attend but are unable due to financial issues. Many of the youth who attend the camp come from single-parent families.

A couple of my fraternity brothers agreed to attend and speak. In previous camps, they observed the youth and asked me a question that sparked a great idea. After giving them a tour of the camp, meeting the kids and faculty, and speaking to them in the chapel; they asked, "How much will it cost for me to sponsor a young man?" I told them it was \$100, which is tax deductible. With that question, I approached many of my hard working, educated friends and asked them to sponsor a young man for the camp each year. Through this effort, those men have come down to the camp to speak, give of their time, talent and treasure. Through them our donations continue to grow each year.

Another resource utilized is through corporate donations from my employer ExxonMobil Corporation. At ExxonMobil Corporation, we have a volunteer program called the Individual Volunteer Involvement Program which seeks to encourage employees, retirees and their families to volunteer in the community on an individual basis. A \$500 grant is awarded to a charitable, non-profit organization after an eligible participant volunteers at least 20 hours of their time to the organization during a calendar year. After a thorough background check, the company will send a grant directly to the organization.

If you work for a organization that has a similar type program or know co-workers, friends, and family members who would like to donate to the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation in support of the Robert E. Connor Jr. Masonic Youth Camp, please contact P.M. Coleman at whcolemanjr@sbcglobal.net and/or G.Y.D. Dewitt at charlesdewitt@sbcglobal.net.

Texas Knights of Pythagoras visit its 5th Historical Black College & University

Story by: State Director Michael L. Simms, Sr.

Congratulations to our Texas Order of the Knights of Pythagoras, The Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council on visiting their 5th historical black college & university (HBCU). The Texas K.O.P. made it their goal to visit every H.B.C.U. in Texas. As of this year we have visited five of the eight H.B.C.U.s in Texas. We have three colleges remaining to complete our tour. The H.B.C.U. Tour consisted of:

Paul Quinn College (2001) Dallas, Texas
Prairie View A&M University (2005 & 2007) Prairie View, Texas
Texas Southern University (2006 & 2010) Houston, Texas
Wiley College (2009), Wiley, Texas (School of "The Great Debaters")
Huston-Tillotson University (2011), Austin, Texas

The remaining H.B.C.U.s to visit are:

Jarvis Christian College – Hawkins, Texas
Texas College – Tyler, Texas
Southwestern Christian College – Terrell, Texas

Non-H.B.C.U. visited:

University of Texas at Arlington (2008) Arlington, Texas



Many thanks to the Master Masons (Sir Knights) who work every year in getting Youth Knights to their Youth Leadership Conferences. It is these and other Master Masons that volunteer their time in providing training to our youth at these colleges and universities. Special thanks to our sponsors for donating. It is through their generosity that allows us to bring youth from various cities across Texas to college once a year. If you would like to assist us by sending a donation please email us at koptexas@yahoo.com or contact our Prince Hall Charitable Foundation.

In attendance at the conference this year was M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis, R.W. Deputy Grand Master Michael T. Anderson, R.W. Grand Senior Warden Bryce Hardin, R.W. Grand Junior Warden Frank Jackson, Prince Hall Charitable Trust Chairman Past Master Willie "High" Coleman Jr., Grand Youth Director Charles DeWitt and out of state guests Sir Knight William Turner (Colorado) and State Director Michael Spencer (Nevada). Many thanks to Conference Chairman Arthur M. Sauls for doing an outstanding job in assisting with planning the event. Also thanks to the Central Texas area, DASD Herb Loring, Masonic District No. 24, and to all others who helped with the event. Congratulations to the many Youth Knights and Sir Knights who received awards during this conference. o our sponsors who donated to the MV. Grand Council and to those who sponsored their local councils.



Texas Schools Dropout Rates; how can Masonic Organizations assist

Story by:

G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)

In 2009-10, the Texas Education Agency began collecting data on student race and ethnicity in compliance with a new federal standard. This report provides annual dropout rates using the new racial/ethnic categories.

The class of 2010 consists of students who began Grade 9 in 2006-07 and were expected to graduate in 2009-10. Over the next three years, 23,214 students who entered the Texas public school system were added to the 2006-07 Grade 9 cohort. Another 55,670 students left the system for reasons other than graduating, receiving General Educational Development certificates, or dropping out.

Out of 314,079 students in the class of 2010 Grade 9 cohort, 84.3 percent graduated.

Across racial/ethnic groups, Asian/Pacific Islanders had the highest graduation rate (93.8%) in the class of 2010 Grade 9 cohort, and African Americans and Hispanics had the lowest graduation rates (78.8% each).

The graduation rate for each racial/ethnic group was higher for the class of 2010 than the class of 2009.

For the class of 2010 Grade 9 cohort, African Americans and Hispanics had the highest longitudinal dropout rates across racial/ethnic groups, at 11.8 percent and 9.6 percent, respectively. Asian/Pacific Islanders had the lowest longitudinal dropout rate (2.3%), followed by Whites (3.5%). For each racial/ethnic group, the longitudinal dropout rate was lower for the class of 2010 than the class of 2009.

A total of 22,988 students in the



class of 2010 Grade 9 cohort had 344,999 students with 999 dropping out. Of these, 65.1 percent dropped out in the third or fourth year of the cohort. Of students who dropped out in the fourth year (2009-10), more than half (55.3%) had not reached Grade 12.

A total of 1,672 students dropped out of Grades 7-8, and 33,235 dropped out of Grades 9-12.

In 2009-10, students who dropped out of Grade 12 accounted for 30.1 percent of all dropouts, the highest proportion of any grade.

Texas Education Agency. (2011). *Secondary school completion and dropouts in Texas public schools, 2009-10* (Document No. GE11 601 08). Austin, TX: Author.

For full and prior years' reports visit: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us>.

The dropping out of school by any child regardless of race or gender is unacceptable. According to the report for the school year 2009 – 10 (7- 8 graders) there were 93,727 Black students, whom of which 356 dropped out. Hispanics

dropping out and White students were numbered at 235,537 with 258 dropping out. The numbers were not good for 9 - 12 graders for the same year. Black students numbered 191,211 with 7,392 dropping out. Hispanics had 631,184 students with 19,597 dropping out and White students were numbered at 480,028 with 5,377 dropping out. Why is this information being provided to members of the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family?

We have Grand Bodies, Districts, Lodges, Chapters, Commanderies, Consistories, Orders, Guilds, etc, throughout the state of Texas. Each organization possesses programs that assist our youth with mentorship and student aid for those who seek higher education. In reference to the report, some youth are in need of our assistance. Two male organizations directly support our youth: the Robert E.

Connor Jr. Masonic Youth Camp of Texas and the Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council Order of the Knights of Pythagoras (K.O.P.)

The Youth Camp recently completed its 11th annual camp which was held at the Cathedral Oaks Retreat Center near Weimar. The theme of the youth camp was "Preventing a Lost Generation."

More than 50 youths participated in seminars, sports activities, swimming, and religious programs. The young men exposed to men of the various Masonic organizations and speakers from throughout the Lone Star State. Additionally, they received lectures and information on preparing for the job market, coping with daily community problems and preparing for their futures.

"I feel we have excellent and worthwhile programs in our youth camp, which produces positive effects on the lives of our young men," said Bro. Charles R. Dewitt, Grand Youth Director. "Again I cannot express enough thanks to everyone that participates in this program. We continue to receive positive feedback from our campers and from their parents. We are eagerly looking forward to our youth camp in 2012."

The K.O.P. also held their 2011 Youth Leadership Conference at Huston Tillotson University in Austin. During the conferences, the Youth Knights participated in debate competitions, oratorical contests, report card competitions, statewide basketball tournaments, Knighting Ceremonies for high school seniors, 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 gave the youth a feeling of what it's like to be a col-

Texas

Order of the Knights of Pythagoras

Sponsored by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and Jurisdiction, F&AM

"2012 YOUNG MEN WITH a PURPOSE"

Youth Leadership Conference

Today's Youth focusing on their purpose, mission, and vision for the future.

JULY 19 - 22, 2012
Location to be determined

7 Powerful Youth Workshops
Presented by:
3 Facilitators
14 Instructors

Developing the Right Attitude

Decision Making

Leadership is within


Anger Management






Young Men with a:
Purpose
Mission Statement
Vision Statement

Staying in the Drivers Seat

Learning how to communicate effectively

WWW.TEXASKOP.NET



Competition

Debate Competition

Report Card


Statewide Basketball Tournament

Oratorical

Brain Bowl Competition

Election of State Youth Officers

EMAIL:
KOPTexas@YAHOO.COM



lege student.

The bottom line: targeting youth, who are on the verge of dropping out, should be a focus for 2012. These types of programs could positively affect their decision to stay in school and graduate.

"Both programs, the Robert E. Connor Jr. Masonic Youth Camp and the Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council (K.O.P.) youth leadership training program

complement each other," said K.O.P. State Director Michael L. Simms. "Boys who attend the camp learn about how to join the Texas K.O.P. program which operates year long. Our Councils, located in cities throughout the state and supported by Masonic Lodges and Districts, meet once or twice a month and involves business meeting, local election of officers, fun activities, and community service."



**The 3rd Annual
Prince Hall Masonic Family
Toy Drive & Christmas Giveaway**

**Saturday, December 17, 2011
12pm - 3pm**

**The Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge**

**3433 Martin Luther King Freeway
Fort Worth, Texas**

**The Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family
will collect and distribute age appropriate
gifts and unwrapped toys again this year
to residents under 16**

in the Fort Worth City limits.

**Please purchase items
and/or gift cards from your favorite
shopping centers and restaurants.**

(valued at \$10 or more)

**(i.e., Sonic, Chick-fil-a, Best Buy, Wal-Mart, Target, Toys-R-Us, Babies-R-Us,
Staples, Office Depot, or Dillard's.)**

**Please bring your items to the Mid-Winter Session
or to the Grand High Court Regional Meetings.**



Giving the Gift that Keeps on Giving



Johnny Perez of Pride of Killeen No. 620 and Worthy Matron Andrea Whitted of Shiprah Chapter No. 54 (Order of the Eastern Star) for their support.”



Story by: S.D.D.G.M. Michael Whitted (21)
Photos by: Perry Jefferies

FORT HOOD – To supply life-saving blood products to warfighters in Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom through the Armed Services Blood Program, Prince Hall Masons of Jno G. Lewis Lodge No. 622 hosted its first blood drive at Robertson Blood Center, Aug. 13.

The ongoing mission of the Robertson Blood Center is to provide precious blood to the front line of our nation's wars. The blood collected would be delivered to Iraq or Afghanistan within one week.

Leading by example, one of the first donors was the Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis, Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons of Texas.

The Lodge provided refreshments of grilled ball park franks

and sodas served up by Senior Warden Robert Guice, Junior Warden Marcus Stinson and Brother Harvey Jones. Donors received tee shirts from the center and were entered into the Lodge's fund raiser raffle.

After 10 years of military operations, America recognizes the need for a healthy blood supply and the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family is encouraged to donate.

“We would like to thank the Robertson Blood Center for allowing us to sponsor such a life saving event,” said P.M. Ronnie Jones. “We would also like to thank Special District Deputy Grand Master Michael Whitted of District 14, D.D.G.M. Marvin Kelker of District 24 (D.D.G.M. of the Year), Worshipful Master Jerry Martin of Wyatt Lodge No. 21 (Worshipful Master/Lodge of the Year), W.M.

A New Beginning: Holloway Lodge No. 7



Story and Photos by:
W.M. Charles Lilley (7)

DOWNSVILLE, Texas – In a small town on the outskirts of Waco, a place where hay fields and dairy cows dominate the landscape is where you'll find Downsville. A place named after landowner Williams Woods Downs, who used slaves to work the land during the 1850's.

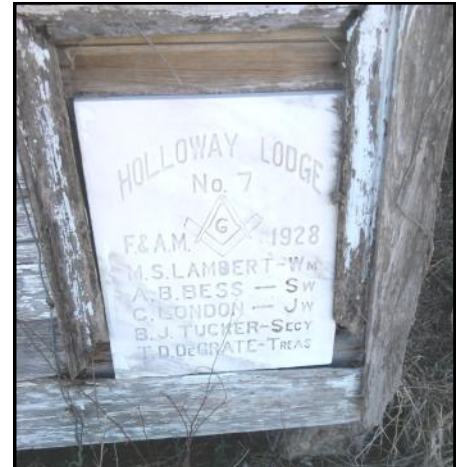
On one of the town's major streets, 3rd Street, stands a small weather-worn building with its missing windows and doors; it landscape consisting of poison ivy vines and trees, which obscure its

appearance. People would pass it by if they didn't know what to look for.

The building has stood as a testament to the Masonic work of former slaves, sharecroppers, business owners, clergy and many others since or before 1928. Grand Master J.W. McKinney issued its inhabitants a Charter some 110 years ago. There is no doubt that this Lodge played an important role in the establishment of Prince Hall Masonry in the Waco and the surrounding area.

This year Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis placed on the trestle board a plan to bring Holloway Lodge No. 7 back to its rightful place as a productive Masonic entity. Under his instructions, District Deputy Grand Master Rufus Phelps III selected volunteers from Lodges throughout District 14 to assist Holloway Lodge No. 7 with "A New Beginning."

Leading by example, D.D.G.M. Phelps, along with Brothers Derek



McCullough, Lorenzo Taylor, Brandon Edwards, Jarrett Haynes, Bernables Quinones, Past Master Christopher Riley and I demitted from our Lodges and became members of Holloway Lodge No. 7, joining P.M. Floyd Norwood, Brothers Willie James Smiley, Edward Hodges and Bennie Hargrove who all were already faithful members. This starts "A New Beginning" for a Lodge that although weather beaten and worn still stands as a place that promotes the cause of Prince Hall Freemasonry.

Holloway Lodge No. 7 donates Books

Story: W.M. Charles Lilley (7)

WACO – We as Masons are educated throughout our degree lectures and Masonic travels to know that "Knowledge is Light." We also are taught that there is no greater experience than sharing knowledge.

With this in mind Prince Hall Masons of Holloway Lodge No. 7 began a book drive to donate books to East Branch Library.

Located on the east side of Waco, the library services one of the most economic starved areas of the city.

The Lodge sought to spread as much knowledge as possible by

donating more than \$650 worth of college text books, along with approximately \$200 worth of other useful books to the library, July 16.

The library staff was pleased with the Lodge's efforts. Knowledge that may have otherwise been lost has been placed in a proper position to be shared by library patrons in search of the knowledge the books contain. The next process for the Lodge is to encourage more youth to READ!



Lt. to Rt. - W.M. Antonio McClinton, D.D.G.M.- Emeritus Ronnie Jones, Grand Lecturer Ivory Johnson, Bro. Jarrett Haynes, W.M. Charles Lilley, Julie Campbell, P.M. Purcell Cason, Bro. Nolan Walker, and P.M. John Harrell.

Wyatt No. 21 makes an Impact in the Community



Photo by: W.M. Antonio McClinton

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

WACO — Wyatt Lodge No. 21 has continued to flourish under the leadership and guidance of Worshipful Master Jerry L. Martin Sr. This quarter alone, Wyatt Lodge implemented various programs to assist the community in which it services.

After attending its quarterly church visit in support of one of the many churches that the Lodge supports in the Waco area (Pleasant Grove Baptist Church), W.M. Martin seized the opportunity and sponsored a Lodge Family Luncheon. This gesture strengthened the bond between the Lodge and their families and established how close the two are connected.

Our youth, the leaders of tomorrow, and W.M. Martin supported the 2011 Knights of Pythagoras Leadership Conference held in Austin with several of the Lodge's membership providing transportation and chaperone duties to the young men of the Charles H. Anderson K.O.P. Council No. 4. This year Master Knight Gilbert M. Miller was bestowed the 2nd highest honor of being elected as the Grand Senior Knight for the state of Texas. The members of Wyatt Lodge are very

proud of our young men who participated in the K.O.P. and look forward to continuing to support their efforts.

This year has brought a new partnership with the Lakeshore Village Health Care Center and the Lodge. During one of the Lodge's church visits, it was acknowledged that this nursing home was in need of support and the Lodge had no problem with fulfilling that need. Wyatt Lodge established a quarterly visit that will assist the residents with a variety of projects as the need arises. The residents have grown very fond of the Freemasons of Wyatt Lodge who have assisted them recently with their bingo activities and showed it with a round of applause.

This year the Lodge's Back-to-School Drive went very well. The Lodge was assisted by members of New Hope Lodge No. 400, the K.O.P., and included the Lodge's oldest member, Brother Elyard Vaughn (78). The Lodge helped over 40 families who were in attendance at a local football game at the neighborhood Y.M.C.A. This left a positive image on the minds of the members of the Waco community.

Wyatt Lodge ended the quarter on a positive note by supporting the Grand

Lodge's Pilgrimage to Brenham in support of Prince Hall Americanism Day. This year, W.M. Martin, Senior Warden Marcus Daughtry, and several other members of the Lodge enjoyed the festivities and activities. It was a memorable event that will live on in the minds and hearts of all Master Masons who had the honor and privilege of attending.

Last but not least, on behalf of Wyatt Lodge No. 21, W.M. Martin and his members would like to welcome back District Deputy Grand Master Rufus Phelps III. His presence was duly missed as he once again answered the call to serve this great Nation in support of the men and women of our armed services as a contractor overseas.



Photo by Bro Howard Campbell



Photo by SDDGM Michael E. Whitted



Photo by SDDGM Michael E. Whitted

Union Seal Lodge No. 64 ends Summer in a Big Way



Story by: Sec. Anthony T. Johnson (64)

WACO – In the month of August, Union Seal Lodge No. 64 hosted a number of community events to show its support of the community of East Waco. The month began with the Lodge's 2nd Annual "Back-to-School Supply Giveaway" held at the Lodge's community room.

According to Worshipful Master Demetrius Waples, this year's turnout was better than expected.

The Lodge was prepared to dispense 175 school totes with everything needed for each specific grade level. For organization, the

community room was prearranged into different areas and setup according to grade levels with a Lodge member there to assist at each station.

Parents signed-in with W.M. Waples and then went to the respective stations containing supplies for their children's grade level. Remaining supplies were donated to J.H. Hines Elementary and to West Elementary, the Lodge's newly adopted school.

Along with the school supply giveaway, Union Seal Lodge No. 64 wanted young men in the community to return back to school with

a nice haircut.

With the help of Big John and Keith of Stay Barber Shop, 53 children were treated to free haircuts by vouchers donated by the Lodge before the first day of school.

Newly raised Master Mason Brother Kevin Petty said, "This why I wanted to become a Mason, giving back and supporting the community."

The last event held was a blood drive with Carter Blood Care. Members of Union Seal Lodge No. 64 had heard on the local news that blood banks were running low of supplies, and the Lodge wanted to help and bring awareness to the East Waco Community about the importance of donating.

According to Jose, a nurse for Carter Blood Care's local office, the African-American community is very reluctant to donate. The Lodge then held its 1st Annual Union Seal Lodge No. 64 Blood Drive, donating 20 units of blood, enough to help at least 60 people. Additionally, the Ladies of Angels of Mercy Chapter No. 18 (O.E.S.) stopped by to support. W.M. Charles Lilly of Holloway Lodge No. 7 and his son also came out to support. The month of August was a busy for the Prince Hall Masons of Union Seal Lodge No. 64, but a fulfilling one.



Lone Star Lodge No. 85 assists in Fighting Fires



Story by: Lodge Staff

HEMPSTEAD, Texas – Volunteer fire fighters from several towns and counties battled the devastating wildland fires that wreaked havoc to thousands of acres of lands and destroyed over 75 homes in Waller, Grimes and Montgomery counties. These brave men and women engaged the fires for over eight straight days beginning on Labor Day, Sept. 5 until the last vestiges of the fires were extinguished.

Brothers of Lone Star Lodge No. 85, who are members of the Prairie View and Mt. Zion Volunteer Fire Fighting Associations, were in the thick of the fight from day one until the fires were effectively brought under control and extinguished.

Grand Junior Warden Frank D. Jackson, who serves as the fire chief for the Prairie View Volunteer Fire Fighting Association was joined on the front fire lines by Bro. Danny Pryor, the Worshipful Master of Lone Star Lodge No. 85 and Bro. Gerald Jones, the Lodge's Secretary, both officers are members of the Mt. Zion Volunteer Fire Fighting Association, where they serve with both honor and distinction.

Due to the efforts of the volunteer fire fighters and the excellent community support received from the counties' citizens, the damage and destruction was not as severe as it could have been. By the grace of God, there was no loss of life or severe injury to the fire fighters or civilians during this incident.

Waller County Commissioners Court, the Waller Independent School District, the city of Prairie View and many of the local churches and citizens have sponsored recognition and awards ceremonies to honor the volunteer fire fighters for their unselfish service to the community.

Prince Hall Masons serve their communities at many of the points of its greatest needs, and answer the call when these communities experience both natural and man-made disasters.

To every Prince Hall Mason, "Regardless of the phenomenon that we encounter in this life, it will be a whole lot better, if we just do it together."

Star Tom Lodge No. 100 celebrates 11th Annual Family, Friends Day



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

SAN ANTONIO – In our Order, commitment takes plenty of our time with most of that time at the expense of family time. Star Tom Lodge No. 100 does well to address those who maintain their Masonic obligations by annually gathering their families and friends for relaxation and fellowship. This year, Star Tom Lodge No. 100

hosted its 11th Annual Family and Friends Day at Pletz Park, Sept. 24.

The annual event began during the tenure of Past Master Donald Passmore Sr., who believed that his Lodge needed to give thanks to those in their lives.

"This gives us an opportunity to let our families, widows, and friends know how much we care

from them," said P.M. Leon Gaskins who served as chairman for this year's event.

P.M. Gaskins was passionate about the event and its significant to the wellness of the Lodge.

The day's events included games, barbeque and plenty of sweets. P.M. Raymond Keys served as the event's disk jockey.



Star Tom Lodge No. 100 donates to Local School

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

SAN ANTONIO – Edward H. White Middle School, part of the Northeast Independent School District, was forced to request community assistance to purchase knee pads and socks for its girl's volleyball team. Having received a request for donations, Past Master Stacy Foushee alerted his fellow Prince Hall Masons of Star Tom Lodge

No. 100, who donated \$100 towards the cause.

Having participating in youth sports in Kentucky, P.M. Foushee knows all too well the benefits of assistance from the community and having the proper gear.

"Whether it's scholastic or community-established sports, there is always a need from alumni, parents, and community members to obtain items that the organizations'

budgets can't handle," said P.M. Foushee

P.M. Foushee beams with pride as he shares his feelings when it comes to these types of community services.

"Sports give children the experience of teamwork, healthy lifestyles, and building bonds that will probably never be matched. So we have to do all we can to nurture youth athletics."

Mosier Valley Lodge No. 103 hosts Family, Friends Day & Health Fair for the Community



Story by: W.M. Johnny Quarles (103)

EULESS, Texas – Prince Hall Masons of Mosier Valley Lodge No. 103 hosted its Mosier Valley Family and Friends Day 2011, where the families, friends, and the community were treated to a day of laughs and fun, Oct. 15.

Special guests included M.W. Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis and R.W. Grand Senior Warden Bryce Hardin, along with others.

The Family and Friends Day was a free event that incorporated "Thanksgiving" to the members' spouses, children, friends and community of Euless and Fort Worth. Each year the Lodge reflects on the work contributed, but most importantly to honor those who support the Lodge's great deeds.

Under the leadership of the Lodge's Worshipful Master, the event was put into motion by Senior Warden Tracy "T.C." Bittle and Junior Warden Eddie Pannell, who are true pillars of Wisdom, Strength and Beauty.

Activities included spades, domi-

noes, horse shoes, and a scavenger hunt for the adults. A fishing pond, bean bag race, and basketball were available for the children, to include door prizes.

Along with the event, the Lodge had a voter registration booth available. According to the Lodge members, all who came out really enjoyed themselves.

To assist in educating the community on health issues, the Brethren of Mosier Valley Lodge No. 103 hosted a Prostate Cancer Health Fair, Aug. 13.

The event coordinated by Brother Steve Angrum included guest speaker Paul Rothchild, a consultant with U.S.M.D. Prostate Cancer Center.

Rothchild stressed the importance of testing, handed out flyers and informative packets to over 15 men that discussed the importance of this deadly killer.

In 2011, an estimated 240,890 men in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. It is estimated that 33,720 deaths from this disease will occur this year. As the second rung of the theological ladder teaches

"Hope", the Lodge knows that this "Hope" holds a place of preeminence and strength-giving power over such a horrible disease.

Mosier Valley Lodge No. 103 is only at the mid-way point of once again another successful year of giving Charity and instilling harmony throughout the communities of Euless and Fort Worth.



W.M. Quarles enjoys laughter with G.M. Curtis and Mrs. Garner



Sisters of Star of Alpha Chapter No. 58 enjoyed a good time.



Guest speaker Paul Rothchild, a consultant with U.S.M.D. Prostrate Cancer Center speaks to all that attended the Heath Fair.

Wichita Falls, Barbers cut from Past to Present



Anthony Patterson and co-worker Derrick Walker
Photo by: Claire Kowalick/Times Record News

Story by: P.M. P. Brathwaite (257)
(Excerpts from Times Record News' article of Sept. 30, 2011)

WICHITA FALLS, Texas — In the past, a need for Masonic guidance was strongly felt among the citizens of the city, and in 1906 a number of worthy Master Masons residing in and within the vicinity of Wichita Falls petitioned the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas and Jurisdiction, to organize a just and lawfully constituted Lodge, under dispensation, named Key West Lodge No. 257 with Brother Henderson H. Bates Sr. serving as its first Worshipful Master.

On Aug. 22, 1907, a warrant was granted, authorizing and empowering the Masons to work, admit and make Freemasons. During this time, the Lodge held its Communications in a building located on Lot 3, Block A, (Grainger and Ballow Addition, 1907-1913) purchased by Mr. Bates from R. W. Calhoun on Jan. 29, 1907, then at 104 ½ Park St. (1913-1924), then at 314 Park St. (1924-1939).

Past Master Bates was the first

Negro citizen of Wichita Falls who came here as a teenager. He arrived in the city in 1882 soon after the arrival of the railroad. Some speculate that he was part of some white family and worked as a barber. Later he owned his own barber shop and bath house businesses on Ohio and Seventh Streets in downtown for a period of 47 years (1882-1929). He worked as a barber until 1929, where at the age of 65, the handicaps of old age made it impossible for him to operate his business.

P.M. Bates spent a stint in Dallas barbering with a friend, Julious Shelton, and later returned to Wichita Falls where he barbered with Charles Como, and due to his varied addresses was given living quarters at the Masonic building at 314 Park Street. However, on Aug. 22, 1939, his oil stove caught fire and the Lodge and all his possessions were lost, he escaped unharmed. He died March 6, 1943 at age 79.

Today, Trendz Barber Shop, the newest business in the eastside area, just might be starting a trend. One day while in the area, Anthony Patterson

noticed a shop space attached to the Key West Lodge No. 257, now located at 801 Harding Street and thought it would be a perfect fit for a barber shop. Patterson had trained at the Dallas Barber College and later worked as a barber while living in Houston, and now lives in Wichita Falls due to his wife's job relocation. When Patterson came to the Lodge asking about the space, the membership thought it was a great idea — for the Lodge and for the area.

While talking with members, Patterson was intrigued by the Masonic group and is currently petitioning to become a Prince Hall Mason himself. Patterson said he was impressed by the group's community involvement and enjoyed their camaraderie.

The two-chair shop has the feel of a bygone era, when the barber shop was the place to chat with friends and neighbors, not just get a trim.

"Everyone has been very welcoming and appreciative of what we're trying to do here," Patterson said.

According to Patterson said some East Side residents don't have a car or are elderly and can't drive, so the shop fulfills a need.

The second chair is operated by Derrick Walker. He grew up in the neighborhood, and then served in the military for eight years. He also trained at the Dallas Barber College and after returning to Wichita Falls, he noticed his father-in-law's dedication to improving the East Side area. He heard of Trendz through word-of-mouth and stopped in and talked with Patterson. His Masonic origin is from the Jurisdiction of North Carolina and has expressed his interest in demitting to Key West Lodge No. 257. Walker said he wants to do whatever he can to help the East Side be a safe and business-friendly environment again. Walker and Patterson said they hope Trendz might spark some interest in other businesses coming to the East Side area.

Prince Hall Masons of Luling Lodge No. 14 assist William M. Taylor Methodist Church



Story by: S.W. Paul Nutter (14)

Luling, Texas – The Brethren of Reed Lodge No. 14 joined William M. Taylor Methodist Church in an effort to help raise much-needed funds for community improvement projects and local scholarships for disadvantaged children, July 23.

The event, a fish fry, was held to raise funds to assist high school graduates with attaining a higher education. More than three hundred plates of cat-

fish, pinto beans, coleslaw, hush puppies, bread, dessert and drinks were sold.

Worshipful Master Eddie Broadway stated that this is the first of many community events that Reed Lodge will continue to participate.

“We are looking to the future of our Lodge and the community in which we serve,” said W.M. Broadway. “There is much to be done and all Brethren are encouraged to visit at any scheduled event.”

According to W.M. Broadway, everyone enjoyed themselves, not only through sharing a good meal but also through fellowshiping.

Reed Lodge No. 14 is back in Luling; ready, and willing to serve the community. Other service projects are already being planned for 2012.

Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 assist local Church, provides School Supplies to Children



Lt. - Rt.: P.M. Freddy Jamerson, P.M. Tommy Levi, S.W. Stanley Shider, Mayor of Belton Jim Covington, S.D. Seth Brown, W.M. Richard Williams, Bro. William Reed, J.W. Raymond Berry, Bro Ike Ward and Bro. Willie Butler.

BELTON, Texas – Prince Hall Masons of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 participated in the Mt. Zion Back-to-School with God Program at the Yette Park, Aug. 13.

The event, hosted by Mt. Zion UM Church and led by Pastor H.E. Jackson Jr., consisted of youth and adult dancing groups, singing, food, games, speakers, and much more.

Worshipful Master Richard Williams was on the program and spoke about the Knights of Pythagoras Program.

A good time was had by all who attended.

On Aug. 17, the Lodge conducted its annual School Supplies Giveaway to returning students of

the Belton Community.

A total of 20 families with 55 children showed up to receive school supplies. Both parents and their children were thrilled and happy to receive the supplies. Surplus supplies were delivered to the Lodge's partner school, S.W. Elementary School.



Dance groups preformed at Yette Park during the Mt. Zion Back-to-School with God Program.



W.M. Williams was on the program to speak on the K.O.P. Program.



J.W. Berry, Bro. Butler and S.W. Shider pictured here with one of the families during the School Supplies Giveaway. Both parents and children were thrilled and happy to receive these supplies.

SPOTLIGHT

Brother Edwin Debiew was born in New Orleans, La. and graduated from the University of Southwestern Louisiana at Lafayette in 1993 with a B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice. He earned his Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Troy State in 2002. In the spring of 1992 Bro. Debiew became a Prince Hall Mason in Antioch Lodge No. 156 in Lafayette.. Bro. Debiew joined Audrey G. Charles Holy Royal Arch Chapter No. 59 (La.), which was later renamed to honor Frank G. Willis Chapter No. 59. Bro. Debiew demitted his into C.E. Carter Lodge No. 57 located in Gretna and his Consistory from R.B. Jones Sr. Consistory No. 298 to Eureka Consistory No. 7 in New Orleans. Shortly thereafter, Bro. Debiew became a member of Platta Temple No. 5 (A.E.A.O.N.M.S.) in New Orleans during which time he had the pleasure of providing personal research for then Imperial Potentate Dr. Ivory M. Buck. Currently Bro. Debiew resides in Desoto, Texas, where he is an affiliate member of



*Bro. Edwin Debiew
Author*

It's Not Too Late/Impromptu Poetry

Phoenix Lodge No. 648 and an active member of D.C. Collins Commandery No. 40 of the Lone Star Grand Commandery Texas where he has assisted in developing the Commandery's Mentors Program.

Bro. Debiew has 22 years of experience within the Criminal Justice arena. He has worked in all facets of the justice system and is currently a Special Agent with the Executive Branch of the U.S. government. Bro. Debiew was called to active duty in 1990 to support the U.S. Army during Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. He is also a Veteran of Foreign Wars and was awarded the Louisiana Cross Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Liberation of Kuwait Medal, the Southwest Asia Medal, and the Bronze Star Medal for his outstanding performance as a soldier.

Bro. Debiew is a recipient of the Civilian Exemplary Service Medal, an award for excellence from the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency, and has received other

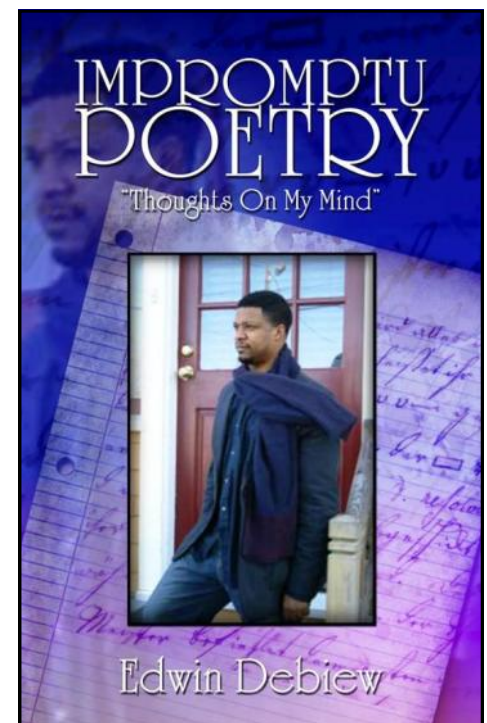
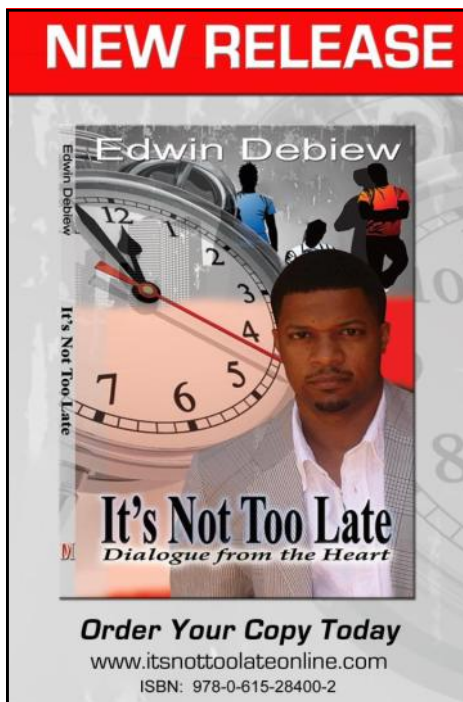
awards for his outstanding service. He received the first Ernest Green Community Service Award in 2011 from the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) for his contributions to youth throughout the Dallas metroplex area. Bro. Debiew also serves as an adjunct college instructor.

Bro. Debiew became an author in 2008, when he published "It's Not Too Late, Dialogue from the Heart." Sagging pants with exposed underwear...beautiful video vixens gyrating on National TV...the lack of African-American fathers in homes...and the list goes on.

"We can air out our dirty laundry all day, but who will rise to the occasion and speak to the ills facing us in America," hails Bro. Debiew.

In this compelling book, his soul-burning words speak honestly and candidly to some of the most pervasive social ills facing people of color.

Bro. Debiew's second book is of poetry and is available online at www.xlibris.com





*Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter
Texas and Jurisdictions*

P. O. Box 202135
San Antonio, Texas 78220



Proclamation

September 16, 2011

To: All Grand Chapter Officers, Past Grand Chapter Officers,
Present and Past Worthy Matron and Worthy Patrons,
Subordinate Chapter Officers and All Members

Greetings:

By the power vested in us, Martha Wolridge, Grand Worthy Matron and Robert B. Calloway, Jr., Grand Worthy Patron of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter, Eastern Stars of Texas and Jurisdictions, do hereby call and summon all members of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter to convene for its Mid-Winter Sessions.

The Session will convene at the Prince Hall Grand Lodge Temple located at 3433 Martin Luther King Freeway, Fort Worth, Texas, beginning November 11, 2011, and ending November 12, 2011. The ritualistic opening on Friday will mark the official opening of the Mid-Winter Session.

Any chapters with candidates that wish to be initiated at mid-Winter must send their petition and a chapter check to the Grand Secretary two weeks prior to the session.

Please take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Fraternally,

Martha Wolridge
Grand Worthy Matron

Robert B. Calloway Jr.
Grand Worthy Patron

Attested by: *Tracy Gardner*
Grand Secretary

Martha Wolridge
Grand Worthy Matron

Robert B. Calloway, Jr.
Grand Worthy Patron

Eula W. Bell
Grand Associate Matron

Anthony Carr
Grand Associate Patron

Tracy Gardner
Grand Secretary

Emma Renfro
Grand Treasurer

Elizabeth English
Grand Conductress

Rhonda Davis
Grand Associate Conductress



Christopher Delight No. 1 donates Fans to Elderly



SAN ANTONIO – Members of Christopher Delight No. 1 of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter donated new box fans to Christian Senior Services (aka Meals on Wheels) in support of Project Fan 2011, Aug. 6.

With additional donations from the 19th Masonic District, more than 60 fans were delivered. Members of the Chapter delivered the fans with the assistance of volunteer drivers of Christian Senior Services at the Fort Sam Houston and Eastside delivery route areas.

Volunteer Program Director Marsha Wiltz and Marketing and Communications Director Jerry Arellano thanked the Chapter for providing much needed relief to local senior citizens. Worthy Matron Karen Allen-Mirabeau thanks all who supported.



Eastern Stars of Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38 conducts Community Service



BRYAN, Texas – Members of Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 38, Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter continues to serve as an example in and outside of the city.

In May, the Chapter launched "Angels in Motion" in which they mailed several care packages of snacks and personal hygiene items to service members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. In August, the membership donated school supplies for 26 students and provided weekly classroom assistance for the Chapter's adopted 2nd grade teacher. To assist families who were affected by the summer fires in Bastrop, the Chapter donated and delivered over 100 gallons of water to families who lost their homes.



Swinging the Night Away: Eastern Stars of Covenant Sisters Chapter No. 74 entertain Elderly



DALLAS – Swinging the Night Away, members of Covenant Sisters Chapter No. 74 of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter hosted a Swing Night at the Senior Care Health and Rehab Center, July 30.

The residents were treated to singing and dancing, and also joined in the festivities. Observing all the beautiful smiles and hearing the residents' laughter reminded the Chapter on how important it is to give back to the community. Providing only a little of their time brought an abundance of joy. The Chapter considers it a blessing to provide the Swing Night and they feel blessed to have been able to interact with the center's residents. The Chapter looks forward to sharing this experience again.



Lone Star Grand Guild, Heroines of the Templars Crusade holds Annual Training Conference



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

FORT WORTH – Membership of the Lone Star Grand Guild, Heroines of the Templars Crusade, met once again for their annual Grand Guild Training Conference held at the Grand Masonic Temple, Sept. 23 - 24.

The purpose of the weekend was for training but the Ladies were also able to enjoy themselves during a Casino trip to Oklahoma on Sept. 23.

According to Grand Princess Caption R. Lucille Samuel, if you were not with them that weekend, you surely missed a treat. Additionally, the Grand Guild brought toys to the Grand Masonic Temple for donation to children of the city in support of the Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family Christmas Toy Give-away in December.

"The Lone Star Grand Guild is truly blessed and we continue to reach higher plateaus," said G.P.C. Samuel. "We initiated five worthy

Ladies and were honored to have our R.E. Grand Commander Ronald D. Gerac and his staff from the Lone Star Grand Commandery with us."

Two very special events occurred on Sept. 24; Princess Claudine Forbes of St. Cecil Guild

No. 2 was blessed with the degree of Honorary Past Grand Princess Captain and G.P.C. Samuel was presented with a new gold crown by the Grand Guild officers.

Training consisted of Officer Line Training, updates on the Ritual and Grand Constitution Amendments to include duties and responsibilities of Special Deputies.

A Black and White Banquet was held in the evening at the Carter Metropolitan Church Hall where V.E. Deputy Grand Commander Ivory Johnson served as guest speaker.

During the banquet, three donations were provided: \$350 to West Haven Nursing Home, \$500 to the Robert E. Connor Jr. Masonic Youth Camp, and \$1,000 to Brandon Gould for student aid.

Additionally, Special Deputy Demetra Jackson of R. Lucille Samuel Guild No. 41 was recognized as Special Deputy of the Year.

"Thank you to the Grand Prin-



Ctr: Princess Claudine Forbes of St. Cecil Guild No. 2 was blessed with the degree of Honorary Past Grand Princess Captain.

cess Captain R. Lucile Samuel and the officers of the Lone Star Grand Guild for the hospitality and love during the conference and banquet," said D.G.C. Johnson. "It was a great and memorable event."

G.P.C. Samuel thanks everyone for their continuing support of the Lone Star Grand Guild, which are adding two additional Guilds this year.

"We are going to open a new Guild in Galveston and another in Germany," said G.P.C. Samuel. "The plans are in action we are just waiting for the right time for us to attend and working out the logistics."

The Grand Guild is looking forward to sharing a joint training conference with R.E.G.C. Gerac and the Lone Star Grand Commandery in 2012.

"This family works together!" says G.P.C. Samuel. "Stay prayerful!"



The Grand Guild initiated five worthy Ladies into their Order.



Above: Toys the Grand Guild donated to support the 3rd Annual Texas Prince Hall Masonic Family Christmas Give-away.

Right: R.E.G.C. Ronald Gerac and officers of the Lone Star Commandery were guests at the annual conference.



V.E. Deputy Grand Commander Ivory Johnson served as guest speaker.



Princess Captain Gwendolyn Flowers passes



Princess Captain Gwendolyn Faye Flowers was born Feb. 5, 1951 to Lewis Minor and Ardella Duncan Mayes in Fort Worth, Texas. She graduated from Kirkpatrick High School. After high school, she started her new life when she married Billy Ray Flowers. She was employed many years working as a certified dietician and supervisor for Sodeko, the Marriott, West Haven Nursing Center, Coburn's Catering Service, Tarrant County Jail, and Texas Wesleyan University.

P.C. Flowers loved to cook and was known by all as Mrs. "G". Gwendolyn loved spending time with her family, traveling, dancing and having fun. Her physical heart may have had flaws, but the contents of her heart were beautiful. She opened her home to anyone in need and was a beautiful person. P.C. Flowers was a blessing to those who knew her.

A time of Religion: P.C. Flowers joined Providence Baptist Church under Pastor

Michael Crayton. She was a proud member of Medji Court No. 30, Daughters of Isis; Centennial Court No. 500, Heroines of Jericho; and R. Lucille Samuel Guild No. 41, Heroines of Templars Crusade, where she served as Princess Captain. Those left to cherish her precious memories: her children Dedric Flowers, Andrea Carroll (Rodney), Tracy Flowers, Jamaica Flowers (Earl), Michelle Tucker (DeAngelo); a sister, Sylvia Williams (Charles); brothers, Aldo Washington (Ann), Anthony Mayes, Willie Washington III, James Mayes and Donald Mayes; grandchildren, Tramechia Smith (Jamar), Darzell Smith, Tenilya Samuels, Roseshell Dunn (Derek), Adrian Thompson (Brian), Rodney Jr., Harry Brown, Jamanik Jones and Ali Matthews; and two great grandchildren, Diamond Thompson and Quinton Carroll; and host of other relatives and many special friends.

Texas Council of Assemblies Order of the Golden Circle

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



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

We have just returned from the 125th Annual Session of the United Supreme Council 33^o of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction, held at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Oct. 8 – 11.

As we all know, the United Supreme Council covers the Southern Jurisdiction, Europe, Asia and a host of countries on other continents where we have military troops serving and protecting our Nation..

We fellowshiped with beloved friends and new Loyal Ladies, exchanged information, and were Blessed with a generous amount of education, such as, professional speakers delivering important information on several topics pertaining to women of color...hypertension, diabetes, cancer and HIV. Entertainment was also enjoyed; we attended an "Old School" concert that included Lenny Williams and the Dramatics. A Fashion Show with beautiful outfits along with delicious food and gifts were the order at every Ladies' affair.

The following State Grand officers, local officers and Ladies were in attendance: Edwina Evans, Debra Edmonds, Nelda Harper, Sharon Dews, Francis Smith, Hazel Scott, Sandra Forsythe, Pamela Mitchell, Mrs. Forbes, Mrs. Levi, Mrs. Huggins, Mrs. Kelker, and Mrs. Wilbert Curtis.

The Texas Council of Assemblies, Order of the Golden Circle is the auxiliary of the United Supreme Council 33^o of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction.

Peace and Unity!

Shirley Henry Gideon

**Congratulations to
General Conference Grand High Priest
Texas Companion Roosevelt Huggins
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Baton Rouge, La., July 1-6, 2011**



Introduction of General Conference Grand High Priest Elect, Roosevelt Huggins by Past Grand Conference Grand High Priest Ben Jackson to the Holy Royal Arch Masons and Heroines of Jericho, U.S.A. & Bahamas, July 6.



G.G.H.P. Roosevelt Huggins presented with the implements of his office: crown, jewels, and gavel by the outgoing G.G.H.P. James Weldon Johnson, July 6.

Madison Square Chapter No. 39 donates Books



AUSTIN – “A library is a collection of sources, resources, and services, and the structure in which it is housed; it is organized for use and maintained by a public body, an institution, or a private individual. In a more traditional sense, a library is a collection of books (Wikipedia).”

To add to the collection of books in the city, Royal Arch Masons of Madison Square Chapter No. 39 of the Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons of Texas, donated books to George Washington Carver Library, July 12.

Steve Reich, Head Librarian, was on hand to receive the books.

“I thank you for the presentation and these will be immediately made ready for check out to the community,” said Reich.

Lt. to Rt. - Companions Leon Roberts, Marlon Davis, High Priest Anthoni Long, Sam Harper, Head Librarian Steve Reich, Charles E. Walker, Weldon Farmer, William C. Scott, and Jerome Brooks.



SAN ANTONIO – Royal Arch Masons of Shiloh Chapter No. 16 and Heroines of Rebecca Court No. 2. celebrated Zerubbabel Day at Mt. Zion Baptist Church on Palm Sunday, April 17.

Webb Smith Consistory No. 247 donates Fans



AUSTIN – To help keep families cool during the one of the hottest periods in Texas this past summer, Grand Inspector Generals and Sublime Princes of Webb Smith Consistory No. 247, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry (P.H.A.) Southern Jurisdiction, delivered new box fans to needy residents of the Blackland Community east of the city, July 10.

Families came to the Blackland Community Center to receive the fans and also fellowship with the staff and members of the Consistory.

Commander-in-Chief James F. Wood Jr. commended the members for their action in his absence and those who received fans provided positive feedback and thanks for the donations.



Lt. to Rt. - G.I.G.s Conny B. Hatch, Leon Roberts, Frank B. Glover Sr. and Leroy White pose with staff members of Blackland Community Center.

A.A.S.R., S.J. holds Annual Session in Atlanta, honors Fallen Members, Elevates 286 to 33°



Lt. to Rt. - G.I.G.s Weldon Farmer, Roosevelt Huggins, Charles Gray, Franklin Sampson, Anthony Reece, Samuel Harper, Jerry Brown Sr., Rashad Sabree, and Julius Wright.

Story By: S.P. Burrell Parmer (100)

ATLANTA – More than 1,400 members of the United Supreme Council 33° of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction attended their 125th Annual Session held at the Hyatt Regency, Oct. 8 – 11.

With the theme of "God and my Right," the session's business was conducted.

On Saturday, the membership was treated to a concert headlined by the legendary Dramatics and Lenny Williams. On Sunday, the group attended morning worship services; it was led by a member of the Class of Grand Inspector General Rev. Herman "Skip" Mason Jr. (General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc). In the evening, a Divine & Memorial Service was held to honor all fallen members of the U.S.C.

On Monday, 286 Sublime Princes of the X.L. Neal Class of 2011 received the 33rd Degree and elevated to Grand Inspector Generals. Of the 286 G.I.Gs, 26 held from the Orient of Texas.

Michael Berry - Ed Blair Consistory No. 286; Jerry Brown, Sr. - Fort Worth Consistory No. 281; Steven L. Crayton - Lone Star Consistory No. 100; Jimmy Deamus - Dale Consistory No. 31; Rev. L.C. Dews - Dale Consistory No. 31; Weldon L. Farmer, Jr. Webb Smith Consistory No. 247; Charles Gray - Douglas Burrell Consistory No. 56; Samuel L. Harper, Jr. - Webb Smith Consistory No. 247; Serbrepmpster E. Hewitt - Central Texas Consistory No. 306; Moses Johnson - Lone Star Consistory No. 100; Ivory Johnson, Jr. - Ed Blair Consistory No. 286; Patrick D. Lewis - Goodwill Consistory No. 238; Jerry L. McGrone - Rose of Sharon Consistory No. 180; Darryl

W. Mills - Goodwill Consistory No. 238; Mayor Tony M. Moore - Central Texas Consistory No. 306; Anthony K. Reece - Dale Consistory No. 31; Sammy Roberts, Jr. - Fort Worth Consistory No. 281; Clyde Rucker - Dale Consistory No. 31; Rashad Sabree - Douglas Burrell Consistory No. 56; Rev. Roy T. Sampson - Central Texas Consistory No. 306; Rev. Franklin D. Sampson, Jr. - Douglas Burrell Consistory No. 56; Rev. Carnell Ward - G.W. Carver Consistory 235; Michael E. Whitted - Rose of Sharon Consistory No. 180; Tracy Williams - Fort Worth Consistory No. 281; Charles J. Williams, Jr. - Fort Worth Consistory No. 281; Julius Wright - Dale Consistory No. 31.

"It was indeed an honor to be elevated to this honorary degree," said G.I.G. Jerry Brown of Fort Worth Consistory No. 281. "Now my work will really began, mainly because I am considered to be a Teacher, Advisor, Counselor of the Order and I want to live up to this Honor."

G.I.G. Brown is a true and firm believer of "walking the walking instead of talking the talk."

The bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry sitting in the Orients and States of Southern Jurisdiction Prince Hall Affiliation acknowledge and yield allegiance to the United Supreme Council 33° of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction of the United States America, Inc, who is led by its Sovereign Grand Commander, the Illustrious Dr. Deary Vaughn 33°.

HISTORICAL CORNER

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



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

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

Historic Timeline of Masonry 209 A.D. (4209 A.L.) to 1878 A.D. (5878 A.L.)

III The 15th – 18th Century Continued

- 1731 Benjamin Franklin made a mason at Philadelphia.
- 1732 First Military Lodge warranted.
- 1732 First Lodge in France formed.
- 1733 First warranted lodge in America opened at Boston, Lodge No. 126.
- 1734 First Book of Constitutions issued in America, printed by Benjamin Franklin.
- 1735 Bible, square and compass described as Pillars of the Lodge.
- 1735 Date given as the birthday of Prince Hall by David Gray (Inside Prince Hall), Joseph Walkes, Charles H. Wesley.
- 1737 Chevalier Andrew Michael Ramsey's address traced masonry to the crusades, making them the real progenitors of Free Masonry.
- 1739 First lodge in Jamaica.
- 1748 On or about September 12th Prince Hall was born at Bridgetown, Barbados, British West India, the son of a white English leather merchant, Thomas Prince Hall, and his free Negro wife of French descent. (History of Nat. Grand Lodge, Brock)
- 1749 First lodge in Haiti and Santo Domingo.
- 1753 George Washington received E.A., degree at Fredericksburg, Va.
- 1756 African Architects arose in Germany.
- 1760 First mention of Bible, Square, and Compasses as Great Lights by the Ancient Grand Lodge.
- 1762 First mention of Bible, Square, and Compasses as Great Lights by the Modern Grand Lodge.
- 1768 Modern Grand Lodge of England established fraternal relations with Grand Lodge of France.
- 1770 Supreme Grand Lodge of England formed.
- 1772 The Grand Lodges of Ireland & Scotland from 1772 until the union of 1813 adhered most strongly to the Ancient Grand Lodge of England, the three recognizing one another as practicing the same kind of Ancient Masonry.
- 1774 George Viscount Belfield, 2nd Earl of Belvedere is Grand Master of Ireland during the time of Prince Hall's initiation.
- 1775 Researchers have established that early in 1775 a British infantry regiment, the 38th of Foot (South Staffordshire), was stationed in the vicinity of Boston, Massachusetts, and this regiment had a lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, Lodge No. 441. The regiment had previously served in the West Indies until 1765, and then, after a period back in Britain, was stationed in Nova Scotia and the American colonies. It left Boston on 17 March 1775. Among its ranks was John Batt, who served from 1759 until his discharge at Staten Island (New York) 1777. He was a member of Lodge No. 441, and was recorded on the rolls of the Grand Lodge of Ireland in May 1771. (Gray). March 6th, 1775 Prince Hall and 14 other free Negroes were made Master Masons in Army Lodge No. 441 of the Irish Constitution which was then Headquartered on Castle Island, now known as Fort Independence, in Boston Harbor. This body is identified by the name of African Lodge No.1. (Brock)
- 1782 HRH Duke of Cumberland is the Grand Master of Modern Grand Lodge.
- By 1782, there were a large number of unaffiliated Masons in and about Boston, (all having their origin from British troops). It is noteworthy, that Masonry had its origin in Boston both amongst those of African descent as well as amongst their White Brethren. (Brock)
- 1784 Modern Grand Lodge of England issued warrant for African Lodge No. 459 to Prince Hall and other Negroes at Boston.
- 1784 September 29th, a charter was granted to African Lodge No. 459 Under the Grand Lodge of England.
- 1787 After some delay, Prince Hall received the charter in the spring. (Brock)
- 1787 Absalom Jones and Richard Allen found the Free African Society.
- 1791 Prince Hall called a general assembly of his Colored Brethren and organized the African Lodge, endowed with the powers of a Grand Lodge as it was. He was elected its first Worshipful Master. (History of the Nat. Grand Lodge, Brock)
- 1792 Grand Lodge of England renumbered African Lodge No. 459 to No. 370. (David Gray – Inside Prince Hall)
- 1794 First Lodge in Louisiana. (European American)
- 1797 Prince Hall and African Lodge No. 459 began to assume the authority of a Grand Lodge and established lodges in Providence, Rhode Island (later named Hiram Lodge No. 3) and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Absalom Jones is the first Master)... Each lodge was organized under the African Lodge No. 459 Charter using the name African Lodge No. 459 ...“the three lodges together became the first predominantly Black interstate organization in the United States.” (David Gray – Inside Prince Hall pg 24.)

IV The 19th – 20th Century

- December 4, 1807 Prince Hall dies.
- 1808, June 8th, African Lodge No. 459 of Boston, African Lodge of Providence & African Lodge of Philadelphia meet and organize a Grand Lodge with Nero Prince as Grand Master. (Grimshaw)
- 1808 Charles Wesley (Life and Legacy pg. 152) states ...“at the year in which Nero Prince was elected the second master, a convention was called with representation from Boston, Philadelphia and Providence which changed the name from African Lodge to Prince Hall Grand Lodge in memory of Prince Hall. Nero Prince had been selected as Grand Master and a succession of Grand Masters followed and lodges warranted.”
- 1810 PHA Union Lodge No. 2 of Pennsylvania organized.
- 1811 PHA Laurel No. 5 of Pennsylvania organized.
- 1812 Grand Lodge of Louisiana (European American) formed.
- 1812 PHA Boyer Lodge No. 1 in New York is organized.
- 1812 Bro. Martin Delany was born in Charlestown, Virginia in 1812, the son of free Negroes, with a paternal grandfather that was a Prince of the Mandingo tribe. (Walkes)
- Delany and his siblings learned to read & write using the “New York Primer and Spelling Book.” This was illegal in Virginia, and when it was discovered, his mother Pati took her children to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, leaving his father in slavery until he bought his freedom. (Wikipedia)
- 1813 Ancient Grand Lodge and Modern Grand Lodge of England united to form United Grand Lodge of England... HRH Duke of Sussex elected Grand Master of United Grand Lodge...1813 The United Grand Lodge of England erased the name of African Lodge at Boston from its list of regular Lodges. However, since the latter had already organized Lodges, which in turn had grown enough to form a Grand Lodge according to Masonic Law..., the Colored American Brethren were not moved by the cancellation of the warrant of the African Lodge by England. (History of the Nat. Grand Lodge, Brock)
- 1813 African Lodge of Providence (Hiram No. 3) ceased and reportedly moved to Liberia.
- 1814 PHA Phoenix No. 6 of Pennsylvania is organized.
- 1815 The Lodges of Pennsylvania meet and formed a Grand Lodge with Absalom Jones as Grand Master.
- 1815 Book of Constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of England.
- 1815 Lodge of Reconciliation formed by UGLE.
- 1818 Lodge of Perseverance formed by UGLE.
- 1824 Letter written by Boston Blacks to Grand Lodge of England... Grand Lodge of Haiti formed. (Coils’)
- 1825 William D. Matthews is born in Washington D.C.
- 1825 Nero Prince, Baker / Sailor dies in Russia. (Voorhis) (1833 is the date given by Draffer) (David Gray, Inside Prince Hall)
- 1826 African Lodge of Boston charts 3 lodges in New York, Celestial No. 2, Hiram No. 4 and New York City Rising Sun No. 3 in Brooklyn.
- 1825 First Grand Lodge in Mexico. (Latin American)
- 1827 Boston Blacks declared independence of all other bodies.
- June 18, 1827 The African Grand Lodge of Boston, established from African Lodge No. 459 formally issued a Declaration of Independence, in repudiation of the Grand Lodge of England. The Declaration of Independence in part Proclaimed: “That we the undersigned, the officers. Be it known to all whom it may concern, that we the Past Masters of the African Lodge, Being regularly made under a Charter given to worthy brothers of Prince Hall, Boston Smith and Thomas Saunderson, by Lord Howard, Earl of Effingham, acting Grand Master under the authority of his Royal Highness, Henry Frederick Duke of Cumberland, Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons. Do Assume and take upon ourselves the responsibility of declaring ourselves free from the government and control of our mother, the Grand Lodge of England, by whom our charter dated the 29th, day of September A.L. 5784 A.D. 1784, Bearing the Grand Seal of London was given, or any other lodge or lodges whatsoever.

Allowing ourselves to be bound however to the Most Excellent Principles and Solemn Ties of Ancient Free Masonry, We do therefore Declare Ourselves Henceforth Free from said Ties of Ancient Free Masonry. Signed, John T. Hilton, Walker Lewis, & Thomas Dalton, M.W.P. Master. Dated and Accepted June 18th, 1827 .

This is the first time since 1717 that a Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of England, had exercised the powers of a Grand Lodge. Out of the African Lodge in Massachusetts, the following Lodges grew in the states of Pennsylvania and New York: the Hiram Grand lodge of Pennsylvania (1832), formed by a party of disaffected Colored Masons in Philadelphia, and Boyer Lodge, in New York City, amongst others. Indeed by the year 1847, there were tens of thousands of Masons, and dissensions and factions had begun to form amongst them.” (Brock)

- 1828 The first attempt to form an Anglo lodge in Texas was at San Felipe de Austin, Feb. 11, 1828. Petition was made to the York Grand Lodge of Mexico but no reply was received.

- In 1833 - Bro. Martin Delany moves to Pittsburg and becomes a student of Rev. L. Woodson of Bethel AME Church on Wylie Street. He attends Jefferson College & by 1843 began publishing “The Mystery” newspaper.

- 1835 Institution of an Anglo Lodge at Brazoria on Dec. 27, 1835. Dispensation was granted by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana.

- 1835 First Lodge in Texas

- 1837 Grand Lodge of Texas formed.

- 1840 – Norris Wright Cuney was born on the Sunnyside Plantation in Waller, County to the white planter Col. Phillip Cuney and a slave mother Adelina Stuart.

- In 1847 while Fredrick Douglas & William Lloyd Garrison were in Pittsburg on an anti-slavery tour, they met with Martin Delany and together conceived the newspaper that would become the North Star. (Wikipedia)

- 1848 Grand Orient of France adopted Belief in God and Immortality of the Soul as Masonic dogma.

(The National Grand Lodge will be featured in the Spring Edition of The Texas Prince Hall Freemason.)

The Significance of Good Mentorship



Story by:
D.D.G.M. Ronald Gerac
District 15-A

I have been an actively practicing Prince Hall Mason for 18 years. Unlike some astute Brothers, I do not have the entire ritual committed to memory. On the other hand-and I deem this to be more important-I LIVE what is in the ritual. I utilize my working tools to help make me a better man and Brother. I AM tried by the Beehive because it is an emblem of industry. I was taught that the only time you looked down on a Brother was on the occasion when you bent down to help him up after he had fallen. Needless to say, I take everything that passing under my watch very seriously, and those who know me will attest to the fact that I still do to this day.

This brings to light a few instances in our ritual that, in my humble opinion, provide a Cliff's Notes synopsis of the standard of behavior we are to uphold not just as Prince Hall Masons, but as children of The Most High God (for a more detailed version of this standard, please consult your Volume of Sacred Law). It's unfortunate that some men in our Order that take these very same components that you and I habitually rehearse and pervert them to fit their varying spectrum of emotions.

"HARMONY BEING THE SUPPORT OF ALL INSTITUTIONS...ESPECIALLY THIS OF OURS."

What exactly is harmony? Maybe we don't experience this "harmony" in our Lodges because

we have no earthly idea what it is. Harmony is a state of being in which all working parts involved (Brethren) in the greater entity (the Craft) are functioning at an efficient level. Productivity is usually high in a state of harmony. This does not mean that the working parts will always agree with each other, but in the event that it happens, open minds would normally prevail and a solution to the issue-or at least a part of one-would be developed. Harmony is something all must fight hard to maintain. Harmony, like respect, is also a two-way street. If a Brother seems to only bring up negatives for every project, idea, or procedure, he is affecting the harmony in your Lodge. Maybe the Worshipful Master is not giving these Brothers proper instructions for their labor.

"THOU HAST PROMISED THAT WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER IN THY NAME, THOU WILT BE IN THEIR MIDST AND BLESS THEM."

Do most of us think that this is automatic? "Well, let's see...one, two and three, three of us here at meeting; the Lord did say that where two or three are gathered together in His name, He will bless us."

It doesn't quite work like that. If there is CONFUSION amongst the two or three, then God is not present (ref. 1 Corinthians 14:33). God is a God of peace, and the Bible instructs us to pursue peace.

"GRANT THAT THE SUBLIME PRINCIPLES OF FREEMASONRY MAY SO SUBDUCE EVERY DISCORDANT PASSION WITHIN US..."

Let's examine what is a discordant passion. Merriam-Webster Online defines discordant as an adjective, describing one as "characterized by quarreling and conflict." Therefore, a "discordant passion" is a deep, intense desire of being disagreeable. If we pay attention to what these sublime principles of Freemasonry are, we should know how to activate them wisely so that they will help us subdue those unwanted passions.

"HOW SHOULD MASONS MEET?"

How can Brothers meet on the Level if a Brother chooses to harbor ill will toward you? As long as he chooses to "have issues" with you, both of you will NEVER meet on the Level. The saddest part of this is the fact that this Brother may never share his concerns with you. An option is to love him from a distance.

To my Brothers, we must continue to pray for each other. A time-proven method to assist us is MENTORSHIP. With mentorship comes accountability. Every time I am present at a Raising and granted an opportunity to speak by the Worshipful Master, I charge each newly raised Master Mason with the first thing all new Brothers should do: find a mentor(s) and emulate them. If I am mentoring several Brothers, you best believe that I am watching their every step, making sure they are staying on the right path in Masonry. If they err, I will not be too far away to help them understand the error of their words and/or actions.

A good mentor will walk with their protégé, foot to foot, taking

care that they will always take a step in the right direction, no matter how far the journey; a good mentor will bow on his knees with his understudy, making sure he does the same, to solidify the blessing of God being in their midst; a good mentor will keep his mentee's sentiments, thoughts, and secrets in his faithful breast because a sacred trust has formed between them; a good mentor will embrace his mentee with his hand to the other's back, ensuring him that he is not alone and that nothing will ever come at him from behind, be it weapon or rumor, because someone has his back; a good mentor will always whisper wise counsel in the ear of his mentee, taking care that he adheres to the spoken word, that it will make him more aware and more cautious of his situation and surroundings. And THAT, my Brothers, are the TRUE points of real fellowship.

If we commit to mentorship and hold our mentees accountable for their actions, then no doubt we will be victors in changing the image of Prince Hall Masonry...One Brother at a Time.

D.D.G.M. Gerac is the Grand Marshal for the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Lone Star Grand Commandery of Texas, Order of the Knights Templar.



Internet Criminals seeking to take Advantage of Freemasons

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

Charity is an inseparable part of Prince Hall Freemasonry as with Brotherly Love and Truth. With the ever-expanding World Wide Web with its offspring of E-mail and social networking, it has become an environment for criminals and dishonest people.

Charity as defined by Merriam-Webster is the benevolent good will toward or love of humanity; a generosity and helpfulness, especially towards the needy or suffering.

It is unimaginable that some human beings would extort such a virtue held by Freemasons. I am referring to criminals hacking of Masons' emails accounts and asking for money, a scam that had been gaining traction over the last year.

Thief as defined by Merriam-Webster is one that steals, especially stealthily or secretly. Here is once such scam that I received recently.

Sept. 16, 2011

I hope you get this on time, I made a trip to Edinburgh Scotland, and had my bag stolen from me with my passport and personal effects therein. The embassy has just issued me a temporary passport but I have to pay for a ticket and settle hotel bills. I've made contact with my bank but it would take me days to access funds in my account from Edinburgh. I need you to lend me some funds to cover these expenses. I can give back to you as soon as I get in.

I can be reached by email, as I lost my cell phone in the robbery and don't have access to a phone at the moment.

I await your response.
(Name of a Brother I knew)

Here's another.

Feb. 8, 2011

Apologies for having to reach out to you like this, I made a trip early this past weekend to London, UK and had my bag stolen from me with my passport and credit cards in it. The embassy is willing to help by letting me fly without my passport, I just have to pay for a ticket and settle Hotel bills. Unfortunately for me, I can't have access to funds without my credit card, I've made contact with my bank but they need more time to come up with a new one. I was thinking of asking you to lend me some quick funds that I can give back as soon as I get in. I really need to be on the next available flight. I can forward you details on how you can get the funds to me. You can reach me via email or May field hotel's desk phone, the numbers are, XXXX.

I await your response,
(Name of a Grand Lodge Officer)

I even received one from the email address of a current Prince Hall Grand Master.

As you can see each of the above emails wanted me to send money to Scotland or England. Criminals are doing their homework, as two of the oldest Masonic Grand Bodies in the world are in those locations.

Bottom line: If you receive any similar like emails, and usually they are from a friend or someone you have frequent emails exchanges with, call them and verify and don't reply to the email, just delete it.

Book Review: Blind Lemon Jefferson

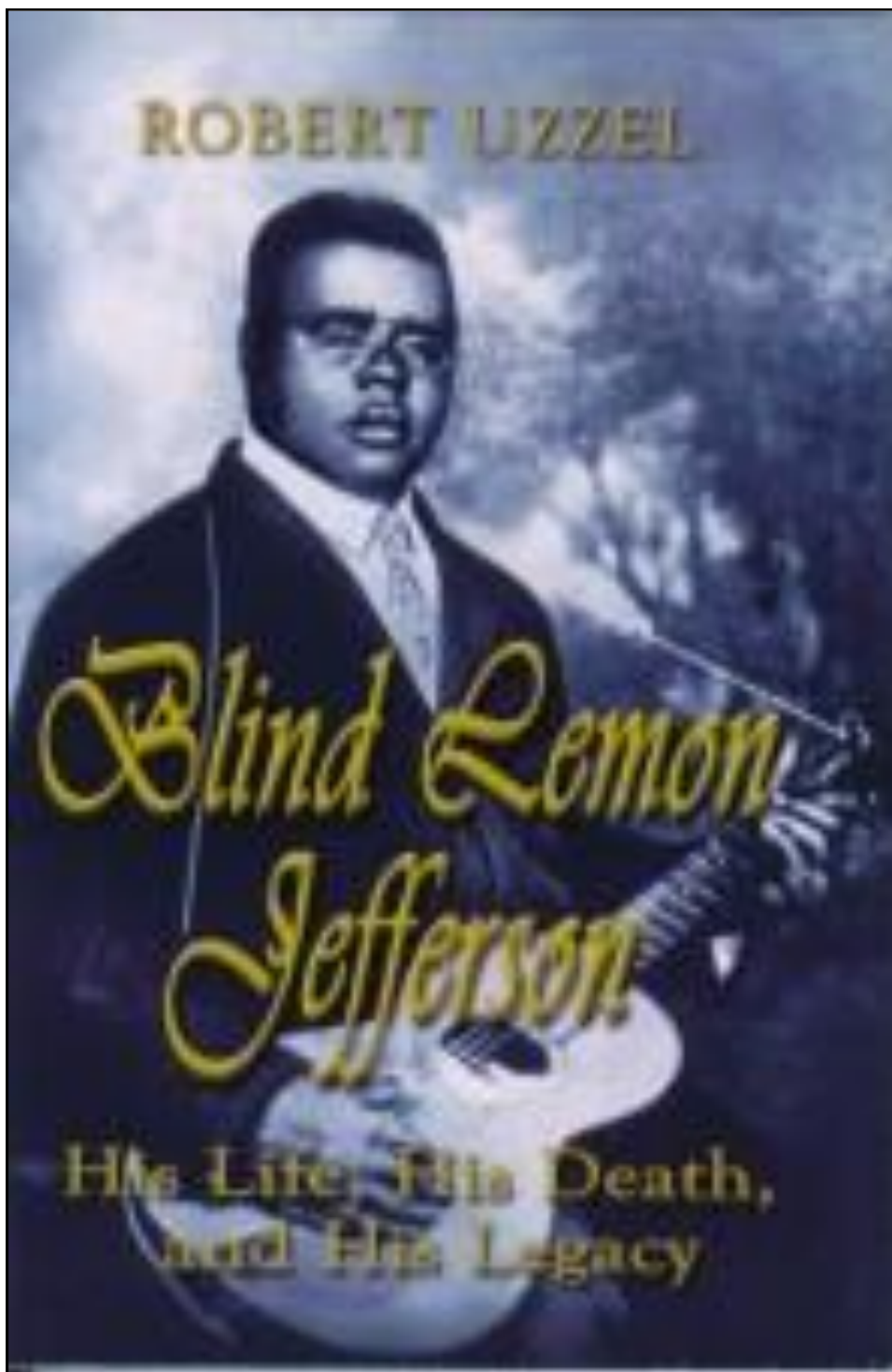


Story by:
P.M. Frederic L. Milliken
(135)

I first met Brother Dr. Robert Uzzel three years ago at a Grand Session of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. Later I had a more in depth conversation with him at a Phylaxis Convention. Bro. Uzzel came over to Prince Hall from the Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F.&A.M. in 1981. He has a Doctor of Philosophy Degree from Baylor University. He has taught religion and history at various Dallas area colleges and at one time was chairman of the religion department for Paul Quinn College. He has also spent some time as a Texas state social worker. And since 1975, he has been a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bro. Uzzel is a Past Grand Historian for the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and is an accomplished author.

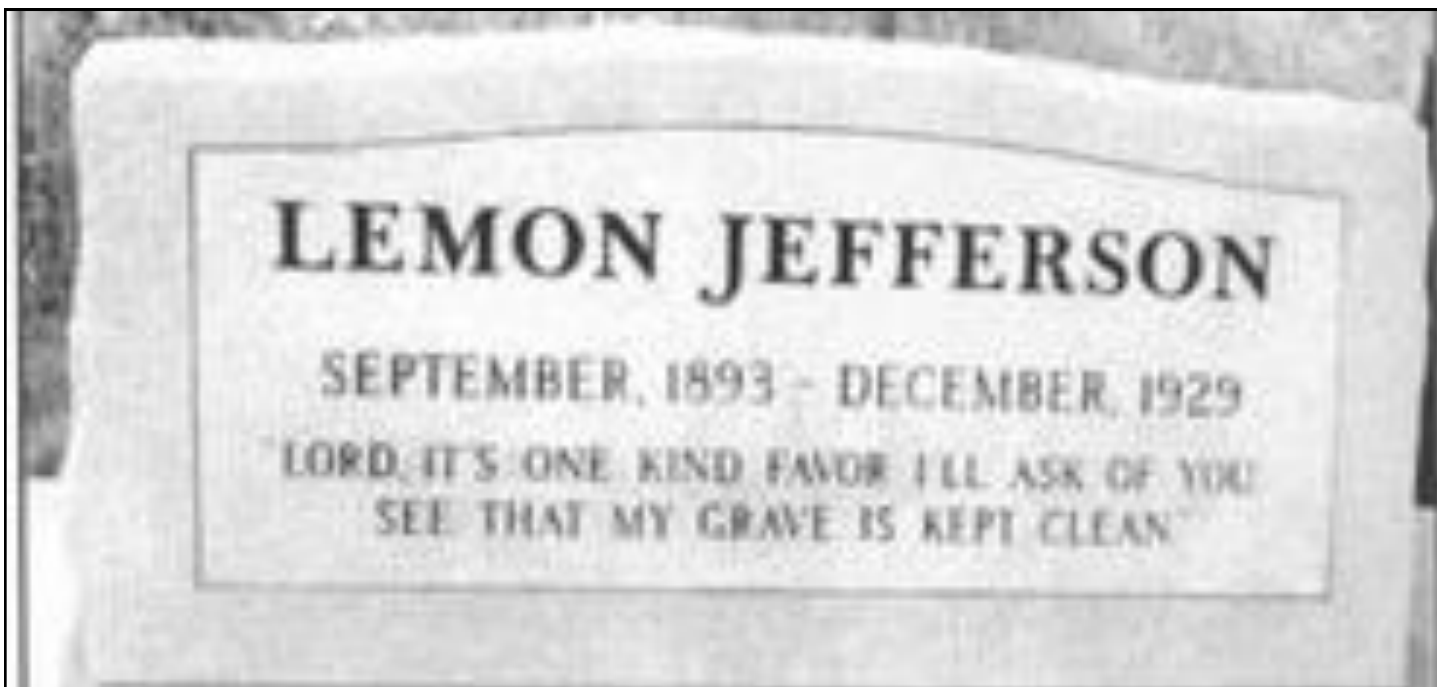
Last year, I reviewed Bro. Uzzel's book, *"Prince Hall Freemasonry in The Lone Star State"*. This time around I am taking a look at his book, *"Blind Lemon Jefferson."* It is not a Masonic book, rather a look at early 20th century Texas history and a mirror into the African-American community of that time. It also heralds a great man and a trail blazer in the development of American Blues music. Without Bro. Uzzel's comprehensive work on the life and legacy of Blind Lemon Jefferson, it is possible that this first successful blues recording artists would all but be forgotten outside the music community.

Blind Lemon's peers, protégés, successors and performers in other musical strains all pay him due respect; however, other great blues performers that followed him, T-



Bone Walker, Josh White, Texas Armstrong and Tommy Dorsey. Alexander, Smokey Hogg, Lonnie Bunk Johnson and Jelly Roll Morton paid him tribute in the development of their styles.

The 1960s saw resurgence in Blind Lemon's music, with such artists as Buddy Holly, Janis Joplin, Goodman, Bix Beiderbecke, Louis



Headstone erected at Blind Lemon Jefferson's gravesite.

Johnny Winter, Steve Miller and Ray Orbison adopting some of his music and/or style. Especially enumerate of Blind Lemon was Bob Dylan who recorded Lemon's "See That My Grave Is Kept Clean."

Bro. Uzzel tells us: "Dylan, future king of folk-rock and poet for the social activism of the 1960s, was also described as part of that same tradition begun so eloquently by Blind Lemon. And indeed, while listening to Lemon Jefferson's 1920 recordings, it is difficult not to hear traces of a young Bob Dylan some forty years later. The distance from the bottomlands of Central Texas to the folk clubs of Greenwich Village and from the country blues to rock 'n' roll is a short one."

Carl Perkins performed a rockabilly version of Lemon's "Matchbook Blues," the Beatles recorded an adaptation of the same song and Elvis did the "Teddy Bear Blues." And the rock group Jefferson Airplane, aka Jefferson Starship, paid Blind Lemon the ultimate tribute by naming themselves after him.

Even the great BB King acknowledges that he got a lot of his "stuff"

from Blind Lemon.

There are many different kinds of blues. Blind Lemon's was a country style. No piano or band accompaniment for him. His work is often called a "holler." Bro. Uzzel tells us that Blind Lemon sang the Texas blues, "rooted in the Central Texas soil, characterized as having a great deal of 'moaning and droning' but as less percussive and with lighter emphasis on individual notes than the Delta blues."

"The music of Blind Lemon Jefferson was an expression of archaic or country blues. This style, which is regarded as the first phase of the blues as an established form, is characterized by nonstandardized forms, unamplified guitar, and spoken introductions and endings. At times, country blues performers were known to use ostinato patterns in the guitar accompaniment, bottlenecks on the frets of the guitar, and rough, growling tones, with falsetto voice used for contrast or emotional emphasis. This style stands in contrast to the classic or city blues style, which developed during the 1920s and was characterized by standardized form with

regular beginnings and endings and two or more instruments in the accompaniment."

Bro. Uzzel comprised material for this book over many years – decades. That gave him the opportunity to interview hundreds of people who knew Blind Lemon or had talked to him at one time or were influenced by him, adding a reality to the book that would have been missing without them. You will find pictures of some of these interviewees included in this work. Bro. Uzzel chronicled the effort to provide a new headstone for Blind Lemon's grave and the effort for other historical recognition of which he was often a part of. He attended the 2001 Blues Festival in Wortham, Texas, Blind Lemon's birthplace. There is much merit to be said for 30 years of research.

Blind Lemon Jefferson by Bro. Uzzel is a well written, well documented book by an author who has a keen insight into the African-American community and who has the knowledge, training and expertise in the fields of religion and history. Rather than a personal adulation of a music fan, this book is a factual representation of reality – a glimpse into the early 1900s, especially of those who were struggling and a tribute to an icon of the music world whose legacy will now live on. Thanks to Bro. Uzzel, well done!

Phylaxis Society honors Brother Nelson King



Story by:
P.M. Frederic L. Milliken
(135)

The Phylaxis Society just published its magazine totally dedicated to Brother Nelson King. It is all King, nothing but King, every page. I don't know how the other two Societies, The Philaethes Society, of which Bro. King was a past President and editor of its publication, and The Masonic Society, of which he also was a member, are honoring him. But it would surprise me if they dedicated the entire contents of one of their publications to just Bro. King.

Right about now perhaps many Mainstream Masons are scratching their heads wondering why there is this Prince Hall adulation of Bro. King.

Phylaxis President John B. Williams introduces the latest issue of its publication with these words.

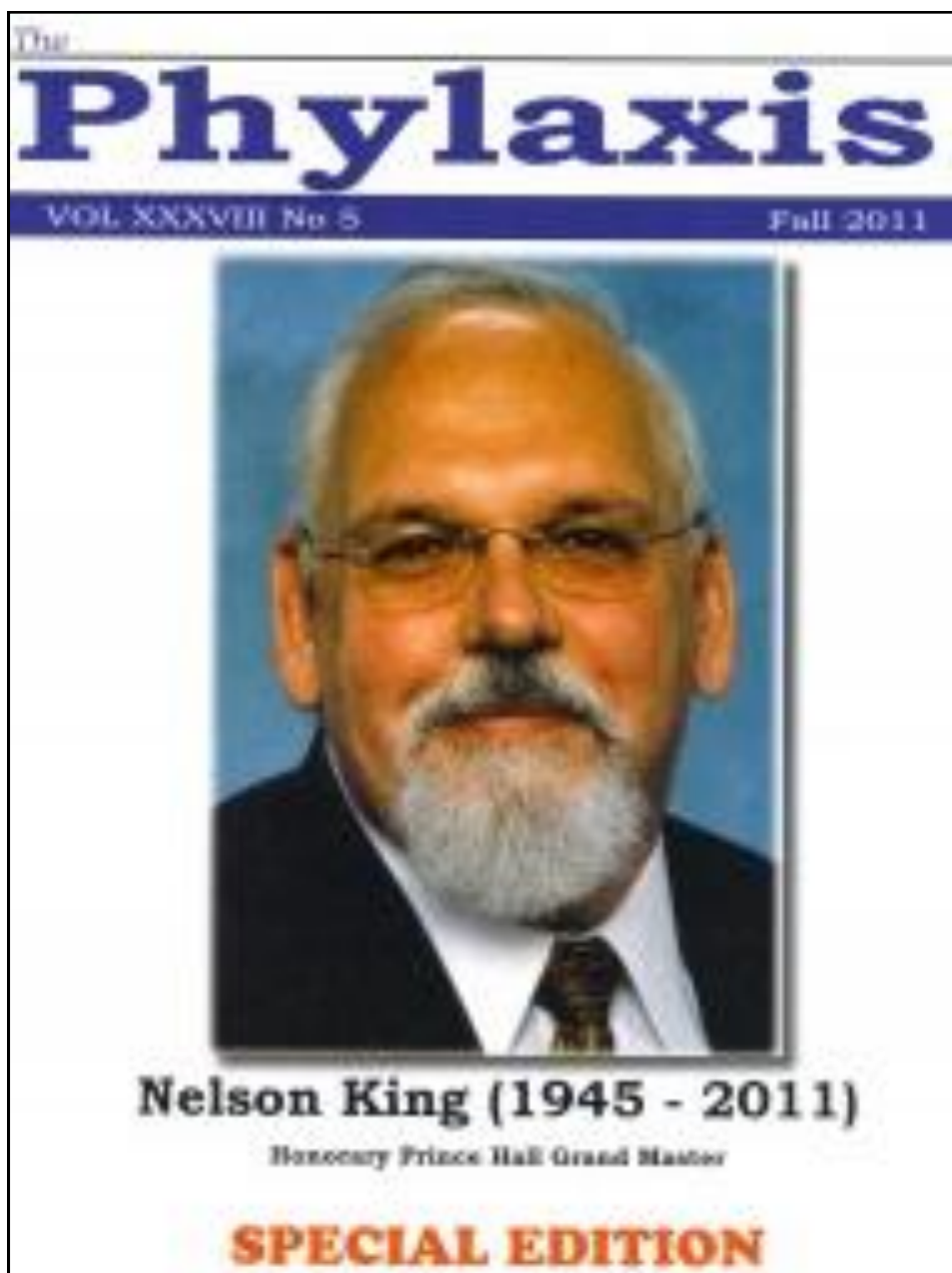
"Nelson King was a friend to Prince Hall Masonry when it was quite unpopular to be so."

Renowned Prince Hall author and speaker Alton Roundtree, F.P.S. adds:

"I placed Nelson King in the same category as Jerry Marsengill, Allen Roberts and other editors of the Philaethes Magazine who had kept the issue of Prince Hall Freemasonry up for discussion in the Magazine. Nelson seemingly went farther than others in that he took on the role of a defender of Prince Hall Freemasonry."

"Nelson King was not popular in many quarters, especially outside of Prince Hall Freemasonry. He was subject to threats and humiliating comments. Nevertheless, wherever he stood, he stood."

Robert N. Campbell, F.P.S.H.



Phylaxis Society Council of Representatives and President of the Phylaxis Society board tells us:

"He (Nelson King) along with Phylaxis President, the Hon. Joseph A. Walkes Jr., Ralph McNeal and myself, were among a number of us whose lives were threatened, over the internet for our work and involvement to spread the true 'cement of B.L.R. & T.'"

The Hon. Rev. Tommy Rigmaiden, F.P.S., F.P.C. (H-Life) and President Emeritus of the Phylaxis

Society in a "A Tribute To My Beloved Nelson King" in the magazine highlights a couple of important events in Bro. King's life.

He says that in March 2000, Bro. King, at that time President of the Philaethes Society, attended the Phylaxis Society's annual session in Kansas City, Missouri where he inducted 8 African-American Prince Hall Masons into the Masonic Order of Blue Forget-Me-Nots. In the next year, Bro. King invited Phylaxis President Joseph A. Walkes

to attend the annual session of the Philalethes Society during Masonic week in Washington D.C. President Walkes being ill, Rev. Rigmaiden, 1st Vice President, went in his place and enjoyed himself immensely.

Another who brings us much information about Bro. Nelson is Bro. Aubrey Brown, Sr., M.P.S. who reiterates much of what others have said.

"Perhaps for P.H.A. Masons, his most important distinction is being virtually the last of the great Prince Hall Warriors from within the ranks of Mainstream Masonry. Following in the footsteps of his mentors such as the late Bro. Allen Roberts, Nelson fought to the end for full unilateral recognition of P.H.A. Masonry worldwide within regular Freemasonry."

Bro. Brown also reminds us that Bro. King demitted from his Ontario, Canada Lodge to join the Grand Lodge of Costa Rica to protest his mother Grand Lodge's refusal to recognize Prince Hall, which it eventually did.

A Fellow of the Philalethes Society, Bro. King became its only President who was not a United States citizen. He also served as editor of the Philalethes publication and is only one of two Society members to hold both positions at the same time.

Prince Hall Masons recognized Bro. King for his achievements during his lifetime. Bro. Brown tells us that in 2000 he received the Prince Hall Civil Rights Activist Award. In 2004, he was made Honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Costa Rica. In 2005, he was inducted into the Phylaxis Society's Harry A. Williamson Hall of Fame and in 2006, he was made Honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

Bro. Brown then proceeds to chronicle what he considers Bro. King's "Two Most Cherished and

Successful Projects Most Never Knew About."

The Welcome Wall

As webmaster of the Philalethes Society, Bro. King created a visitor's section called "The Welcome Wall." Here any and every question about Freemasonry was answered. It became so popular that Bro. King could not keep it up all by himself. So he appointed a three-man Board or Committee consisting of one American Mainstream Mason, one European Mason and one Prince Hall Mason. The P.H.A. Mason was Bro. Brown.

When Bro. King stepped down from his management positions within the Philalethes Society he sold the Freemasonry.org site to the Society and moved The Welcome Wall to Guestbook. Alas in failing health the Society that he had devoted so much time and effort to decided to stab him in the back.

Brown recounts:

"As Nelson became aware of his failing liver, The Philalethes Society contacted and informed him that they felt the name "Welcome Wall" was their intellectual property since he created it while an Officer of the Society. Considering the more important battle facing him, he decided to just close his site. The Welcome Wall died a quiet death. No acknowledgement was given to the Committee members or the Founder of the Welcome Wall when control of the name was taken. Today their version is not as popular or nearly as successful as the real Welcome Wall."

servant.

Masonic Relief Fund for Cuba

Many Freemasons are totally unaware of Bro. King's exploits in this labor of love. It all started in 1998 when Bro. King and his wife visited Cuba. There he touched base with the Masonic community and saw firsthand what dire straits they were in. When he returned back home to Canada, he started

with aspirin and vitamins. Soon he progressed to providing much needed bandages, drugs and medical equipment. Because of size limitations, some shipments had to be sent to Costa Rica who forwarded them to Cuba.

Bro. King created an E-List for the Cuban Relief Fund and solicited donations from anybody and everyone. His heroic efforts became known far and wide across the island of Cuba and many letters of thanks were published on the E-List.

The work that Bro. King started lives on even after his death. And once again the Masonic community transcends the political divisions that separate good men in order to provide for the well being of those in need.

Within the magazine there are also a few of Bro. King's more memorable speeches. The first titled "Black and White" was given at the 7th Annual Sam Houston Lecture in 2004 at Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M., Grand Lodge of Texas in Houston, and was on the legitimacy of Prince Hall Freemasonry. He told me privately and personally that because of the large number of death threats he received that he felt it necessary to hire two body guards.

Another lecture in this issue of the Phylaxis Magazine was an address given at Wilberforce Lodge, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio.

Bro. King's parting shot and demonstration of his solidarity with Prince Hall was to have Prince Hall Masons perform his Last Rites. Past Grand Master Joe Halstead and his team from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ontario performed the ceremony, Aug. 20, 2011 at the Ogden funeral Home in Toronto.

Rest in peace Bro. King. Well done good and faithful servant.



Story by:
P.M. James A. Brandt
Pride of Washington
Lodge No. 98
M.W.P.H.G.L. of WA

Walking Uprightly

When we, my brothers, first entered a lodge to receive the Entered Apprentice Degree, we kneeled in front of the altar for the benefit of prayer. Afterwards, we rose and were asked whom did we put our trust in. Our reply was simple. We put our trust in God. Later on that same night, we were placed in the northeast corner of the lodge as the Worshipful Master charged us to be upright men and Masons and to ever walk before God and man as such. In the Fellow Craft degree, we are once again reminded that we are to walk uprightly when we are presented with the working tools of a Fellow Craft, more importantly the Plumb. The Plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations before God and man. Knowing these two important facts about Masonry, I raise the question, "How many of us are putting our trust in God and walking uprightly before God and man?"

Now, as we already know, before a man can become a Mason, he must first believe in a supreme being no matter what faith he believes in. So, whether it is God, Allah, Jehovah, etc... that we believe in, all brothers in our fraternity have been brought up in some sort of faith. Now, Masonry is not a religion, but our rituals do derive from the *Holy Bible*. So, as I try to explain how to walk uprightly in order to help some of our brothers who are not, I will be using some scriptures from the *King James Version of the Holy Bible*.

In Matthew 5:16, it is stated, "Let

your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." I chose this particular verse because most of us have rings, jewelry, and emblems on our cars to show that we are Masons. Brothers, these things are the lights of Masonry, and we have no problem showing them off to the public. However, this is not the light I am referring to by this scripture. I am talking about our internal light that shines inside each and everyone of us. This is the very light that people see in us. So, if we are living right by our actions, then that is the light that people see and relate to what Masonry stands for, but if we are living foul and doing wrong in our lives, then we shed a negative light on Masonry and ourselves.

Now, many of you might be asking what are the wrong things to do. Well, my brothers, the answer can be found in Galatians 5:19-21, which reads, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you, as I have also told you in times past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Now, I am in no way perfect, and in fact, I was living foul myself not so long ago, but I ask you, my brothers, how many of us have done or are doing one or more things on the list provided by the preceding scripture. I know for a fact that I have done at least two of them since I was raised to the sub-lime degree of a Master Mason, and had to check myself. So, my brothers, I am now asking you to check yourselves. If you see your brothers doing wrong, then check them also and remind them to circumscribe

their desires and keep their passions in due bounds, because if we do not police up our brothers, then we are giving consent for their wrong-doings.

Finally, I want to bring up Romans 12:10, and it reads as such, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another." This verse reminds me that brotherly love is the cornerstone of our great fraternity and should be a staple in every Mason's heart. However, too many of us are talking about our fellow brothers behind their backs. Brothers, if we have a disagreement with one of our brothers, we need to address our problems and grievances with that brother rather than spreading gossip throughout the lodge and community. Too many brothers hold grudges against other brothers, and that causes confusion in the craft, which does not allow brotherly love to prevail. Brothers, even though we don't always agree on how the lodge should do its work, we can agree that all of us believe that the lodge's purpose is to better our community and make us better men. So, we must be able to work through our disagreements in order for the lodge to live up to its purpose.

In closing, my brothers, we must remember those lessons taught to us during our journey through Masonry. We must remember to always walk uprightly before God and man and be the same man in private that we are in the public eye, because even though people cannot see you behind closed doors, God can always see you. So, place your faith in God and be that upright man and Mason that you were charged to be when you first became a Mason.

From a Badge to a Symbol

Emblems to allegories, Masonic symbols contain different levels of meaning

Story by:

Bro. John L. Cooper III,

Past Grand Secretary

Grand Lodge of California

Originally printed in the California
Freemason

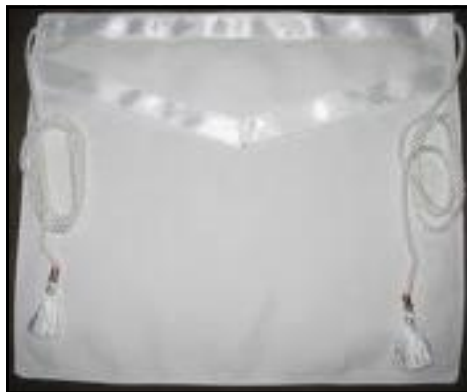
Freemasons are easily identified in the public mind with the square and compass, with the letter “G” in the center. Not only does it appear on many of our buildings, but Masons wear it proudly on coats and jackets, as well as on rings. Even films such as “National Treasure” make use of the square and compasses as a “brand,” identifying us in the public eye as Freemasons. Freemasons, however, have many such symbols, and nowhere in our ritual is there a statement that the square and compass is our primary symbol. Indeed, it is not our primary symbol, regardless of its widespread public use.

The primary badge identifying a Mason is the white lambskin apron. At the very beginning of his Masonic journey, we tell an Entered Apprentice: “[The lambskin apron] is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason.” Many Masons wear name badges, badges that identify them as members of a particular Lodge or as holders of a particular office in Masonry. These badges proclaim to others that we are a part of something larger than ourselves, and/or that we have been entrusted with something more important than just a simple membership. But such badges have little to do with the true “badge” of a Mason. The true badge, we are told, is also an emblem, an emblem of innocence.

When presented with the lambskin apron, we are told for the first time that it has an inner as well as an outer meaning. Like the name badge, the lambskin apron identi-

fies us to the world at large as Masons. But it carries a meaning far deeper than that of a mere badge, and that is the meaning of the term emblem. An emblem goes beyond a badge and enters into the world of symbolism. The white lambskin apron is therefore both a badge for others to know us as Masons and a symbol of something much deeper, something that turns our thoughts inward rather than outward.

It reminds us that we are engaged in a great enterprise, which has far more meaning to each of us as individuals than it can ever have for the world at large. The lambskin apron is an outward and visible symbol of an inward and spiritual grace.



The use of such symbols to turn our thoughts toward God, and to our own spiritual values, is very old. Carvings in stone at Tell el Amarna in Egypt show a solar disk with hands extended in blessing. The purpose was to show that what the Egyptians perceived as the source of all life, the sun, was also the source of continual good things to men and women on earth. But this emblem was much more than just a reminder of the solar energy that makes all life possible. It was a symbol of God, one of the first representations of a monothe-

istic God in history.

In a similar fashion, the lambskin apron is a symbol of the blessings of God that we seek in our work as Masons. Shortly after an Entered Apprentice is presented with his very own white lambskin apron he is taught an important lesson about Masonic progress toward “perfection.” Later in the evening he is told that two important symbols for a Mason, taken from our stonemason ancestors, are the rough ashlar and the perfect ashlar.

An ashlar is a rectangular block of hewn stone. Stonemasons use rectangular blocks of stone in building a wall because of the stability that they lend to the finished structure. Each row of rectangular blocks of stone is placed so that each stone overlaps the one below it, keeping the blocks tightly fitted against one another. The rough ashlar is the beginning of the process of building the wall; the perfect ashlar is the end product, a stone made so smooth on all sides that the cement uniting the blocks will adhere uniformly to the surfaces, and provide a lasting bond. The perfect ashlar is not an emblem of absolute perfection in some abstract sense, but is as perfect as the stonemason can make it for the purposes intended.

The perfect ashlar is a symbol of making our lives fit into that spiritual building which Masons are building, lives that are useful for creating a stable and lasting structure for the benefit of humanity. Both the white lambskin apron and the perfect ashlar are often misunderstood by those who do not truly understand Freemasonry. Neither the apron nor the ashlar implies that a Mason will become a perfect man, free of all defects and un-

touched by sin. The concept of perfection amongst Masons is not a theological concept.

Freemasonry makes no statement about religion, and makes no promise that by wearing the lambskin apron or shaping his life into a perfect ashlar, he will thereby gain admission into heaven. Those concepts are the province of religion, and not Freemasonry. We use these symbols, instead, as a way of explaining that our lives here on Earth must be truly useful to God, and to our fellow humans, if they are to have value in this earthly life. If we allow our white lambskin apron to become soiled and dirty because of the way in which we

live our lives, others will notice. If we leave our rough-hewn ashlar in that state for a lifetime, our work will be of little value in building a stable and useful society. These symbols of Freemasonry encourage us to take a look at what we are doing with our lives, and to work to improve our contribution to the building of that "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Freemasonry teaches by symbol and by allegory. As important as the square and compasses are to us as Masons, they are not our primary symbols. The white lambskin apron is. It teaches us that the world will notice what we do with

our lives, and that our efforts to preserve unsullied this primary emblem of a Mason are also tied to the usefulness of what we do as Masons.

It is only at the end of our life that we will truly understand why we were told that it is "more honorable than the Star or Garter, or any distinction that can be conferred..." If worthily worn, it is most certainly "an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason..." But it is more. Above all our symbols, it is the only one that we continually wear with "honor to the Fraternity" as well as "pleasure to ourselves."

Managing a Nonprofit Organization



Story by: Tim Bryce

Bro. Tim Bryce is a writer and the Managing Director of M. Bryce & Associates of Palm Harbor, Fla. and has over 30 years of experience in the management consulting field. He can be reached at timb001@phmainstreet.com.

Recently I was adding up the number of Board of Directors I have served on over the years for nonprofit organizations. This includes computer societies, fraternal organizations, homeowner associations, even Little League. The number was close to 40 where I have served in some capacity or other, everything from president, to vice president, secretary, division director, finance chairman, publicity and public relations, newsletter editor, webmaster, even historian (not to mention the many Masonic positions I have held). In other words, I think I've learned a thing or two about nonprofit organizations over the years. One of the first things I learned early on is that unless you manage the nonprofit group, it will manage you.

Running a nonprofit group is not

exactly rocket science and is actually pretty simple, but surprisingly few people grasp the basics and end up bungling the organization thereby creating upheaval for its constituents. If you are truly interested in properly managing a nonprofit group, consider these nine principles that have served me well over the years:

1. Know the rules. Get a copy of the governing docs, read them, and keep them with you. Do not try to hide them. In fact, make them available to your constituents either in paper form or as a download on the computer (such as a PDF file). Got a briefcase dedicated to your group? Keep a copy of the docs in it and, if an electronic version is available, place an icon on your desktop to quickly access it.

2. Get to know your constituents. How can you expect to adequately serve them if you do not know what their interests are or the group's priorities as they perceive them? They won't always be correct, but understand their perceptions and deal with them accordingly. You might want to circulate a survey to get their view on certain

subjects, and to solicit their support.

3. Communicate – not only with the other members of the board, but with your constituency as well. Failure to do so only raises suspicions about what you are doing. Newsletters, e-mail blasts, and web pages are invaluable in this regard; particularly the latter where you can post news, governing docs, contact information, meeting minutes, audit reports, correspondence, etc. Simple communications will clear up a lot of the problems you will face as an officer on the board.

4. Administer – keep good records, regardless if government regulations require it or not. Whether you are maintaining records with pencil and paper or by computer, it is important that accurate records be maintained, particularly about the group's membership, logs of activities, attendance, finances, minutes, etc. It is not really that complicated to perform; you just need someone who pays attention to detail. Don't have the manpower to do it yourself? Then hire someone, such as a management company, who can compe-

tently keep track of things.

5. Lead – people like to know where they are headed. If you are in charge of the group, articulate your objectives and prepare a plan to get you there. Also, do not try to micromanage everything. Non-profit groups are primarily volunteer organizations and the last thing they want is Attila the Hun breathing down their necks. Instead, manage from the bottom-up. Delegate responsibility, empower people, and follow-up. Make sure your people know their responsibilities and are properly trained. Other than that, get out of their way and let them get on with their work.

6. Add value to your service. People like to think they are getting their money's worth for paying their dues. In planning your organization's activities, be creative and imaginative, not stale and repetitive. In other words, beware of falling into a rut. Your biggest obstacle will typically be apathy. If your group's mission is to do nothing more than meet periodically, make it fun and interesting, make it so people want to come and participate. Try new subjects, new venues, new menus, etc. Even if you are on a tight budget, try to make things professional and first class. Change with the times and never be afraid of failure. You won't always bat 1.000 but you will certainly hit a few out of the park and score a lot of runs.

7. Keep an eye on finances. As officers of the Board, you have a fiduciary responsibility to maintain the group's finances and report on their status. I cannot stress enough the importance of having a well thought-out and itemized budget. Operating without one is simply irresponsible. And when you have a budget, manage according to it; if you don't have the money allocated, don't spend it. Obviously, you should also have routine finance reports produced (at least on

a monthly basis) showing an opening balance, income, expenses, and a closing balance. Most PC based financial packages can easily do this for you. At the end of the year, perform a review of your finances by an independent party, either a compilation as performed by a CPA or a review by an internal committee. Post the results so the constituency can be assured their money has been properly handled.

8. Run an effective meeting. Nobody wants to attend an inconsequential meeting, whether it is a weekly/monthly board meeting or an annual meeting; run it professionally. Print up an agenda in advance and stick to it. Start and end on time and maintain order. Got a gavel? Do not hesitate to use it judiciously. Maintain civility and decorum. Allow people to have their say but know when issues are getting out of hand or sidetracked. And do yourself a favor, get a copy of *"Robert's Rules"* and study it.

9. Beware of politics. Like it or not, man is a political animal. Politics in a nonprofit group can get uglier than in the corporate world. Some people go on a power trip even in the most trivial of organizations. Try not to lose sight of the fact that this is a volunteer organization and what the mission of the group is. Keep an eye on rumors and confront backstabbers, there is no room for such shenanigans in a nonprofit group. If you are the president, try to maintain an "open door" policy to communicate with your constituents. It is when you close the door that trouble starts to brew. Also, ask yourself the following, *"Who serves who?"* Does the board serve its constituents, or do the constituents serve the board? If your answer is the latter, than dissent will naturally follow.

10. Maintain control over your vendors. Try to keep a good relationship with those companies and people who either work for or come in contact with your group, particularly lawyers. Always remember who works for whom. I have seen instances where attorneys have taken over nonprofit groups (at a substantial cost I might add). The role of the lawyer is to only offer advice; he or she doesn't make the decision, you do (the client). One last note on vendors, make sure you maintain a file of all contracts and correspondence with them. Believe me, you're going to need it when it comes time to sever relations with them. Keep a paper trail. Bottom-line: run your nonprofit group like a business. Come to think of it, it is a business, at least in the eyes of the state that recognizes you as a legal entity (one that can be penalized and sued). There are those who will naively resist this notion, but like it or not, a nonprofit group is a business. Consider this, what happens when the money runs out?

I mentioned earlier that you might want to hire a management company to perform the administrative detail of your group. To me, this is an admission that the Board is either too lazy or incompetent to perform their duties (or they have more money than they know what to do with). Just remember, it's not rocket science.

Poor are not Poor because Rich are Rich

A life of government guarantees and controls is not a formula for building wealth.



By: Star Parker
Star Parker is president
of the Center for Urban
Renewal & Education
(www.urbancure.org)
and author of the re-
released book *Uncle
Sam's Plantation*

A just released study from the Pew Research Center reporting a record high wealth gap between whites and blacks should have been labeled "handle with care."

Because care is needed to examine the complex reality behind the fact that "median wealth of white households is 20 times that of black households...." And without care, this information will be abused and misused by those in the race business as another excuse to claim racism and demand exactly what blacks, or any of us, do not need -- more government.

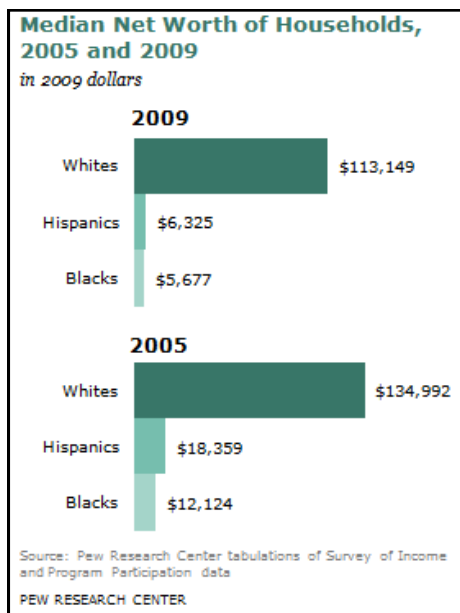
And, indeed, Al Sharpton (a Prince Hall Mason) has already announced plans for protest in Washington, along with the statement: "For those who think we live in some sort of post-racial society, I have news for you: we're anything but."

For one thing, "median wealth" should not be confused with "average wealth." "Median" is simply the number right in the middle -- there are an equal number of households with higher and an equal number with lower wealth. Average wealth accounts for the actual wealth of those households and reflects the fact, not reflected in the median number, that there are a good number of well-to-do black households.

So whereas median white household wealth is 20 times higher than median black household wealth, average white household wealth is 3 times higher than average black household wealth.

The racially tinged headline obscures the deeper reality of what is driving the growing wealth gap. That is that over the period of the study, 2005-09, the gap between those with more wealth and those with less has increased for the whole country.

In fact, over this period, the gap between the most wealthy and least wealthy blacks became more pronounced than the gap between the most wealthy and least wealthy whites.



In 2005, the top ten percent of wealthy black families represented 56 percent of overall black wealth. By 2009, this top ten percent represented 67 percent of overall black wealth.

You have to wonder what kind of racial claims Al Sharpton will make about this.

All this is not to minimize a genuine problem. Far more important than where black wealth stands relative to white wealth is the fact that median, or average, black wealth is far less than it should be.

That 35 percent of all black households have zero or negative

wealth (net indebtedness) is dismally sad.

What to do?

If there are any public policy implications, it is not to expand government, but to remove it as obstacle to black wealth creation.

At the most basic level, black children need to get better education and this means giving black parents a choice to send their children wherever they want to school.

A better-educated black population will mean a higher income earning black population. But income alone is a limited tool for creating wealth. Wealth is created through savings, investment, and entrepreneurship. And blacks lag far behind in each category.

The Pew study shows that the major destruction of wealth from 2005-09 resulted from the collapse of housing prices. Blacks suffered disproportionately because black net worth has been almost entirely in their homes.

The idea of allowing of allowing investment in a personal retirement account rather than paying the Social Security payroll tax would be a boon to building black wealth.

But when President Bush suggested the personal retirement account idea, N.A.A.C.P. chairman Julian Bond said this was asking blacks "to play the lottery with their future."

A life of government guarantees and controls is not a formula for building wealth. Freedom and capital markets are. Blacks need to decide which they want.

And entrepreneurship must become part of black culture. Blacks need to get that poor people are not poor because rich people or rich. The formula for more black wealth: less government, more ownership and initiative.

In Remembrance of Prince Hall on the Eve of Prince Hall Americanism Day

*Delivered by H.P.M. Burrell D. Parmer
San Antonio Lodge No. 1
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand
Lodge, F.&A.M. of Texas
Headquarters, International Security
Assistance Force - Afghanistan
September 10, 2011*

KABUL, Afghanistan – Prince Hall Americanism Day is celebrated on the nearest Sunday close to 12 September, the accepted birthday of Prince Hall. Additionally, Prince Hall Masons throughout the globe celebrate Prince Hall Americanism Day to honor the achievements and contributions of the Order in helping to make America a better place for all citizens. Prince Hall is honored as a patriot and advocate for civil liberties and the abolition of slavery.

Prince hall was born in 1735, as estimated by researchers. His place of birth is unknown, as records of his earlier existence are limited or disputed. Based upon Past Grand Master William Grimshaw's book, *The Official History of Freemasonry among the Colored People in North America* in 1903, Prince Hall was born in Bridgetown, Barbados, to the contrary, historical documentation states that he may have been a servant of William Hall, a leather-dresser and well-respected man of Boston. According to one document Prince Hall was given his freedom by William Hall on April 9, 1770 in Boston, his manumission papers state that "... he is no longer reckoned a slave, but has been always accounted as a freeman by us..."

According to some information Prince Hall and other black men attempted to join the white Lodges in Boston but were denied. It is accepted that a significant event occurred on March 6, 1775, Sgt.

John Batt of (a military) Lodge No. 441 belonging to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, initiated Prince Hall and fourteen other free black men into Freemasonry; thereby making Prince Hall and his Brethren the first blacks to be made Freemasons in America.

When Lodge No. 441 left Boston on March 17, 1775 or 1776, a dispensation was issued by Sgt. Batt authorizing Prince Hall and his Brethren to meet as a Lodge and bury their dead, but could not make Masons.

On July 3, 1775 or 1776 African Lodge No. 1 was formed and authorized to appear publicly in procession as a Masonic body for the purpose of celebrating the feasts of



Saints John.

Finally, on March 2, 1784, Prince Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns) through W.M. William Moody of Brotherly Lodge No. 55 in London for a Warrant of Constitution.

The Charter was prepared and issued on September 29, 1784, designating African Lodge No. 1 as African Lodge No. 459, although it would be three years after in which

African Lodge No. 1 would actually receive it.

Claims have been made that African Lodge No. 459 was organized as African Grand Lodge of North America with Prince Hall as its first Grand Master in 1791, 1797, or at some time before his death, but sources state that African Lodge No. 459 became a mother Lodge when it constituted Lodges in Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and New York beginning in 1797, and after its declaration of independence from the Grand Lodge of England in 1827, was considered an actual Grand Lodge.

Prince Hall died in Boston on or about December 4, 1807 and years later African Grand Lodge was later renamed Prince Hall Grand Lodge in Prince Hall's honor.

Two monuments are erected in Prince Hall's memory. One is located at his gravesite at Copps Hill Burying Ground in Boston dedicated in 1895 by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and the other was unveiled on May 15, 2010 at the Cambridge Common Rotunda in Cambridge, Mass., where several monuments commemorating significant historical figures and events reside.

This would be the first monument in recognition of any African American on the Cambridge Common, historic for being the site where General George Washington formed the Continental Army.

Through the efforts of Prince Hall, and others, hundreds of thousands of African Americans have joined the fraternal organization and have spread the seeds of Brotherly Love and affection. Currently 47 Prince Hall Grand Lodges exist throughout the United States and aboard.

Prince Hall Cemetery: 2011 Memorial Address

*Delivered by Pamela Meister
President, Arlington Historical Society
Photo by: Alan H. Jones*

ARLINGTON, Mass. (May 30, 2011) – Welcome to all and especially to the members of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, who join us here this Memorial Day as they have for the last twenty-one years, to honor the memory of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge masons who are buried here.

In 1864 Grand Master William Kendall transferred ownership of this parcel of land to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge to serve as a cemetery for its members and their families. This cemetery was used for about forty years before falling into disuse and fading from public consciousness.

Memorial Day is a day in which we remember our dead. For those we knew, we do this because we loved and miss them. For others, we do this to learn from lives well-lived, and those lessons can shape our own lives.

Prince Hall, patriot, abolitionist and founder of the Grand Lodge that now bears his name, has been called one of the 100 most important African Americans. He was a champion of the right of African Americans to be educated, to enlist in the Army, and to be free and equal.

On June 24, 1797, Prince Hall delivered an address about slavery



Pamela Meister delivers the annual Prince Hall Memorial Address at the Prince Hall Cemetery.

to the African Lodge in West Cambridge Massachusetts. There is a phrase in that speech which seems particularly apt for Memorial Day and for this cemetery:

Now, my brethren, nothing is stable; all things are changeable. Let us seek those things which are sure and steadfast, and let us pray God that, while we remain here, he would give us the grace of patience, and strength to bear up under all our troubles, which, at this day, God knows, we have our share of.

All things are changeable. Even this cemetery which was cherished, then forgotten, and is now remembered and honored. For twenty-one years we have worked together to make this cemetery and what it stands for be among those things which are sure and steadfast. The Prince Hall Mystic Cemetery is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is noted in Wikipedia. But it is impor-

tant that we continue to cherish this cemetery.

We each arrive with our own concerns and we each learn from our time here. One small example how the past can affect the present happened last Memorial Day; Kirsten Greenidge is a playwright whose grandfather, Samuel Dance, was a Prince Hall Mason. Mr. Dance was a long-time Arlingtonian who helped plan and raise money for the commemoration. Our meeting at the cemetery led to "Dinner with the Marcy Family" one in a series of lectures the Society presented this year. Dinner with the Marcy's depicted what life was like for several generations of an Arlington African-American family.

All things are changeable and they should be. But too there are things which should be sure and steadfast. And I hope for many, many years to come, we will gather here and we will remember.



There is a New Neighbor at the National Mall

"With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope," Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Photo by Gedyon Kifle

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s image emerges out of a Stone of Hope, gazing over the Tidal Basin toward the horizon on the National Mall. Dr. King is the only non-president to have a memorial on the mall.

Story by: G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)
Photos and Graphics courtesy of the
Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King Jr.
National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc.

WASHINGTON (National Mall) – The week of August 22 – 28 marked the celebration festivities of the opening of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monument which opened to the public, Aug. 25.

According to the Memorial Foundation's website, "The Memorial is conceived as an engaging landscape experience to convey four fundamental and recurring themes throughout Dr. King's life – democracy, justice, hope, and love. Natural elements such as the crescent-shaped-stone wall inscribed with

excerpts of his sermons, and public addresses will serve as the living testaments of his vision of America. The centerpiece of the Memorial, the 'Stone of Hope', will feature a 30-foot likeness of Dr. King."

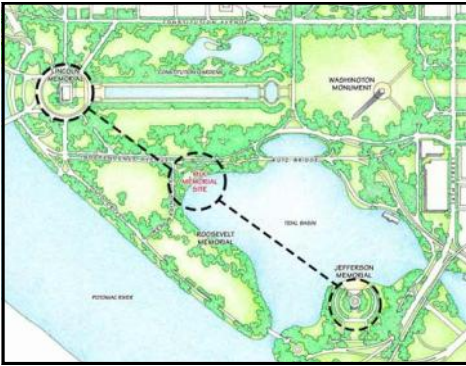
The official dedication ceremony was to take place on Sunday, Aug. 28, but due to Hurricane Irene, it was rescheduled in October according to Harry E. Johnson, Sr. President and Chief Executive Officer of the Washington DC Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc.

The day would have marked the anniversary of Dr. King's historic "I Have a Dream" speech delivered at the Lincoln Memorial on Aug. 28,

1963.

"So many worked tirelessly to dedicate the dream and make this Memorial a reality. We owe a special debt of gratitude to the Foundation staff, our generous sponsors, and to you, the public," said Johnson, Past General President and member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and a Houston-based attorney. "In the words of Dr. King, 'We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.' With that in mind, let's remember the spirit of the Memorial - justice, democracy, hope and love."

The King Memorial is envisioned as a quiet and peaceful space. Yet drawing from Dr. King's speeches



The approved site creates a visual "line of leadership" from the Lincoln Memorial, which honors the President who protected the United States from internal strife, and where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech; to the Jefferson Memorial, which honors the President who helped create the United States as the author of the Declaration of Independence.

and using his own rich language, the King Memorial will almost certainly change the heart of every person who visits, according to the website.

The Memorial Project's mission is to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by leading a collaborative funding, design, and construction process in the creation of a memorial to honor his national and international contributions to world peace through non-violent social change.

The idea for a monument was originally proposed in 1984 by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. More than a decade later, Congress passed a resolution authorizing the fraternity to move forward in 1996. President Bill Clinton signed the legislation.

At the ground breaking ceremony in 2006, President Clinton said, "The monument however beautiful it turns out to be will be but a physical manifestation of the monument already constructed in the lives and hearts of millions of Americans who are more just, more decent, more successful, more perfect because he lived."

The address of the Memorial is 1964 Independence Ave, SW, Washington D.C.; it coincides with the signing of the Public Accommodations Bill, a part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

The \$120 million project was accomplished primarily through donations.

"Special thanks go to the organizations and individuals below. By their generous support, they've demonstrated something truly remarkable," according to the website. "They've shown the breadth of support that exists for Dr. King's vision, from the man on the street to boardrooms on the 50th floor."

Rev. Al Sharpton, a Prince Hall Mason, attended the festivities.

"We did this for ourselves, by ourselves, with the help of those who understood what this was about. And I don't know if Dr. King would have ever imagined that we would have any monument for a

they did. Washington founded the Republic, Jefferson wrote and helped interpret the Republic, Lincoln saved the Republic; and King made the Republic a Republic for more than just the privileged white males it was founded for. So he belongs in this pantheon and I know there are fixing Washington Monument, I know they are reconstructing Lincoln's Memorial because they are preparing themselves to welcome him to the neighborhood. Welcome to the neighborhood Martin. You did what we didn't do. You brought America into being America, welcome to the neighborhood as he stands there as Rev. Bernice said and looks at them, he's looking for those of us who were excluded at the beginning, but included now..." said Sharpton.

"I thank you most of all Harry Johnson, who was laughed at and ridiculed and thought to be some-one having an impossible task, but



Texas Prince Hall Mason, Congressman Al Green and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus tour the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monument.

non-president of person of color, he stood and did it anyhow. Because of you, we can tell our children's children that there was a King that stood among men and opened the doors of American for



Dr. King's Memorial is situated on a four-acre plot on the northwest corner of the Tidal Basin adjacent to the Roosevelt Memorial. The Tidal Basin is a man made body of water to the south of the National Mall which acts as an overflow catch basin when the Potomac River swells, helping to prevent extensive flooding of the Mall.

everyone. So get ready George Washington, there's a new neighbor on the Potomac. Get ready Mr. Jefferson, there's a new neighbor on the Potomac, get ready Mr. Lincoln, there's a new neighbor and we all have come to help him move in. We brought our luggage, we brought our food, there's a new neighbor, guess who's coming to dinner today."

The unanswerable question is how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would feel about the monument.

Rev. Jesse Jackson was interviewed by PBS News Hour and said, "He would appreciate the gesture. If there were any modifications, it may be other than just having him alone; it may be him embracing a multi-racial, multi-cultural family.

In response to the likeness of Dr. King.

"He not only comes to us as a poet...not just a philosopher, he comes to us as a man who was serious about the business. So when I saw him in that pose (the statue of King with his arms folded)

as he was pondering, what are the next steps in this struggle," said Jackson, a Prince Hall Mason.

Former US Ambassador and Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young described his feeling about Dr. King while being interviewed by American Urban Radio Networks during the festivities.

"My feeling is that we have come a long, long way. It's not just a monument to Martin Luther King, it's a monument to the ability to solve the world's problems without violence," said Young, a Prince Hall Mason. "He is between George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson; he is the only one who held our Nation together without killing anyone."

Dr. Cornel West, who supported the Prince Hall Monument at Cambridge, while being interviewed by A.U.R.N. said, "Martin Luther King

Blackness seriously at its roots then the routes that you take have impact on every corner of the globe, just like Black music."

During a CBS Face the Nation interview, former U.S. Secretary of State and retired U.S. Army Gen. Colin Powell said, "What Dr. King meant to me was that the second revolution, the second civil war was underway. It was time now to meet the dream set out for us by our founding fathers. What Dr. King did was not just free African Americans, he freed all of America. He caused America to look at a mirror of itself... Is this who we want to be, is this the inspiration we want to be to the rest of the world. And the answer was no and we knew we had to change. He was the leader who took us through that change and that's why it's so fitting that he be memorialized in this manner."

While being interviewed by DC Urban Lifestyle TV, former U.S. Ambassador, N.A.A.C.P. Chairman and Prince Hall Mason Julian Bond said, "Just knowing you're with a special kind of person, someone who is different than anyone you have met before who had speaking abilities unlike any you have ever heard and had a sense for what was required of Black people to win our freedom. He was a different and unique person; it was magical to be with him. There has been change for the better and for the worse."

The Washington D.C. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial is the first memorial to a non-president, a person of color, a minister, and a man of peace. He is the only private citizen to have a federal holiday.

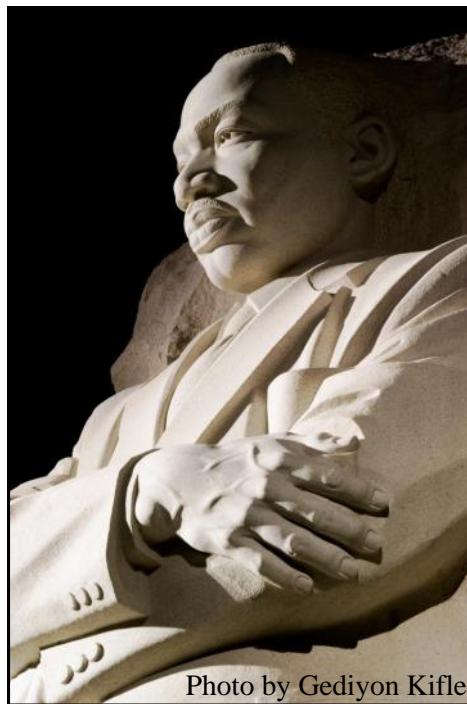


Photo by Gediyaon Kifle

Jr. no doubt is the greatest prophet ever produced by this Nation no matter what color. At the same time he comes out of the Black tradition. A product of the Black church, he is a Black Alpha and a Black freedom fighter. He shows to the degree in which if you take

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a Prince Hall Mason?



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speaks inside a Masonic Temple in Columbus, Ga. (Circa 1959 – 1960). Sitting center is Grand Master John Wesley Dobbs, the 10th Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ga.

H.P.M. Burrell D. Parmer (1)
Photos courtesy of P.M. Douglas Evans

"I did not make nor stated I would make Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a Mason posthumously." Past Grand Master Benjamin Barksdale, 13th Grand Master, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia.

According to information on the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia's website, "There is one local Masonic legend that claims that Dr. King, Jr. was good friends with Grand Master X. L. Neal, both of whom came out of Morehouse College. The legend claims that Grand Master Neal had promised to make Dr. King a Mason when he came back from the Sanitation Strike in Memphis; but as fate would have it, Dr. King

never made it back from Memphis. However, in 1999, Grand Master Benjamin Barksdale gave him a posthumous honor by declaring him a member of the Craft and presenting it to his widow, Coretta Scott King, at a Morehouse celebration for our Civil Rights icon."

I first heard of this honor when I was in Columbus, Ga. last June and visited one of the Lodges. In conversation with the Brothers I mentioned that I was a District Historian in San Antonio. I was then introduced to a Brother who told me about the honor and that he was present during the ceremony.

Very limited information can be found regarding the event, one article by Dr. Brock H. Winters was found on in The Masonic Voice Journal of the Charles H. Wesley Masonic Research Society.

In his 62 years of being a Mason he states, "I haven't been able to find another instance in the history of Freemasonry when a deceased person had been made a Freemason. Indeed, this action was without precedent. Martin Luther King Jr. was a remarkable individual and we can say with certainty that there would have been few if any Prince Hall Lodges that would have not been proud to have him as a member, and yes there are rumors that Mr. King had planned to become a Freemason before his untimely demise. Yet, recognizing what is done is done and it makes no sense to challenge Past Grand Master Barksdale or somehow try to undo what he did..."

He also goes on to say, "I will not participate in the Raising of a dead person is definitely not one of the items we'd find in our obligations concerning the types of people we would not confer degrees on, but there were some vital assents that are missed when you try to make a



G.M. X. L. Neal, who went to Morehouse College with Dr. King and would have brought him into the Order according to legend.

dead person a Freemason. They do not become Freemasons on their own freewill and accord, they do not state their belief in one Supreme Being and they are not obligated. Since time immemorial what has made a Freemason is his obligation."

He concluded, "The best thing we could ask is for in this situation is for the responsible parties to disregard this posthumous Raising for us and maybe declare Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. an Honorary Prince Hall Freemason."

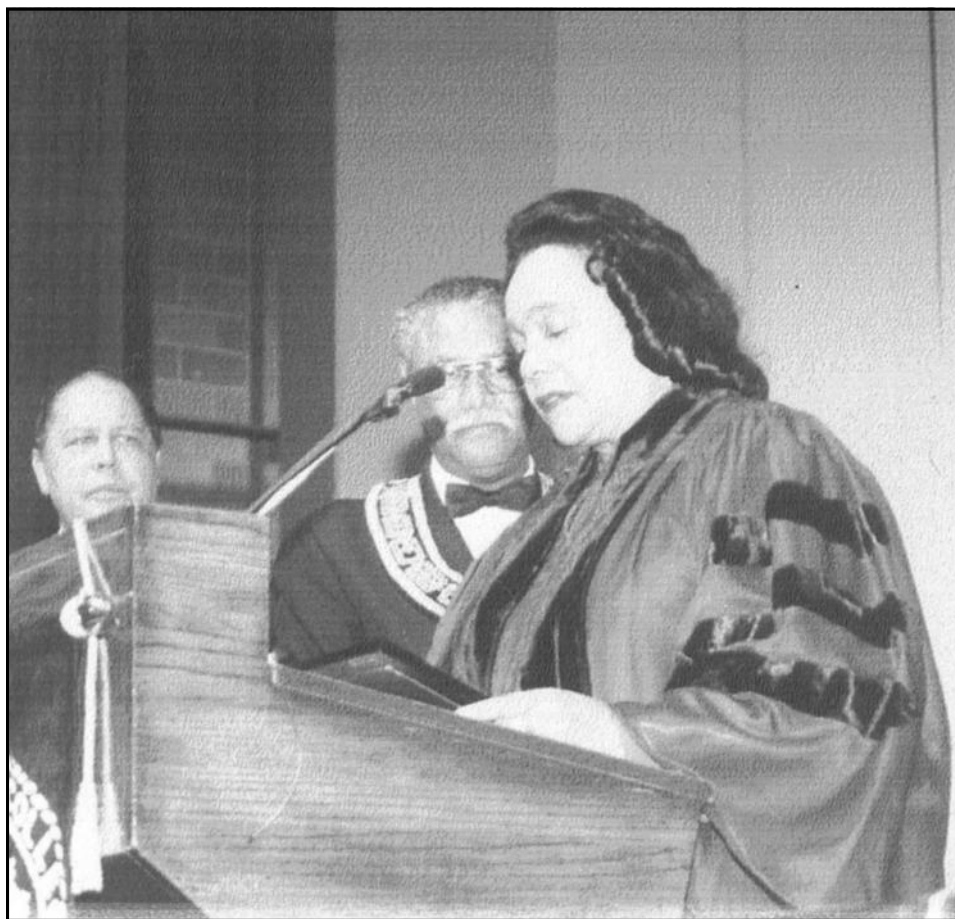
The question is, was Dr. King made a Mason "at Sight" or was given honorary membership.

Another reference includes a short article from www.masonicinformation.com:

"In May 2000 - over 32 years after his death and in an act which seems totally unprecedented in Masonic history - a Past Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia made King a 'Mason at Sight'. Such action runs counter to all of the 'Landmarks' and accepted usages of Freemasonry since making a member of the fraternity posthumously violates the premise of the first question normally proposed to a candidate, to wit: 'Do you make this request of your own free will and accord?'"

Seeking additional information, I turned to Blue-Lite Research Discussion Group, Inc., which the overwhelming response was that Dr. King was not made a Mason but could be considered (based on the information available) to have been made an Honorary Prince Hall Mason posthumously.

One Brother from Georgia said, "Any honorary membership is just giving someone membership in an organization based off of their life works without them having to do the work that comes with it. So in essence, he is a member of the Craft, he just didn't get Initiated, Passed and Raised or made 'at



Mrs. Coretta Scott King receives the Masonic Proclamation honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. posthumously.

Sight."

According to a Brother from Illinois, Dr. King knew more about black fraternal organizations than most of their members at the time.

"He was an Alpha man. How many Greeks are not aware of Freemasonry? The most important man in his life (his father) was a Prince Hall Mason. Many in his inner circle during his civil rights campaign were Prince Hall Masons. Many clandestine meetings were held in PHA Lodge Halls. Many of those that volunteered for his security details were straight from P.H.A. Lodges."

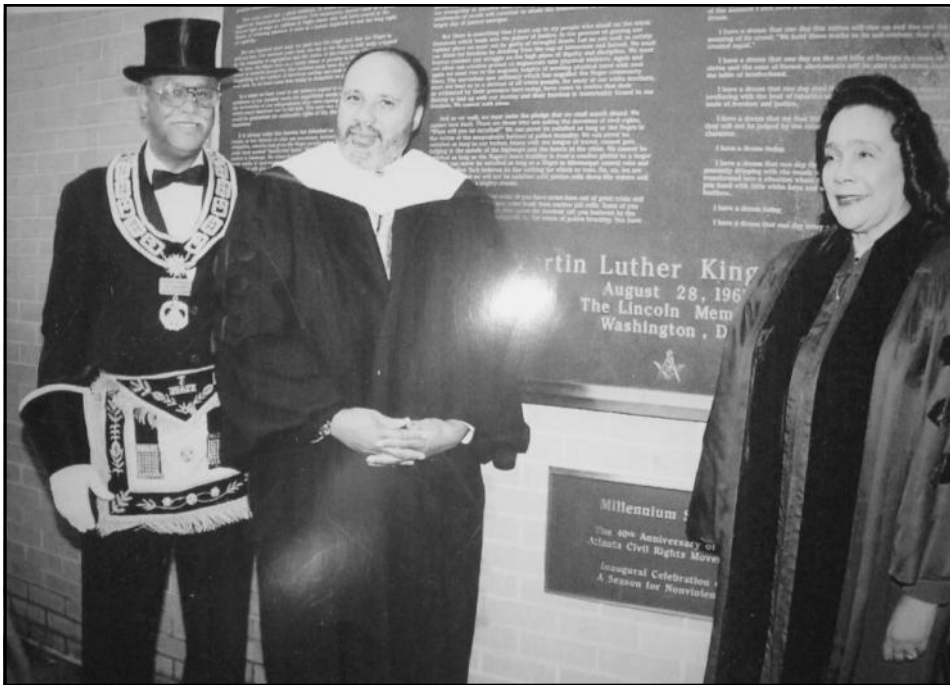
He continued.

"I have no doubt that if Dr. King was around long enough to complete his mission, he would have most likely joined a Prince Hall Lodge if for no other reason than to call attention to the need of bright

men working together for the greater good."

The above portion of this article was written from Internet research and from comments from an Internet group. Thanks to Blue-Lite I was advised to continue fact-finding and was given P.G.M. Barksdale and Past Master Douglas Evans, Past Grand Historian of Georgia's contact information and a much different story unfolded.

The story is based from a picture which was taken in front of The Greatest Speech of the 20th Century "I Have A Dream" plaque which rests upon the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College in Atlanta next to the Cornerstone laid by the Grand Lodge in 1992. The date on the plaque is Sunday, April 2, 2000. Additionally, sources of this story are from phone calls and email



P.G.M. Barksdale, Martin Luther King III, and Mrs. Coretta Scott King stand in front of the "I Have a Dream" plaque placed of MLK International Chapel.

exchanges with P.G.M. Barksdale India. and P.M. Evans.

According to P.M. Evans, the Grand Lodge's Official Proceedings of 2000 state that the gathering at Morehouse College was for the unveiling of the "I Have a Dream Speech" plaque on King Chapel on April 2, 2000 and also dated on the Grand Master's calendar.

An assumption is the unveiling may have coincided with Millenium Sunday, the 40th Anniversary of the Atlanta Civil Rights Movement/Inaugural Celebration of a Season of Nonviolence, as printed on a smaller plaque below the "I Have a Dream" plaque which is partially seen in the picture with P.G.M. Barksdale, Martin Luther King III and Mrs. Coretta Scott King.

On April 1, 2000, according to Dr. Lawrence Carter, Dean of King Chapel's webpage, Dr. Carter founded the Gandhi King Ikeda Hassan Institute for Ethics and Reconciliation on Millennium Sunday, unveiling larger than life busts of Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturbai; gifts from the people of

"I do remember that there was a portrait and bust of the Gandhi. I know that Dr. Carter (a member of W.C. Thomas Lodge No. 112) wanted to honor both Dr. King and Gandhi and maybe their wives as well. The event was stellar and I recall maybe a 1,000 guests and more than 200 Prince Hall Masons in full regalia being in attendance," said P.M. Evans, who served as Grand Historian from 2006 – 2010 and four years prior as an assistant to Past Grand Historian, P.M. Joe Snow.

As the event occurred over a decade ago, P.G.M. Barksdale cannot recollect the date or year, but remembers that he did not make Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a Mason, neither "at Sight" nor provide him with honorary membership posthumously.

"Dr. King is not a Mason; you cannot make a dead person a Freemason," said P.G.M. Barksdale.

To the reference that G.M. Dr. X. L. Neal stated that he will make Dr. King a Prince Hall Mason "at Sight"

when he returns from Memphis:

"The above is true. I was Grand Senior Warden when G.M. Neal made the statement which was in the presence of the Grand Lodge membership in Augusta, Ga.," said P.G.M. Barksdale. "Again Dr. King was never a Prince Hall Mason; however, with the permission of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, I was given permission to name a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship to assist a worthy young man to attend Morehouse College."

P.M. Evans remembers some details about that day.

"I was in the audience as a young five-year-old Mason when (an) honor was read by P.G.M. Barksdale in the company of Mrs. King and King III along with other Grand Lodge officers while on stage inside the King Chapel and I, as many others, thought that they were making Dr. King a 'Mason at Sight,'" said P.M. Evans. "I do not think that P.G.M. Barksdale may have made it clear that a dead person could not be made a Mason."

"I believe that during the ceremony as Mrs. King was on the stage was when P.G.M. Barksdale and the Masons announced that it was "honoring Dr. King's death posthumously." None of us really knew what this meant since it wasn't previously disclosed to us before the event," said P.M. Evans. "We heard it all at the same time. I took it as something you might honor the governor or someone with, but the word posthumously made many feel as if Dr. King was being given the honor of being a Mason. I tend to believe that this was not the intent of P.G.M. Barksdale but maybe the wording of the statement was not filtered or edited enough."

According to P.M. Evans there was neither a proclamation nor similar communications that would have informed the Craft that such an honor of membership for Dr.

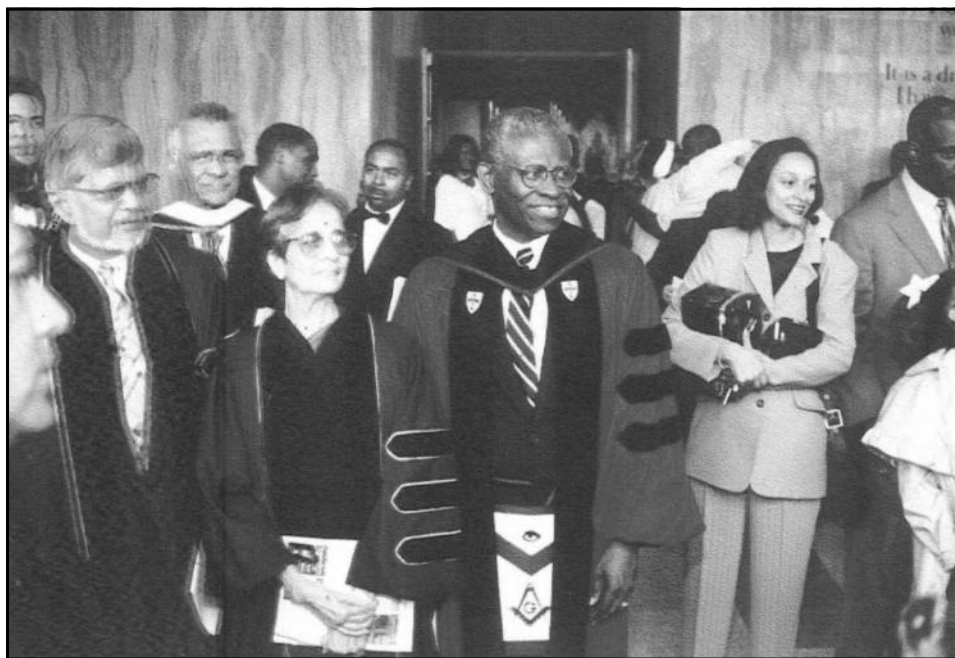


Lt to Rt: Mayor Maynard Jackson, first Black Mayor of Atlanta (grandson of G.M. John Wesley Dobbs), P.G.M. Benjamin Barksdale, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, President of Morehouse College Dr. Walter Massey, and Dean of the Morehouse School of Religion Dr. Lawrence Carter.

King would be bestowed.

"I'll be the first to echo P.G.M. Barksdale's statement that he did not make Dr. King a Mason. He couldn't if he tried, it's unmasonic," said P.M. Evans. "I will offer that the language used at that ceremony may have been misleading."

"During my historical tours in Atlanta, I offer that Dr. King is NOT a Mason, but an Alpha. If he had lived longer we believe that he would have joined since his father (Daddy King) and grandfather were all preachers and Prince Hall Masons," said P.M. Evans. "We think Dr. King would have joined W. C. Thomas Lodge No. 112 since it is thought that this is where Daddy King was Raised and due to G.M. Neal belonging to the same Lodge and knowing Dr. King from Morehouse College."



Dean Carter (ctr) and family of Gandhi (lt) exist King Chapel, April 2, 2000.

Call For Papers: Symposium on American Freemasonry and Fraternalism



Photo courtesy of the National Heritage Museum.

The National Heritage Museum, Lexington, Mass. was founded and supported by Scottish Rite Freemasons in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States.

The National Heritage Museum, Lexington, Mass. announces a call for papers for its biannual symposium, "Perspectives on American Freemasonry and Fraternalism," to be held on Saturday, April 7, 2012, at the Museum in Lexington, Massachusetts.

The National Heritage Museum is an American history museum founded and supported by Scottish Rite Freemasons in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States. As the repository of one of the largest collections of American Masonic and fraternal objects, books and manuscripts in the United States, the Museum aims to foster new research on American fraternalism and to encourage the use of its scholarly resources.

The symposium seeks to present the newest research on American fraternal groups from the past through the present day. By 1900, over 250 American fraternal groups

existed, numbering six million members. The study of their activities and influence in the United States, past and present, offers the potential for new interpretations of American society and culture. Diverse perspectives on this topic are sought; proposals are invited from a broad range of research areas, including history, material and visual culture, anthropology, sociology, literary studies and criticism, gender studies, political science, African American studies, art history, economics, or any combination of disciplines. Perspectives on and interpretations of all time periods are welcome.

Possible topics include:

- Comparative studies of American fraternalism and European or other international forms of fraternalism
- Prince Hall Freemasonry and other African-American frater-

nal groups

- Ethnically- and religiously-based fraternal groups
- Fraternal groups for women or teens
- Role of fraternal groups in social movements
- The material culture of Freemasonry and fraternalism
- Anti-Masonry and anti-fraternal movements, issues and groups
- Fraternal symbolism and ritual
- The expression of Freemasonry and fraternalism through art, music, and literature

Approaches to Freemasonry – from disciplinary, interdisciplinary, or transnational perspectives; the historiography and methodology of the study of American fraternalism

Proposals should be for 30 minute research papers; the day's schedule will allow for audience questions and feedback.


Proposal Format: Submit an abstract of 400 words or less with a resume or c.v. that is no more than two pages. Be sure to include full contact information (name, address, email, phone, affiliation).

Send proposals to: Aimee E. Newell, Ph.D., Director of Collections, National Heritage Museum, by email at anewell@monh.org or by mail to 33 Marrett Road, Lexington, MA 02421.

Deadline for proposals to be received is December 15, 2011. For more information about the National Heritage Museum, see www.nationalheritagemuseum.org. For questions, contact Aimee E. Newell as above, or call (781) 457-4144.

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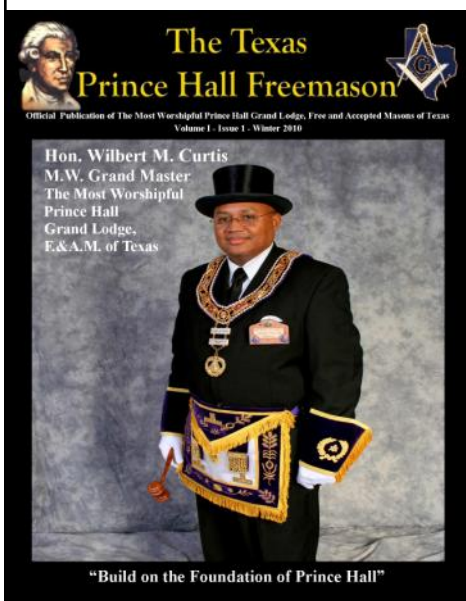


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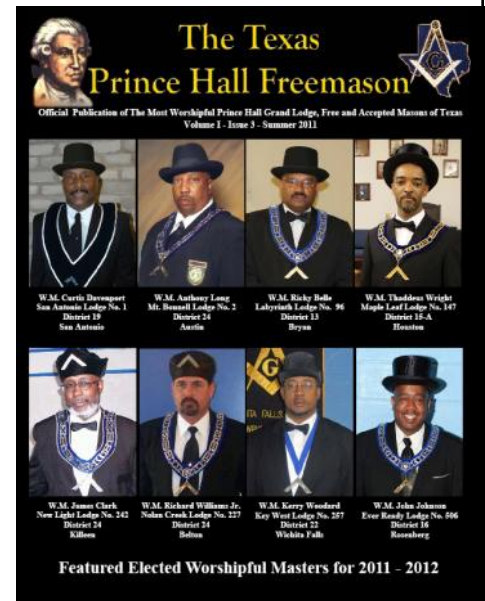
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