

Prince Hall Masonic Journal

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, State of Illinois Fall 2011 Special Edition



Recognize accomplishments when and where they are due.



Has our united brotherhood maintained its strength?



What Come Ye Here to Do?

If pictures can say a thousand words, what would these say or ask today?



Do we leverage the team in decision-making?



Stay on the level.



A strong start with quality membership breeds staying power.



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From the Office of Most Worshipful Brother Otis W. Cromartie Sr. Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons for the State of Illinois and Its Jurisdiction

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

In addition to my general comments regarding the state of the order, you should also know that I met with the Heads of all Houses on Thursday, 19 May 2011 and we had a fruitful meeting where several issues were addressed. Your support and dedication to the Prince Hall Masonic Family is greatly appreciated, the utmost of my endeavors with dignity, respect and honor.

First, it is my prayer and hope that this message will find you and your family in the best of health and enjoying the many blessings each of us are granted free of charge by the giver of all of our needs each and every day. At the meeting, several topics were discussed and I thought you would appreciate knowing about topics discussed that were of a common interest. The topic discussed that received the most attention that I think you would appreciate hearing about pertained to Unification. The matter of Unification was addressed and the specific area that you may be interested in pertain to Annual Session Registration Fees. The registration fees were determined by a process of reviews, comparison, and data analysis which took into account and consideration all of the action, events and activities required and used for our last session to determine a fair, economical and the appropriate fee for the 2011 upcoming session. I am comfortable and satisfied that the review and the analysis procedures used, were accurate and the conclusions reached will cover cost associated with everything that encompasses the entire Unification Session. After all, the Grand Lodge belongs to the Prince Hall Masonic Family, not to the Grand Officers including the Grand Master. Future meetings with the Heads of Houses will be scheduled to continue the established lines of communication to ensue all matters of common interest to all members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family are given utmost consideration.

Congratulations to all Brothers and Sisters who joined with us as members of the oldest fraternity in the world this past year. We hope you enjoyed our State Wide Welcome Orientation Session and that you learned something about the history of the orders and the additional information given to you will further explain the opportunities for becoming affiliated with other elements of the order available to each of you. Now that you are in, we hope that your expectations were met. If you know someone interested in participating in charitable services in the community, becoming a member of the fraternity will provide them that opportunity, so be sure and assist them with understanding the procedures on how to receive a petition. "You must ask one to become one."

Brothers and Sisters, to increase your knowledge, enhance your ability and to become informed ritualistic and to expand your leadership skills, I encourage you to attend the Grand Chapter classes and the Grand Lodge School classes and especially the Grand Lodge Leadership Classes. Be on the lookout for the class dates announced

by the Grand Lecturers beginning in August each year.

Brothers and Sisters, your Grand Lodge has undertaken several fund raising initiatives to make up the difference between projected income and actual income to assist with continuing the Temple Rehab Program. Those of you who have paid a visit to the Temple on a regular basis can see the progress being made with the rehab of the Temple. We need everyone's support physically and financially to keep the Temple rehab program going. I am asking and encouraging each of you to make donations, individually, collectively, or physically explicitly for continuation to the Temple Rehab Program.

The Grand Lodge has been told that we have at our disposal the assistance of at least three 501-c-3 Charitable Funds/Foundations that are available to assist the Grand Lodge in several areas of its charitable community assistance programs. These Funds/Foundations are all independent entities and are in no way under the control or subject to the directions of the Grand Lodge. However, they are great opportunities that they can offer to assist the Grand Lodge and all Concordant and Affiliated Bodies with all charitable and community service programs such as the Scholarship Assistance Program, Feed-the-Needy Program, Child Identification Program (IL-CHIP) and Emergency Assistance Support programs. The Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund was organized, formed and established specifically to provide assistance in all the programs and it is currently working towards those ends. In order for the Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund to be effective, proficient and capable to provide the assistance necessary and needed, the assistance of all members is necessary along with the assistance from each Lodge, Chapter, Court, Guild, Council, etc. I encourage everyone to make a monetary donation to the PHHBF by making a check made payable to MWPHGL-PHHBF and mail to:

MWPHGL of Illinois
Attn: RW Bro. Vincent Sykes
President PHHBF
809 East 42nd Place
Chicago, Illinois 60653

All donations are tax exempt.

Thank you for your attention and for listening. May the blessings of the Deity be with you and your family, the Prince Hall Masonic Family, and the United States of America.

*Most Worshipful Brother
Otis W. Cromartie Sr.
Grand Master*



Editorial

The solemn notes that betoken the dissolution of this earthly tabernacle continue to alarm our outer doors and spirits continue to pass to that land where our fathers have gone before us. We assemble among the habitations of the dead to behold the narrow houses which are appointed for all of the living but do we keep our focus on that narrow path and that straight gate which leads unto eternal life. The Apostle Paul tells us in First Corinthians 13: 1 of the Holy Bible that "though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." Well, when we relate this to the Masonic Order, are we just making noise or are we about the business of our Heavenly Father. It prompts one and all to ask the question—"What come ye here to do?"

When I became a Mason nearly fifteen years ago, the aforementioned was one of the first questions asked of me by my first Worshipful Master Brother Charles Holiday. As I began to move forward and gain a better understanding of the history of the Order in Illinois, I also began understand that there is a responsibility associated with the work that we claim to be about. That work is charity and it must be in the hearts of men to do those works without the want of special recognition. It must be done to fill the voids that present themselves in this life. Being a child of God, the satisfaction that the deeds have helped others is satisfaction enough.

When I look at the old photos of Masons and listen to the current words of our Grand Master relative to dignity, honor and respect, I am reminded of the catalyst of our cause. That catalyst was the common bond placed upon African Americans, namely, the horrid institution of Slavery and her remnants produced through various forms of racial discrimination. The works of charity during these periods freed thousands and it was by that labor, without the want for recognition, trophies, awards or special assemblies, that this work drew the eyes of the Masonic Order to the shores of Lake Michigan. The effort produced a legacy that lives on today—160 years later—with great pride as the Prince Hall Masonic Order is the oldest African American organization within the State of Illinois.

It is my hope that the photos and stories herein contained provoke you into action, that they stir up some dormant emotions, and that the honor displayed therein transform into an increased respect for the past. It is my hope that they push you further, that they force you to bring something new to the table and that they say these words with high volume - "the job is not over, you still have work to do." Yes, the hills have eyes and they do speak and tell us that we have to continue to improve. They say in a loud voice simply "improve or die!"

*Right Worshipful Brother
Daryl L. Andrews
Editor*

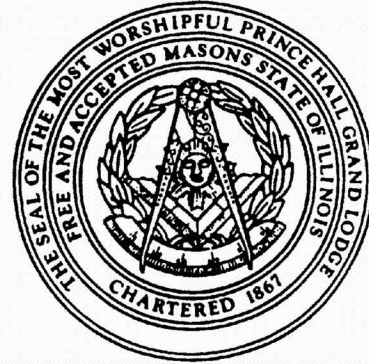
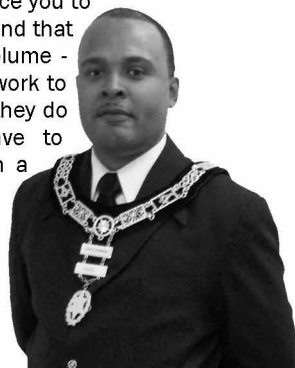


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African Lodge #459

On March 2, 1784, African Lodge #1 petitioned the Grand Lodge of England, the Premier or Mother Grand Lodge of the world, for a warrant (or charter), to organize a regular Masonic lodge, with all the rights and privileges thereunto prescribed. The Grand Lodge of England issued a charter on September 29, 1784 to African Lodge #459, the first lodge of Blacks in America.

Become a member of African Lodge #459 TODAY!!!

Visit www.PrinceHall.org

for membership information.

Phylaxis Society

THE PHYLAXIS SOCIETY is an international organization of Prince Hall Freemasons dedicated to studying the life of Prince Hall and researching the history of Prince Hall Freemasonry.

Any Regular Master Mason may become a member of the Phylaxis Society and thus may participate in all the Society's activities. He must be a member in good standing of a regularly constituted Masonic Lodge.

Become a member of the Phylaxis Society TODAY!!!

Visit www.ThePhylaxis.org



PHAMILY AFFAIRS



Fire Strikes Southern Cross Lodge Hall

Fire gutted the hall of Southern Cross Lodge #112 in East St. Louis on Monday night, March 21, 2011. The home of multiple Lodges and Concordant Bodies, the fire started at about 9:00PM according to East St. Louis Fire Chief Jason Blackmon destroying the contents of the magnificent edifice which was initially erected in the 19th century. The fire, which was discovered shortly after a meeting on Monday night, continued to burn through early Tuesday morning until the blaze was wrestled under control by the East St. Louis Fire Department.

The efforts to rebuild the hall and replace regalia are underway at this time. Donations can be made through the Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund:

MWPHGL—PHHBF
Attn: RW Brother Vincent Sykes
809 East 42nd Place
Chicago, Illinois 60653

Visit www.SouthernCross112.com for more information





Pythagoras in Texas

Pictured above—WM Jerry Martin, GM Wilbur Curtis, WM Tony Roberts

Under the leadership of Worshipful Brother Tony A. Roberts, members of Pythagoras Lodge #134 visited the Jurisdiction of Texas to extend the bonds of brotherhood through a shared blood bond. The blood brother of WM Roberts is none other than Worshipful Brother Jerry L. Martin Sr., Worshipful Master of Wyatt T. Johnson Lodge #21 of Waco, Texas. The Lodge is extremely active in community affairs in the City of Waco and collaborate regularly with local organizations to improve the impact on the community at large. Over the Holiday Season, the Lodge teamed up with VFW Post #8577 and assisted over 500 veterans and their families with food and toys for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The further assisted by laying more than 2,400 wreaths for veterans who have given their lives for freedom. These efforts are in complete alignment with the objectives of Freemasonry and are easily transferable despite the boundaries presented by geography. Undoubtedly, efforts such as these will be spearheaded by Pythagoras Lodge in the near future.

Pictured below—Pythagoras Lodge #134 members



Jachin Junior Craft Council



Jachin Junior Craft Council #24 proved to be excellent salesmen on Saturday, April 23, 2011 in their efforts to raise funds for their planned activities. Their Bake Sale held at the Grand East was a grand success. Cookies, Red Velvet Cake, Peach Cobbler, Brownies and other desserts were in abundance. At the end of the day, the bulk of the items were sold. On behalf of the Council, the Craft Master gave personal words of thanks to all who supported. He said "I would like to thank everyone who bought desserts from us and thank the brothers of Jachin Lodge #133 for their support."



Congratulations!





PG Porter & Guiding Light Black & White Ball

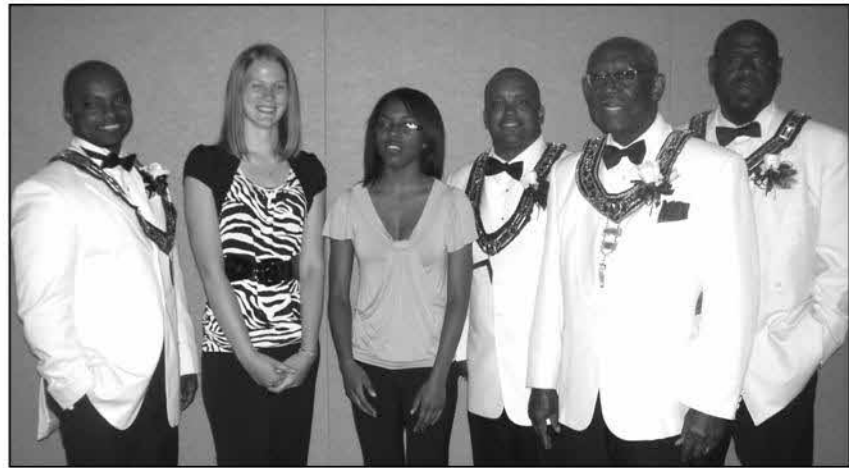
By Most Worshipful Brother
Earl D. Scott, #142

In May of 2011, the brethren and sisters of P.G. Porter Lodge #142 and Guiding Light Chapter #148, OES hosted their annual Joint Black and White Banquet to provide scholarships for students pursuing higher education and to honor a few of their very own.

Two scholarship recipients were selected from a pool of applicants based on their levels of academic achievement. By placing an emphasis on their performances in school, the recipients maintained a strong academic record and demonstrated humanitarian qualities that have a positive impact on society. Both recipients, attendees at collegiate institutions were at the top of their classes at their respective schools and were honored, at the affair in the presence of family and friends from across the state.

There were also three specific honorees for the evening, namely, Most Worshipful Brother Earl D. Scott, Worshipful Brother James E. Cotton Jr. and Sister Marguerita Cotton. Collectively these three honorees have over 91 years of experience and dedication to this Order. All three esteemed honorees are devoted to charitable works within the P.G. Porter / Guiding Light community and exhibit high degrees of moral uprightness. Having diligently served their respective Lodge and Chapter, they were natural honorees.

Most Worshipful Brother Scott holds many current and past titles within this fraternal body of which Past Grand Master is only one. In his Lodge he can be counted upon to be the first to not only offer his physical support but also his wisdom and finances. Bro. Scott has often stated this phrase, "If there is no value added, then what's the point?"



Well on that night the Brothers and Sisters confirmed that without his much needed support, that there would be no value added.

Sis. Cotton was the sitting Worthy Matron when the Master of Ceremonies and several others entered the Order forcing the remembrance of the excitement and dedication she exhibited at that time. From that time to the current date, her spirit has not changed and it was affirmed that without Sister Cotton's secretarial skills, Guiding Light would certainly have faltered. A steady and able soldier, she sees to it that all books and paper work are in order as well as the Sisters. Bro Cotton was the sitting WP along side Sister Cotton nearly 15 years ago. The Master of Ceremonies recounted that she would be remiss in her duties as a Sister if she failed to mention how Bro. Cotton could be counted upon to ensure that all not only knew the laws of the Order but also that they were upheld in the Chapter room. She stated "it might take him a minute to say it but you can rest assured that he will let us know if something is not being done according to the law."

The magnificent occasion parted with words of wisdom from the MC - "May we all gain something of importance from the time that we spend together; may we grasp it with both hands and make wonderful memories to carry with us."

2nd District Degree Team Passes and Raises in Joliet

By DDGL Adrian V. Cooley, #155

On Saturday, March 12, 2011 a group of lodges convened in Joliet, IL in the Second District to perform one of their greatest duties as Freemasons. Hosted by Stone City #35 in Joliet, ten candidates from Stone City, Welcome Star #36, Western Star #87, Jephtha #90 and True #136 were "raised" and welcomed into the Prince Hall Masonic Family.

Prior to the Master Mason degree, the Fellowcraft degree was conferred on eight candidates. The captain of the degree team was W. Bro. Adrian V. Cooley, D.D.G.L. The team consisted of Second District Deputies, Past Masters and Worshipful Masters sitting in all principal officer stations and the place of the Senior Deacon for each degree. Second District Coordinator, Reinaldo Walker, D.D.G.M. gave wholesome instruction to the new Brethren afterwards. Plentiful food and refreshments were served afterwards.

Second Degree Team

- Worshipful Master—DDGL Adrian Cooley
- Senior Warden—WM William Branch, #87
- Junior Warden—WM Mike Jones, #90
- Senior Deacon—DDGM Antonio Terry
- Senior Steward—Jeremy Wilson, #35
- Junior Steward—Douglas Caradine, #155

Third Degree Team

- Worshipful Master—PM Maurice Williams, #90
- Senior Warden—WM William Branch, #87
- Junior Warden—WM Floyd Woods Jr., #35
- Senior Deacon—DDGL Eugene Daniel
- Senior Steward—Jeremy Wilson, #35
- Junior Steward—Douglas Caradine, #155
- JA—Jeremy Wilson, #35
- JO—W. Robinson, #90
- JM—DDGM Tim Harris



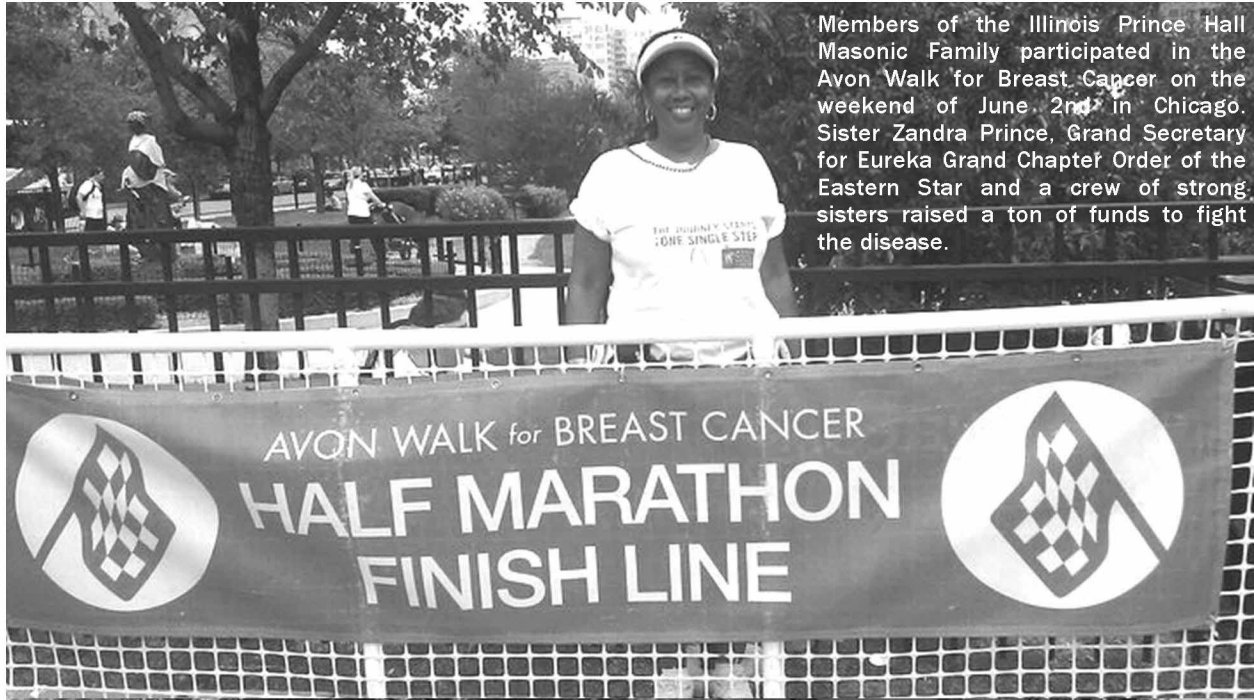


Prince Hall Masonic Family Fights Cancer



65 members of the Illinois Prince Hall Masonic Family walked 5 miles to raise funds to fight cancer on Sunday, May 15, at the American Cancer Society's Annual Walk and Roll event. The efforts of the day were coordinated by Sisters Yvette Holcomb of Talma #2 and Aisha Ato of King David #90 OES. Gathering in front of the Cancer Survivors Tent, the group shared a moment of prayer before embarking upon the 5 mile journey. Armed with personalized water bottles from the current Mason of the Year, PM Carl Garner and Worshipful Brother James Hannah of Mt. Hebron Lodge #29, the teams marched through the frigid breeze and rain waters to raise thousands for those distressed by the Big C—CANCER.





Members of the Illinois Prince Hall Masonic Family participated in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer on the weekend of June 2nd in Chicago. Sister Zandra Prince, Grand Secretary for Eureka Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star and a crew of strong sisters raised a ton of funds to fight the disease.





Keystone Lodge #15 Sponsors: "Reading for Rides"



By DDGM Antonio Terry, #15

For the second straight year the Brothers of Keystone #15 have rolled out what they call "The Reading for Rides Program". After receiving the thumbs up from the superintendent of District 131 and the cooperation from the Principals of the three targeted schools, the brothers were able to put their program into play. The program is designed to coincide with any reading initiative already in play at the schools. If no initiatives are available, the program can stand as a new one. How it all works is for every book report received, the child would receive one entry into the drawing which provides every child with an equal opportunity at winning. The more books they read, the greater their chances of winning. Every child in the 3rd - 5th grade is eligible to participate.

Two weeks before spring break the bikes are delivered. They are delivered assembled and during school hours. Seeing the brothers wheel those bikes down the hallways really gets the kids revved up and excited. The feed back from the teachers has also been tremendous. There were teachers who stated that their fathers had been Masons and were happy to see the fraternity doing this for the kids. There were 2nd graders who could not wait to pass to the 3rd grade so they could be in the contest. The Lodge has already been contacted by a school Principal who wants his school to be included next year because of the good things he has heard from the other Principals. The brothers of Keystone understand that education is the currency of the future and reading is the basic foundation on which academic skills are built.

The Reading for Rides Program has allowed the Brothers of Keystone to do their small part in the positive promotion of building better reading skills for a better education.





History is the Foundation of Who We Are

Historic Research Projects Underway at the Grand East



Grand Lodge Historical Committee helps South Carolina Brother trace his Masonic roots

By W. Bro. Adrian V. Cooley, P.M. #155

Some time ago I was contacted by Bro. Ruges Stockton of South Carolina to help find about his ancestors who were members of the jurisdiction of the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois. He hails from St. Paul Lodge #8 in Sumter, S.C. With the assistance of the Chairman of the Grand Historical Committee, R.W. Bro. Daryl Andrews, we discovered that Bro. Stockton's great-great -Grandfather Bro. William B. Freeman was the charter Worshipful Master of I.H. Kelly lodge #11. In addition Bro. Freeman's brother Charles Freeman was the charter lodge secretary.

Bro. Stockton comes from a line of trailblazers in another fraternal organization as well. Bro. Stockton's grandfather and namesake, Ruges Freeman was a charter member of the Beta Eta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. in 1934. Bro. Stockton believes Bro. Ruges Freeman was also a Mason but we were not able to determine his Masonic affiliation.

Grand Lodge Speakers Bureau Reaches Out to BGLOs—Black Greek Letter Organizations

In recognition of the shared lineage of African American fraternal organizations, the Speakers Bureau held a meeting at the Grand East to discuss the possibility of building bridges with Black Greek Letter Organizations (BGLOs) in the Illinois Jurisdiction. In order to develop a framework to approach the organizations, the following Masonic Brothers, some of whom belong to BGLOs, met at the Grand East earlier this year:

- RW Bro. Daryl Andrews
- RW Bro. Damon P. Anderson Sr. (Kappa Alpha Psi)
- RW Bro. Steven R. Coleman
- W. Bro. Lloyd Womack—Grand Historian (Kappa Alpha Psi)
- W. Bro. James "Tiny" Blanton III (Alpha Phi Alpha)
- W. Bro. Richard Wooten (Omega Psi Phi)

The meeting produced a number of possibilities including :

- Collaboration with youth initiatives (IL CHIP, etc.)
- Development of joint mentorship programs
- Extension of invitations to public affairs

As we each do great things in the same communities, future collaboration will increase the impacts that we all have on society. Based on the feedback from those in attendance and subsequent approval from Grand Master Otis Cromartie, invitations were extended to each organization in the Chicago area to attend St. Johns' Day. In addition, Past Master Tyrone Jackson delivered the message directly to the National Pan Hellenic Council of Chicago. More information to come.

Local Phylaxis Society Chapter Takes Research and Knowledge Transfer to New Levels through Quarterly Meetings and Presentations

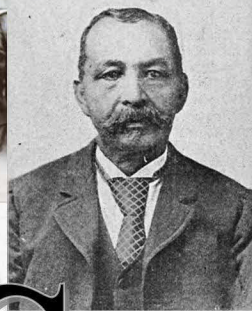
Having been in existence since 2008, the Brian L. Abrams Sr. Chapter of the Phylaxis Society continues to serve as a model for detailed Masonic Research and Presentations. Under the leadership of Adrian Cooley, new findings have been revealed relative to the roots of Freemasonry in Illinois. In addition, facts about popular Masonic figures have also been revealed from the research of the group. While the internet is a bountiful source of information, all information contained on WebPages is not completely factual. By double checking and triple checking the resources, the group has not only been able to de-bunk myths and rumors but also uncovered missing pieces of history which have not seen the light of day in ages. Most recently, facts not commonly known about John G. Jones, "Father of Unrecognized Black Masonry", were revealed at the June meeting of the group. Future meetings and presentations are bound to reveal more information. For the past year, the quarterly meetings have been arranged by PM Lawrence Walker, First Vice President, and held at L26 Restaurant located at 11 West 26th Street in Chicago, Illinois—South Loop Hotel. The invitation to attend the presentations have been opened to all Master Masons in good standing. If you would like to become a part of the Chapter, please contact any one of the following officers for more information:

- President—Adrian V. Cooley
- First Vice President—Lawrence Walker
- Second Vice President—Bill Harlan
- Secretary—Eugene Daniel

Grand Historian Researching Founders of Black Greek Letter Organizations

In conjunction with the efforts of the Grand Lodge Speakers Bureau, Worshipful Brother Lloyd Womack is engaging in research efforts to identify the connection between many of the founders of the Black Greek Letter Organizations and the Masonic Order. Many books have been written on how the Prince Hall Masonic Order has influenced the formation of social and civic organizations to practice the virtues of brotherly love and relief. Once the details have been solidified from these research efforts, a much clearer picture can be drawn. His efforts to date have revealed definite connections with the Alpha Phi Alpha and Omega Psi Phi Fraternities. If you have information that can shed light on this topic, please feel free to forward it to:

MWPHGL of Illinois
 Attn: Office of the Grand Historian
 809 East 42nd Place
 Chicago, Illinois 60653



What Come Ye He

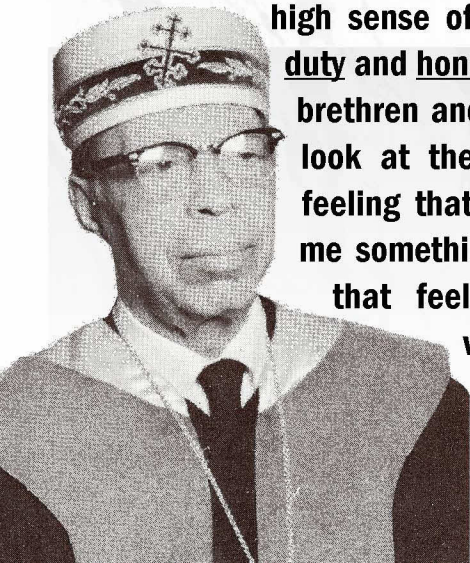
by R.W. Bro. Daryl L. Andrews

So often we get caught up in our own sense of grandeur that we forget the true purpose of our organization. To remind ourselves, we should take a look back at the days of old to review the signs of the times. A great way to accomplish this is to view the photos of years past that they may speak to us and remind us of the reasons why we exist.

I often look at them with intrigue. I see style and a high sense of elegance. I also see duty and honor on the faces of those brethren and sisters. The deeper I look at them, I get that strange feeling that they are trying to tell me something. Have you ever had that feeling? Have you ever walked through the halls of a museum or photo gallery and taken a deeper look

at individual photographs? Have you ever tried to imagine the thought on that person's mind? How about the thoughts on the minds of persons in group photos? What were they thinking at the time, what were they saying to one another, what are they saying to me today? Well, some probably say, "I am proud of myself because I look good." Some say, "watch your back brother!" Others say, "there is more to me than what you see." Some say "don't forget who you are and what you represent!" Some say, "if you see something that is broken, go ahead and fix it!" Others say, "dignity, honor and respect above all things." Yes, they speak volumes.

While some give strong or bold statements, others appear to be asking questions. The question from a formidable stare could be "do you truly understand that you have a responsibility to be an asset to society?" Questions from group photos could be asking or admonishing "do you know the sacrifices that we made for you? Don't waste it!" Others could be asking "is there still strength in our unity? As





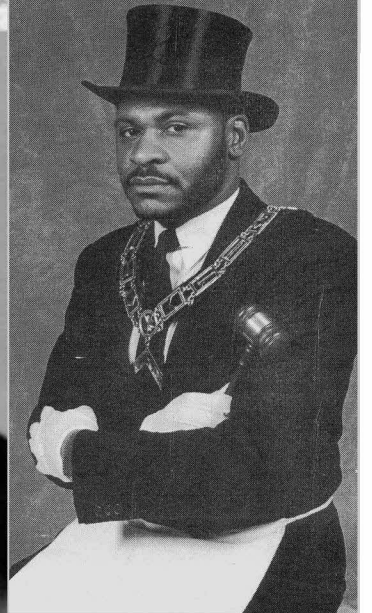
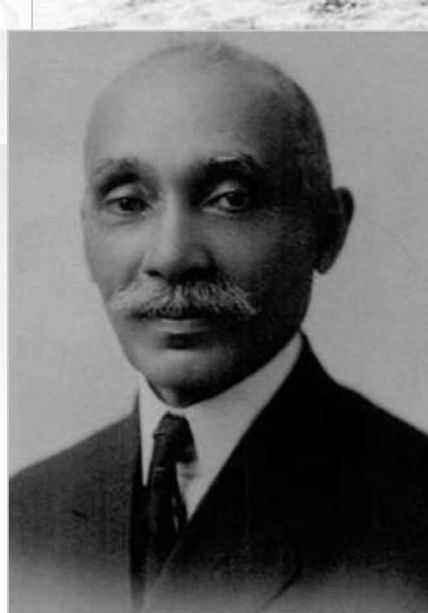
ere to Do?

long as we work together we will prevail." If you look closely, they may be speaking directly to YOU.

If those individuals were able to return to this plane for one day I'd bet that they would like to know if we are working like we should be, are we pushing for higher heights, have we built upon the foundation that was laid? What would your answers be?

I'd also bet that they could take us to church with the answers to some of their own questions. On the question relative to responsibility they might say something like "by accepting the obligations of this organization you have taken on the burden of service. For what are we if we are not meant to serve? Better yet, what are we if we do not serve? We are, then, like clinging brass as the Apostle Paul wrote in one of his many letters to the church. We just make noise. Either that or we'd be like wounded animals making noise so that someone can put us out of our misery." Having taken our various obligations in solemn fashion, we could not...

(continued on next page)





...possibly be the latter. So we must serve through the practices of dispensing brotherly love, relief and truth?"

What if we did not do a darn thing? What if we believed that attendance at monthly meetings is all that is required to be a good member? Well, we'd simply go gently into that good night contrary to the words of poet Dylan Thomas:

*Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

*Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.*

*Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

*Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.*

*Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

*And you, my father, there on the sad height,
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*



Walt Whitman claims "I sound my barbaric yawp over the roofs of the world." Our actions must match our yawp despite the challenges that come our way. We must meet them with the same sense of determination suggested by William Ernest Henley:

*Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.*

*In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.*

*It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul."*

So our deeds must match our words. Our walks must match our talks. We must be focused, steady, unified and determined in our efforts. Acceptance of these values and acting upon them will ensure success in our endeavors. This is the message that the photos have given to me.

Now, with all of that said, what come ye here to do? Do you come here to improve yourself? Do you come here to help others? Do you share best practices with all and work to be a benevolent force for society? As you have come here of your own free will and accord, I believe that you do. So show us that which you have come here to do! Take pride in your actions and appearance! Keep your standards high and stick to your guns! **BE** the Master of your soul and push for greater accomplishments! For if we do not, we will go gently into that good night.



**"We laid the groundwork for your growth and development.
Now, Continue to achieve!"**



Past Worthy Grand Matrons and Patrons Council circa early 1920s

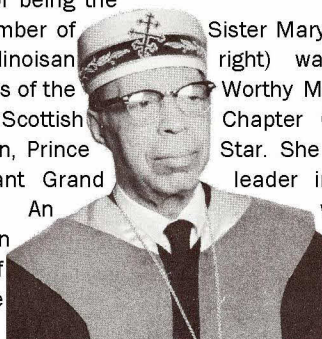
Please be advised that all of the Sisters and Brothers in this photo have not been identified as of yet. Many of the names of the individuals within this photograph were identified with assistance from Past Grand Master William L. Norman who provided the photos for the Fall 2007 edition of the Prince Hall Masonic Journal (Pages 24-25). This edition spotlighted the Past Worthy Grand Matrons and Patrons of Eureka Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star. Those which have been identified are as follows:

(Seated l to r) Rebecca D. Boone, Mary E. Davenport, S.V. Bean; (Second Row) R. Troutman, Richard E. Moore, Frances E. Lewis, Louise C. Webb, unknown, unknown; Third Row: Unknown, unknown, Thomas H. Samuels, unknown, Rueben G. Bell



Sister Rebecca D. Boone (left) was the first Grand Worthy Matron (now styled as Worthy Grand Matron) of Eureka Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star. The first Grand Worthy Patron (now styled as Worthy Grand Patron) was Richard E. Moore (top-right). Together, they laid the foundation for the Grand Chapter which remains in existence today.

Moore served as Grand Patron while serving as Grand Secretary for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois. He not only has the distinction of being the Grand Secretary to serve the longest number of consecutive terms but also was the first Illinoisan to be elected to one of the top three offices of the United Supreme Council Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Northern Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliated. He served as Lieutenant Grand Commander until his death in 1922. An Illinoisan would not rise to that height in the Scottish Rite until the elevation of Frank M. Summers (center) to the same position in 1968.



A Past Grand Polemarch of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity from 1951-52, Sovereign Grand Inspector General Summers, was not only selected as the Deputy for the Orient of Illinois in 1942 but was also appointed as the first Deputy for the Orient of Wisconsin in 1950. A prominent attorney, he rose to become the first Illinoisan elected to the office of Sovereign Grand Commander in 1974 and the first Scottish Rite Mason to be styled Sovereign Grand Commander Emeritus by the national organization.



Sister Mary E. Davenport (bottom-right) was the eighth Grand Worthy Matron of Eureka Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star. She was not only an elite leader in the Order but also within the Chicago Police Department. She was the **first black** Police Matron in the City of Chicago.





Reverend Charles A. Bowlar of Ionic Lodge #46 was one of the foremost civil rights activists in the City of Cairo. His civic efforts were extraordinary as he worked along with fellow brethren and sisters in the ministry and the fraternity to improve conditions for African Americans in the Cairo vicinity. He is the namesake of the Lodge of Perfection for Hiram Consistory #51.

Richard Howell Gleaves was one of the most popular African Americans on a national level in the 19th Century. This former Lieutenant Governor of the State of South Carolina in 1872 and 1874 and Past Grand Master of Ohio formed the first Lodge of Masons in Illinois, North Star Lodge, nearly 160 years ago.



Likewise, Professor John Calhoun Lewis of Ionic Lodge #46, a Past Grand Worthy Patron of Eureka Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star and Past District Deputy of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois, was a civic stalwart. Professor Lewis and his wife, Past Grand Worthy Matron Cordelia O. Lewis (who served in 1912 and 1913), were teachers of the highest caliber who traveled across Southern Illinois to provide a high

Louis Isbell, a founding member of North Star Lodge in Chicago, was one of several brethren who risked his life as an abolitionist on the Underground Railroad to save African Americans from bondage. His efforts in conjunction with those of many of the members of North Star Lodge, G.T. Watson Lodge of Alton and Central Lodge of Springfield saved thousands from the throngs of that horrid institution of Slavery. This photo of Isbell was taken at the turn of the century as he was one of the last living African Americans to have fought in the American Civil War.



quality of education for the deprived African American communities. Their efforts generated countless African American graduates from the local schools. Their love produced a son, Dr. Julian Lewis, who became the first black to receive a Ph.D. in Science in 1913.

"Keep your eyes on the prize and remain focused on the communities in which you live and serve."



Colonel John R. Marshall was the commanding officer of the Eighth Illinois Regiment stationed in Santiago, Cuba in 1898 during the Spanish American War. The charter Worshipful Master of Universal Lodge #65, Colonel Marshall led the predominantly African American regiment with great pride and efficiency

setting an excellent example of a true soldier in the midst of heightened racial unrest. Many of his subordinate officers were Illinois Prince Hall Masons including Lt. Colonel James R. Johnson (charter Senior Warden of Universal Lodge), Major Robert R. Jackson (charter Worshipful Master of Olive Branch Lodge #94), Major Dr. Allen A. Wesley (North Star Lodge #1), Lieutenant Clinton Hill (Universal Lodge #65), First Lieutenant Edward S. Miller (Unity Lodge #16) and First Lieutenant James W. Curtis (Central Lodge #3) just to name a few. They fought with pride as representatives of their race and as true Americans.





"We have documented the past and know the pitfalls. As such, proceed with caution but be diligent in service."



One of the most important African Americans in Northern Illinois, Ferdinand Barnett of Hiram Lodge #14, owned and operated "The Conservator", Chicago First Black Newspaper which was founded in 1878. This newspaper was the second black newspaper in the country having succeeded the Cairo Weekly Gazette which was formed in 1862 by William T. Scott. The Conservator gained popularity largely due to the writings of Ida B. Wells. Her coverage of racial unrest across the nation drew attention to the African American communities. The attention was leveraged to strengthen the bonds between blacks and foster a wave of self-improvement. In doing, so the civic and political landscapes for the communities in which they lived changed for the better. After becoming one of the first ten blacks to be admitted to the Illinois BAR, Attorney Barnett released editorial control to Wells in 1895 to focus on his law practice. He made this move three years after he won election as Senior Grand Warden (now known as Grand Senior Warden) of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois. As he devoted much of time to his law practice, he was appointed as the first black Assistant States Attorney in Illinois by Charles S. Deneen. As in the media business and in the fraternal circles, Barnett again followed the example of Scott who had won election as Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge in 1878. History has also documented that Scott was the first black to run for the Office of President of the United States on the Liberty Ticket in 1904. Unfortunately, issues motivated by racial unrest led to the replacement of Scott on the ticket within weeks after his selection by another Prince Hall Mason, namely, George Taylor of Central Lodge #3.



PGM Obed Vanderburg congratulates Mayor Harold Washington on winning the election as the first black Mayor of the City of Chicago and becoming a member of Harmony Lodge #88 (above). Sovereign Grand Inspector General E. Winifred "Doc" Helm offers similar words of congratulations (below).



"The number of 'First Blacks' who were Prince Hall Masons is impressive. Will there be more someday?"



1958 Junior Craftsmen Annual Banquet Photo in collaboration with the National Urban League

**"Maintain a strong and continued focus on our Youth!
Without them, our legacy dies."**



"Be not only builders of edifices, but also builders of better men!"



The Once a Month, Two Hour Mason



By Past Master David Fields, #137

I, David Fields, came into the Masonic Order in March of 1996. It was one of the most exciting times in my life. My father and brother were Masons. So, following in the footsteps of the two of them, I was convinced that this was the right thing to do. I had a clear understanding of what Masonry was about and what was expected of me. However, as I attended my monthly meetings, some things became even more clear to me—Everyone who comes into the Masonic Order is not about the Order!

Everyone has his own reason as to why they became a Mason. Some for the right to say "I belong to one of the oldest and finest fraternities in the world." Others. Come for knowledge, wisdom and a sense of honor and pride. You should ask yourself this question—"why did I come to join?" Then ask yourself, "am I a once a month two hour Mason?" As you sit in your monthly meetings, do you see brothers who want to know and want to learn but are not given a chance? If not, ask yourself where is the leadership!?! This is one of the reasons why we lose brothers. Yet, we can't understand why this keeps happening. Maybe it is because we are not Masons first in our hearts as we said we were.

We should take a deeper look inside of our own hearts before we pass judgment on anyone. Most of the time it's not the other person, it's YOU! Remember it starts with the first impression that was shown. To many, this is the lasting impression that many who do not belong to the fraternity hold on to. Isn't it funny how quickly time flies by. Do you remember when you first came into your Lodge, as your sat

there not knowing what to expect, you just sat and watched as the brothers talked about whatever was on the Worshipful Master's trestleboard. Then you heard someone say "I move that we do..." something (whatever it was) and then someone say "I second" and you just wanted to be a part of it. Then, when you became a part of it and gained more knowledge about other things you were just excited to be involved. That was a good thing wasn't it? Now, those same brothers that you looked up to, those same brothers who brought forward the ideas, where are they now? Now, you may see them once a month for two hours. Or, when it comes time for learning and practicing degree work, those same brothers, who disappeared, are the same ones who want to correct every single thing that you say and do and are extra-critical of every single act. But, dig this, the funny thing about it is that they have a ritual in their hands and you say all of the parts from memory without needing any assistance. Funny isn't it. They are the once a month, two hour Masons. Is that person you?

Have you noticed that when it is time for School of Instruction that you only see a few brothers participate from your Lodge. But, if someone says "it's a party at the club" or "a party at my house" they are the first ones to get the party started with a drink in hand and the last ones to leave. You almost have to put them out of the club or out of your house. Where is the dedication that was in your heart when you first came into the Masonic Order? It seems as if everything else has become more important than attending your monthly meeting. You say to yourself "I am not going to my meeting this month" but isn't that the same thing you said last month? And now it's the last month of the year and the Lodge is voting for new officers and you have to ask one of your brothers to nominate you for a position. You get surprised that the brother looks at you and questions you because he hasn't seen you in the last nine months. You reply "because I am your boy and if I get this seat I will make sure that you get one too." So he nominates you and there is a runoff and you only get two votes. Now, you're mad and ask for a demit to another Lodge forgetting that the other Lodge will investigate the

demit. So, what do you think will happen when the truth comes out? Was Masonry truly in your heart? Somewhere down the line we have to stop thinking so small. O, I am very sorry some of us think that way—the big "Me" and little "You". That is why some will never get to the East in their Lodges.

Another thing we should take a look at is why do some brothers think that the Lodge will fold without them. Some think they are THE LODGE. We need to teach brothers that the Masonic Order is not simply a social club but is an opportunity to learn to subdue their passions and improve themselves in this world. The once a month, two hour Mason does not understand this. He does not understand that he has an obligation to himself as well as to others and if your mind is not of those things then, guess what, you may be that once a month, two hour Mason after all.

The reason I feel compelled to speak on this topic is because we have some brothers that are only once a month, two hour Masons. After they attend their meetings, Masonry seems to be over for them. They do not preach or practice Masonry nor try to live their lives as Masons. Have you taken the time to look around while attending your Lodge meetings to see who is involved, to see who asks questions, to see who really cares about the Lodge? Is your Lodge growing and are the members knowledgeable about the law? Are they concerned with the Lodge's direction? You should take a serious look and, if not you, then who? Sorry in advance if I am talking to a once a month, two hour Mason.

When you get real with yourself, remember that you can fool some of the people some of the time but you can never fool yourself. A wise man once said that "a thought is only a thought if you never let it manifest into action." So, come on brothers, take a lead role in your Lodge. Show other brothers that you are not a once a month, two hour Mason. Don't you owe it to yourself? Better yet, don't you owe it to the brother that brought you in the Masonic Order? (By the way, does he still come out to meetings?) Now if this seems to be knocking on your door, don't you think it is time to open it and hear the good news.



HOLY CITY LODGE ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST

Who Inspires You?

William Penn Elementary—1616 S. Avers Ave.—Chicago, Illinois 60623

The Person Who Inspires Me the Most is My Mother

By Demarcus Webb

Wow! "Who is the person who inspires you the most?" The person who inspires me the most is my mother because she takes care of me at all times. My mother also inspires me because she puts food on the table and clothes on my back. My mother is a helpful person because she can always help someone. My mother inspires me because she encourages me with the desire and ability to do things. My mother encourages me because she tells me to do the right thing. My mother also gets things that I need so I can be the best person I can be. My mother also inspires me when I get sick because she makes sure I have the best medicine ever. My mother also inspires me because she helps me with my homework when I need it. She also helps me do things like carrying or moving things. She also makes sure I have the right tools when I go to school everyday because she wants me to have everything I need. My mom also inspires me because when I get good grades in school, I get special accomplishments. She also inspires me because she tells me to always spend time with our family. My mom is always strict on me and tells me to be myself. The thing my mom does to inspire me is that she takes care of me. My mom also gives me lots of confidence to inspire me and she looks out for me at all times. She also inspired me to cook for myself, clean up

for myself and do positive things. My mom also helps me be kind to other people by talking nicely and being respectful. She is raising me to be a successful person and teaches me to ask people for help respectfully. My mom also inspires me to follow my dreams like playing in the NFL and the NBA. She inspires me to do things that I have never done before. I think my mother is the best mother ever because she is a strong woman. My mom is a big part of my life because she is the only person in my life. My mom is also a great mother because she takes care of me and my brother. When my grandmother passed away, she comforted me by cheering me up. She also reminds me of how my grandmother took care of me. She encourages me to be close to my dad even though they are not together anymore. She also inspires me by telling me to be close to my friends at all times because something could happen to me. She also inspires me because she helps me around in things that I do.

The Person Who Inspires Me the Most is Ms. Brown

By Kenneth Dobbins

Who inspires you? The person that inspires me is my teacher Ms. Brown. She inspires me because she keeps me on the right track. She wants me to learn more things that I knew last year. Ms. Brown can teach us a lot of things but we just have to simply listen to learn something. Every Friday we have a test

on what we have learned every two weeks. She might not inspire anybody else but she inspired me and she is somebody in my opinion. The way she inspires me in how she teaches me and how she teaches others to do things the right way. She teaches me everything I need to know to pass to the next grade. Ms. Brown is the toughest teacher I ever had in my whole life. She just doesn't want us to be smart but the smartest in the entire school. When I do something wrong, she spends time and helps me to learn. She inspires me to never give up and to excel. Sometimes she is mean and sometimes she is nice. It all depends on how smart we are being. She taught me a lot of strategies and ways to ace things. These are only some of the reasons why Ms. Brown inspires me. Ms. Brown gives us quizzes, tests and practice tests on everything that we need to know for the LAST test. Some kids won't even write about their teacher inspiring them but I will because she inspires me more than anyone except my family. Ms. Brown uses many books to teach me and the class where we learn about things we never knew before. If you are with Ms. Brown for a couple of years, you are going to notice that she has inspired you to follow your dreams. Ms. Brown said that her parents inspired her. She inspires me in another way also. The way that she expresses her feelings when we are reading stories is like she is really in the story. She makes me imagine the ways that they are thinking and how they are feeling in the story. The reason why I didn't write about my mom and dad is because I wanted to be different from everybody else.



The Person Who Inspires Me the Most is Michael Jordan

By Ja'nicé Baker

He may have been known as "Air Jordan" or "His Airness" but I will always refer to him as "M.J." Michael Jordan is a former American Professional Basketball Player, active businessman, and majority owner of the Charlotte Bobcats. He also was a baseball player but later returned to his career in basketball. I admire M.J. because he had many dreams and never gave up on them. Instead, he followed them and became the success he is today.

When I get older I want to become a chef. M.J. proved to me that all dreams can come true no matter your race, intelligence or neighborhood. Just like M.J., I like to play basketball so if my career in culinary arts doesn't work out I will have a fall back plan. I intend on going to college and working my hardest to become successful. But now I shall focus on passing the ISAT test and graduating.

I also admire M.J. because he symbolizes hard work and determination. If he would have given up when something came along to knock him down, there would be no NBA records for highest career regular season scoring average and there would be no such shoe or clothing line known as "Air Jordan." Without Jordan blacks

may not have been as successful on the basketball court. He paved the way for young males and females to enroll in a career in the NBA. I respect Michael Jordan and admire him for all his accomplishments and awards.

To sum up, I admire Michael Jordan, M.J., for everything he has done to help the black community and for his accomplishments in his career. Someday I would like to be as victorious and have as much to look back on with awe as he does. M.J. is a true African American leader that we all can look up to, whether Black, White, Asian or Caucasian.

The Person Who Inspires Me the Most is Tyler Perry

By Trayreena Tolliver

There are just so many African Americans who have tremendously impacted society over the years. It may have been Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, George Washington Carver, Oprah Winfrey and several more for some but the person that inspires me the most is Tyler Perry. He is an amazing actor! He is not only an actor but also a playwright, screenwriter and producer. He has overcome many obstacles in his life and, to me, it shows in every one of his TV shows and movies. That's why he's the person he is today because he didn't give up his dreams. He knew that in order to achieve his goals he had to work and put effort in everything that you do. So, therefore, he is my biggest role model.

Tyler Perry was born as Emmitt Perry Jr. in New Orleans, Louisiana on September 13, 1969. Childhood was not easy for him. While growing up he was very poor and less fortunate. At the time he lived with his mother but when he got older he decided to move out and start on his own career. Tyler dropped out of high school but later on he earned a GED. At this time he was going through so much in life that he tried to commit suicide. He was teased a lot and when he went to school everyone laughed at him and called him the class clown. He hated

what he was going through but he never let anyone get in between him and what he wanted to become. His writing career began one day when he was watching Oprah Winfrey's television talk show and he heard Oprah say that writing down one's experiences can have an effect on a person's life and that is where his career started. At the time Oprah Winfrey inspired him and that is how he inspires me.

In my opinion I feel that if it wasn't for Tyler Perry that many women would still be getting abused and beaten by their husbands. To me, he changed all of that. Several of his movies and TV shows which are "House of Payne" and "Meet the Browns". My favorite movie that he wrote and acted in is "Madea's Family Reunion". Many people may know him as Madea or Mable Simmons. I think he inspires me because he reminds me of me.

When Tyler Perry wrote his first play his mom called because it wasn't going too good and said "why don't you just give it a rest?" He hung up the phone on her because giving up was not even in his vocabulary. He hated for people to say that he couldn't do something when he knew he had the power to do it. At this point in his life, he is rich because he has lots of plays and movies out and plus he acts in the movies as well. So I know he can look up to God everyday and say "we did it!" I think that it would truly hurt him to think about how when he was poor and couldn't eat and when he was living out of a car with a friend or at one of those pay-by-the-week hotels. It was a nightmare for him. Another reason why he inspires me is because the movies he writes are just so true and honest. His movies aren't just ordinary movies but they are life lessons. I learned that after watching every one of his movies that people can relate to them and they teach you how not to do the wrong thing in life. They teach you how not to go down the wrong path.

To sum it all up, there are just so many people in the world who have done so many things. There are also so many people in the world who inspire us all. But, as you can see, the person who inspires me the most is Tyler Perry. He is my number 1 role model.



The Person Who Inspires Me the Most is Tupac Shakur

By LaMonica Holmes

As a young African American lady there are many women I look up to as strong positive role models. There are also many African American men that I can look up to as positive role models. There are men such as General Colin Powell, President Barack Obama, Michael Jordan, Whitney Young, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Tyler Perry, and Jackie Robinson who have all contributed to our society and have made an immense impact in my life. Even though all of these men have contributed to our society, there is one man who I think made a huge impact on our and that man is Tupac Amaru Shakur.

Tupac Amaru Shakur was originally born as Lesane Parish Crooks to Afeni Shakur in New York, New York in the year 1971. As a child, Tupac grew up without a father figure in his life. He was a good kid who tried to stay out of trouble but that was hard to do with his harsh everyday life. Tupac, along with his mother and sister shuffled back and forth between the Bronx and Harlem in search for a place to live. In his early teen years, his family moved to Baltimore, Maryland where his mother enrolled him in the Baltimore School of Arts where he studied acting and ballet.

Most people judged him by his raps, his "hood" mentality and the view that the media put out but most people didn't

know Tupac's life before he became famous. When Tupac was a teen he discovered his burning desire for music and poetry. After his family was evicted from their home in Baltimore, they moved to Marine City, California where Tupac began selling drugs but stopped selling drugs within two week. He was a very intelligent man and knew he didn't want to be a drug dealer so he decided he wanted to pursue a career as a rapper. Tupac started as a backup dancer for the rap group Digital Underground and was later signed to Death Row Records.

When most people looked at Tupac, they automatically assumed that he was a thug or a gangster. He loved Shakespeare, but most people don't know that because they didn't take the time to find out. I personally think he was misunderstood. If you listen to some of his early songs such as "Brenda's Got A Baby" you would see the problems that he emphasized. He was a man that would speak his mind and wasn't afraid to do so. If I didn't learn anything from Tupac, one thing that he taught me was to always speak my mind and my thoughts.

In my opinion, Tupac contributed to society in a huge way with his music! His music expressed his thoughts, told events that happened to him throughout his life, and described the harsh ghetto life that African Americans faced every single day. His songs made problems such as drug abuse, alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, broken homes, and rejection from the government visible to those who didn't even know that these problems existed. If you really think about the situation, he sold over 75 million albums worldwide and was named 86th Greatest Artist of All-Time by Rolling Stone Magazine. Now for him to become that popular as an artist and for him to have fans all over the world, he must not have been that big of a menace like people tried to make him seem. He was a very sensitive and loving person as he said himself—"the

reason I am so hard and tough is because I am so delicate and sensitive." Most people can relate to what Tupac means when he says this.

Tupac had a huge deal of respect for women of all ages and races. He also made a huge impact on our society with his song "Dear Mama". With this song he showed people all over the world how and why they should respect their mothers no matter what happens. This song showed so many people that they should cherish and appreciate their mothers. Tupac was a very strong man. Even as a kid he had a strength that many adults lack today. As a child, his mother (Afeni Shakur), a former member of the Black Panthers, got hooked on drugs but Tupac kept hanging on and helping his mother through that hard time until she was better.

Tupac worked hard at everything that he did. The man was a workaholic. All over California he put on shows to help raise money for the community. All the money that was raised went to fix up the community and make it a safe environment for children. He was a community activist and came up with many clever ways to improve the neighborhoods. Even though many people did not notice how much he contributed to our society, I sure did.

When Tupac died, his death hurt many people and the hearts of many of his fans died with him. He was announced dead on September 13, 1996. When I think about the life and legacy on Tupac, it just overwhelms me. Even though he is deceased it still feels like he never went anywhere. He was just like the average male but with the mind of a genius and the heart of an angel. He made mistakes like everyone else because he was only human and I think that is what people failed to realize. Tupac faced obstacles and he overcame them. He made a huge contribution to our society as an artist, activist and actor. He will forever be missed by millions.



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PHOTO SUBMISSION OF THE EDITION

SEE PAGE 6
FOR THE ARTICLE

“PYTHAGORAS IN TEXAS”

Pictured—Worshipful Master Jerry Martin, Most
Worshipful Brother Wilbur Curtis Grand Master of Texas
Prince Hall Masons, Worshipful Master Tony Roberts



Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund

809 E. 42nd Place * Chicago, IL 60653 * 708-455-8130 Phone

Email: PHHope@PrinceHallHopeBenevolentFund.org

Vincent N. Sykes, Sr. – President Nadine Dillanado - Vice President Cordale Brown – Treasurer
Carl Richardson – Secretary Lucas Rawls - Financial Secretary

A NONPROFIT 501(c)3 ORGANIZATION

Happy New Year to all, I hope that this letter finds you and yours in the very best of health and spirits. As you know for the past several months we have been in the process of establishing a 501(c)3 non-profit organization for the purpose of providing assistance in communities throughout the State in the following areas: Education, Feeding the Needy and the Illinois Child Identification program. This non-profit organization will provide: relief to the poor, distressed and or underprivileged; assist with the advancement of educational endeavors; and participate in preventing cruelty to children via several outreach programs. I am pleased to announce that as of December 2010 the Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund has been established to meet these needs. The distinguished board of this very necessary non-profit has been established and is now fully functioning. Please allow me to introduce the board members to you:

- Verona Portis - Member
- Vicki Yarborough - Member
- Millard Driskell - Member
- Henry Womble - Member
- Lena Roberts - Member
- Teresa Abner - Member
- Reinaldo Walker - Member
- Samuel Hurd - Member

In order for this 501(c)3 non-profit to be truly successful, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois and its Appendant and Concordant bodies must be completely committed to partnering with the non-profit Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund to reap the tax and financial benefits associated with the status of a 501(c)3. This newly established non-profit organization, Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund, will allow the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois and its Appendant and Concordant bodies to realize the Tax Benefits, Partnerships and professional contacts that will prove to be a benefit to all members.

This 501(c)3 Benevolent Fund will be open to all PHAmily members in good financial standing. This measure has been put in place to ensure total transparency and openness between the Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund and the Prince Hall Family statewide membership, and the board. The overriding accountability for the non-profit Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund resides with the Board of Directors. As such, the by-laws of this 501(c)3 are wholly and altogether autonomous from the MWPHGL of IL and its Appendant and Concordant bodies. It is the prayer of this non-profit organization and its Board of Directors that the MWPHGL of IL, its Appendant and Concordant bodies and each member of the PHAmily be entirely supportive of these endeavors. Donations can be mailed to 809 E. 42nd PL Chicago, IL 60653 or made in person at 809 on each Tues and Thurs from 7pm-9pm. All donations are tax deductible.

Fraternally,

Vincent N. Sykes, Sr.

Vincent N. Sykes, Sr.

President –Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund