

PRINCE HALL MASONIC JOURNAL

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free & Accepted Masons, State of Illinois

WINTER/SPRING 2024

ALABAMA:

59th Annual
Edmund-Pettis
"Bloody Sunday"
Commemoration



STRESS
CONTROL



HISTORICAL FOCUS ON HEALTH

Brother Matthew A. Henson



PROCLAMATION

May 1, 2024

To all Brethren wherever dispersed about the Jurisdiction of Illinois, be it known that I Roland G. Simon, Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons of the State of Illinois and Its Jurisdiction, by the power and authority in me vested, and in keeping with the By-Laws of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, State of Illinois, and Its Jurisdiction, As stated in Article 1, Section 1, do hereby summons all Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Past Masters and Lodge Representatives holding allegiance to this Grand Lodge to assemble on July 31, 2024, at 8:00am, at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre, 700 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL., to convene the 157th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, State of Illinois, and Its Jurisdiction.

Annual Reports from all Officers and Committee Chairs will be received, the State of the Craft will be reviewed and any such other business as may regularly and legally come before this Grand Lodge. All reports will cover the period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. All reports are to be typed, and in triplicate, forwarding a copy to the Office of Grand Master, Grand Secretary, and a copy retained for your files. The aforementioned reports are to be submitted and in the proper hands by July 5, 2024 to ensure that printing of the reports is completed.

Annual reports are to be typed, properly filled out, signed by the Worshipful Master, attested by the Secretary, and bearing the seal of the Lodge. The aforementioned reports are to be in the Office of the Grand Secretary by July 5, 2024 to ensure that the proper reporting by the Annual Returns Committee is executed. Failure to comply with the By-Laws as stated in Article XXVII, Page 89, of this Grand Lodge shall warrant the actions thereof.

All Elected Grand Lodge Officers are hereby requested to meet with the Most Worshipful Grand Master at 12:30pm on Tuesday, July 30, 2024 for the purpose of reviewing the budget and discussing other matters that may come before this Grand Lodge. This Proclamation is to be read at every Communication beginning May 1, 2024 and ending July 1, 2024.

Given under my hand and seal of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, State of Illinois, and Its Jurisdiction, this first day of May 2024.

Fraternally,

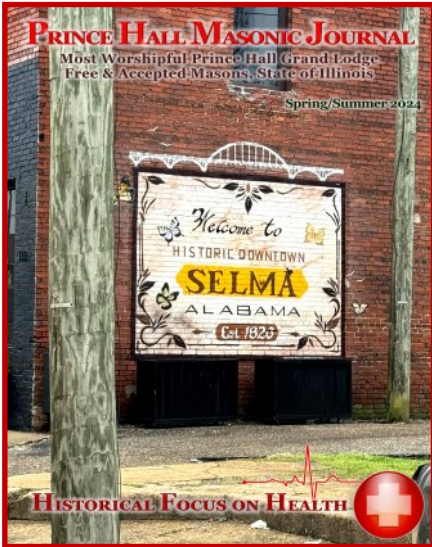
Attest:

Roland G. Simon

Carl Richardson

Most Worshipful Grand Master

Right Worshipful Grand Secretary



*Most Worshipful Brother
Roland G. Simon
Ex-Officio Editor-In-Chief*

*Right Worshipful Brother
Daryl L. Andrews
Editor*

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OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER



Roland G. Simon, 47th Grand Master

Brethren, as we are nearing the end of our Masonic Year, let's remain focused on our business and our mission as Masons. Let us not forget that we must continue to sacrifice in order to continue to be a blessing to someone. As spring is upon us and the winds are changing, we must continue to be steadfast with our benevolence in the communities. Keep the faith and keep up the good work!

Worshipful Masters, if you didn't forward your 3rd quarter taxes after your March meeting, you should know that they are overdue and causing a negative effect on the finances of the Grand Lodge. Again, as you are the head of your lodge, the responsibility lies upon you. Look well to your duty.

Once again, I am again asking that you support the Grand Lodge by taking part in one or more of the following initiatives: 5K Walk/Run for Prostate Cancer Awareness, Bridge, Grand Lodge Missions, or Life Insurance, all of which was set up to make us better and to serve the communities. If you have any questions, please contact any elected Grand Lodge officer for more information or go to our website, www.ilprincehall.com. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Fraternally,

Roland G. Simon

Most Worshipful Grand Master





Norman's Nook

From the Archives of William L. Norman

By Worshipful Brother William L. Norman, Honorary Past Grand Master

Eureka Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star has been in existence in the State of Illinois since the end of the 19th Century. Originally name the "Afro-American Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star", the name change to "Eureka Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star" was contrived and driven by many of the Past Worthy Grand Matrons and Past Worthy Grand Patrons in this photo.

The very first Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Rebecca D. Boone, is seated on the left. Standing behind her is the very first Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Richard E. Moore, is standing behind her just over her left shoulder. The very first black Police Matron, Sister Mary Davenport, for the City of Chicago is seated in the center. Prior to serving as Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Thomas H. Samuel, pictured at the highest point of the photo, served as a Worthy Grand Patron. There are many other prominent sisters and brothers in this photo to which you should gain awareness. Time permitting, take this photo with you to the Grand East and compare the pictures to plaques on the walls on the second floor to identify the names.

Our history is not only about brethren. It is also about the ladies who work alongside us in many labors. If we forget them, then we forget ourselves. Therefore, show some love to our sisters.





Eureka Grand Chapter

Sister Mildred A. Lloyd

Brother Jason Jackson

Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron



O is for the Opportunities you have made for yourself
R is for the Reality of knowing yourself
D is for the Devotion you have to God
E is for the Everlasting beauty you possess
R is for the Realization of what you mean to others

O is for the Openness of mind you possess
F is for the Freedom of body, mind, and spirit you have

E is for the Everlasting youth you express
A is for the Awareness of life you possess
S is for the Salvation of the body, mind, and spirit
T is for the Truthfulness is your face
E is for the Elegant way you carry yourself
R is for the Rarity of personalities like yours
N is for the Noble person you are

S is for the Saviour that you have always remembered
T is for the Temptations that you have always resisted
A is for the Almighty that you have always served
R is for the Resurrection of hope that you inspire in others
S is for the Salvation of the soul that you strive for



Historical Focus on Health

Since its early years, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois has always sought to promote health and morality amongst its membership. Operating in moderation was a key element to the expected behaviors of Prince Hall Masons to ensure that brethren maintained full control of all of their faculties. The lack of moderation, however, is the primary reason for bad health, hence, the historical importance placed upon morality and health by leaders of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois across terms.

Since the early years of the Grand Lodge, morality was stressed. Most Worshipful Brother James W. Taylor commented in his 1879 allocution to the Grand Lodge, relative to gambling, drunkenness, licentiousness, and profanity, that:

“I think the time has come when the fraternity should assume its true position relative to these vices. They are too flagrant a violation of our teachings, and too commonly practiced, to longer be lightly passed over. The mantle of charity will no longer cover them. The hour of action has come! We can no longer shun the responsibility. Irrespective of the opinion of society at large, we recommend that the Grand Lodge place her seal of condemnation on these practices. Otherwise, it would seem as if the virtues of goodness and truth have lost their potent spell. Our beloved Order, in a



great measure, lost her prestige: harbinger of morality. Good morals stand appalled at the fearful violation of Masonic laws. Society condemns this flagrant violation of what we all know to be Masonic duty. These departures from duty must cease, or we lose our heritage.” (Proceedings, 1879, p.10)

His great concern for the internal character of Masons was clear and his admonition relative to acting beyond the limits of moderation was also very direct. Consider that during this era that Masons carried firearms as the modern laws were quite

different from those of the current era. Drunken arguments could have easily turned into shootouts. A community of licentiousness breeds shameless behavior which forced Grand Master Taylor to call it out.

But, what also comes with over-indulgence is health related issues. By the 15th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, an exorbitant amount of Masons had been removed from the rolls of subordinate Lodges either by suspension (96) or death (11). Although the Grand Lodge had a net gain of 8 members between 1880 and 1881, membership dropped by 11% from 934 to 827 (Proceedings, 1881, p.35). Low income from dues which were a quarter per member also did not leave much in the coffers to aid families of the deceased. This



prompted Most Worshipful Brother James Hollinger, successor to Grand Master Taylor, to present a new prospect to the Grand Lodge for



Extends Across Leadership Terms

future financial considerations. In his allocution to the Grand Lodge in 1881, he stated:

“I would also recommend that an insurance of some kind be attached to our Grand Lodge for the benefit of our widows and orphans, as all past efforts have failed to accomplish the desired end. The time has now come when no man cares to risk his time and labor for nothing, unless there be value received.” James Hollinger 1881 (Proceedings, 1881, p.9)

Per his commentary, the concept of insurance policies had been introduced as a potential opportunity to aid in the caring for widows and orphans of deceased brethren. Considering that nearly 25 had crossed over to that undiscovered country during his term of leadership, families of those who passed by natural causes or over-indulgence could have been blessed.

Through the course of the 19th and 20th Centuries, several Grand Masters proposed plans for relief while also admonishing brethren to shy away from the temptations of overindulgence. A solution was finally approved by the Grand Lodge in 1961 with the formation of the Grand Lodge Relief Department. Eighty years after Most Worshipful Brother Hollinger’s suggestion, Most Worshipful Brother Obed E. Vanderburg, saw a rendition of the idea through until its completion. The Office of Right Worshipful Grand Relief Secretary was created the same year to oversee the activities of the Grand Lodge Relief Department. The first Grand Relief Secretary was none other than James H. Black

Sr. of Mt. Hebron Lodge #29 (Proceedings, 1961). Upon the death of a brother in good standing, many widows received a benefit. The functions of the Department remained in tact for more than 40 years until the function was dissolved shortly after the turn of the 21st Century.

The duties of the office subsequently shifted to provide oversight of the Grand Lodge Printing Department. It was officially closed by vote of the Grand Lodge in 2010. The last Grand Relief Secretary was Right Worshipful Brother Damon P. Anderson Sr.

Most Worshipful Brother Willie B. Evans Sr. was most instrumental in working to secure a new path for relief shortly after the dissolution of the Grand Relief Department. He sought to implement an insurance program that would ensure coverage in an external policy for all members in good standing. Premiums were set to be paid by the Grand Lodge and the policy distribution paid to the family and the Grand Lodge in specific proportions. While the prospect was desirable, it failed to receive the necessary votes to move forward in 2001. Subsequent efforts to achieve this aim also fell short under the terms of Most Worshipful Brothers James Gavin and Jerry Butler but the concept of health, wellness, and security remained a high priority for the leaders who followed.

Blood drives, health seminars, financial awareness sessions, and other forums to provide guidance and relief for members of the fraternity. Several Lodges engaged in legacy



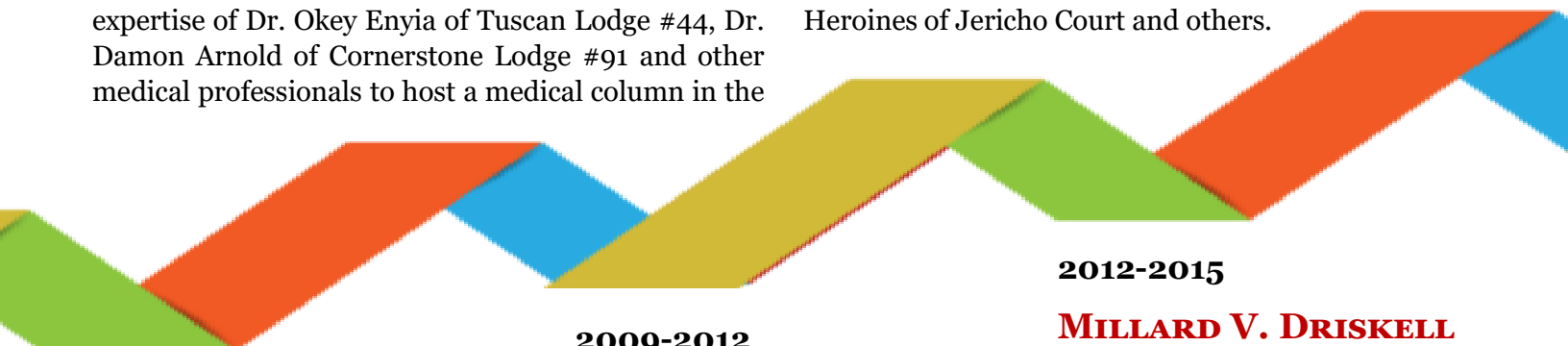


programs including the Annual Blood Drive of North Star Lodge #1, Prince Hall Avengers of Southern Illinois Walks against Cancer, and many others. Many of these efforts continue today and several escalated to the Grand Lodge level.

A formal relationship was established between the Grand Lodge and the American Cancer Society in 2008 with group participation at its Annual Walk, Bike, and Roll campaign. Led by Worshipful Brother Lawrence Walker of Cornerstone Lodge #91, the Grand Lodge aligned to coordinate hundreds of brothers and sisters to serve as ambassadors and sponsors for the events across Illinois. The first was at Grant Park in Chicago in 2008. District Deputy Grand Masters and Lecturers were also disbursed to institutions to promote the presence of Prince Hall Freemasonry and gather health information to present to the Grand Lodge. Several efforts were coordinated by Past Master Ray Willis of Plumblin Lodge #116. The Masonic Journal leveraged the expertise of Dr. Okey Enyia of Tuscan Lodge #44, Dr. Damon Arnold of Cornerstone Lodge #91 and other medical professionals to host a medical column in the

Masonic Reader, a special edition of the Prince Hall Masonic Journal. Articles on Martial Arts and healthy eating were also contributed to promote fitness and nutritional eating. These labors served as the basis for engagement with other organizations whose focus was on health awareness.

The Illinois Child Identification Program (IL CHIP) was introduced under the term of Most Worshipful Brother Otis W. Cromartie Sr. Its primary purpose was to capture identification details on youth to assist parents and authorities in identifying lost children. A secondary aim of the effort became placing a focus on youth health and providing information on programs from which youth may benefit. Thousands of families participated in the efforts and several youth participated in youth programs that were available. They were not limited to but do include Martial Arts Classes at the Grand East, the Order of the Junior Craft, the Velma J. Thames Youth Fraternity, the Junior Heroines of Jericho Court and others.



2006-2009

ANGELO JONES

Masonic Journal and Masonic Reader editions placed a focus on:

- Cancer
- Sickle Cell Anemia
- Strokes

Illinois Masonic Charities Foundation hosted Summer Health Seminars for Youth

Led by Lawrence Walker of Cornerstone Lodge #91, the MWPHGL participated in the American Cancer Society Walk, Bike and Roll as a collective

Grand Lodge participates at health fairs at Malcolm X College

2009-2012

OTIS W. CROMARTIE SR.

Masonic Journal and Masonic Reader editions placed a focus on:

- *Healthy Eating, Obesity, and Nutrition*
- *Martial Arts for Health, Fitness and Protection*
- *Kidney Disease*
- *Diabetes*
- *Illinois Child Identification Program (IL-CHIP)*

Collective efforts to support the American Cancer Society at the Grand Lodge level continues

PHA Avengers collaborate with the American Cancer Society in Southern Illinois to fight cancer

2012-2015

MILLARD V. DRISKELL

Illinois Child Identification Program (IL-CHIP) expands significantly across Illinois

Collective efforts to support the American Cancer Society at the Grand Lodge level continues

Masonic Journal introduced recurring Healthy Eating column by Carolyn Womack

Relationship established with Illinois Masonic Hospital for health services for the Craft

Grand Lodge establishes formal relationship with the Thapelo Institute to host health fairs at the Grand East and, also, collaborates with Blue Cross Blue Shield to host sessions on the Affordable Care Act



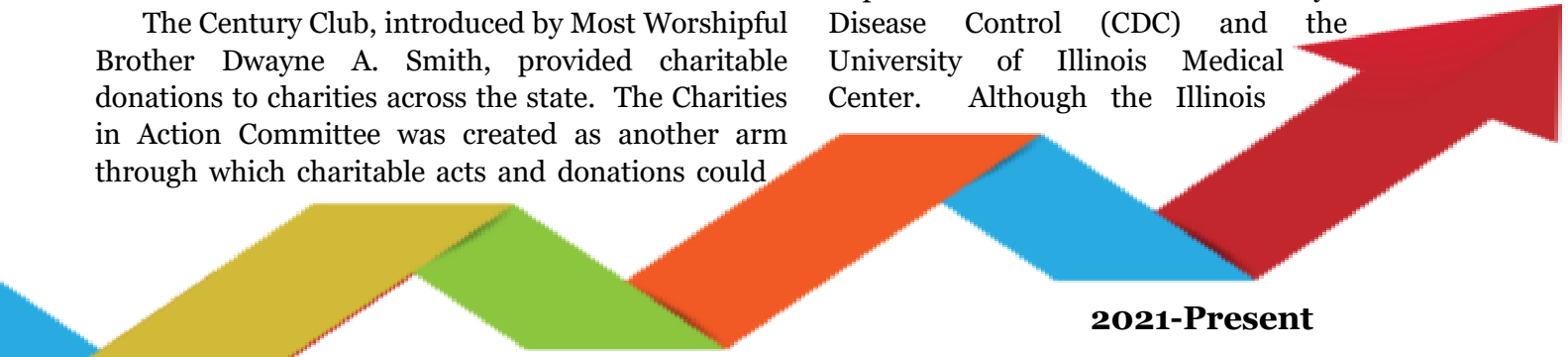


These programs extended under the term of Most Worshipful Brother Millard V. Driskell. A formal alliance with the Thapelo Institute was established which produced free health clinics at the Grand East and Lodge Halls across Illinois. Several prominent doctors and nurses volunteered to perform free screenings on the public and the membership to provide the necessary data for health prescriptions. It was during his term of office that the Illinois Masonic Family was strongly urged to focus on Men’s Health in particular. A relationship with the Illinois Masonic Hospital was also secured opening the door for health care options for Illinois Prince Hall Masons.

The Century Club, introduced by Most Worshipful Brother Dwayne A. Smith, provided charitable donations to charities across the state. The Charities in Action Committee was created as another arm through which charitable acts and donations could

occur. For the first time in the history of the Order, the Grand Lodge sponsored its own 5K Walk, Bike and Roll by the hands of Roland G. Simon. The effort circled around the community of the Grand East and raised funds to fight Prostate Cancer and other cancers that plague the community.

The COVID-19 Pandemic hit the entire nation hard and impacted the ability of the Grand Lodge to function in its usual fashion. Most Worshipful Brother Aubrey K. Barlow steered the ship in a steady fashion by defining protocols for operations and dispersing educational materials relative to the impacts of COVID that were vetted by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the University of Illinois Medical Center. Although the Illinois



2021-Present

ROLAND G. SIMON

“Prostate Cancer 5K” continues as a Grand Lodge Event and relationship with the American Cancer Society expanded

Active focus and participation on overall health of membership with a focus on Prostate Cancer

Billboard advertisements erected across Illinois to promote Cancer awareness and testing

Life Insurance Program

Development of the Prince Hall Medical Clinic



2015-2018

DWAYNE A. SMITH

Illinois Child Identification Program (IL-CHIP) continues across Illinois

“Century Club” created to support charitable endeavors including healthcare related activities

Subordinate Lodges and OES Chapters engage in individual efforts with the American Cancer Society Walk, Bike and Roll

Masonic Journal places a focus on:

- *Prostate Cancer*
- *Multiple Sclerosis*
- *African Matrial Arts for fitness*

“Prostate Cancer 5K” introduced by Roland G. Simon in 2017

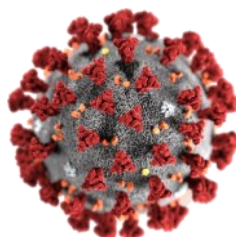
2018-2021

AUBREY K. BARLOW

COVID-19 Pandemic

- *Distribution of educational information and health seminars in conjunction with guidelines developed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Illinois Department of Public Health*
- *Protocols developed for facility utilization and Personal Protective Property (PPP)*

Partnership engaged with University of Illinois Cancer Center (Masonic Journal) to focus on health of black men



Prince Hall Masonic Family experienced losses, the membership was provided with details to gain a full understanding of the disease and, likely, saved lives.

After the height of the pandemic, the nation moved to slowly return to its usual state. During this period, COVID education remained high while the focus on cancer and general health elevated in stature. Upon being elected to office, Most Worshipful Brother Roland G. Simon immediately went to work on elevating the importance of regular health check ups with physicians and made Prostate Cancer public enemy number one. In doing so, he gathered survivors of Prostate Cancer and had advertisements published on billboards across the State of Illinois admonishing the importance of regular check ups while also highlighting the scourge of Prostate Cancer. He further adopted the Roland G. Simon 5K Walk, Bike and Roll as a Grand Lodge event with 5K events occurring on the same day in each District of the Grand Lodge. These efforts galvanized many brethren across the state to fight a common enemy—cancer—and has raised tens of thousands of dollars in the process. His current efforts to secure a medical clinic in the name of Prince Hall in the Chicago area are also gaining ground. Having already secured medical professionals to provide the support, he is currently working to obtain a facility to make the vision a reality.

In alignment with Grand Masters of the past, for the first time in the history of the Grand Lodge an insurance program was implemented under Most Worshipful Simon's term. Although it was a long road, securing a custom policy option that would provide for families and the fraternity was achieved. So, a desire that was first introduced over one hundred forty years ago was also finally achieved.

With many men, ego prevents them from visiting the doctor to obtain check ups. According to Grand Master Simon, "they are just being selfish. Allowing themselves to become ill from not obtaining a check up not only cause ill for themselves but also for those they love who will be forced to take care of them." This message has resonated across the Illinois jurisdiction and has resulted in a significant increase of visitations by brethren to their physicians to obtain a status of their health. Several have received treatment and undergone surgeries for various ailments including various cancers, diabetes, and heart disease. Prostate Cancer survivors continue to step forth daily attributing the diagnosis and resolution to the insistence of the Grand Master on regular check ups. So, a focus on health saved lives.

There are immediate benefits to becoming health conscious and many reasons to build a regular check-up schedule with a physician. Education has shown that many of the ills that face African American men can be prevented which is the primary benefit. According to the Center for Disease Control, the top ten leading causes of death for Non-Hispanic Black Males across all ages in the United States of America in 2018 were ranked as follows:

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer
3. Alzheimer's Disease
4. Stroke
5. Homicide
6. Diabetes
7. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
8. Kidney Disease
9. Septicemia
10. Hypertension

For some, early detection leads to early treatment which increases the possibility of being cured. For others, activity can be the balm. According to a University of Chicago Medicine seminar, a focus on health and wellness can help to increase life expectancy and quality of life. Men were recommended to consider four lifestyle changes:

- **Get moving daily.** *Just 30 minutes of daily cardiovascular activity will help prevent muscle and bone deterioration, minimizing your risk for bone fractures and breakage.*
- **Lose weight.** *Losing weight can lower blood pressure and, if on blood pressure medication, helps the medication work more effectively.*
- **Change your diet.** *Cut out items that are high in sugar, salt and fat, such as processed and fast foods. Eat more food that comes from the earth.*
- **Know your numbers.** *Visit your primary care physician and get routine medical tests. Staying armed with this information will help you to manage your health.*

Always make sure to consult with your primary care physician before taking any steps.

It is most critical for all to understand that YOUR life is in YOUR hands. If you have a family, your health impacts them as well. So, take control of your health today without delay and build a personal legacy that is second to none.

Sources:

- *Proceedings, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois, 1879-1881, 2001*
- <https://www.cdc.gov/minorityhealth/lcod/men/2018/nonhispanic-black/index.htm>
- <https://www.uchicagomedicine.org/forefront/community-articles/quick-health-tips-for-african-american-men>





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MOST WORSHIPFUL
BROTHER

Roland G. Simon, Grand Master

Bro. James Fields
President

38TH INSTALLATION, CHARITY & SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET



On January 27, 2024, the Prince Hall Masonic Family of Southwestern Illinois (4th District) hosted its Thirty Eighth Annual Installation, Charity and Scholarship Banquet. This annual affair honors and recognizes the newly elected leaders of Male and Female Houses in the district while also raising funds to offer educational donations to students pursuing degrees at the collegiate level. Statewide leaders from all bodies were present to install the elected officers under their umbrella. Most Worshipful

Brother Simon personally installed the officers of the Blue Lodges in the district and Worthy Grand Matron Sister Mildred Lloyd and Worthy Grand Patron Jason Jackson did the honors for the Order of the Eastern Star. Congratulations!!!



Brother Simon personally installed the officers of the Blue Lodges in the district and Worthy Grand Matron Sister Mildred Lloyd and Worthy Grand Patron Jason Jackson did the honors for the Order of the Eastern Star. Congratulations!!!

“Don’t Be **Selfish**. Don’t deprive your family of your continued presence. Don’t place your family in a position where they will have to take care of you. Get tested!!!” - Roland G.

Make an appointment with your DOCTOR in the Short-Term TODAY to prevent YOUR Long-Term medical tragedy!!!



Historic Presidency from Illinois



The Illinois Jurisdiction is the home of history makes. Even in this current era, brethren from among the jurisdiction continue to reach “firsts”. For the first time in the history of the Midwest Regional Conference of Grand Masters and Masons, PHA (MWRC), an Illinoisan was elected to serve at its helm. Salutations to Most Worshipful Brother Aubrey K. Barlow, 46th Grand Master of Illinois Prince Hall Masons.



Most Worshipful Brother Barlow has travelled across the country in support of the National Conference of Grand Masters and Masons, PHA, while also representing the great Midwest at some of the most critical sessions where the future of Freemasonry was discussed. Relationships built through these avenues can also be leveraged to implement plans to meet the aims of the conference. The spirit of collaboration is a highly crucial element in this regard because the conference does not supersede the actions of any Grand Lodge but provides forums for sharing best practices and identifying methods in which they may be implemented. Their implementation is,

ultimately, under the purview of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the respective jurisdictions.

Now a Past President of the Regional Conference, Barlow remains active in conference affairs by virtue of his service and experience as the 46th Grand Master of Illinois. A valued member, he continues to travel to jurisdictions as a regular companion of the President of the National Conference, Most Worshipful Brother Eugene Anderson of Indian, and valued contributor to committees at the Regional and National levels. This activity is done in conjunction with Most Worshipful Brother Roland G. Simon and all Past Grand Masters and Masons who also contribute to the cause. Their collective efforts will help to ensure that the Illinois Jurisdiction always has a seat at the table and remains in the communications loop for national and local issues. As such, it is with this in mind that we salute the first President of the MWRC from Illinois. Congratulations!!!



Face of Prince Hall Freemasonry



**Right Worshipful Brother
Antonio T. Terry, #15
Grand Lecturer**

Right Worshipful Brother Antonio T. Terry is the very first elected Grand Lodge Officer from the Second Masonic District of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois. A Past Worthy Grand Patron of Eureka Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, he is also an avid historian who works tirelessly to research and showcase the history of Prince Hall Freemasonry throughout the State of Illinois and beyond in his current role as Grand Lecturer. Don't believe me? Ask him about Odell Smith and Oscar Edmonds? These two iconic figures from that district contributed greatly to the community and the Grand Lodge were well known during their eras. This was the reason why they were selected as Masons of the Year of the Grand Lodge in 1969 and 1976 respectively. Terry along with his wife Meagan are active in all bodies of the Masonic Order.

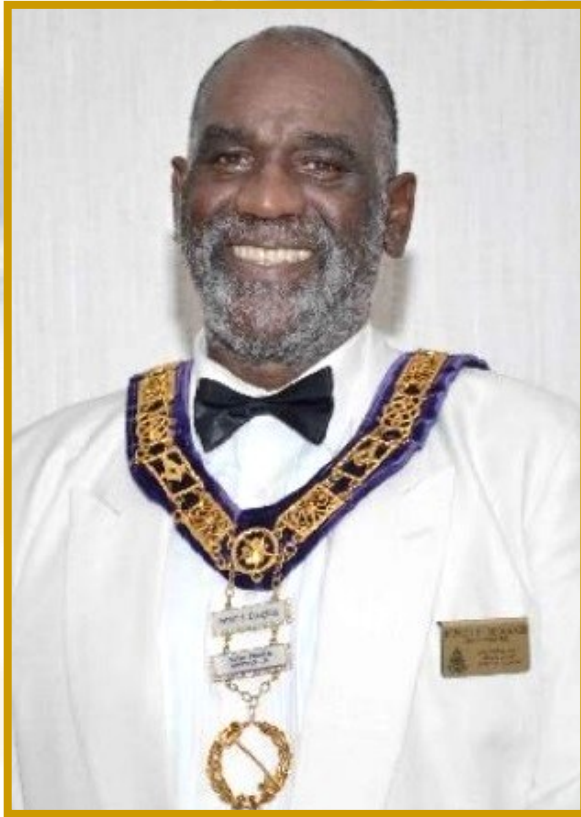


**Worshipful Brother
Bretton Frierson, #112
District Deputy Grand Master/Lecturer**

The Fourth Masonic District is home to a conclave of learned Masons who are fluent in administration and contain ritualistic prowess that is second to none. Among the standouts is Worshipful Brother Bretton Frierson. The son of Most Worshipful Brother Melvin Frierson, Bretton is a solid Mason whose individual labors and place him in a high state based upon his own endeavors. He performs multiple Degree Work projects from memory in multiple Masonic Houses while also taking time to coach youth in athletics and mentor youth through several programs that are alive and well in the District. He and his wife Adrienne are parents to college graduates and work tirelessly in giving back to the East St. Louis Community. He was recently honored with elevation in the ranks of the Scottish Rite to the Emeritus grade. Yet, he remains humble in all Masonic pursuits.



Across the Illinois Jurisdiction



**Right Worshipful Brother
Hewitt Douglass, #3
Grand Trustee Emeritus**

Right Worshipful Brother Hewitt Douglass has always been a stalwart Prince Hall Mason and steady brother within the center of the State of Illinois. Considered the “tallest” Prince Hall Mason in the State of Illinois at one point in time, his service as Grand Trustee for the Grand Lodge merited his distinction and recognition to his present Emeritus state. While serving the Grand Lodge, he also served multiple Masonic bodies in the position of Secretary. Those who truly understand the labors of this position in any Masonic body know that it is not necessarily a prima-donna position but one that requires that utmost dedication and service. To be a record keeper in multiple bodies simultaneously for multiple terms speaks to his degree of commitment to the Masonic Order as a whole. Those who hold this office often do not receive pats on the back. Well, here you go “Too Tall”.



**Right Worshipful Brother
Vondell Patton, #98
Grand Trustee/ Mason of the Year**

The Mason of the Year Award is the highest award that can be bestowed upon a Prince Hall Mason in the Jurisdiction of Illinois. For his service to the fraternity and the community, Right Worshipful Brother Vondell Patton was selected as Mason of the Year by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois in 2023. A member of virtually every Masonic House, Patton’s activity in all bodies makes one wonder when he was time of his own. He holds membership in all female houses of the order having served in an advisory capacity for many if not all. A Past Master of East Gate Lodge #98, he has been active in Grand Lodge efforts for long periods of time as is the custom for many members of this Lodge. His elevation provides evidence to the fact that Lodges are strong communities of believers with the same ideals at heart. Congratulations!!!

2023-2024 Mason of the Year



R.W. Bro. Vondell Patton



MASONS OF THE YEAR ~ 1958 TO 2024



1958 HENRY G. FORT, #88



1959 ERNIE BANKS, #103



1959 GEORGE CROSS, #56



1960 THOMAS KELLY, #103



1961 KENNETH STRATTON, #18



1969 ODELL SMITH, #15



1970 GEORGE HARRIS, #100



1971 ALBERT MOOREHEAD, #1



1972 IKE WASHINGTON, #59



1973 JAMES MILES, #14



1979 LEWIS PINCKNEY, #7



1980 BERNARD TEAT, #128



1981 HARRY COLLIER, #31



1982 JAMES LEVY, #128



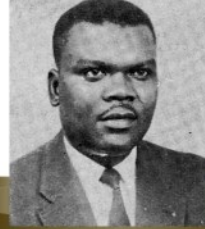
1983 R.C. BROWN, #116



1989 JERRY BUTLER, #1



1990 RODERICK HAWKINS, #79



1991 EDDIE GRACE, #64



1992 WILLIAM NORMAN, #109



1993 M PATTERSON, #103



1999 R.C. PRIESTER, #14



2000 EDWARD JUNKINS, #108



2001 DWAYNE SMITH, #133



2002 RON WILSON, #17



2003 PATRICK PARKS, #98



2009 CHRIS CALHOUN, #155



2010 CARL GARNER, #29

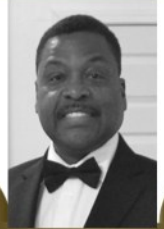
47th Grand Master



2011 ROLAND SIMON, #135



2012 HOMER WALTON, #109



2013 KENNETH PAGE, #3



2017 TONY STAFFORD, #128



2018 H. TREMBLE-EL, #153



2019 DR. JAMES LANIER, #3



2020 TIMOTHY R. DAVIS, #59



1962 JOHN WHITE, #18



1963 JOSEPH BLOUNT, #68



1964 CORNEAL DAVIS, #29



1965 CHARLES STEWART, #100



1968 OLIVER NELSON, #31



1974 ROBERT DECUIR, #133



1975 ROBERT EVANS, #107



1976 OSCAR EDMOND, #35



1977 MARVIN WILLIAMS, #133



1978 ROBERT WILLIAMS, #98



1984 KENNETH INGRAM, #1



1985 WILLIE EVANS SR., #133



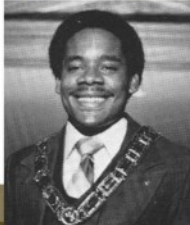
1986 BRIAN ABRAMS, #109



1987 WADELL BROOKS, #107



1988 DOTY NASH, #100



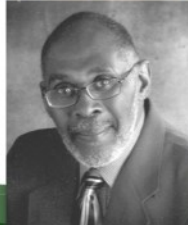
1994 LEROY C. BARNES, #59



1995 JOSEPH HAYES, #29



1996 DAVID JOHNSON, #18



1997 D. ANDERSON, #137



1998 CHARLES M. JONES, #80



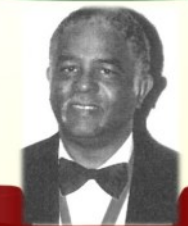
2004 FRANK LOGAN, #119



2005 CHARLES HOLIDAY, #91



2006 AUBREY BARLOW, #23



2007 LLOYD WOMACK, #121



2008 DARYL ANDREWS, #91



2014 MICHAEL RAMEY, #59



2015 HARRY BARNETT, #11



2016 A. ATWOOD, #108



2021 EUGENE DANIEL, #155



2022 TYREESE STAFFORD, #64



The 65th Mason of the Year of the MWPHGL of Illinois



2023 VONDELL PATTON, #98

SOMEONE WE ALL DEFINITELY SHOULD KNOW

Matthew A. Henson: An African American Explorer

By Worshipful Brother Lloyd Womack, Grand Historian

Brothers and Sisters did you know that a Prince Hall Mason was the co-discover of the North Pole? That he was a member of Celestial Lodge #3 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York. That on April 6, 1909, he set foot and placed the American Flag at the top of the icy snow cap mountain signifying their arrival to the North Pole. That in 1944 he and other members of the expedition of the artic were awarded the Congressional Medal. That in 1954 on the 45th Anniversary of the Discovery of the North Pole that he and his wife Mrs. Eva Henson were honored at the White House by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. That in 1963, a plaque in

his memory was unveiled at the State House in Maryland. That at Dillard University there is a hall named in his honor. That at the Explorers Club in New York stands a Bronze Bust of Brave, Loyal, and Dedicated Man, Matthew Alexander Henson.

That in 1987, in a move to honor Matthew Henson, President Ronald Regan approved the transportation of Mr. Henson and Mrs. Henson remains for reinterment at Arlington National Cemetery. That Robert Edwin Peary, the Explorer, remains are also at Arlington Cemetery. Did you know all of this?

Well, as the Grand Historian let me introduce to you by telling the story of this Adventurous Man, our Brother, named Matthew Alexander Henson, an African American Explorer. Matthew Henson was born on August 8, 1866 in Charles County Maryland. He died at the age of 89 on March 9, 1955 in New York, New York. This was one year later following his haven been honored at the White House by President Eisenhower. His parents were freeborn sharecroppers. His birth was three years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, freeing enslaved people in the Southern States. He was orphan early following the death of his parents. At the age of 11 years old, he left his Maryland home to find his own way in life and walked to Washington, D.C. Even then, he was 'brave and adventurous". He worked odd jobs. His favorite work place was Ms. Janey's Lunch





Room where he would listen to adventurous stories told by one of the customers, a sailor. After hearing these adventurous stories told by the sailor his mind was made up. He wanted to be a “Sailor”. Matthew was no stranger to walking and he walked from Washington D.C. to Baltimore, Maryland, where he heard there were ships.

Young Matthew found work as a Cabin Boy on the ship “Katie Hines”. After hearing of his parents death, and his bravery, the ships Captain Childs took an interest in him by instructing him in the finer points of seamanship that included climbing the rigging, learning every sailor’s rope tying knot, and mastering carpenter tools. In his spare time, the Captain gave him educational lessons by teaching him to read and write. Matthew now an able bodied seaman and for 5 years traveled the world visiting foreign ports such as Asia, Africa, West Indies, Spain, Hong Kong, and Japan. In 1883, after Captain Childs died, Matthew left the ship, “Katie Hines” for further adventure. He continued to work odd jobs just

to survive.

In 1887, Matthew Henson met Robert Edwin Peary an Explorer who also was a Naval Officer in the U.S. Navy Corps of Engineering. Officer Peary was seeking someone to travel with him to Central America, specifically, to do a survey for a proposed canal to join the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean. Matthew an experienced seaman to his dislike was hired on as a Valet but he understood the importance of the mission and the adventure that came along with it. This was the beginning of a 23 Year Association between Peary and Henson. Matthew Henson now served as Navigator for Robert Peary.

During the year 1887, 1888, and 1898, Peary and Henson discussed the exclusive goal to return to the North in search of the North Pole. Finally, they did it. The year was 1898 which was the worst year for travel on ice. Specifically, during their travel in the artic North it was very cold and Peary’s toes were completely frozen and Henson had to take him back to the ship resulting in his toes being amputated by the ship’s medical doctor.

In 1908, Peary wanted to make one final attempt to reach the North Pole. He wanted to explore the North of Greenland because no one has ever done that before. Henson proved to be valuable to Peary because of his intelligence, strength, and resourcefulness, plus Peary wanted him to join the team to explore this venture with him. Henson agreed. The expedition continued into the following year 1909. The Greenland adventure began which included gigantic icebergs some towering 20 stories high above their ship, "The Kite". The expedition began with 24 men, 19 sleds, and 133 dogs. While the expedition proved to be too much for the other team members after traveling over 300 miles, they turned back as Peary and the ever loyal Matthew Henson trudged on to the North Pole.

Even though Peary had broken his leg when an iceberg fell on him he knew that the mission's success depended on his trusty companion, Matthew Henson. Along the way Peary and Henson were joined by a family of Eskimos. Inuit is the name the Eskimos called themselves. Because of Henson brown skin the Eskimos thought that he was an Eskimo. The Eskimos gave him the name Miy Paluk. The name given to Peary was Kabloona. The Eskimo name for white man. Henson and the Eskimos became friends, he learned to speak the Eskimo language fluently and he acquired the many skills needed to survive in the Icy North. In fact, Henson learned to handle a team of dogs as well as the Eskimos.

On April 6, 1909, Robert Peary, Matthew Henson, 4 Eskimos, and 40 dogs continued the expedition vowing to reach the North Pole.

They started on the last 133 miles to the North Pole. Each had their on sled and dogs. Peary using his mileage instrument knew they were getting close to the North Pole. Henson and the Eskimos were in the lead. Henson was driving his sled across very thin ice. Time and temperature became the most important factors because rising temperature were causing the ice to crack everywhere. Henson travel at a top rate speed "pushing hard" his sled and dogs. Henson and the Eskimos traveled four more hours, stopped and built their Igloo's. Peary arrived 45 minutes later. It was Matthew Henson who said "I think this is it". Peary verified Henson's words using his mileage gauge instrument saying, "Yes". The North Pole. What a joyous celebration for the Explorers, Matthews and Peary and their Eskimo friends.



Yes, Brothers and Sisters, this is truly a person we all should know, Matthew Alexander Henson, the American Explorer and the First Man to set foot on the North Pole. Brother Henson we salute you. Matthew Henson is a Prince Hall Mason, Celestial Lodge #3 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York. What a rich history.



Worshipful Brother Lloyd Womack is the Grand Historian of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois.



Stress Control

Live a Longer, Happier, & Healthier Life

Research by Heroine Carolyn S. Womack, Past Most Ancient Matron, #44



Many people think of stress as causing health problems. However, results from part of a large study called, “Midlife in the United States”, have shown that just being stressed does not cause problems. It’s the response that people have to stressors that’s at issue. And that response can affect your health 10 years into the future, regardless of your health today. The study found that people who got upset by daily stressors and continued to dwell on them after they were over were more likely to suffer from chronic health problems especially pain and heart disease 10 years later. In my research of it describes some people as Teflon and some as Velcro. When a stressful event happens to Velcro types, they get upset and stay upset. With Teflon’s the stressors slide right off, they are able to let go of a problem or upsetting situation.

All you have to do is stand in a long line to see people react like Teflon and Velcro. Everyone is in the same line; Some people find it upsetting, while others don’t. The Velcro person is still fuming even after reaching the front of the line, while the Teflon person can let it go more easily. So even though you don’t always have a choice about standing in a long line, you do have a choice about how you react.

People who react more like Teflon are better able to balance the negative and positive aspects of their lives. One way to find that balance is to do more of the things you enjoy and fewer of those things that drain your energy. Another idea is to reframe your view or perception of the stress. Try asking yourself, “What is the worst thing that can happen if I have to stand in this long line?” “What is the best thing that can happen if I get upset about it?”

When you are stressed, your body releases hormones to help you deal with stress. They are the flight-or-fight hormones. These same hormones raise blood glucose levels. Look at your blood glucose readings when you are stressed. Do you see numbers higher than usual? Your high levels may be caused by these hormones.

Some people eat more or sleep more when they feel stressed. Eating more can, in turn, lead to higher blood glucose readings. Other people may eat less or toss and turn at night. Some people find it hard to exercise when they are feeling stressed out, and others find that exercise helps burn up some of the negative energy. Exercise is also a way to cope with stress. Exercise releases endorphins, the feel-good hormones that counter act the effects of the stress hormones. Many people find taking a brisk walk or going to the gym after work helps them to leave their stress behind. Here are seven (7) ideas for finding your inner Teflon:

1. **FIND THE SUPPORT YOU NEED:** Find a good listener, or join a support group. Pray, meditate or practice your religion.
2. **KNOW YOUR LIMITS:** Don’t try to do more than you can. Learn to say “no” to people or events that will raise your stress level. You do not have to do it all. Do fewer things and do them better.
3. **PLAN YOUR DAY AND SET GOALS YOU CAN MEET:** Make time to take care of yourself and your health. Take breaks during stressful times or events. Make it a point to relax, take a nap or watch a funny movie.
4. **TAKE A STRESS MANAGEMENT CLASS OR PRACTICE RELAXATION EXERCISES:** Community and senior centers, the library or the Internet are good resources
5. **AVOID STRESSFUL SITUATIONS:** If you can not plan ahead how will you handle the stress?
6. **EXPRESS YOUR FEELINGS:** It’s OK to cry when sad or upset, but try to laugh every day.
7. **USE YOUR ENERGY IN A POSITIVE WAY:** Hobbies, things you enjoy, laughing or spending time with upbeat people can help you handle your stress.

Although stress is a fact of life for most of us, you can learn to better handle the stress you experience and live a longer, happier, and healthier life. So, I ask you the question? Are you a Velcro or a Teflon? Until next time, try to “Control the Stress”.



59th Annual Commemorative



Edmund Pettis Bridge Crossing



In commemoration of the 1965 Bloody Sunday March across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, thousands from across the globe participated in the re-enactment march on Sunday, March 3, 2024. The purpose of the 1965 march was to aid in securing the rights of black citizens to vote as was set to be guaranteed by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that was passed by United State Congress. While the act provided provisions to secure voting, the enforcement of the provisions was not honored prompting the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in March of 1965.

Several were beaten by police including the Honorable Brother John Lewis but they continued to march forward with a focus on the issue at hand. The activities received sufficient media coverage to cause a national uproar which prompted

the introduction and passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This act outlawed discriminatory practices as a prerequisite for voting which provided an avenue for all to vote despite race or creed.



One of the notable moments of the march included evidence that showcased that multilateral and multicultural support for the movement. A sea of individuals of all races stood in solidarity, locked arm-in-arm in support of the cause. In like manner, Masonic leaders stood arm in arm under the direction of Most Worshipful Brother Dr. Corey Hawkins, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama. He was joined by Grand

Masters from all American Prince Hall Affiliated Jurisdictions including Most Worshipful Brother Roland G. Simon and the large contingent from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois.





This modern show of support most definitely provoked moments of awe from many in attendance. The re-enactment of such a momentous occasion in the history of the United States of America still drives uneasiness in the hearts and minds of many. The spirit was echoed via the keynote speaker for the day who was none other than the first black, female Vice President of the United State of America, the Honorable Kamala Harris.

The words of Honorable Harris summarized the day's events while also providing more substance for all Americans to consider for the future of the nation. She stated that “our young leaders — well, they are cleareyed about what's at stake. And in the spirit of a young John Lewis, I know they too will not be deterred, they will not be defeated, and they will not be denied. So, Selma, the challenges we currently face are not unlike the challenges faced by those 600 brave souls 59 years ago. And in this moment, we too, then,

are confronted with a fundamental question: What kind of country do we want to live in? Do we want to live in a country of freedom, liberty, and justice — or a country of injustice, hate, and fear?” We each have the power to answer that question with our voice, with our feet, and with our vote.” With all on one accord, each person present became moved by the events of the day. Given the charge by the keynote speaker to ensure that citizens take advantage of the right to vote, all left with one mission to achieve the aim—vote, vote, vote!!!

As the brethren from all parts of the nation parted ways, the strong sense of brotherhood remained tangible in the air along with the scent of troubled history. For those who forget their history or allow it to get buried, it will repeat itself. However, from the new memories and friendships formed from the 2024 Crossing, brethren will collectively ensure that the troubled history will not happen again. Vote!!!





PHAMILY AT EAST ST. LOUIS CITY HALL

The 4th District showed up and showed out representing Eureka Grand Chapter and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois at the East St. Louis City Hall, in the Rotunda. Led by Sister Felicia Randle, the purpose of this effort was to showcase the Illinois Prince Hall PHamily and utilize the opportunity with the public to provide insight into affairs within the area.



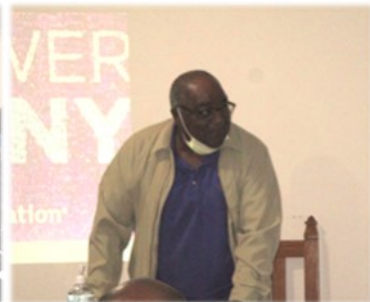
Of the affairs, Alzheimer's research and education remain a priority. In October, the Scottish Rite hosted a session at the Southern Cross Lodge #112 Lodge hall. Ray Castuciano and Sarah Lovegreen were in attendance from the Greater Missouri Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association to facilitate the event. Also in attendance was Alexis Walker (presenter) and Dr. Ganesh Babulal, both from Washington University School of Medicine, who gave insight into this awful disease. There was much information to glean from but I will share five of the ten signs:



1. MEMORY LOSS THAT DISRUPTS DAILY LIFE - forgetting recently learned information
2. CHALLENGES IN PLANNING OR SOLVING PROBLEMS—trouble following a familiar recipe or keeping track of monthly bills
3. DIFFICULTY COMPLETING FAMILIAR TASKS AT HOME, AT WORK, OR AT LEISURE—i.e. having a hard time driving to a familiar location
4. DECREASED IN POOR JUDGMENT—poor judgment with spending money
5. CHANGES IN MOOD AND PERSONALITY—becoming confused, suspicious, depressed, fearful or anxious.



This collaboration with the Illinois Council of Deliberation helped us all to know the signs.— *submitted by Past Master Kevin E. Johnson*





GIBRALTAR LODGE #135 CELEBRATES 74TH ANNIVERSARY

The brethren of Gibraltar Lodge #135 of Chicago, Illinois celebrated its 74th Anniversary on November 4, 2023 honoring Most Worshipful Brother Roland G. Simon, Grand Master of the State of Illinois and Its Jurisdictions, senior members and Past Masters of Gibraltar Lodge.

The Lodge was organized in 1949 and chartered in 1950 by Most Worshipful Brother Ashby B. Carter in 1949 in the City of Chicago to accommodate the demand for membership for those who transitioned from the South to the City of Chicago as a part of what is considered the second Great Migration. The first Worshipful Master of the Lodge was M.A. Coleman. The legacy of the Lodge extends from these roots into the current era under the leadership of Worshipful Brother LeBeau Underwood, a famed artist and to the very first Grand Master from the Lodge in the person of Most Worshipful Brother Simon (pictured with his wife and daughter).

Surrounded by family and friends, the brethren along with their families thanked all in attendance. Its current membership is positioned for growth. We look forward to continued success.





Thanksgiving



Hats off to the star of the show—the Thanksgiving turkey that was grilled by the amazing Chefs of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois. Thanksgiving at the Grand East fed citizens of the Bronzeville Community and beyond with a sumptuous meal. This gathering continued the decades-long trend in providing food and fellowship between all orders and the community at large including elected officials. Special thanks to Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and all guests who fellowshipped and contributed to the success of this event.





ILLINOIS MASONIC PHAMILY

CHRISTMAS SEASON EFFORTS

Jericho Lodge #120 along with New Shining Light Church fed many in the community on Thanksgiving Day at New Shining Light Church of Venice, Illinois. Awesome Job Jericho!!!!

Five Families were able to have a festive meal on Thanksgiving Day, thanks to Guiding Light #148 for your community service efforts led by Lacquita Nixon, Worthy Matron (below).



The 4th District Community Service Project blessed the Vivian Adams Early Childhood Center with aid during Christmas. Mrs. Sheritha Riley was the director of the school project which selected families to receive Christmas baskets provided through Sister Jackie Johnson and the Committee.





The Velma J Thames Youth Fraternity served the community at the annual Eureka Grand Chapter Coat Drive And toy Giveaway. Our Princesses recreated a Nail salon for the kids while listening to Holiday music and coloring. They also donated coats and toys along with the Calhoun Family Foundation. Sis. Dr. Michelle Stewart of Victoria Chapter #129, presented the OES PHA Velma J. Thames Youth Fraternity with a \$300 check to continue their works of charity and love.





Emblem Chapter #140 of Waukegan hosted an “Ugly Christmas Sweater Taco Party” at the hall of Rufus Mitchell Lodge. Great food and fun with the multitude of games was had. Gifts and a food basket were donated to a family of seven to supply Christmas joy and needs.



ABOVE—The East St Louis Relay For Life along with the American Cancer Society held their annual Cancer awareness at the Jackie Joyner- Kersee Center. This event was led by Joi Haire-Epps, Event Chairperson, Kim Peoples, Event Co-Chairperson. There was a wonderful breakfast & lunch. Many survivors gave their testimony on the goodness of God and how long they have been free of cancer. Also the East St. Louis Chapter AARP was in attendance with information for Retired Persons.



LEFT—After a successful project collection drive of new twin sized bedding, the Community Service Projects Team of EGC blessed a couple of locations in our 1st & 3rd Districts with donations. Thank you to all the chapters, Sr Wardens Club and others who donated to this very worthy cause.





On Friday the fourth district of the MWP HGLIL participated in a footlocker giveaway for our football standouts held at The Gavel 8745 Jennings Station Road, in St Louis, Mo. The festivities began at 11:00 am with a luncheon. There were Prince Hall Masons in attendance that, held membership in other fraternities, that gave encouraging words to these young men heading to college. They were presented with their footlockers and thanked the people for donating them. Aiden Taylor a graduate from East St. Louis Senior High School and carries a 4.3 GPA is heading to Lindenwood College in St. Louis Mo. He will study Kinesiology Science (Exercise Science). Elijah Jones a graduate from Bishop DuBourg High School in St. Louis, Mo. will attend the University North Carolina to study Engineering. Jesse Watson a graduate of East St. Louis Senior High School and carries a 3.2 GPA will attend Purdue University, and study Criminal Justice. Robert Battle, Leon Smiley, Jeon Jackson, Rico Vaughn were recipients but not in attendance.



4th Ward Aldermen Lamont Robinson's "Winter Holiday Jamboree at The Martin Luther King Center in Chicago. North Star Lodge #1 P.H.A. donated toys for the children and volu distributing toys to the kids of the community. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle were in attendance to support this worthwhile event in Chicago.



Sons of Solomon Lodge #154 visited Pacific Garden Mission to perform its annual Feed the Needy serving hot dogs, chili, chips, donuts, coffee, water and gatorade to the less fortunate. Skull caps, gloves, socks, scarves and other clothing items were also donated. Seeing the smiles put on their faces is the reason we do this. Special thanks to Rebecca D Boone #128 for lending a helping hand and shout out to Immanuel Lodge #153 on performing their great community work as well.



Monarch Lodge #99 also provided food, caps, socks and gloves to the Pacific Garden Mission. The oldest mission in the City of Chicago, Pacific Garden houses hundreds of individuals in need of shelter. During the winter months, the demand for supplies is very high. Salutations to the brothers of Monarch Lodge, brothers of New Yerusalem Lodge #158, the sisters of Meridian Chapter #89 OES and all of the other volunteers for your contributions to citizens in need in the “Windy City”.



Cornerstone Lodge #91 lends a helping hand to the Restorations Ministries Food Bank in the South Suburbs of Chicago. The brethren packed carts for food bank petitioners and carried the groceries to their vehicles. Under the leadership of Worshipful Brother William Irving, the charitable endeavors of the Lodge have ballooned. This project was presented by the Junior Warden, Terence Jones.



Henry "Box" Brown

Escape from Slavery: One Man's Determination to Be Free

By Worshipful Brother Lloyd Womack, Grand Historian

Henry "Box" Brown stood 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighed 200 pounds. On March 29, 1849, Henry "Box" Brown a Virginia slave at the age of 33 had himself "Nailed" inside a wooden crate an old storage box to escape slavery. The box was constructed by John Mattauer a black carpenter. The box was 3 feet 1 inch long, 2 feet inches wide and 2 feet inches in depth. The box was incision at the joints and braced at the ends leaving but the slightest crevice to admit air.

Nothing saved Mr. Brown while enclosed from suffocating but the free use of water which he took with him in a "Beef Bladder" which he used to wash his face and the constant fanning of himself with his hat.

Mr. Brown had himself mailed via the Adams Express Company located in Richmond, Virginia to William H. Johnson a white abolitionist who disliked slavery who lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, "The City Of Brotherly Love".



Mr. Brown travel via freight train in a box to Philadelphia was 350 miles which took 27 hours.

The box was labeled as dry goods with a notation, "This Side Up With Care". What a discomfort and all of it was very dangerous. The box was very heavy especially with a 200 pound human body enclosed. Had the box fell and open revealing what was inside could have proven to be very detrimental for Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown used confinement to achieve his liberation. The box arrived in Philadelphia on March 30, 1849.

"Wow". Brothers and Sisters did the above paragraphs get your attention. I hope it did. If not read it again. Remember Mr. Brown escape was 14 years before President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing enslaved people in the Southern States. The year 1850 was the passage of the "Fugitive Slave Act" and the end of the Civil War. In the year 1850 there were 3,204,313 slaves in the United States of America owned by 347,725 white slave owners.

Well, as the Grand Historian let me tell you the amazing story of the man who became to be known as Henry "Box" Brown".

Mr. Brown birth date like that of all slaves is uncertain. However, what is certain is that he was born around 1815 on a plantation in Louisa County, Virginia near the capitol of Richmond, Virginia. Henry Brown, his parents, three brothers (Edward, John, and Lewis) and four sisters (Mary, Robinnett, Martha, and Jane) were slaves owned by Mr. Barrett, Slave Owner. Upon Mr. Barrett death, his four sons (Stronn, Charles, John, and William) inherited the Brown family, which he claimed as his property. The Brown family, were divided equal amongst his sons. Charles Barrett was very impressed with the evils of slavery. Henry, his parents, and his sisters, Jane and Martha became the property of William Barrett. His sister Martha became the personal property of William Barrett. Henry sisters Robinnet and Mary along

with Mary's children and his 3 brothers were sold separately and were sent elsewhere. Mrs. Brown the mother to her 7 children plea for her children not to be sold fell upon deaf ears. This separation of family was devastating for the young 15 year old Henry Brown.

Henry Brown parents remained on the plantation. However, Henry was taken to Richmond, Virginia, to work at the Tobacco Factory owned by William Barrett his slave owner. Henry Brown now in his adult years and still under the ownership of William Barrett had formed an acquaintance with a young woman name Nancy who was a slave belonging to Mr. Leigh a clerk at a bank located in Richmond, Virginia. After a lengthy acquaintance, Henry and Nancy decided to get married. However, first he had to obtain their slave owners permission. Reluctantly, slave owners William Barrett and Mr. Leigh gave their permission for the marriage. Mr. Leigh promise to Henry was not to sell his wife Nancy. However, that promise was broken because later, she was sold. During Mr. Brown marriage to Nancy, she was sold "three times" to other slave owners (Joseph Colquitt, Samuel Contrell, and a trader at the Auction Mart).

The sale held at the Auction Mart regarding his wife Nancy was the most devastating to Henry because it included his children as well. Mr. Brown learned of this from another slave while at work at the Tobacco Factory. Further, his wife and children were to leave immediately with the slave owner a trader to North Carolina. Mr. Brown after completing his works at the Tobacco Factory hurried home to find that his family was not there.

Well, this separation from Mr. Brown and his family created an emotional death on him that left scars deeper than the severe whip lashing he has received and his 16 hour work days. Accordingly, Mr. Brown asked other slave owners to purchase his family but was told they would not. Mr. Brown pleaded with William Barrett his on slave owner to purchase his family and was told, "You Can Get Another Wife".



This is when Henry Brown decided to escape from slavery. The escape idea came into his mind in a dream which was enclosing himself in a box as dry goods and shipped to a free state. Further, his escape plan involved his having to get out of work at the Tobacco Factory. He did this by burning his hands to the bone with sulfuric acid. This was surely an act of bravery, desperation, and a willing determination to be free from slavery.

On March 29, 1849 at 4:00 am, Mr. Brown met his friend Samuel A. Smith, a white man who disliked slavery at his supply store where he often did business. Mr. Smith organized the escape plan, the route, the destination, and its receiver. The cost for the preparation for the escape was \$86.00. Mr. Brown entered the box constructed by Mr. John Mattauer, a Black Carpenter. The box was nailed shut with Mr. Brown tightly secured inside. The name, address, city, and state were affixed to the box. “Now”, he was “Henry “Box” Brown and was on his way to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, “The City of Brotherly Love”. The box arrived at its destination on March 30, 1849. The box label dry goods was claimed by an abolitionist and the box was placed in his wagon.

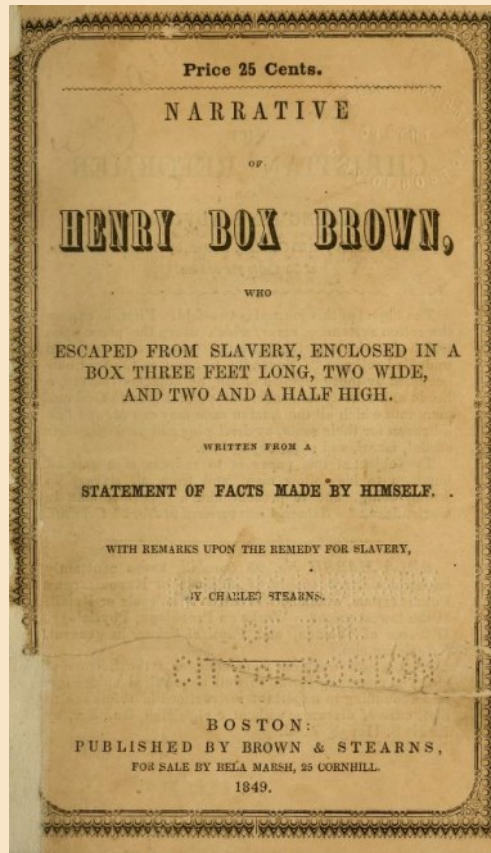
The wooden crate box was taken to a secure location. When the box was open, Henry “Box” Brown rose from the box very exhausted and said he was resurrected from the grave of slavery. A number of abolitionists greeted him including Frederick Douglass an agent of the Underground Railroad helping escaped slaves.

Henry “Box” Brown escape caught public attention that gave him instant “fame”. Following, his new freedom, he began an abolitionist lecture circuit throughout the North, the East

Coast, and Abroad speaking out against slavery.

Brothers and Sisters the cost for freedom is priceless as so demonstrated by Henry “Box” Brown. His escape techniques became very popular and were continuously tried by slaves during that time and period. Henry “Box” Brown ordeal was even re-enacted in 1966 by Anthony Cohen a person who traces the journey of escaped slaves. He had himself shipped over seven hours by train from Philadelphia to New York. Now, if that ordeal was not enough Mr. Cohen in 1998 spent sixteen hours in a crate on the Amtrak Train from Memphis, Tennessee to Chicago, Illinois. What an experience he must have had.

I hope this brief history on Henry “Box” Brown proved to be interesting. The man who enclosed himself in a box to “Escape Slavery” then stepped out of the box to “Freedom from Slavery” to begin a new life. For those that already new the story about Henry “Box” Brown that’s good. However, those that did not know the story about “Henry “Box” Brown, I hope his story proved to be educational.



Mr. Brown autobiography (his life story) published in England in 1851 is titled “Narrative the Life of Henry “Box” Brown. Mr. Brown died of natural causes at the age of 82 on June 15, 1897 in Toronto Ontario, Canada. His life story is just as astounding today in the year 2023 as it was when the book was published in the year 1851. This was 172 years ago.

Let us not forget the real heroes. They are the true pioneers. Yes, they are our “ancestors”. They endured and survived the most unimaginable treatment that was inflicted on a human being. And, yes, let’s never forget Henry “Box” Brown. He is truly an amazing man. Out.





The Martin Luther King Jr. Day Bowling Events across the Illinois Jurisdiction went off well in multiple locations across the State of Illinois. Sixty- Six (66) kids showed up for the Rufus Starks Bowling Event in the 4th District under the leadership of WB Christopher Johnson, WM PG Porter Lodge #142 (above).





Several youth participated in the Henry Short Bowling Event in the Chicago area which was held at Skyway Bowl on Chicago's Southeast Side. Under the direction of Right Worshipful Brother Leroy Berry, the team hosted several lanes that were enjoyed by youth of all ages. Most Worshipful Brother Roland Simon, Grand Master and Right Worshipful Brother Steven R. Coleman, Deputy Grand Master joined the team of hosts and bowlers who all had a good time.





Packing baskets, lifting crates, delivering goods, NO PROBLEM. The Chicago Food Depository is able to provide sustenance to those in need because of the helping hands of Universal Lodge #65 and others.



Monarch Lodge #99 is situated blocks away from the Police Station located in the Morgan Park Community of Chicago. In appreciation of the efforts that Chicago Police endure to aid and protect the community, Monarch hosted a "Police Appreciation Day" during Black History Month to lift the protectors who serve the area.

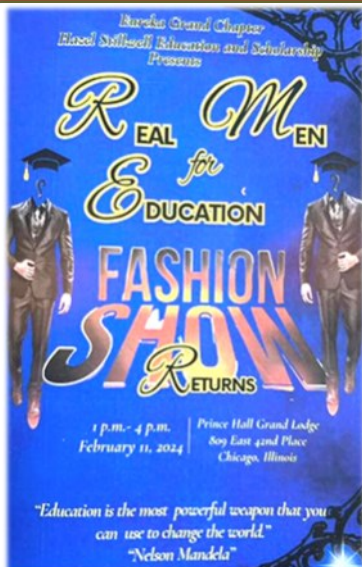




Talma Chapter #2 OES and North Star Lodge #1 put their muscles grit to work in aiding the Avalon-Chatham Food Depository on Chicago's south side. Tons of boxes were prepared for distribution to citizens in need.



Guiding Star Chapter #73 engaged in a community service effort to provide cheer for seniors on Valentine's Day. "Motown and Bingo with the Seniors" was a huge success performed brilliantly in GUIDING STAR#73 Style. Great job on spreading love to the Seniors for Valentine's Day.—Shondra Edwards & La Shaundra Humphries



The Hazel Stillwell Education Committee hosted "Real Men for Education" Fashion Show to raise funds to support the charitable efforts of the committee. Tracy Lynne did a beautiful job of revamping the 2nd floor of the Grand East. Bro. Anthony Atwood, PWGP, also did an excellent job as moderator and for teaching us the new word for the day, sprezzatura. Sister Heather LaShea rocked with her 360 booth and Devonte Matthews provided the splendid music. The Beaus on the stroll included Aubrey K. Barlow, Keith Roach, King Jae, Donald Chris Hardaway, Leroy R. Berry, Carlton Davis, Chef Nick Bell, Charles Caples, Jr., Jerrell Grays, Von Patton, Kevin Ellis, Tumaini Simons, Tony M Shaw, Ernest Jones and the young men from the Velma J Thames Youth Fraternity/KOP.



The Eureka Grand Chapter Sick and Cheer Committee alongside Worthy Grand Matron Mildred Lloyd had the honor of blessing these very lively Seniors of Greencastle Senior Housing (above) with a small love token on Valentine's Day!! It was a great time sitting and hearing stories from them. Vivian F Howell #151 showed some love to the Seniors of Chatham Park South with a Bingo & Ice Cream Social (below). Great job Sister Tanisha Lowery, WM and Brother Courtney Hamlet, WP.



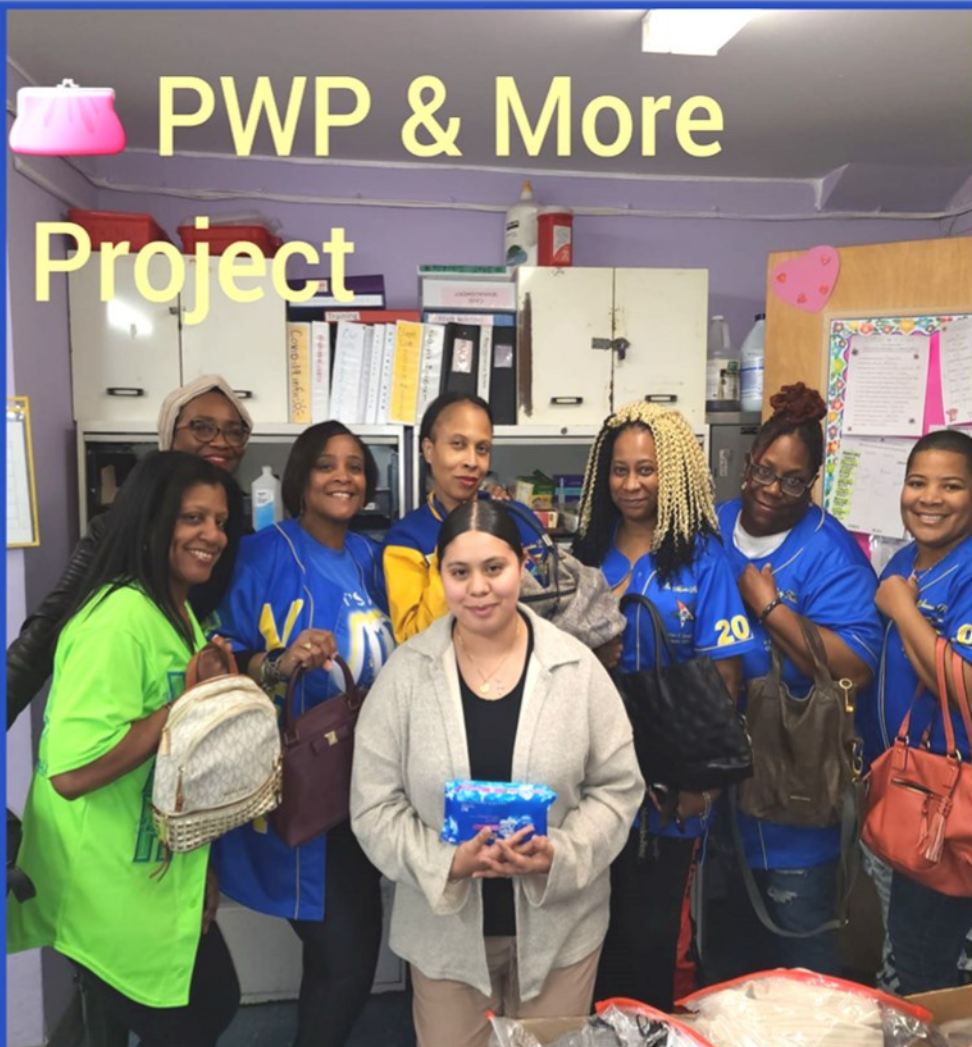
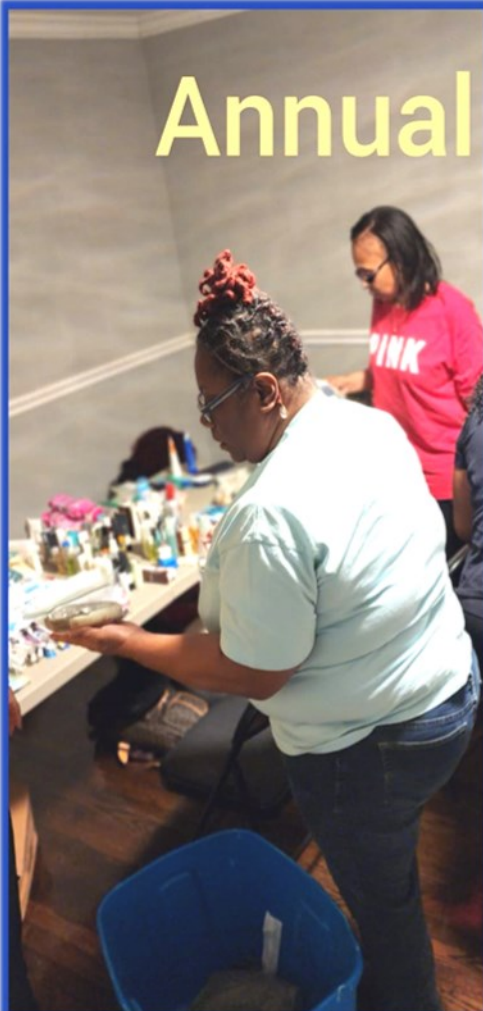


The brethren of Alexandria Lodge No 148 volunteered at the St. Elizabeth Food Pantry in Bronzeville. The team along with youth volunteers unloaded trucks with supplies, built care packages along with the church community, and loaded the packages on the truck for distribution and delivery to various points across the City of Chicago and surrounding areas.—*Tommy Harris*
 At the 2024 MidYear Session, Eureka Grand Chapter contributed to the Springfield Illinois community. The Mini O'Brian Crisis Center (1011 N 7th St, Springfield, IL 62702) was the beneficiary of a multitude of supplies to assist those families that are aided by the center. Several traveled and assisted in unloading. A special thank to all my brothers who helped.—*Sister Beverly Mayberry-Peppers*





Annual PWP & More Project



Vivian F. Howell Chapter #151 OES completed its annual "Purses With A Purpose & More" project. This project was established in 2013 and has been an annual event since that time. Women at the Greenhouse Shelter were blessed with clothing & shoes, and 35 new & gently used purses filled with toiletries and womens essentials. Going forward, the event will be schedules at least twice a year to provide the ladies of the shelter with much-needed essential. Donations of purses and travel toiletries are being accepted. Reach out myself or members of Vivian F. Howell chapter #151, and we will be happy to come and pick them up. —*Sister Beverly Mayberry-Peppers*

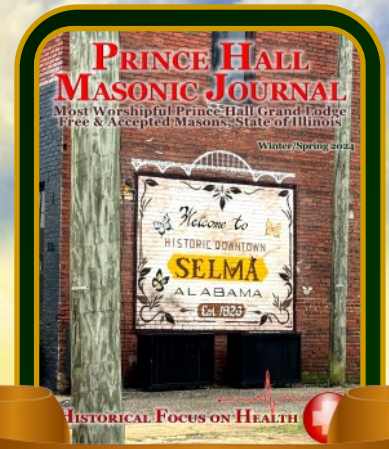




FAREWELL EDITORIAL



2006-2007



2023-2024

Usually, editorials are placed towards the start of editions of the Prince Hall Masonic Journal to setup the rest of the publication. This time around, the editorial is being placed in the rear as this is the last edition of the publication for which I have served as editor. It has been a long ride but the time has now come to pass it along to the next generation of editors so that the publication can evolve.

It has been my extreme honor and privilege to have served in this role for eighteen (18) years. To me, this publication has always been aligned with the responsibility of capturing history in its present state and longevity has had its privileges. It has helped me to get to know a great deal of brothers and sisters from every corner of the Illinois Jurisdiction. Your support over the years has been appreciated and I look forward to the next phase of the publication under the next editor.

Moving forward, it is critical that each Lodge, Chapter and District identify key individuals to provide articles and photos of events in order to ensure coverage in the Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois. The ENTIRE State of Illinois needs to be covered because the acts of charity and service are bountiful in every corner of the state. So, commit today to serve in this role so that this publication can continue to grow and evolve into its next phase.

Fraternally and Thank You for the Respect and Support,

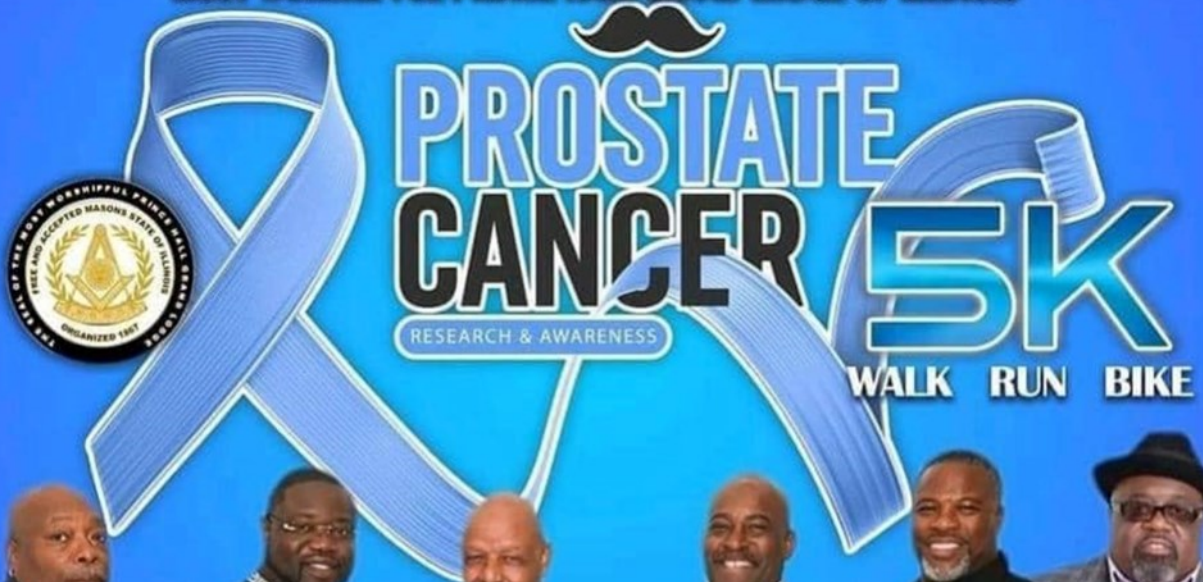
Right Worshipful Brother Daryl Lamar Andrews

CORNERSTONE LODGE #91
PRINCE HALL MASONIC JOURNAL EDITOR (2006-2024)



Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge of Illinois
809 East 42nd Place
Chicago, Illinois 60652

MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS



"We Survived, So Can You"

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2024

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