SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR
MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL
GRAND LODGE

Most Worshipful Grand Master
Warren R. Whitley

As the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia celebrates its Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary, it is important to look at how others see us and our Fraternity. The District of Columbia community knows us as that "Group of Men" who frequent the Masonic Temple, 1000 U Street, N.W., since the Temple dedication Friday, May 30, 1900. We know ourselves as that group of devoted Master Masons who came together Sunday, March 27, 1848 to form Union Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia in Georgetown, D.C.

With the organization, establishment and constitution of our Grand Jurisdiction, the consummation of which culminated a series of events that fully proved our claim to a direct and regular lineage from the Grand Lodge of England through Prince Hall and the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, the legitimacy of our rights and that of every man of color to enjoy fully the privileges, rights and benefits of this time-honored Fraternity has been firmly established because of our conformity, in every respect, to the ancient laws and general regulations of the Craft, all of which have been viewed with great pride and heritage that were guaranteed to us by our illustrious forefathers.

Slavery was in full bloom in 1848, but Frederick Douglass, a Free Man spoke at the first Women's Rights Convention, Seneca Falls, New York. Lewis Latimer, inventor of the carbon filament for electric lights, is born September 4, Chelsea, Massachusetts. The founder of the West Virginia Enterprise, the Pioneer, and Mountain Eagle Newspapers, Christopher Harrison Payne was born in Virginia. The Washington Gas Company was chartered by an act of Congress. At a Southwest Washington Wharf, a cargo ship sailed on the Potomac River in 1848 with more than 70 slaves who hoped to escape their Washington masters.

Yet in the midst of these events, Brehon of Social Lodge No. 7, Universal Lodge No. 10, and Felix Lodge No. 17 came together in the Fleet School located on 23rd street between 23rd and 24th streets. They elected Charles Datcher, Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Today, as yesterday, people know this Grand Lodge through many of its members. They have hopes for us as they look forward to the years ahead. Their wish is that we will continue to provide strong leadership within the Fraternity and in the Community at large. They are counting on us to continue to be a model in an Urban setting. To be a pace setter for others to emulate and follow. We must have a faith beyond a survival mentality; we must be renewed and continue to be a viable entity in the District of Columbia.

Much has been accomplished since that day in 1848. We can brag that our Masonic Temple was built and dedicated in 1930, during the depression years. Our scholarship program has yielded over $1.5 Million to deserving youths in the Metro area. Our award winning Blood Bank Program is second only to the American Red Cross in this area. We put in production a first class

Masonic Digest Newspaper. Now, we are in the process of renovating our Masonic Temple and building a Senior Citizen Facility in the North East quadrant of the City. These are just a few selected accomplishments which perhaps do not do proper justice to those who preceded us.

The Grand Architect of the Universe continues to Bless us. March 27-29, 1998, was a very successful and exciting weekend for those who participated. The Banquet at the Hyatt Hotel on Capitol Hill on Wednesday evening, March 27th, the Third Presentation of Artifacts to the Meadeth-Spogburn Research Center, Howard University, Saturday morning, March 28th and a Special Grand Lodge School of Instruction.

http://www.eroles.com/mwpghl/index.htm
Grand Master’s Inaugural Address

By Allen O. Noumeaire

Most Worshipful Grand Master Warren E. Whiteley delivered his second inaugural address on December 20, 1998, at the Masonic Temple. The following are excerpts from the Grand Master’s address.

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

Teach me Thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

Father, I pray the Prayer of Your servant Solomon, “Give therefore Thy servant an understanding heart to judge the people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy great people?”

Father I pray that the hearts of the members of this Prince Hall Masonic Family, “might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all rules of the assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Knowledge being the understanding of truth and Wisdom, grant me the ability to apply what truth has been learned.

Teach us to love one another as Christ has and is loving us. Help us not to lean to our own understanding, but use that knowledge and wisdom which You have given.

And Father I pray that whatever I do and whatever we do in this Prince Hall Masonic Family will be to the Glory of Thy Holy and Gracious Name. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

That prayer I just prayed is the prayer I prayed before my first inaugural in December 1996. It has served us well.

Again, let me extend to each of you my warmest and most fraternal greetings on the occasion of my second inaugural address as the 71st Most Worshipful Grand Master of this very proud Jurisdiction. I assure you today, as I did last year, that I stand quite proud, at this moment, at having received again your trust and confidence.

I sincerely thank you for your prayers, support, cooperation and understanding as we continue to move this Jurisdiction forward as one entity. Let us continue to pray that God will continue to guide us in the path of truth, knowledge, and wisdom that we may perform all of our duties. Without His help, we can do nothing.

Upon my reelection, you have given me a new mandate to continue moving this Jurisdiction aggressively forward.

My many duties, prerogatives, responsibilities, and the authority to perform the same have not changed. I promise to uphold and defend the Corpus Juris of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. I promise to respect the rights of all members, the Warranted Lodges, Adopted, Appendant, and Concordant Bodies as stated in the Jurisprudence of Freemasonry.

I promise to continue preserving order and decorum within the Prince Hall Family and to keep my charge to see that peace and harmony are maintained.

We will continue the struggle to adhere to the basic rules upon which this Fraternity was founded, our Landmarks and Corpus Juris. The Landmarks are unmistakably clear relative to what can or cannot be done.

The Corpus Juris of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia is equally clear. I implore you not to let your emotions and your quest for vindication replace sound reasoning, logic and adherence to the same, causing us to become our own victimizers, leaning on our own misunderstandings.

We need to continue our quest to guard against—and become larger than self interest, and aggressively move this Fraternity forward. If not now when?

This beautiful system of moral, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols, was conceived by wise, scholarly, and virtuous men, with a particular design of calling to our attention, the most solemn truths, amidst the most innocent, social pleasures. This beautiful system forms the basis of our fraternal integrity.

The Landmarks, Principals, Precepts, and Tenets are the Fraternity as the Ten Commandments are to us Christians. We are to be obedient to both, without question. The church takes everyone. The Fraternity takes only good men and women with a view toward making them better.

To ensure that we are allowing good men and women to enter our Fraternity, we must carefully scrutinize their applications and perform thorough police and community background checks, verifying where possible, the information person to person with those so vouching. Today’s computer and duplicating equipment can foil the most experienced investigator.

During the 149th Annual Communication, a new Section 38 was added to Article II (Clothing) of Corpus Juris stating: “The Jurisdictional dress shall be a black suit, white shirt, black four-in-hand or bow tie, black shoes, black socks, white gloves and apron.” What does this mean? It means that when returning to the more traditional, conventional form of dress. Further, when in the character of a Mason in this Jurisdiction, we should not mar that image by wearing an earring. If you are in a Masonic procession you will be asked to remove the earring until the event or activity has concluded. Still further, when acting in one of our Adopted, Appendant or Concordant bodies, the regalia or jewel embellishment that unit should be worn, no other would be appropriate. If you do not start now, when will we start?

Fraternal tradition informs us that the value of a man’s life should not be determined by the abundance of things he possesses but by the contributions he makes to the Fraternity, to society, and to the community. Each of us should determine our niche or how we can improve ourselves and our Fraternity. What will be your contribution? We should not want to be thought of like Methuselah in Genesis 5:27, “And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died.” Biblically, what is known as ININAUGURAL page 12.

Success

I hold no dream of fortune vast, Nor seek undying fame. I do not ask when life is past That many know my name. I may not own the skill to rise To glory’s topmost height, Nor win a place among the wise, But I can keep the right. And I can live my life on earth Contended to the end. If but a few shall know my worth And proudly call me friend.

Edgar A. Guest.

Clinton Lesueur
New Staff Writer

Clinton Lesueur

Brother Clinton Lesueur of Fidelity Lodge No. 20 has been assigned as a staff writer for the Prince Hall Masonic Digest.

Brother Lesueur is a native of Holly Springs, Mississippi. He attended Holly Springs High School. He also attended Rust College which is located in Holly Springs, where he received a BA degree in Print Journalism. He is presently a candidate for a master’s degree in Print Journalism/Public Policy of American University in Washington, D.C. Brother Lesueur is a News Assistant in the Life section of the USA Today Newspaper in Arlington, Virginia. He finds the job most rewarding and challenging. His skills and knowledge are improving with each assignment.

Clinton enjoys working with children. He is a tutor and mentor for the “I Have a Dream Foundation.” Which is an organization established in the inner city of Washington to help and assist less fortunate children.

He is also an adult advisor for council No. 4, Nights of Pythiagoras (Youth Council sponsored by Fidelity Lodge No. 20). Brother Clinton Lesueur is a young man whom we expect to play a major role in efforts to enhance the Prince Hall Masonic Digest.
GRAND MASTER WARREN R. WHITLEY
INDUCTS 15 FELLOWS INTO
SESQUICENTENNIAL CLUB


MWGM Warren R. Whitley has inducted 15 members of this Jurisdiction into his Sesquicentennial Club, dubbing them “Prince Hall Fellows of the Sesquicentennial.” The unique group was cited for their exceptional dedication to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia during its 150th anniversary observance, and for purchasing the first 15 medallions struck by the Jurisdiction to commemorate the year-long occasion.

Members were presented Certificates by Grand Master Whitley during a Sesquicentennial Banquet held March 27 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The Certificates were numbered sequentially from 1 to 15 to certify members’ status as Prince Hall Fellows.

The Fellows include: RWDGM Willie H. Griffin (20), RWSGW John Ellington, Jr. (24), RWJGW Aaron R. Jordan (22), WSGD Robert E. Wheeler (17), WJGD J. Raymond Murray (25), WSGS Robert A.O. Foster (3), WJGS Edward R. McKay, Sr. (10), MWPGM Thomas L. Johnson (1), Trustee Emeritus William B. Gordon (18), Wor. Robert C. Brown (27), Wor. Harold Wilder (12), Wor. Charles W. Sharpe, Sr. (3), WM Winfred D. Walton (10) and Grand Worshipful Matron Cheryl Williams (C14).
Oldest Member of Oldest Lodge Celebrates “100th”

Brother Fred Fair of Social Lodge No. 1 celebrated his 100th birthday on November 26, 1997. A family celebration hosted by his son was held at the Northwest Healthcare Facility. Five generations of his family and other acquaintances were present to honor him. His son, Fred D. Fair, is a member of Fellowship Lodge No. 26.

Brother Fair received a certificate from the White House along with a congratulatory letter from President and Mrs. Clinton. Having been a sleeping car porter on the railroad for many years, he received a certificate from a representative of the railroad. He was assigned to the Presidential train during rail trips by Presidents Roosevelt and Truman.

Brother Fair was raised in Asheville, North Carolina and affiliated with Social Lodge No. 1 in December 1948. W.M. Kevin L. Carron, along with Past Masters Leroy Gassaway, Douglas M. Gullie, Robert M. Taylor and Sec. Bernard T. Steele were present for the celebration.

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The Grand Masters

The continued success and progress of the Jurisdiction of the District of Columbia is reflective of the leadership of the Grand Masters. The Grand Masters have been men of distinction, honor, accomplishment (civic and Masonic), determination, vision, and unwavering devotion to Prince Hall Masonry. Personally, they all sacrificed tremendously. As is often the case of courageous leadership, they were not always popular during their tenure as Grand Master because they made the tough decisions and took unpopular actions. However, a historical review of their times and the situations they faced reveals that they were prudent men who made wise decisions for the benefit of the Craft.

These leaders formed a Lodge (1825) and a Grand Lodge (1848) in the midst of slavery in the District of Columbia. It has been hinted (undocumented) that Prince Hall Masons in the District of Columbia operated a major station on the Underground Railroad for slaves escaping from Maryland and the South. They survived racism and discrimination. They built a Temple on the eve of the “Depression.” They lost and recovered the Temple. They initiated programs such as “Operation Boot Strap” and developed plans which have ensured the continued success and the progress of Prince Hall Masonry in the District of Columbia. They have ever supported community development. They have been active in their churches and community. The Grand Masters had outstanding Masonic careers and served as members and heads of numerous Masonic organizations.

Grand Masters

Charles Datcher - 1848
John T. Costin - 1849
Richard Phisite - 1850
Robert Robinson - 1851
Charles Datcher - 1852-53
Francis Datcher - 1854
Charles Hunt - 1855
Ananas Herbert - 1856
Carter A. Stewart - 1857
Edward Evans - 1858
Carter Stewart - 1859
William Anderson - 1860
Edward W. Thomas - 1861
Adolphus Hall - 1862
William Tannah - 1863
Robert Booker - 1864
William H. Thomas - 1865
John F. Cook - 1866-73
William H. Myers - 1874
William A. Taliaferro - 1875
John F. Cook - 1876-77
George W. Brooks - 1878
Leonard C. Bailey - 1879-81
Chas. C.C. Johnson - 1882-83
S. Roger Watts - 1884-96
John H. Lee - 1887-89
Charles H. Lemons - 1890-92
Henry Coleman - 1893-95
Hamilton S. Smith - 1896-97
John H. Burrell - 1898
Robert H. Terrell - 1899-1902
W. H. Judd Malvin - 1903-04
John T. Leyton - 1905
Willie H. Grimshaw - 1906-07
William A. Warfield - 1909
N.E. Weatherhead - 1910-16
William H. Jackson - 1917
John E. Smith - 1918
John P. Turner - 1919-1920
William A. Warfield - 1921
Jesse H. Mitchell - 1922-23
Charles P. Ford - 1924-25
Alphonso E. Doston - 1929-30
Frank D. McKinnie - 1931-32
George M. Amber - 1933
Louis W. Roy, Sr. - 1934-40
Roylal W. Bailey - 1941-42
Allen A.C. Griffith - 1943-44
Simpson Wallace - 1945-46
Melvin K. Key - 1947-48
Cyrus N. Parker - 1949-50
L. E. Hawkins - 1951-52
Barry Hampton - 1953-54
Arthur E. Brooks - 1955-56
George A. Farrar - 1957-58
William W. Barnes - 1959-60
Curtis J. Blakey - 1961-62
William F. Lawton - 1963-64
David P. Crosby - 1965-66
Joseph S. Thomas - 1967-68
S. M. Henderhout - 1969-70
J. N. Yeurwood - 1971-72
Henry A. Deve - 1973-74
Col. J. D. Howard - 1975-76
Dr. E. E. Marshall - 1977-78
Donald Vowels - 1979-80
Thomas L. Johnson - 1981-82
Matthew Ellis, Jr. - 1983-84
Charles P. Bates - 1985-86
Roland D. Williams - 1987-88
David Brunson - 1989-90
Joseph D. Daniels - 1991-92
Dr. E. M. Levant - 1995-96
Warren R. Whiteley - 1997-98

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MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

Freemasonry in North Carolina has had race in the back of its mind for years. It has nagged quietly but persistently. For the first time in years, there is hope of seeing some of that burden lifted.

Visits from “regular” Masons of color have been acute reminders about our shortcomings in practicing what we preach. The presence of 19,000 North Carolina Masons in a grand lodge we don’t recognize frequently reminds us that our membership has not been historically open to “all good men.”

For about half of this century blacks were explicitly forbidden to join our lodges. Freemasonry here is still largely practiced on the old premise of “separate but equal.” Prince Hall Freemasonry is almost entirely black, and our Grand Lodge is still almost entirely white.

Many have hoped to avoid facing the question of race in the Fraternity and counseled that we do so. To ignore the problem is to disregard a growing cancer within the Craft. Some have considered the question only for its possible legal and public relations ramifications. In the end though, the real danger of this division is in our own hearts and consciences. No organization can thrive when it violates its own most basic teachings.

The past year has seen forged landmarks for our future moral growth. The board of General Purposes lit a beacon to guide our behavior when they passed a resolution condemning racism and forbidding it in our jurisdiction. In October, our Grand Lodge invited officials of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina to join us at the public cornerstone dedication at the Gaston County Courthouse. These two acts positioned North Carolina Freemasonry to exist this century standing tall and proud.

The racial split in this country is wide. Masonry has its own share of prejudice, but no other two organizations in our state have more potential to heal those wounds than our two grand lodges.

Recognition is a question that we will face. Eventually, we will acknowledge each other—not because of outside pressure, but because it is the right thing to do. Until then, we will have many opportunities to work together in our communities.

Fraternal recognition is not a factor when we work with community groups and our schools, the Red Cross, rescue squad, Kiwanis, or Rotary. Neither is it an issue when working with local Prince Hall Masonic lodges. Our rules only forbid communication about the “secrets” of Masonry. Communications with our neighbors should be uppermost in living the life of a good Mason.

While the final answer to all questions of bigotry and hatred will be in the heart and final judgment of each individual, it is the job of leadership to point us in the correct direction. Our leadership has finally taken on that responsibility.

Finally, we have listened to our own teachings and found the courage in our leadership to stand tall and proclaim what we know to be right. Only through this approach can we truly clear our conscience and move toward the actual brotherhood of man through the fatherhood of god.

We may soon be worthy of the teachings we profess.

Recent editorial in the North Carolina Mason. The editor is Ric Carter (rcarter@grandlodge-nc.org). Permission granted to reprint, December 4, 1997.

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MAY 1996 • Page 5
The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia held its 150th Anniversary Banquet on March 27, 1998, at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill Hotel. The affair was well attended with noted support from Appendant and Concordant bodies of the Prince Hall family. It was a festive affair befitting the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge. Visiting dignitaries included:

Most Worshipful Grand Master Ramon Nelson and Most Worshipful First Grand Master Kenneth Bruner of New Jersey; Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Shelton Redding; Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden Leroy Lassiter and Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden Kenneth W. Parker of Maryland; and Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden James Fitzgerald of Delaware. Other dignitaries included District of Columbia City Council Chairperson Linda Cropp; At Large, Councilman Frank Smith (Ward One); and Councilman Carol Schwartz. PM Robert Mitchell from Oriental Lodge No. 80 also came to support the affair.

The guest speaker was Benjamin Hooks, who captivated the audience with a moving speech.

Benjamin Hooks and Grand Master

Grand Master with Worthy Matrons

Knights of Pythagoras

PRAYER BREAKFAST

By William J. Matthews, WGCDFR

The theme was “Support Our Youth” as the Most Venerable Grand Council Order of the Knights of Pythagoras held its Eighth Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, January 17, 1998. The Breakfast was held in the Main Ball Room of the Prince Hall Masonic Temple.

Musical selections were provided by youth and young adult choir of Verrick Memorial AME Zion Church of Northeast, Washington, D.C.

The program, whose master of ceremonies was S.K. Bobby Griffin (4), began with a prayer by S.K. Dante’ Payne (4). The Most Venerable Grand Master Knight thanked all for coming out and urged continuous support. State Director, Chester C. Henry stated that he was overwhelmed at the show of concern by so many present.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Warren R. Whitley beamed as he looked out upon the audience which consisted of youth, their parents, Master Mason members of Concordant, Adoptive and Appendant bodies. He called for the Craft to help prepare our youth for life. Having deep concern for the plight of our youth, he announced an investment plan whereby youth will be made aware of the importance of saving and the initiation of a chess club to help our youth think and think in terms of results to help them channel their energies in positive directions.

M.W.G.M. Whiteley also presented an Outstanding Service Award to Chaplain/Brother Nevalon Mitchell.

Chaplain/Brother Mitchell chose for his text the 15th Chapter of Luke, calling for parents to love their offspring, noting that those lost through wandering away can be found in returning to Christ.

Knight Praying
Freemasonry's History of Racism

The book, *Christianity and American Freemasonry* by William J. Whalen (Our Sunday Visitor; 1987, pages 23-25) discusses the racism of Freemasonry at some length. An organization dedicated to brotherhood, Masonry ironically remains a bulwark of racial segregation in the United States. By 1987 decades after most American institutions had accepted racial integration, only four of the forty-nine Grand Lodges could count even one black member in their jurisdictions. As the author of a recent scholarly study of black Freemasonry observes, “The legitimation of social intermingling between black and white Masons has remained anathema in mainstream Freemasonry” (Handbook of Secret Organizations, by Whalen). A lodge within the British military forces initiated Prince Hall with fourteen free black men in 1775 after the men had been rebuffed in their attempt to join St. John’s Lodge in Boston. Eventually the black Masons received a charter from the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England for African Lodge No. 438.

New Captain of "Mighty Mecca"

By Alan R. G. Roundtree

John “Boss Man” Hobbs is the new Captain of the Mecca Temple No. 10 Drill Team (Police Patrol). John is a longtime veteran of the Drill Team. “Boss Man” was an athlete of note. On February 20, 1998, John “Boss Man” Hobbs was reinducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore. He was bestowed upon Hobbs because of his athletic achievements. The reinduction commemorated the dedication of new facilities for plays for Hall of Famers. In college, John was awarded the “Outstanding University Award” as the most valuable player on the Maryland State University Football squad in his Sophomore year. Hobbs played as a defensive halfback for the CUA and was a “serious” player of the “Big East.” He was named to the NFL All-American squad. In his senior year, he was Co-Captain of Maryland State’s champions football team. Hobbs was drafted and signed a contract with the Denver Bronco Professional Football Team. During his first year, he was considered the outstanding quarterback. See CAPTAIN PAGE 18.
BOOK REVIEW
PRINCE HALL: LIFE AND LEGACY
By Gregory R. Koonce, Staff Writer

Every book reviewer has a place to which he privately retreats. It is a fuzzy, warm place, which usually his library and contains the books that go far beyond what are called "good reads" in the book publishing industry. In fact, every card-carrying book reviewer has in his most inner sanctum and on his top shelf a core of excellent standards that he retires to from time to time.

These shelves contain his rare gems, those books which have given him the most pleasure, or those books which have made an impact upon the way he thinks or feels or behaves. The book reviewer either for sentimental reasons or because of some specific celebration, occasionally shares with friends and readers those rare treasures from his personal collection and archived classics.

It is fitting that, on the 150th anniversary of the Prince Hall Fraternity in the District of Columbia, we revisit one of those rare classics. We celebrate the founding of our noble and glorious fraternity by a remarkable man, Prince Hall, living in a remarkable place and time in American history. The book's author, Dr. Charles H. Wesley, noted scholar and historian, has indeed left us a benefit with his 1977 publication of Prince Hall: Life and Legacy.

The 1983 hardcover edition includes an updated bibliography, a remarkable resource in itself in that it acknowledges and lists some of the most important and influential books ever published on the question of what was once commonly referred to as the Negro in Freemasonry. This comprehensive bibliography is divided into two sections, Unpublished Sources and Published Sources. Upon inspection, the available body of source literature and other research documents on the "Negro Question" would stagger the imaginations of most contemporary Masons. The mist condition of some of the primary literature is quite impressive, including Prince Hall's charge to the Lodge and marriage certificates.

From the point of view of cultural nationalism, Prince Hall leaves an almost appropriately/enigmatic account of his origins. Like the shadowy beginnings of the Craft itself, Prince Hall's roots are shrouded in mystery, myth and speculation. The sometimes wild speculations and mysteries surrounding his actual birth and his genetic lineage have filled numerous scholarly reference works; thus, posterity is left with a substantial collection of interesting, sometimes insightful, yet ever-changing views about the man and his life.

Many historical detectives, some good and others not so good, some white and others black, have produced quite an intriguing mythology surrounding the life and times of Prince Hall, founder of the first African (black) organization in America! And this is the enormous legacy that Dr. Wesley leaves us, concealing that each succeeding generation of scholars sheds new light or understanding on an old, sometimes difficult and often elusive subject.

Wesley, who was a member of Hiram Lodge No. 4, District of Columbia, (PHA) weaves an elegant tale that begins on the docks of Colonial Massachusetts after the Mayflower has landed, and, with substantial irony, ends in 1755, on the urban streets of Washington, D.C. A paper delivered by renowned Masonic writer, Theodor Van Buren Voorhis in the Freemas-
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By Alton G. Roundtree/PM Excllent Bro.

A survey of community outreach activities of the Prince Hall Masonic Family of the District of Columbia for 1997 revealed, as in previous years, an extensive effort on a variety of fronts. The survey results are not all inclusive. However, they do represent the organizations that replied. Following are activities and organizations contributing outreach efforts.

BLOOD BANK

The Prince Hall Masonic Family is one of the largest contributors of blood in the District of Columbia. Lodges and Eastern Star Chapters compete for the honor of being number one in the annual blood drive. The Red Cross Blood Mobile visits the Masonic Temple four times each year.

NAACP

The Prince Hall Masonic Family is a large contributor to the District of Columbia Chapter of the NAACP. The Lodges and Eastern Star Chapters compete for the title of being the tops in the membership drive. Numerous life memberships and Golden Heritage memberships are purchased by the Prince Hall Masonic Family.

HEALTH FAIR

An annual Community Health Fair is held at the Masonic Temple. This affords the community an opportunity to receive free health checks and professional medical advice.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Over $74,000 in scholarships were presented this past year to high school students entering college.

MENTORS

Andrey Robinson-Underwood Military Chapter No. 15 provides mentor service to the 11th Wing School Mentor Program. Redemption Lodge No. 24 mentored youth for Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club, D.C.

Redemption Lodge No. 24 participated in “Gateway Paths to Adult Learning.” Provided tutors.

See OUTREACH page 13

GIANT/SAFE-WAY RECEIPT

By Robert A.O. Foster

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia has again participated in the Giant - Apples For the Students Plus and the Safe-Way - Receipts for Education Programs. Under the leadership and direction of our Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Honorable Warren R. Whitley, we again adopted the Garrison Elementary School to be the beneficiary of our efforts. Garrison Elementary, located at 12th and S Streets, N.W., is in the neighborhood of our Temple.

This Receipt Program is designed to enable various adopted schools to earn free credit for securing Computers, Printers, CD-ROMS, Software Packages, Textbooks, TV’s, VCR’s, Microscopes, Telescopes, Calculators and other much needed educational tools.

On behalf of our Most Worshipful Grand Master, Warren R. Whitley, I would like to thank each and everyone for their participation. Those who contributed to the effort donated the total amount of $72,917.55 in Giant and Safe-way receipts. A very special thank you go out to PM Ida M. Wright who contributed over half of the total in the amount of $37,131.67.

This project was successful because of all who participated. The students of Garrison will benefit greatly because of you. Let’s do it again next year.

A Sesquicentennial Celebration

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Jurisdiction of the District of Columbia

1848 - 1998

By Bro. Earl Tilden

Prince Hall, according to Dr. Charles H. Wesley, a stalwart Prince Hall Mason, and noted historian.

"Prince Hall was one of the Fathers of Freedom in the period of the American Revolution and the Founding Fathers. He was a black American in slavery and in freedom motivated by interests and goals as were white Americans. He was active in the struggle for the independence and self-government of the United States, as well as for the freedom of blacks with whom he was an active leader and a participant in their activities. He was a black man in America torn between significant causes in this first of our nation’s beginning.

"Mr. Whitley for freedom had a dual thrust. One directed against the dominating rule of a foreign power in the American colonies, and the other against the bondage of blacks... He was a man among men... and because he occupied a place of leadership, it should be upon this basis that we make our judgments."

"The primary distinction for Prince Hall was that he was the Founder of Masonry, not by copying and imitating white American Masonry but by the application and approval of British Masonry in the period of the American Revolution when the rights of men were being tested. American Masons had not invited nor considered blacks..."

Bro. Wesley, author of Prince Hall Life and Legacy 1777 was a devoted student of the life of Prince Hall, and explored the life and the myths surrounding Prince Hall and Prince Hall Masonry.

It is the life and legacy of Prince Hall, and the examples of dedication and service of his followers, that prompted men to form Masonic lodges throughout the United States... Such was the case in Washington, D.C., in 1825, when the first Masonic lodge, Social Lodge, was formed under the national capital for black Americans. This union of black Americans caused the founding and chartering of a Prince Hall Grand Lodge in Washington, D.C., in 1848. It is the laboring in the vineyard of Prince Hall Masons in Washington that we celebrate in 1998, the one hundred and fifty anniversary of the District of Columbia Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

Let it therefore be acknowledged that the officers and members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, do hereby celebrate the accomplishments of all members of this jurisdiction, who have dedicated their lives and services to the plight of our people in particular and to mankind in general.

RACISM from page 7

wrote in 1908 "Masonry never contemplated that her privileges should be extended to a race, totally, morally and intellectually incompetent to discharge the obligation which they assume or have conferred upon them in a Masonic lodge. It is no answer that there are exceptions to this general character of the race. We legislate for the race and not for the exceptions. We hold that affiliation with negroes is contrary to the teachings of Masonry, and is dangerous to the interest of the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons."

The Prince Hall lodges include a number of distinguished gentlemen on their rosters such as Supreme Court Justice Marshall, Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles. Dr. Benjamin Hooks of the NAACP, Mayor Andrew Young of Atlanta, and Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit. Of course, none of these black Masons would be allowed to visit a white Masonic lodge. Whether Masonry influenced Southern races or was simply influenced itself is hard to determine. Even during the civil rights battles of the 1960s, knowledgeable blacks discovered that many of the leaders of the segregationist movement, such as Governors George Wallace of Alabama, Orval Faubus of Arkansas, and Ross Barnett of Mississippi, were also active Masons.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast

By Alton G. Roundtree


In addition to memorializing the life and deeds of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., this activity fortifies the UPO Joseph A. Beavers Scholarship Program. The program is intended to help local students who, despite formidable social adversity, have succeeded in graduating from a District of Columbia public high school, community school, or adult education program and desire to further their education. The scholarship program is funded by proceeds of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast that UPO sponsors each January to honor Dr. King on his birthday.

Several organizational and individual awards were presented for exceptional outstanding community outreach programs. The awards included the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award, honoring a nonprofit community organization in the District of Columbia: the Martin Luther King, Jr. Corporate Community Service Award, recognizing ongoing and effective community involvement by a Washington, D.C. area business organization; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Special Recognition Service Award, recognizing an exemplary citizen for his or her commitment, dedication, and support in improving the quality of life for disadvantaged members of the Washington community; and the Mildred Clye pools Community Service Award recognizing outstanding and innovative problem-solving efforts by a volunteer worker.

Benjamin Jennings, Executive Director of the United Planning Organization, was recognized by the District of Columbia City Council for his outstanding leadership and accomplishments. Brother Benjamin Jennings is a member of Redemption Lodge No. 24.

After the breakfast concluded, several District of Columbia and community leaders endeavored to discuss various matters with Most Worshipful Grand Master Warren R. Whitley.

MWPGM Col. Nathaniel M. Adams, Bro. Benjamin Jennings, and Grand Master Whitley

Grand Master and contingent listening to speaker

Williamson Rolark, award recipient, Bro. Benjamin Jennings, and Grand Master Warren R. Whitley

City Council Chairperson Linda Cropp presenting award to Benjamin
The Chaplain

We Are Family

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, we celebrate a great legacy of family and brotherhood. Our development, success and survival as an organization can be attributed to the blessings of Almighty God and the bonds of brotherhood. If we are to survive another 150 years, and meet the challenges of the 21st century, then we must return to that which has brought us thus far along the way. It is because of the family unit that we have survived as a generation and as a race. Although we may come from different walks of life and even different parts of the universe, first and foremost, We Are Family.

CONFERENCE from page 5

MECCA COURT NO. 2
DAUGHTERS OF ISIS

MECCA COURT NO. 2 has hit the ground running for 1998. With the permission of the 1997 administration, the new administration really began its work in late November/early December with a gleaner rally and an immediate Past Asstater of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). The hard work of this new president, Mr. Elgin L. Price, enabled the Court to proudly make a donation of $1,653 to this worthwhile cause. In December, Dr. Sharon Evans Newsum was elected as the Illustrious Commander for 1998. Dr. Newsum is a native Washingtonian and a product of the D.C. Public Schools (Spingarn High) and the D.C. Teachers College (now a part of UDC). She is a member of First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church and curator of a 27 year employee of the Federal Reserve Board. Dr. Newsum is a past Matron (1981) of Thurf Chapter No. 124 and immediate Past Asstater of the Georgian Grand Chapter. She is also an active member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. In her acceptance and inaugural speech, Dr Newsum pledged to do her best for the good of the Court and asked the same of herDaughters.

In addition to usual community outreach programs and charity work, the Court, for the plans for 1998 include a ‘Christmas in June’ Senior Citizens Program, reactivation of the Color guard unit for competition in New Orleans in August, inclusion of the youth groups (Sir. and Sr. Isseretten) with community involvement, and institution of the ‘Good News and Other Blessings Committee’ to specifically report happy/good information (e.g. weddings, births of children/grandchildren, etc.) about the Daughters.

On January 24, Mecca Court and Mecca Temple had its fourth annual Joint Prayer Breakfast which was an astounding success. The committee, chaired by Dr. Marian Ferrell for the Court and Noble Reginald Maudsby for the Temple, worked untringly to ensure that the Prayer Breakfast serve its purpose which was to seek Divine Guidance before any major undertaking. The joint theme for 1998 for the Court and Temple is "Unity and Productivity" which was displayed on a large banner that stretched the length of the head table. Prayers for both unity and productivity were rendered by members of the Temple and Court, respectively, and Minister Betty Green from Mt. Olivet Church delivered an inspiring sermon related to the theme. All the tables were decorated with gold, green, red and white flowers, surrounded by "Prayer Rocks" (prayer reminders) and "Emergency Phone Numbers" scrolls (scriptural references). While the Prayer Breakfast was not the only activity of the year, it was within the first month and has definitely set the tone for the remaining months.

With God’s blessings, a banner year is expected for Mecca Court No. 2.
PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY!

Spurred by growing concerns over electronic intrusion into their private lives, more than 1,000 Maryland motorists a day are rushing to block access to information that many did not know until recently was readily available to the public: their driver records.

Since a state law went into effect September 1, more than 126,000 drivers have opted to shut what for nearly 55 years has been an open window on their names, addresses and other personal details listed on their drivers' licenses, as well as specifics on the vehicles they own and traffic violations they have accumulated.

The information, maintained in computerized data banks at the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) has been available to the public for a fee. A MVA told $12.9 million in records in 1996. Nearly all of that information was purchased by lawyers, insurance companies and individual drivers, with only $50,000 bought by bulk marketers.

Maryland drivers can block release of information on their drivers' licenses by calling the MVA toll-free hotlines at 1-800-682-3772 or by going to an MVA service office. It's best to call after business hours.

Bell Atlantic Plan Stirs Privacy Concerns
(Except from recent Wash. Post Article)

Bell Atlantic Corporation will ask Maryland regulators for permission to offer a new service that would allow people to learn the names and address of any owner of a listed phone number in the same county.

The company, which already promotes the service as a convenient way to find information that already exists in directory listings. But critics call it yet another example of the erosion of personal privacy.

The service, dubbed "Call 54" will work this way: Users would dial a Maryland area code and 545-5454 and enter someone's phone number. An automated voice would provide the name and mailing address of the person to whom the phone number is assigned. The addresses of people who have unlisted numbers, and of area women's shelters and other "similar safe haven," would be blocked from the service, according to company spokesman Jim Smith.

People with listed numbers who don't want their personal information released can avoid a $4.95 charge by calling 1-800-579-0323. After February 7, Smith said people would be able to request free blocking by calling the Bell Atlantic's request number. Bell Atlantic is considering charging 75 cents for the service and limiting callers to three addresses per call.

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INAUGURAL from page 2

about Methuselah? Masonically, what will be known about you?

necous of instruction must be much more than merely

accepted, socialized, and self-

educated progenitor - Prince

Hall - as well as the growth

and development of the

Masonic obedience called

"Prince Hall Masonry."

In some cases, Brethren

and Sisters are advancing to

the East too rapidly -- too

rapidly to fully comprehend and

grasp the full meaning and

understanding of what this Frater-
nity is about. They are not

performing needed ritualistic

work nor are they attending

the seminars to be exposed to

the basic administrative

requirements. We must

develop a comprehensive ritualistic

and administrative jurisdic-
tional instruction program to

complement or replace these

programs currently in place.

This new program must be a

mandatory completion pro-

gram before advancement to

the East in any of our Masonic

Units in this Jurisdiction.

These three distills (ritualistic

and administrative pro-

grams) would lead to the for-

mation of a Masonic College.

As I call it, will help us devel-

op the leaders needed for

tomorrow. After graduation,

these Brethren and Sisters

would be better equipped to

serve a church that is increas-

ingly more economically,

socially and technologi-

cally complex than their

counterparts were yesterday.

If we do not develop and

implement this Masonic Col-

lege program now, we will lose

much of the leadership of

tomorrow. If not now, when?

My desire for this Jurisdic-
tion in 1998 is to continue to

advance those programs now

in place, not necessarily to

start new ones. In 1998, the

goal is to improve on what we

have.

Other major considerations

and concerns again this year:

- Development of a Grand

Lodge position white paper

addressing Masonic recogni-

tion and our relationship with

our Black Non-Prince Hall

Masons.

- The meaning of the Last

Rites, Masonic memorial serv-

ice, and Masonic service after

cremation.

- Developing and implement-

ing an Improved dialogue with

church leaders in the metro-

politan area.

- Establishing a community

redevelopment/development

corporation 501(c)(3) for the

jurisdictional real property

holdings.

- Continuing the develop-

ment of our Senior Resident

Facility for ground breaking in

1998.

- Establishing a financial port-

folio advisory committee for

the purpose of improving our

holdings.

- Continuing to improve

administrative and fiscal man-

agement with intra-office net-

working.

- Completing the Grand

Lodge's World Wide Web net-

working.

- Adopting an attitude of being

proactive instead of reactive to

issues which promise to have

a profound effect on this Juris-

diction.

If not now, then when?

Each year we try to improve

the standing of The Knights of

Pythias. This year will be

no different. Emphasis will be

placed on initiatives to bring

into focus those programs

needed to prepare those young

men for the 21st Century. The

challenge to each of you

remains the same -- support

your Worshipful Master and

your Worthly Matron and

Patron in all endeavors ben-

efiting our youth.

I anticipate that administer-

ing the business affairs of the

Jurisdiction again this year

will consume a great deal of

my time. This activity will be

primarily related to the Grand

Lodge, the Facilities, Renova-

tion and Acquisition Commit-

tee (FRAC), the Prince Hall

Preemanson and Eastern Star

Charitable Foundation, the

Prince Hall Family Develop-

ment Corporation for our

Senior Resident Facility, and

the Special Building Fund

Assessment Program. I also

anticipate a great deal of time

devoted to the improvement of

our fiscal awareness, analy-

sis and reporting.

Our Sesquicentennial year

(150th) will be our busiest ever.

We will immediately start to

finalize the plans for the Con-

ference of Grand Masters and

Grand Chapters to be held May

19-23, 1998, at the Hyatt

Regency Washington on Capitol

Hill. I have named R.W.G.S.

John Ellington, Jr., Gen-

eral Conference Chairperson.

He will be assisted by the capa-

ble P.G.W.M. Thalima J. Tyler.

The Conference Theme, "Prince Hall Masonry - a Rich

SEE INAUGURAL, P. 19

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Masonic Digest
OLDEST BLACK FAMILY (QUANDERS)

By Alon G. Roundtree

Two members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family of the District of Columbia boast that they are members of the oldest documented black family in America. They are Right Worshipful Grand Trustee William Quander Taylor (Fellowship Lodge No. 26) and Worshipful Assistant Grand Director of Public Relations Robert M. Taylor (Social Lodge No. 1). Their uncle, Joseph Howard Quander, Jr., was a member of Doric Lodge No. 19. Further, Emmett Quander was active in the Jonathan Davis Consistory in the early 1960's.

The history of the Quander family is a very interesting one, steeped in the heinous institution of slavery, yet having a direct connection with the father of our country, George Washington, and an established link with ancestors in the Cape Coast region of Ghana, West Africa.

The Quanders begin their family line in the mid to late 17th century in Charles and Prince George's Counties (adjacent to Washington, D.C.) Maryland with the marriage of Henry and Margaret Pegg Quander, free from slavery in 1686, in the last will dated 1684 of Henry Adams, a colonial legislator. Their story, as related to their family for more than 300 years, begins with an ancestor with the last name of Amkwandoh, from Ghana and continues as Quander, a name the family took in 1800. The Adams will is the first record of the name, Quandos, Quandoes, Kwando and Quanders - all derived from the African name Amkwandoh. They trace their history and name back to members of the Pantri Tribe in Ghana. The Quanders also learned that oral legends passed down in both African and American branches of the family told of an Egga Amkwandoh (an African Nobleman) who was kidnapped centuries ago during the slave trade. Amkwandoh is said to have been the father of two sons, one enslaved in Maryland and the other in Virginia. Henry Quander is thought to have been the Maryland son. The two families were less than three miles apart, with the Potomac River in the middle.

It has been said that when Amkwandoh stated his name, It was translated into "I am Quander." Census records in the 19th century also show descendants of the Henry Quander family were listed as Quanders when a clerk inadvertently dropped the "o" and added "er.

The family can trace the Virginia connection back to Nancy Quander, a slave listed among George Washington's inventory at Mount Vernon in 1799 and thought to be a descendant of the other Amkwandoh brother. Older Quander family members have told stories about their cousins across the See QUANDERS page 33.

SCHOOL ADOPTIONS

The following schools have been adopted by the listed organizations:

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter have adopted Garrison Elementary School.

Felix Lodge No. 3 adopted Cleveland Elementary School.

John F. Cook Lodge No. 10 adopted John F. Cook Elementary School.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Felix Lodge No. 3 adopted a needy family.

Naomi Chapter No. 9 adopted a family, providing Share Packages each month, presented birthday and Christmas gifts, provided clothing and assisted with utility bills.

Fidelity Chapter No. 10 adopted a family of ten (10), a mother and nine children, provided food monthly through the Mt. Horeb Baptist Church Share Program and provided clothing for the children.

S.H.A.R.E. FOOD PROGRAM

Warren Lodge No. 8 provided food baskets (60) through the D.C. SHARE Program.

Victory Lodge No. 23 participated in the SHARE Food Program.

THANKSGIVING/CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Over 700 Thanksgiving/Christmas baskets were provided to needy families by the following organizations:

- Mecca Court No. 2, Daughters of Isis
- Felix Lodge No. 3
- Hiram Lodge No. 4
- Miriam Chapter No. 4
- Aurora Lodge No. 5
- Electa Chapter No. 6
- Widow's Sons Lodge No. 7
- Pythagoras Lodge No. 9
- Fidelity Chapter No. 10
- St. John's Lodge No. 12
- Prince Hall Lodge No. 14
- Charles Datcher Lodge No. 15
- John H. Hill Lodge No. 16
- Ionic Lodge No. 17
- Corinthian Lodge No. 18
- Fidelity Lodge No. 20
- Harmony Lodge No. 22
- Victory Lodge No. 23
- Redemption Lodge No. 24
- Fellowship Lodge No. 26
- Thomas L. Johnson Lodge No. 28
- Colonel Nathaniel M. Adams, Jr., Military Lodge No. 29

MEALS ON WHEELS

Each month Pythagoras Lodge No. 9 provides two members to serve on the Meals on Wheels Program, driving and delivering lunches to shut-in individuals.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

The following known financial donations were made during 1997.

- Hiram Lodge No. 4 sponsored a special fundraiser to donate funds to Whitman Walker Clinic for HIV positive and AIDS patients.
- John F. Cook Lodge No. 10 contributed to medical expenses for a young girl suffering from brain cancer.
- Numerous Lodges provided financial assistance to the Precious Thomas Fund. Precious Thomas is a five year old girl who is HIV positive. Donations were made by the following Lodges:

  - Hiram Lodge No. 4
  - John F. Cook Lodge No. 10
  - Prince Hall Lodge No. 14
  - Charles Datcher Lodge No. 15
  - Doric Lodge No. 19
  - Harmony Lodge No. 22
  - Victory Lodge No. 23

See OUTREACH page 15.
INAUGURAL MEETING
A VISION IN WHITE

By M. Ethel Howard
Staff Reporter

The 13th day of January, 1998 was a lucky day for Mecca Court. The inaugural meeting was preceded by picture-taking. III. Comm. Newcomers had pictures taken with their Divan, Past Commandresses, all daughters present and the classmatess of 1985. The members of the class present were Dr. Delores Evans; her mother, Dr. Cecelia Sheppard and HPC S. Ethel and Elizabeth L. Howard.

The dias was filled with visiting guests from most of the female and male allied bodies of this jurisdiction. Their presence created a burst of color before the white beaded Court. III. Comm. Newcomers were presented with many tokens of best wishes. Everyone expressed hope for her success in 1998.

INAUGURAL BALL, A CRYSTAL SUCCESS

Friday, April 3rd at the Ramada Inn in New Carrollton was the scene of the Crystal Ball of Mecca Court No. 2. The ball is an annual affair to honor the illustrious Commandress. Mecca Court is famous for its unique and outstanding ball and this one was no exception. The guests began arriving well before the appointed time of 9:00 p.m. After a delicious dinner was served, the guests began to dance to the soulful sounds of the Brothers Plus One Band and Show.

The visiting Commandresses, Daughters, Nobels and guests filled the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel. All of the daughters had taken special care of their attire of white ball gowns for the evening festivities. The Nobles and guests added their colors to create a rainbow of hues. The sight was extraordinary and serves as the basis for many happy memories of the occasion.

After the ball had ended, many of the friends and guests retreated to various suites for a conclusion of the wonderful evening they had spent with III. Comm. Newcomers and Mecca Court No. 2.

Charles Datcher
Lodge No. 15
Celebrates 98th Year

By PM Louise L. Hopkins
Praemural Editor


Entering the sanctuary, singing “Jesus, Light of the World,” Worshipful Master George I. Murray led some 130 members of the Masonic Craft into his Church. The Most Worshipful Grand Master Warren R. Whitley and Grand Officers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge accompanied the celebrants.

Master of ceremonies, SMC Martin D. Harris, Jr. was the impressive program guide. Chaplain emeritus, John D. Robinson, invoked the first prayer to the Grand Architect of the Universe, judging humble thankfulness for blessings and His loving-kindness; the God who supplies all our needs. We press on to the mark with the spirit and understanding. We are blessed for we seek Thee with the whole heart, for your mercy endures forever.

Scripture selected by Chaplain emeritus, Paul A. Colmes, was II Peter 1:3-8. Ashbury Men’s Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Mack Statham, presented a rendition of “Build A Master’s Plan.” Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Joseph N. Yearwood, extended a warm and hearty welcome in behalf of the Pastor and Church family. He is a staunch member working in the vineyard for many years at Asbury.

Solist, Ms. Adrienne Neal, operatic soprano, sang “I Want to be Ready.”

Response to the sincere heartfelt welcome followed by JMC Acee Brown, referred to John 1:3 -- the fellowship with God and to hear the Word.

PM Robert L. Ervin, in charge of the memorialized tribute, when the chimes were tolled after each name, called the following: Percy L. Jones, Terrell R. Dunn and Carl L. Holland. These were the members who had answered the Call to come home with God in 1997.

Mr. Floyd Robinson, baritone soloist of Ashbury Men’s Chorus, sang “Precious Lord,” Right Worshipful Grand Trustee Fred Johnson introduced Worshipful Master George I. Murray for his remarks. Profile of WM Murray: after graduating from public schools, received a BA from Howard University, served in the U.S. military where he received an honorable discharge, served as a civilian employee in the U.S. Department of Labor and his Internal Revenue Service and is presently a tax consultant.

WM Murray prayed the following prayer: For the hands that guide us, the watch care inspired us, faith unlocks the door of our presence, we find you. You are always there. This day we remember the founders empowered with a trained mind and inspired heart toward an everlasting legacy.

After introducing his officers, he recognized the 13 past masters, 10 worshipful masters, and the 15 representatives of the 25 lodges. He also acknowledged the four widows of Masonic brethren who were present at the service. Worthy Matron Dorothy Kidane of Datcher Chapter No. 7 (OES PHA) stated that it was a pleasure to be in the midst of our brother lodge who we have supported and enjoyed the fellowship throughout the years. She was accompanied by Worthy Patron Quentin Mansion, five officers, seven members and eight past masters.

Following the remarks of WM Kidane, WM Barbara A. Wells, WP Robert A King and officers of Audrey Robinson- Underwood (military chapter) No. 15 stood as WM Wells gave the following remarks: The district hopes to be present at this Divine service at Asbury, to hear the joyful songs and to share the fellowship. She closed with “May the Star that we follow through every year, shine down in your life, bring comfort and cheer. May the links we added to friendship’s bright chain, grow brighter each year and forever remain.”

See DATCHER page 19

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BOCK from page 8

list of remarkable men. From Richard Allen, the founder of the African Methodist Church, to Thurgood Marshall, United States Supreme Court Justice, to Richard Pryor; a Thirty-Third Degree Mason, we learn the valuable lesson that we need look only to ourselves for recognition of who we are and what we are.

Prince Hall’s legacy was that we look into the mirror and smile, and retreat into that inner sanctum and protect the treasures that we possess.

Prince Hall: Life and Legacy
By Dr. Charles H. Wesley
United Supreme Council, SJ.
1977 (312.50)

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Masonic Digest
The history of our Grand Jurisdiction is truly a venerable one for the tap roots of its origin reach deep into the virgin soil of the very nation in which it has existed and influenced the lives of its devotees for more than a century and a quarter.

All who have been the recipients of its benefits and those who now enjoy the privileges of the great heritage willed to them by renowned Founder of Prince Hall Masonry, owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude not only to our illustrious Patron and Projector of our great Fraternity but also, to those illustrious Brethren who planted the seed which germinated and gave birth to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.

The origin of our Lodge may, rightfully, be traced back over 200 years to the organization and establishment of the first Lodge of Black Masons in Boston, Massachusetts by Prince Hall who, with 14 other men of color, had made Masons in a Military Lodge associated with the Army of General Gage during the Revolutionary War in 1776. Those Stalwart pioneers made numerous and unsuccessful attempts to obtain permission to organize a lodge of Black Masons from White Masons of the Colony of Massachusetts; undoubtedly, however, by the repeated refusals, Prince Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of England for a warrant to establish a Lodge of Free Negroes. His prayer was granted, and, on May 6, 1787, African Lodge No. 459 was established under a charter issued by the Grand Lodge of England. Four years later, on June 24, 1791, the African Grand Lodge was established and duly constituted with Prince Hall as its Most Worshipful Grand Master. Following his death on December 7, 1807, the name was changed to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge in memory of its eminent benefactor.

From this nucleus, Prince Hall Masonry has radiated its influence throughout the world, culminating in the establishment of Grand Orient in Europe, Asia, British West Indies, Africa and throughout the United States.

The actual establishment of our Grand Lodge dates back a century and a half ago to the establishment of Social Lodge No. 7—the first Lodge of Black Masons to be organized and constituted below the Mason-Dixon Line. On January 1, 1823, William C. Fant, Francis Datcher, Sr., William Jackson and William Worsley were initiated, passed and raised in Laurel Lodge No. 2 of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Several years later, they petitioned the African Grand Lodge of North America for a warrant to establish a Master's Lodge in the District of Columbia. Their prayer was granted, and, on May 9, 1825, Social Lodge No. 7 was established under a charter issued by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and duly constituted by M.W. Grand Master Peter Rich- mond, assisted by R.W. Deputy Grand Master Richard Fiskes and R.W. Senior Warden Thomas D. Perry. Warden and Senior Warden Thomas Suppe and Peter Clover with the following principal officers deputized and duly installed: John W. Prout, Worshipful Master; Francis Datcher, Jr., Senior Warden; William Jackson, Junior Warden; Moses Liver- pool, Treasurer and William C. Costin, Secretary. Also commissioned to serve as Senior and Junior Deacons were: William Worsley and Lloyd Nichols.

Ten years later, Sandy Bryan, Benjamin Crier and William Dudley were made Master Mason in St. George's Lodge No. 32 at Liverpool, England. Settling in Alexandria, Virginia about 1838, these seafaring men became affiliated with Social Lodge No. 7. Shortly thereafter, with the Rev. John Thomas, also a resident of that city and a member of Social Lodge, petitioned the Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for a warrant to establish a Lodge in that city. Their request was granted and on August 26, 1845, a new Lodge—Universal No. 10—was duly constituted.

A year later, in 1846, John T. Costin, William Dudley, Benjamin Crier, Daniel Smith, John Thomas and William Bruce, all residents of Alexandria, Virginia petitioned Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for a warrant to establish a Master Mason's Lodge. Their petition was granted and, as a third Lodge—Felix Lodge No. 17—was duly constituted under a warrant issued by the Grand Lodge.

Early in the year, 1846, John E. Thomas, then Worshipful Master of Social Lodge No. 7 issued a summons to Universal No. 10 and Felix No. 17 to meet in Alexandria for the purpose of organizing a Grand Lodge for the District of Columbia. The meeting was held on January 13th and 14th, 1847.

The first meetings were held in the loft of a stable owned by Benjamin B. French, a white Mason who granted his permission to Bro. Frewest, his coachman, for the meetings. Bro. French later became Grand Master of his Jurisdiction.

Subsequent meeting places included Brother Scott's carpenter shop on 15th Street, S.E., Jackson Hall, on 2 Street between 13th and 14th Streets.

OUTREACH page from 13
Redemption Lodge No. 24
Thomas L. Johnson Lodge No. 28
Redemption Lodge No. 24 made donations to the African-American Civil War Memorial and to the Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES
Deborah Court No. 1, LCOP supported Stendedor Baptist Home outreach program. Presented a pre-Christmas program with gifts for both females and males.
Felix Lodge No. 3 provided projects and activities for seniors at First Baptist Church of Highland Park, Landover, Maryland. Hiram Lodge No. 4 assisted in a painting project at Zion Baptist Church and participated in Kenilworth Elementary School Career Day.
Eureka Lodge No. 5 worked with Eagle Boy Scouts and initiated community liaison in Southeast D.C., found destitute people and helped them.
Electa Chapter No. 6 sponsored the Roberta B. Barnes Community Outreach Program's Breakfast to raise money for the Treasure Trove at Children's Hospital Cancer Ward.
Warren Lodge No. 8 worked...
When History Meets History: Howard University, Freemasonry and the Archives

By Gregory S. Kearne
Staff Writer

On the campus of arguably the most esteemed African American institution of higher education, and into what is considered by most scholars to be one of the most important black repositories in the United States, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge on Saturday, March 28, 1998 installed its artifacts and memorabilia in the archives of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University.

Howard University, founded and chartered in 1867 and called the "Mecca of black education," houses the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, an archive of books, mementos, tokens, relics and other collectibles of black life in America (and the world) which dates back to before the Civil War. Thus, the artifacts and memorabilia contained in the archives of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center are considered to be valuable legacies for future generations of scholars and laymen.

Dr. Thomas C. Battle, Director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, who spoke briefly at the assembly of the Craft, said, "It is important that the Masonic Order chose Howard University to house its important documents. It is a relationship of excellence and tradition in the black community." Battle, who is not a Mason, went on to echo the sentiments of Dean Harry Robinson by saying, "We need to preserve our culture. This is a wonderful celebration of two powerful institutions in the black world."

"I am about historical truth and accuracy. We preserve the integrity of the race by keeping our reference points in history. The archives does that. We need to take care of our own," emphasized Battle, who clad in African-Centric attire, as is his custom, reminds one of his energetic school days when he was a student organizer on the campus of Howard University during the turbulent 1960s.

Most Worshipful Past Grandmaster, Roland D. Williams served as host of the program, which took place at the Blackburn Student Center, located on the main quadrangle of Howard's campus, and behind the majestic MacMillan Reservoir. Not listed on the program, but giving a rousing speech in praise of the Craft and its history of service to the community, was City Council Chairwoman Linda Cropp, who said that the black Masons was a group who helped shape Washington by creating and building its valued institutions. Cropp wished the Masonic Order continued success.

It was fitting that MWPGM Roland D. Williams presided over the installation as he first, in 1987, approached Howard
Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR PRINCE HALL AFFILIATION DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JURISDICTION

Entrance to the Kingdom
So sweet this fellowship with God,
That I can scarce explain
Just what it means to me, His child
Because His grace I've gained.

By Louise Hopkins, Fraternal Editor

During 1997, our departed sisters and brothers of Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter, O.E.S.-P.H.A., became victorious winners in the light glows with a "True brightness" inspired by those who left these early shores to be with our Creator. Now they have seen the sunrise with the Master and walked in the Garden with Him. The following received the fruits of the Spirit and now dwell in His presence.

QUEEN ESTHER CHAPTER NO. 1
Sis. Alice J. Smith ......... Feb. 14, 1997
Sis. Emma O. Tillman ...... Mar. 3, 1997
Sis. Hazel W. Butler ...... Oct. 15, 1997
Sis. Florence Childs ...... Dec. 17, 1997

QUEEN OF SHEBA CHAPTER NO. 2
Sis. Ottilie Pauntrory .... Dec. 15, 1996
PGL Martha A. Howard ... Dec. 30, 1996
Sis. Minnie Roy ......... Mar. 12, 1997
Sis. Lettie Davis ......... Mar. 24, 1997
P. Rev. Ernest B. Cunningham .... May 16, 1997
Sis. Fannie M. Fowle ...... Nov. 3, 1997

ELECTA CHAPTER NO. 6
Sis. Mary L. Lewis ....... Feb. 21, 1997
Sis. Alverna Underwood .. Mar. 14, 1997
Sis. Ruth Roundtree ..... Mar. 31, 1997
Sis. Charles Elise Smith ... Dec. 30, 1997

RUTH CHAPTER NO. 8
Sis. Betty S. Harvey ....... Mar. 31, 1997
PGL Mattie S.G. Holmes ... July 26, 1997
PM Ruby D. Funchess ....... Dec. 30, 1997

FIDELITY CHAPTER NO. 10
Sis. Sarah Williams

MARIAH CHAPTER NO. 4
Sis. Mildred T. Morrison ... Jan. 31, 1997
Sis. Lucille T. Billingsley .. Apr. 24, 1997
Sis. Rebecca Ricks ....... May 29, 1997
PM Viola W. Patterson .... Dec. 26, 1997

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At the Grand Lodge Annual Session in December 1997, Sue Barnes was a volunteer exhibitor for Advocates for Older People (AOP). Reflecting on fond memories of the Masonic funeral service for her father, she was pleased to have an opportunity to share information with the Craft. Trained through the Office on Aging, Sue Barnes is the consummate volunteer who gleams at each opportunity to assist someone. Sue is a retired federal government employee. Sue is also an ambassador for the Share Food Project. She evaluates all District of Columbia Share sites once per month.

Seventy-year (70) old Sue Barnes is a unique and renown person in her own right. She is a world class Senior Olympic athlete with an international reputation. She started running at age 60 and has won over 40 Gold, silver and bronze medals in Track and Field. Sue holds six world medals. She won a Gold Medal in 1997. She has won medals in 100, 200 and 400 meter sprints, ERG Howing and shot put. She has competed throughout the United States and also in South Africa, Bermuda, Japan and Spain. Sue Barnes said she feels that she needs to compete, "because if you are not running with the best, you are falling behind."

AOP is legal service for older people. They give legal advice and representation. AOP is part of the National Law Center at The George Washington University and is supported by the D.C. Office on Aging.

Who Am I
My head knocks against the stars,
My feet are on the hill tops
My finger tips are in the val-leys.

And shores of universary life.
Down in the sounding form of pridal things,
I, in red and gold, play
with pebbles of destiny.
I have been to hell and back many times,
I know all about heaven, for I have talked with God.
I dabble in the blood and guts of the terrible.
I know the passionate seizure of beauty.
And of the marvelous rebellion of man of all signs reading KEEP OFF.
My name is TRUTH and I am the most elusive captive in the universe.

Masonic Digest

Page 18 May 1998

Masonic History

History of Social Lodge No. 1

No history of Social Lodge would be complete without its being prefaced with a few facts relative to the originator of Prince Hall Masonry and a review of events leading up to the organization and establishments of the first Masonic Lodge in the District of Columbia.

The Beginning of Prince Hall Masonry in North America

Prince Hall, the eminent founder of Prince Hall Masonry was born on September 12, 1748. Leaving home at the age of 17, he worked his way on a merchant ship sailing for Boston, Massachusetts, and upon his arrival there found employment which soon enabled him to complete his studies for the ministry, as well as the owner of real estate.

While in that city, he came in contact with many Masons whose conduct and stature in their community so impressed him that he evinced a desire to become a member of the Order. Unfortunately for Prince Hall though very fortunate for our fraternity as subsequent events proved, that privilege was denied him by White Masons because of his color. Undaunted by their rejection, however, he applied to a British Military Lodge in the army of General Gage stationed in Boston and on March 6, 1775, he with 14 others were raised in Military Lodge No. 58. Meeting under dispensation, that little band of Masons held their meetings until September 29, 1784, at which time they petitioned the Grand Lodge of England for a charter. Their prayer was granted and a warrant issued duly constituting African Lodge No. 459 of Boston, Massachusetts. After a long delay, on May 2, 1787, the charter was delivered by Captain Scott, a brother of John Hancock, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Several years later, on January 27, 1791, Prince Hall was appointed as Provincial Grand Master by the Grand Lodge of England with authority to constitute lodges wherever he found it necessary.

With his newly granted power, Prince Hall established African Lodge No. 459, P.A.M. of North America at Philadelphia in 1797, another Lodge in Providence, Rhode Island, and shortly thereafter, chartered two other lodges - Union Lodge No. 3 and Laurel Lodge No. 4 of Pennsylvania. These lodges remained subordinate to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts until December 27, 1815, at which time they met in a General Assembly and organized the African Grand Lodge of North America with jurisdictions over the State of Pennsylvania and the South, including the District of Columbia. Thus, through a succession of events lead up to the petitioning of this Grand Lodge and establishment of Social Lodge No. 1 by its founders.

Introduction of Prince Hall Masonry in the District of Columbia

On November 22, 1822, John W. Prout called a meeting at his home for the purpose of organizing a Masonic Lodge. By 1825, all of the group had been made Masons and petitioned the Grand Lodge of North America in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for a warrant setting apart a lodge in the District of Columbia. The prayer of the petitioners was granted on January 7, 1825, the lodge duly chartered and constituted under the title of Social Lodge No. 7 of Washington, D.C. and the following officers were appointed: John W. Prout, W.M.; Francis Datcher, S.W.; William Jackson, J.W.; Moses Liverpool, Treasurer; William C. Curtis, Secretary; William Worsley, S.D. and Lloyd Nichold, J.D.

Thus, Social Lodge, whose venerable history and lineage can be traced back almost 200 years to the very beginning of our Order, made its blow to the Masonic World and began practicing faithfully all of the virtues laid down on the Masonic Trestleboard - placing here reliance upon the Grand Architect of the universe of support, protection and guidance in her labors. Established in the midst of slavery, Social Lodge and her members met under extremely hazardous conditions. Her growth was hampered because of the suspicions of the slaveholders - a suspicion that was not wholly unfounded because the lodge

See SOCIAL LODGE: page 26

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Preston A. Wilson
Associate

Bishop C. Curtis
Chaplain

See ASSISTANCE page 36

See SOCIAL LODGE: page 26
Leadership Training Seminars

Good leadership skills are prerequisites to success in the growing Black community. In today's environment, effective leadership skills are the foundation for gaining the confidence of those who would follow. It is necessary that future leaders gain these skills needed, which will enable them to lead their organizations. To help in this effort, the most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia has scheduled Leadership Training Seminars for all future leaders. The attendance in the leadership seminars will greatly enhance and/or improve leadership skills.

The seminars will focus on five key areas:

- Prince Hall Family History;
- Leadership situations;
- Effective communications skills;
- Delegation of authority; and
- The importance of TEAMWORK.

Seminars will commence during April 1998.

INDEX OF BLACK HISTORY-RELATED POSTAGE STAMPS

Black Americans have made important inventions and discoveries, created great works of art, and excelled in science, music, medicine, and sports. They have played important roles in America’s history. All Americans need to know about these important people. The accomplishments of these Black heroes can help us all realize how these Black Americans overcame obstacles in order to reach their goals.

Louis Armstrong
Benjamin Banneker
Ida B. Wells (Barnett)
Count Basie
Jim Beckworth
Mary McLeod Bethune
Eddie Blake
Ralph Bunche
George Washington Carver
Robert Clemente
Nat King Cole
Bosio Coleman
John Coltrane
Allison Davis
Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.
Frederick Douglass
Charles R. Drew
W.E.B. DuBois
Paul Laurence Dunbar
Jean Baptiste Ponce DuSable

Datcher from page 14

WM Murray asked his family members: his son, sister and brother-in-law from New Jersey, neighbors and friends to stand for recognition. He thanked the Planning Committee, Datcher Chapter’s ushers, Eastern Star, all participants, and Rev. Matthews and Asbury Church family.

After presentation to the entire congregation, MWPGM Warren R. Whitley asked the Past Grand Masters who were present—PGM Joseph N. Yearwood and PGM Nathaniel Matthews Adams—to stand for recognition. Then he recognized the Appointed Grand Officers, Grand Trustees, 33rd Masons and head of the Consistory. In MWGM Whitley’s remarks, he stated, “I found the answer—Jesus.” He thanked Charles Datcher Lodge for the past grand masters to this jurisdiction and their support through the years, the strength in many accomplishments. He wore the 150th year celebration medallion and mentioned the sesquicentennial year events in March. He stated, to the pastor and church, we are the witness of a milestone to worship at Asbury and listen to the Word, a thesis from Rev. Matthews.

PM William McNeill introduced the speaker of the hour, Rev. Eugene W. Matthews. He was reared in Anne Arundel.

SEE DATCHER Page 27

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Masonic Digest

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MWP GM Col. Nathaniel M. Adams, Jr., Grand Master Whitley, and MWP GM Roland D. Williams at Howard University

Grand Master with Rev. Be Louis Colleton, Shiloh Baptist Church

Grand Master with Worshipful Masters of 1988 at 150th Divine Service
150th ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES
PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE F.&A.M.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1848-1998

Dr. Thomas C. Battle, Director of Moorland-Spingarn Research Center

Dr. Benjamin Hooks, MWGM Whitley and SGIG Audrey Ballard

MWGM Harold E. Stewart, West Virginia at 150th Divine Service

Carol Schwartz

Masonic Digest

Masonic Digest
undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns; remains as the pillar of wisdom, strength, and beauty to all black masons today.

GRAND COURT from page 6

In 1935, the Grand Court joined the Interassociate Internationals of Grand Courts, now known as the General Conference of Grand Courts, an organization with representatives from the several states. At least 10 of Washington’s Past Grand Officers have served as presiding officers of the General Conference. The current presiding officer is from this jurisdiction, General Conference Grand Most Ancient Matron Melmazie E. Thompson, elected in 1997. Many other Washington members are appointed officers of their Grand Courts.

A more definite identification is needed to confirm the identity of the Grand Court as Zerubbabel No. 1. In 1936 when the Grand Court accepted the name of one of the outstanding charter members, Zerubbabel No. 1 changed to Zerubbabel No. 30. In 1949, a group of charter members reorganized as the Zerubbabel No. 1.

There have been 59 Most Ancient Matrons and 63 Most Worthy Grand Joshuas who have been elected to serve as presiding officers of the Grand Court. Because of outstanding contributions to the Grand Court, 59 honorary Past Most Ancient Matrons and 7 honorary Past Most Worthy Grand Joshuas have been bestowed.

The current officers of Julia A. Jackson Grand Court are:

**Elected:**
- Celestine R.N. Welch, Most Worthy Grand Matron
- Johnnie Walker, Most Worthy Grand Joshua
- Lee C. Thomas, Most Ancient Matron
- James B. Atwood, Vice Worthy Grand Joshua

**Appointed:**
- PMAG Ruth F. Williams, Grand Court Treasurer
- PMAG Andita J. Wilson, Grand Court Secretary
- Sandra J. Mills, Grand Senior Attendant
- Betty C.V. Reed, Grand Junior Attendant
- Gladys L. Wiltmeyer, Grand Chaplain

**Other:**
- PMAM Eliza C. Johnson, Grand Court Director
- PMAM Lillie Peterson, Grand Court Director
- PMAM Claudia M. Roland, Grand Court Director
- PMAM Ellen I. Knox, Grand Court Trustee
- PGL Mary J. Walker, Grand Court Trustee
- PGL Frances H. Peters, Grand Court Trustee

**Appointed:**
- PMAM Mattie L. Moore, Grand Lecturer
- PMAG Verdell D. Gaiser, Assistant Grand Lecturer
- PMAM Lula M. Campbell, Grand Marshal of the East
- PMAM Barbara B. Dixon, Grand Marshal of the West
- PMAM Myrtle B. Wilburn, Grand Inner Gate Keeper
- PMAM Charles E. Young, Grand Outer Gate Keeper
- PMAM Sarah G.S. Hone, Grand First Ark Bearer
- PMAM Aleta F. Dixon, Grand Second Ark Bearer
- PMAM Diane M. Stroot, Grand Third Ark Bearer
- PMAM Ellen G. Williams, Grand Fourth Ark Bearer
- PMAM Edith L. Byers, Grand Assistant Secretary

**Her. Ada A. Whitley, Assistant to the Secretary**

1996 Calendar of Events

- December 1997
  - Reception for MAGM and MWQJ, Masonic Temple
  - January
    - First School of Instruction, Room 413, 10-00 a.m.
    - Ways and Means Committee trip to Atlantic City
    - Second School of Instruction, Room 413, 10-00 a.m.
    - Grand Court Divine Service, Dinner in Hamilton, 1:00 p.m.
    - Grand Court Divine Service, Dinner at 3:00 p.m., Masonic Temple
  - March
    - Third School of Instruction, Room 413, 10-00 a.m.
    - July 1998
      - Grand Court Semi-Annual Session, Room 413, 10-00 a.m.

See GRAND COURT page 24

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**Annual Feast of Isis**

By M. Ethel Howard
Staff Reporter

As is mandated by the Imperial Court Daughters of Isis, Auxiliary to A.E.A.O.N.M.S., Inc., each Court of the Daughters of Isis throughout the Domain will hold an Anniversary Service and Feast of Isis on the third Sunday in May of each year. This year, the Service and Feast will be held at 4:00 p.m., Sunday, May 17, at Walker Memorial Baptist Church, 2020 12th Street, N.W. The Pastors of the Church is Rev. Reginald Green. The Feast will will follow in the fellowship hall immediately after the service.

All Daughters are reminded that they are under obligation to attend this service. It would be pleasing to the Ilium Commandress to have the sanctuary filled with Daughters and Nobles for this occasion.

The procession can begin on time. Ill. Comm. Newsome and the members of the Divine look forward to seeing a large crowd.

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**Masonic Digest**

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**Masonic Digest**
The Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter
Order of Eastern Star, P.H.A.
District of Columbia and Jurisdiction

In pursuance to a call issued by Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, Order of Eastern Star, P.H.A., located at Washington, D.C., for a Convention to be held on May 24, 1892, for the purpose of organizing a Grand Chapter for the District of Columbia and its Jurisdiction, a Convention composed of the duly accredited delegates and representatives from the appropriate Chapters assembled at the Terrace Room of the Hotel Jefferson, room No. 2, located in the District of Columbia and its Jurisdiction.

That historic call was joined in by the Officers and Members and signed by the Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patron and Associate Matrons and attested by the Secretaries of Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, and Gethsemane Chapter No. 2, located in the District of Columbia, together with Electa Chapter No. 2, Queen Esther Chapter No. 8, and Queen of Sheba Chapter No. 6, located in the state of Maryland.

The Convention was called to order at 11:00 o'clock a.m. by Brother James O. Bampfield, Worthy Patron of Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, P.H.A., Washington, D.C. After the reading of the call, a temporary organization was effected and Brother Bampfield was elected Chairman and Brother J. Murray Ralph, temporary Secretary. A permanent organization was then perfected by Past Patron Thornton A. Jackson of Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, who on August 10, 1874, received the degree of the Grand Master of the Order of Eastern Star from Brother C. B. Case, a Deputy and Agent of Illustrous Robert McCoy 33 degree, the Supreme Patron of the Rite of Adoption of the world as set forth in the History of the Adoptive Rite in the District of Columbia.

In 1875, Brother Jackson set up the first Subordinate Chapter among colored people, the Chapter known as Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, P.H.A., located in the city of Washington, D.C. In 1891, Past Patron Jackson was appointed to serve as Deputy Grand Patron for the District of Columbia and its Jurisdiction by Illustrous Robert McCoy, who forwarded to him prints and warrants which empowered him to act as Deputy Grand Patron of the District of Columbia. The following members were elected to serve in the permanent organization:

Thornton A. Jackson, Deputy Grand Patron
Brother Henry P. Ringgold, President
Brother James O. Bampfield, Vice President
Brother J. Murray Ralph, Assistant Secretary

The following resolution was submitted by Bro. John N. Hunt and unanimously adopted, RESOLVED: That we organize a Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star for the District of Columbia and its Jurisdiction, and that all Chapters represented at this Convention holding charters being organized by Deputy Grand Patron Thornton A. Jackson, and the same having been adopted by a regular Lodge of Free Masons of the District of Columbia, or of Maryland, will, upon surrender of their old charters to this Grand Chapter, when formed, receive new charters at the nominal cost of the same.

On motion of Brother W. H. Bruce, the convention proceeded to the election of officers of the Grand Chapter, after which, on motion of Brother Hunt the Convention was adjourned sine die.

The grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, was then opened in due form by Brother Jackson, Deputy Grand Patron, Brother R. Howell Gleave, 33°, then installed brother Jackson as Grand Patron for the ensuing year. The Grand Patron then proceeded to install the Grand Officers-elect as follows:

Sister G. Thomas, W.G. Matron
Sister M. A. S. Cary, Associate W.G. Matron

Provinces Who Recognize Prince Hall Masons

Alberta
British Columbia
Manitoba
New Brunswick
Nova Scotia
Prince Edward Island
Quebec

Other Countries Who Recognize Prince Hall Masons

England
Ireland
Australia/Queensland

From ORIGIN, page 15

Columbia. The meeting was accordingly held in the Fleet School located on M Street between 24th and 27th Streets in Georgetown, D.C. and presided over by the District Deputy Grand Master David F. Jones of the Grand Lodge in Pennsylvania. Attending that meeting were five representatives from the three existing Lodges.

As a result of their deliberations, the organization and constitution of the Union Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia was consummated with the following principals of Officers deputized and duly installed: Charles Datcher of Social Lodge No. 7 - M.W. Grand Master; Daniel H. Smith of Universal Lodge No. 10 - R.W. Deputy Grand Master; Richard Phuske of Felix Lodge No. 17 - R.W. Senior Grand Warden; Francis Datcher, Jr. - R.W. Junior Grand Warden; Joseph Frazier of Universal Lodge No. 10 - R.W. Grand Treasurer and John T. Cochin of Felix

See ORIGIN, page 24

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Sister Begins Climb to the Top
By Col. Nathaniel M. Adams, Jr.

Sister Sadie B. Mitchell, a member of Prince Hall Chapter No. 5, Order of the Eastern Star (OES), began climbing towards the exalted position of Imperial Commanderess, Daughters of Isis, when she was elected to the very important position of Imperial Inside Spy in August 1997 during the last Imperial Court Session held in Atlanta, Georgia. The position of Imperial Commanderess was held by Past Matron Mildred T. Crossby of Miriam Chapter No. 4 from August 1995 to August 1997. Sister Mitchell was elected as a result of the overwhelming votes of Prince Hall Daughters of Isis from all around the United States and many other parts of the world. Our new Imperial Officer is a Past Associate Grand Matron of Prince Hall Chapter No. 5, OES. She is a member of Columbia Colony No. 2, Cyrene Crusaders. The Richard Howel Gloves Assembly No. 2, Order of the Golden Circle is fortunate to have had her serve as a Past Secretary. In 1972, Mecca Court No. 2, Daughters of Isis showed good taste, great wisdom and a concern for continuing success when Sadie Mitchell was chosen to lead that organization as its Illustrous Commanderess. She has also served as the Recorder of Mid-Atlantic Region No. 2 Gala Days. In addition, our sister has been the President of the Parent Youth Group of Mecca No. 10. Many previous noteworthy accomplishments resulted in the very prestigious Imperial Commanderess Degree being bestowed upon her. At the Imperial Court level, Sister Mitchell has been Deputy Imperial Marshall and Imperial Assistant Recorder, and was serving as Imperial Convention Directress when she was elected as the new Imperial Inside Spy.

Despite all of her honors and accomplishments, Sister Sadie Mitchell feels that her greatest honor is that of having been blessed by God to be a very devoted family person. She has been happily married to Past Master Rufus Mitchell of Prince Hall Lodge No. 14 for many years. She is the mother of three sons: Tyrone, Pierre and Borez, of whom you have no doubt that she is very proud, as you listen to her when she mentions them.

Our sister was born in Farmville, North Carolina, from which came the very early age of life in Washington, D.C. She is a product of the public school system in Washington, D.C. graduating from the Armstrong Technical High School. She later graduated from the Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church, located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Her love for church work is evidenced by her deep involvement with the following tasks which she cheerfully and unselfishly accomplishes without hesitation: Secretary of the Deaconess Board, President of the Pastor's Choir, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, Sunday School Teacher, Member of the Missionary Society, Member of the President's Council (Music Department) and Member of the Board of Christian Education.

"Sister Sadie" is a member of the National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners, a member of the District of Columbia Association for Retarded Citizens (DCARC) and she also planned her and participated in the conduct of the Special Olympics both in the District of Columbia and Maryland.

Our sister's noteworthy life has been highlighted by many awards, such as:

- Woman of the Year - 1996 from Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church
- Special Olympic Awards from DCARC
- Special Event Award of Merit - 1994 from the Imperial Court:
- From Mecca Court No. 2 - Mother of the Year - 1972 - Service Award - 1977
- Outstanding Leadership Award - 1979
- Outstanding Performance Award - 1987

Sister Sadie Mitchell is outwardly a very reserved and "low-key" person who few might suspect would have been credited with the accomplishments delineated in this article. She has served all organizations well and is a caring and sharing person who understands the wants and needs of others. It is obvious from the foregoing that our Sister has demonstrated quality leadership and has proven that she was ready and capable of having been elected to the vaunted position of Imperial Inside Spy of the Imperial Court Daughters of Isis.
Fletcher James Receives Top Award

At the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge annual awards banquet held in December 1997, Most Worshipful Grand Controller Fletcher R. James, Jr. received the coveted S. Matthew Hendershot Distinguished Service Medal. The S. Matthew Hendershot Award is a symbol of Masonic excellence and is designed to command dignity and prestige as it perpetuates the rare love and exceptional dedication to duty. MWPWM Matthew Hendershot portrayed as he worked unremittingly, even to the point of death, to improve Masonic life in this jurisdiction in particular and life of all mankind in general. This medal is only worn by Masons who exemplify the highest tenets of our institution. Above all, this award must not reflect the recipient, Hendershot's commitment and dedication to excellence at all times.

This award is bestowed upon the Craft in the District of Columbia for distinguished service.

W. Howard Dunn (1822 - 1879)
William 0. Stepperson (14 - 1777)
Henry R. Robinson (28 - 1778)
John D. Howard (15 - 1779)
Curtis J. Blakeley, Sr. (18 - 1880)
William A. Burnett (22 - 1881)
Paul D. Bourne (25 - 1883)
Henry J. Bonner (27 - 1884)
James T. Walker (28 - 1885)
Richard C. Parrow (29 - 1886)
Charles W. Sharpe, Sr. (30 - 1887)
Thriftome E. Jones (31 - 1888)
Jessee L. Ayers (32 - 1889)
William H. Brann, Jr. (33 - 1890)
Robert T. Goodman (34 - 1891)
Edward E. Marshall, Jr. (35 - 1892)
Fletcher R. James, Jr. (36 - 1893)

Dec. 1894

By Alexander Cotton

The Commanders of the Rite, Thirty-Third Degree Masons, ancient and accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, held its Seventeenth Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet on February 14, 1998, at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C. This annual event is sponsored by this body of Prince Hall Masons to raise funds for scholarships and tuition grants which are awarded annually to local high school graduates attending the University of the District of Columbia. The banquet is also used as a forum to recognize members of the local community who have distinguished themselves with outstanding public or fraternal service. Those so recognized and cited were: GIG Henry Harrison Bonner, cited for fraternal excellence and his three decades of distinguished service to the craft; GIG Aubrey R. Ballard, Secretary-General, H.E., United Supreme Council, cited for fraternal excellence and twenty-five years of distinguished service as Deputy for the United Supreme Council in the District of Columbia. Lloyd D. Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer, the Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, for distinguished public service; Benjamin Jennings, Executive Officer for the United Planning Organization, for outstanding public service; and Sonya T. Proctor, Acting Chief, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, for service to the public.

The Commanders of the Rite is the organization of all Prince Hall Affiliated Thirty-Third Degree Masons in the District of Columbia. The organization was duly recognized and constituted in the District of Columbia in 1975. One of its constitutional objectives is, “to stimulate, encourage and aid, wherever manically possible, the humanity in its efforts to achieve higher moral, social, economic and intellectual status.” We believe this objective is partially achieved through our scholarship program which is intended to help qualifying students achieve their educational goals and become productive citizens of the District of Columbia. A serious effort is being made by the Commanders of the Rite to make faith and brotherhood a reality.

The officers of the organization are: GIG Alexander M. Cotton, President; GIG Robert P. Cook, Vice President; GIG Robert L. Coley, Treasurer; GIG Jacob Halman, Secretary; GIG James T. Wallace, Recording Secretary; GIG Charles D. Dawson, Chaplain, and GIG Raymond Edwards, Sergeant-at-Arms. Jonathan Davis Consistory No. 1 is headed by Illustrious Commander-in-Chief, GIG Wesley A. Gibson. GIG Bert A.G. Overby is the Deputy for the United Supreme Council in the District of Columbia.

Presentations of the First “Nick Ayers Journalism Award”

Shown at left is MWPWM John D. Howard looking on as MWGM Warren W. Whiteley presents the first “Nick Ayers Award” to PM Alton G. Roundtree (24), Editor-in-Chief of the Masonic Digest. The attractive plaque, which was presented at the Annual Session on December 11, 1997, has the following inscription: The Nick Ayers Journalism Award presented to PM Alton G. Roundtree, Redemption Lodge No. 24, for dedicated service to journalism excellence and pursuit of the highest professional standards as symbolized by Bro. Roscoe L. Ayers, a master journalist who dedicated his life to this Jurisdiction. Warren W. Whiteley, Grand Master, The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Jurisdiction of the District of Columbia, December 11, 1997.

After Bro. Nick Ayers’ death, PM Alton G. Roundtree was appointed to succeed him as Editor-in-Chief of the Masonic Digest.
HISTORY from page 23
Brother James O. Bampfield, W.G. Secretary
Sister M. Upshur, Associate G. Conductress
Brother Henry F. Ringold, W.G. Chaplain
Brother John N. Hunt, W.G. Lecturer
Sister S.J. Owens, W.G. Ruth
Sister Kate Moore, W.G. Martha
Brother J.B. Hutchings, W.G. Organist
Brother J. Murray Ralph, Associate W.G. Patron
Sister Annie Warren, W.G. Treasurer
Sister S.J.C. Ralph, W.G. Conductress
Sister E.V. Hemsley, W.G. Warden
Brother R.H. Geaves, W.G. Marshal
Sister I.A. Blake, W.G. Ada
Sister Helen Jackson, W.G. Esther
Sister M.J. Hill, W.G. Elexia
Brother James N. Davis, W.G. Sentinel

For the next 63 years (1892-1955), the Grand Body of the Eastern Star of this City was known as The Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star for the District of Columbia. At the Semi-Annual Session in 1955, during the Administration of Grand Worthy Matron Eleanor Davis Carter, and Grand Worthy Patron Daniel P. Mosesley, G.W.M. Carter presented a Resolution that the name be changed from The Grand Chapter of The Order of Eastern Star for the District of Columbia to The Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter, O.E.S., P.H.A. for the District of Columbia and Jurisdiction.

The changing of the Grand Chapter's name was a tribute in honor of P.G.W.M. Georgiana Henson Thomas. She was the first Worthy Matron of the first Eastern Star Chapter, Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, O.E.S., P.H.A. organized December 1, 1874. She was also the first Grand Worthy Matron.

OUTREACH from page 17
THE IONA WIMPERS HOME (TRANSITION HOME)
Mecca Court No. 2, Daughters of Isis, provided assistance to The Iona Wimpers Home. The home is for abused, abandoned and neglected young ladies. Mecca Court furnished a room in the transition facility. They also provided two used computers to the home.

FUN DAY
The Grand Esthers (Order of the Eastern Star) and the Esthers of 1997 held a fun day with the residents of Capitol Hill Nursing Home. Refreshments (cake, punch, cookies and candy) were served. Games were played and gifts were provided to the residents.

FOOD VOUCHERS
Hiram Lodge No. 4 provided Giant Food Coupons (vouchers) to needy individuals.

MAJOR HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
Redemption Lodge No. 24 established a major household items addition for their outreach program. The Lodge distributed donated major household appliances (refrigerators, stoves, cabinets, dishwashers, freezers, etc.) to needy families.

SOCIAL LODGE from page 18
is reputed to have operated on the principal stations in the underground railroad which was instrumental in assisting the escape of slaves from the Free States. There numerous meetings, fines for holding their meetings and other difficulties, these stalwart brethren continued to hold meetings, transact their business and plans ways of elevating themselves and render assistance to their fellowmen. Their labors were not in vain for many of them gained recognition and were held in high esteem in the community and the fortunes of the lodge gradually improved.

In 1845, Universal Lodge No. 10 of Alexandria, Virginia began to function and in 1846, Felix Lodge No. 17 was duly constituted under a charter granted by Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Organization of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia

Early in 1846, the three lodges met in assembly for the purpose of organizing a Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. On March 27, 1846, John E. Thomas, Worshipful Master of Social Lodge, and the following lodges met at the White House: number 10 and Felix Lodge No. 17 to meet in a convention for the purpose of organizing a Grand Lodge for the District of Columbia. That meeting, held in the Fleet School House, located on M Street between 24th and 27th Streets in Georgetown, was presided over by District Deputy Grand Master David P. Jones of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Attending that meeting were five representatives from each of the three lodges and from their deliberations evolved the organization and establishment of a Grand Lodge in the District of Columbia with the following brethren deputized as its principal officers: Charles Datcher of Social Lodge No. 7, Grand Master; Daniel H. Smith of Universal No. 10, Deputy Grand Master; Richard Phale of Felix No. 17, Senior Grand Warden; Francis Datcher of Social Lodge No. 7, Junior Grand Warden; Joseph Frazier of Universal Grand Treasurer; and John T. Cotto of Felix, Grand Secretary. With the consummation of the organization of Grand Jurisdiction of the District of Columbia came the culmination of a series of events which substantiates our lodges claim to a regular direct lineage from England through Prince Hall, the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania and Laurel Lodge of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a heritage of which we are humbly grateful and justly proud. Following the organization of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, the three lodges surrendered their original charters and were issued warrants under the newly-formed Grand Lodges. Thus, Social Lodge became No. 1, Universal, No. 2 and Felix, No. 3. In 1865, Universal No. 2 withdrew from the jurisdiction to become Universal No. 1 of Virginia and to assist in the formation and establishment of a Grand Lodge in that state or jurisdiction.

Social Lodge's Contributions to the Cause of Masonry in the District of Columbia

Throughout the years since its establishment, Social Lodge has played an integral role in the advancement of Masonry in the District of Columbia. From its founding in 1846, it has had 14 Grand Masters, 3 Grand Treasurers and a Grand Secretary who filled that honorable station for thirty years. As this memorable year in history of our great nations, Prince Hall Masonry and our beloved M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge, we look back with happy memories upon that great heritage and invite the side of piety and pray that the Grand Architect of the Universe will bestow his blessings upon our labors that we may continue to advance the cause of Masonry within our jurisdiction.
University about donating important collectibles, including original manuscripts from some of the lodges. In 1994, then MWGM Nathaniel M. Adams, Jr. delivered the goods. In 1998, MWGM Warren R. Whitley (S) installed the keepsakes into the permanent archives as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations.

There were many artifacts donated to the Moorsland-Spinpurr, yet one of the most sentimental was a laminated copy of the Congressional Record citing the unselfish heroism of PM Sidney J. Paison (12) who with no regard for his own personal safety, successfully diverted many pedestrians and automobiles away from a leading gas main. The gas eventually burst, engulfing Paison with flames which killed him.

Brief remarks by Grand Worthy Matron Cheryl G. Williams (C-14) and Most Worshipful Grand Master Warren R. Whitley concluded the morning festivities. On this, the third installment of the archives, MWGM Whitley noted with his usual powerful phrase, "If not now when? If not us, who?"

Wesley A. Gibson, Jr., 33° Illustrious Commander-in-Chief

Wesley, Jr. was born December 14, 1947, the oldest son and firstborn of the union of Wilma Dean Jones and Wesley Allen Gibson, in the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Wesley completed his elementary and secondary education in the public school system in the summer of 1965. During the summer of 1966, Wesley met and married Shirley Ann Brown. That union produced one daughter, Sebrell Lynn, in the spring of 1968. Wesley was employed by the C.C. Murphy Company as a management trainee and was transferred to Washington, D.C. while thus engaged. In March of 1969, he was sworn into service as a Metropolitan Police Officer. He has been employed as an officer ever since, except for a brief break in service for active duty in the United States Army. After an Honorable Discharge, Wesley continued his education, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1980, from the University of Maryland, College Park.

DATCHER from page 17

County, Maryland, converted at age 16, honorable military service record, received Associate Degree, a BA at Bowie State; Master of Divinity from Wesley Seminary, and serves on the Board of Directors at Morgan State University.

Before Rev. Matthews' message, the Men's Choir sang "I Woke up This Morning with My Mind Staid on Jesus."

The theme for this year is "Replenishing the Well," from Exodus 17, where Moses was told to strike the rock for water when followers complained about thirst, and John 4, the woman at the well. He stated that "We need to re-dig the well, as you stand on the threshold of a century. We need role models, remember how we got over, how vital water is. Are we thirsty physically and spiritually? Jesus talked to the nameless woman and offered spiritual water, we need to lead others to the living water by examples and precepts, note the confused young, following the fads and crowded malls. God of our weary years, O taste and see that God is good. When one drinks of the living water, one becomes a believer. Teach our children, and the children's children, the way is not smooth. We must trust God and God will see you through.

The current officers of the lodge include:

John H. Whiting, Ill. First Lt. Commander
H. Dixon Brown, Ill. Second Lt. Commander
James E. Elerbee, Ill. Minister of State and Orator
Jordan Davis, Sr., Ill. Chancelor
Donald breadcrumbs, Ill. Treasurer
James L. Martin, Jr., Ill. Secretary and Keeper of the Seal
Leslie C. Lewis, Ill. Prior
Wilkford L. Jackson, Ill. Hospitaler
Anthony E. Wells, Sr., Ill. Master of Ceremonies
Robert E. Williams, Jr., Ill. Engineer and Architect
Jackson Davis, Ill. Ill. Steward Bearer
Theodore Legall, Ill. Captain of the Guard
Julius S. Montgomery, Ill. Sentinel
Charles C.J. Garris, Ill. Marshal

See DATCHER page 29

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MAY 1998 Page 27
James R. Gaither was recently elected the 92nd Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Most Excellent Adolphus P. Hall Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons, Washington, D.C.

Grand High Priest Gaither is a third-generation resident of Washington, D.C. He attended Cardozo High School where he lettered in track and football.

After graduating from high school, Brother Gaither was instrumental in developing the firstoffset reproduction unit at the Washington Hospital Center. In an effort to improve himself, he attended night school and received a degree in structural cost analysis. At the Department of Defense, where he retired with 30 years of service, he was a construction superintendent responsible for a wide variety of construction jobs ranging from buildings to aircraft runways.

Grand High Priest Gaither is a member and volunteer of several organizations including: bees Hot Line, Christmas in April, Genealogical Society, Drives for Washington Home for the Aged, and the Thurgood Marshall Center as a mentor. He is also on the staff of Howard University Superior or Resident Life, Cook Hall.

Brother Gaither is a member of Hiram Lodge No. 3, Jonathan Davis Consistory No. 1, Past Grand Most Worthy Joshua. He is a member of Campbell AME Church. He believes in developing our youth for the future and comforting our seniors.

Most Excellent Grand High Priest James R. Gaither plans to visit Grand Chapters of the Eastern Alliance of the East Coast.

SEE GAITHER PAGE 34

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New Year's Resolution

I'll make no resolutions new This New Year, I declare I have some old ones that will do. They've had but little wear: One: I will go to visit those Whom sickness had dismayed; Two: I will help assuage the woe Of brothers needing aid. Three: I will be there Lodge meeting night Among the brothers there; Four: When the Master help invite I'll gladly do my share. Four worthwhile vows are these. I made in years gone by. Then idly let them gather dust This time I'll really try!

---

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3. Ida Gray
4. Jane Cooke Wright
5. Lauranne Sims
6. Alexa Canady
7. Mae Jemison
8. Barbara Ross Lee
9. Joyce Lynd Elders
10. Peseshet

A. The first black female dentist
B. First African-American woman medical school dean
C. Pioneered chemotherapy on tumors. Became director of Harlem Hospital Cancer Research Foundation
D. First black woman doctor in the U.S.
E. First black Surgeon General of the United States
F. Founded the National Black Nurses Association in 1971
G. First woman physician
H. The Peace Corps' most famous staff physician
I. Co-founder of the Women's Hospital and Dispensary in Brooklyn, New York
J. First black woman neurosurgeon

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DATCHER
FROM PAGE 27
and marital status—the woman at the well was concerned
about her private life. Remembering on the farm
years ago—roots of a tree cannot
be completely destroyed,
some grow beyond the main
trunk. In life, there are roots
of envy, jealousy, and racism.

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John W. Mills, Jr.
New Year’s Day Receptions

By Louise Hopkins

Several receptions at the Masonic Temple on New Year’s Day left an imprint for the next administrations to follow.

Worshipful Master Kevin L. Carrion of Social Lodge No. 1, with his corps of officers, greeted guests in the dining room on the fourth floor. A large group of their family had accompanied them, along with neighbors and friends to witness this day of fellowship. The delectable repast was served to over 100 in attendance.

Datcher Chapter No. 7, O.E.S., Worthy Matron Dorothy Kidane and Worthy Patron Quentin C. Mans, in line with officers, including Worshipful Master George Murray and his officers greeted many guests. The hostesses helped to prepare a beautifully decorated table laden with ‘soul food’ similar to the tables set up by Social Lodge No. 1.

The fellowship continued until the Most Worshipful Grand Master Warren R. Whitley, and his cabinet, greeted those who remained from the other receptions. Approximately eight past grand masters were present. Grand Worthy Matron Cheryl G. Williams and Grand Worthy Patron Herman M. Marshall, Jr. of Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Stars attended all receptions.

January 1, 1998 will be remembered by the friendly atmosphere and because many were in attendance who had not been out in a few years.

Twenty-six Worshipful Masters, with their cabinet members, brought greetings to the Grand Lodge. Approximately 300 attendees shook hands and talked of old times and the dining tables.

Flora O. Calhoun (1921 - 1997)

On Thursday, December 25, 1997, Flora O. Calhoun departed this life at home in Washington, D.C. Flora was born in Bessemer, Alabama on August 30, 1921 to Beula and Arthur Butler, Sr. She was raised in a very close knit family with four sisters: Katie, Fannie, Othella and Ruth and two brothers: Arthur, Jr. and Benjamin. As a teenager, she was baptized in the Church of God in Bessemer. Following her graduation from Dunbar High School, she attended Tennessee A&I (later Tennessee State University) where she earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration.

After graduation, she was hired by the federal government. She continued her professional career in government service for more than 40 years, retiring as a Supervisory Accountant with the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C.

In 1943, she married Harry Douglas Calhoun, Sr. She has one son, Harry D. Calhoun, Jr., whom she courageously raised alone after the death of her husband in 1948.

Flora was a devoted and loyal member of the Thirtieth Chapter No. 12, Order of the Eastern Star, since joining in 1948. She became the Worthy Matron of Thirtieth Chapter No. 12 in 1961. Numerous other accomplishments included membership in the Daughters of Isis Mecca Court No. 2, Loyal Lady of the Order of the Golden Circle Richard Howell Gleaves Assembly No. 2, Past Most Ancient Grand Matron of Julia A. Jackson Grand Court Heroines of Jericho, PHA. In 1982, she was inducted into Columbia Court No. 6, Cyrene Crusaders. She also served as Annual Session Chairman of the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter, 1986 - 1994; Recording Secretary for Thirtieth Chapter No. 12, 1987 - 1996 and Thirtieth Chapter Investigations Committee Chairperson, 1993 - 1997.

She received many awards for years of unselfish hard-work and meritorious service to Iota Phi Lambda Sorority including Soror of the Year; Eastern Region, 1984; Distinguished Service as National Financial Secretary 1987 and Outstanding Service to the Eastern Region, 1992.

Her other affiliations included Chapter 2667 of the American Association of Retired Persons as well as with Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ, where she was a faithful member for nearly 40 years. She belonged to the Scooby Circle, served on the Deacon Board, was Chairperson of the Social Welfare Committee and a member of the Women’s Fellowship. She received many awards for her service at her church as well as in the community.

Flora leaves to cherish her memory, her son, Harry D. and Daughter-in-law, Zara C. Calhoun of Washington, D.C.; one sister, Ruth Plant of Chica
go, Illinois; three grandchildren: Yolanda Thigpen of Jackson, Mississippi, Kevin Calhoun of Bedford, Texas, and Damion Calhoun of Washington, D.C.; three great-grand children: Jasmine and Tasha Thigpen and Danyale Calhoun; many beloved nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

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TOWARDS A NEW MILLENNIUM:

Black History Exhibit

By Gregory S. Kearse
Staff Writer

On Sunday, February 8, 1998, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge sponsored its annual Black History Exhibit and lecture. The exhibits were once again displayed in the North Hall while the program itself took place in the South Hall. The program was once again sponsored and organized by the Masonic Eastern Star Activities Committee (MASTAR), chaired by PM J. Raymond Murray (L2), PM Robert Foster (L3) and PM Nancy D. Carter (C9).

WM Robert Bethia (L8) served as Master of Ceremonies. Once again, the audience welcomed and praised the NAACP Community Choir in singing songs many consider to be the black national anthem, Lift Every Voice and Sing. Worthy Matron Vernal M. Jones (C2) presented the welcome and occasion to a full audience. A poem was rendered in slave or Negro dialect by Mrs. Lee Ella Honey.

It was also fitting to some, PM Harold Wilber, among them, that during the month of February, deemed Black history month, the keynote speaker himself was a bit of black history. He is the first African-American to lead the National Park Service. On August 4, 1997, Robert G. Stanton was sworn in as the Director of the National Park Service (NPS). As director, the personable Stanton has policy and administrative responsibility for the 375 units of the NPS. The 85 million acre NPS is managed by 20,000 permanent and seasonal employees, visited by more than 385 million visitors each year, and operates on an annual budget of about $1.6 billion.

Stanton said that, "I look forward with great expectation and enthusiasm to protecting our national treasures for people to share and enjoy." This includes the Underground Railroad initiative, once again, one of the most exciting and heart-warming exhibits at this year's black history program. There are currently bills in both the House and Senate (H.R. 1635 and S.887) to pass legislation to "establish within the United States National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom" program.

His short speech was packed with what he viewed as the responsibilities of leaders for tomorrow. He called for all of everyone, including the Masonic Order to be prepared for the new millennium by having vision and leadership responsibilities. Stanton has made it his special priority to see that the Underground Railroad initiatives are pushed through Congress which would preserve not only a part of black history, but an important part of American history.

In 1994, the 150th anniversary of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge in Washington, D.C., one of the more impressive exhibits was a collage of famous black historical figures who were members of the Craft: Ebony publishing mogul, John H. Johnson and Brigadier General West A. Hamilton among many others. Local celebrities included in the collage were City Councilman Frank Smith, who is heading the Civil War initiative, and the late police chief, Maurice T. Turner.

Regional Director Vincent DeForest, along with PM Harold Wilder, are actively supporting and bringing to the attention of the public the importance of the Underground Railroad program. DeForest said that the Interior Department has identified 27 sites so far, and they are growing. Wilder said that anyone seeking more information may contact the NPS, at 1100 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, DC 20242 or access the site via internet at http://www.nps.gov/underground.

Several of the visitors or exhibitors, including the keynote speaker, said that the coming year 2000 offers wonderful opportunities for the Prince Hall Grand Lodge to take the initiative and have the vision to plan major programs that would bring us into the 21st century as a people and as an important black organization. DeForest and Stanton said, "We can't blow this important opportunity to lead."
Mecca Mania News
By Sandy Gilbert, President

Did you know that Mecca Mania continues to provide support for this year’s No. 10 and Mecca Court No. 2? During this past year, 1996-97, Mecca Mania made the following contributions: supported the Youth Department’s Gospel retreat, donated money to send a youth to the National Convention, placed several advertisements in the souvenirs journals, hosted and attended several Temple activities, including the National Convention, contributed to Mecca Temple No. 10’s picnic, donated Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to community families, adopted a family during Christmas, and over the years, assisted with children’s Christmas party and wrapping gifts, and made our annual donation to Mecca Temple No. 10.

We now ask that members of Mecca Temple No. 10 and Mecca Court No. 2 support the members of Mecca Mania on July 11, 1998 at Bolling Air Force Base Officer’s Club from 7:00-11:00 p.m. for Mecca Mania’s 15th Annual Dinner Dance. Donation of $35 per person includes: dinner and dance. Music will be furnished by The Dennis Fisher Band.

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Margaret Walker, Recording/Corresponding Secretary
Mary Jones, Treasurer
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Christine Stanfield
Jean Tidin
Addie Willerson

15th Anniversary Chairperson -- Addie Willerson

Annual Joint Prayer Breakfast

By Robert C. Brown, WDDFR

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Lodge and the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star, hold their Annual Joint Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, January 10, 1998. The breakfast was held in the second floor hall.

The Program was given by Worthy Patron Herman M. Marshall, Jr, Grand Worthy Matron Cheryl G. Williams, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Willie H. Griffin and Most Worshipful Grand Master Warren Ray Whitley. In his remarks, Grand Master Whitley said that we have much to do for the future. Also for what He has done, not only for what He is doing, but also for what He will do for us in the future.

Lift up your heart, for I kept my word.
Three times I came to your friendly door
Three times my shadow was on your floor.
I was the beggar with bruised feet.
I was the woman you gave food to eat.
I was the child on the homeless street.

Think of it, God is present in the needs of humanity. We cannot see God if we ignore the needs of the people around us. When we help each other, we are in God’s presence.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Masonic Lodge and the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star, held their Annual Joint Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, January 10, 1998. The breakfast was well attended by the Prince Hall Masonic Family, held in the second floor hall.

Remarks were given by Worthy Patron Herman M. Marshall, Jr, Grand Worthy Matron Cheryl G. Williams, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Willie H. Griffin and Most Worshipful Grand Master Warren Ray Whitley. In his remarks, Grand Master Whitley said that we have much to do for the future. Also for what He has done, not only for what He is doing, but also for what He will do for us in the future.

Melodies selections were provided by PM Yvonne Johnson, PM Rosemary Williams and Sis. Brenda Young.

The “prayer of the hour” was Rev. Louis Anthony, Pastor of the Metropolitan Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, Washington, D.C. His text, taken from Matthew 6, was “What Prayer Is.” He named and explained the predicates to prayer. He said we must pray sincerely, intently and with a fresh heart.
Letter of Appreciation

January 6, 1998

Dear Uncle Percy,

When we spoke by phone last week, I mentioned to you that I was deeply moved by the attention you have received from your lodge brothers over the past several years, especially following the onset of your illness. At that time, you requested that I share my thoughts with you in writing so that you could pass along my sentiments to your fellow Lodge members at the next meeting.

Let me begin by saying that I have been pleasantly surprised by the overwhelming support you receive from your brothers on a continuous basis. I must admit that during my lifetime I have had little opportunity to interact with the Masons, and I do not fully understand the extent of their service. However, one thing I do know for sure is that the gentlemen I have encountered through you exhibit the special qualities that are often lacking in our society. In this day and age, it is difficult to find the type of sensitivity, compassion, consideration, attentiveness and general caring that is displayed by your brothers. I can honestly say that I am proud of the fact that you belong to such a distinguised organization that is comprised of such honorable men. I truly mean this with all sincerity because, as a family, I do not know how we would manage without their help.

The genuine support from your fellow lodge brothers makes me feel comfortable knowing that you are well cared for. To be blessed with such friendship and camaraderie is truly a gift from God. I applaud the brotherhood and their efforts throughout the community based on my knowledge of their relationship with you. Please feel free to express my deepest appreciation to the members of Fellowship Lodge No. 28 F&AM PHA.

Love,
Your niece, Judy

NOTE: "Uncle Percy" is P.M. Percy Smallwood. He is a Charter Member and oldest member of Fellowship Lodge No. 26.
NEGRO MASONRY

Negro Masonry has a special tie-in with the American struggle for independence. On July 3, 1775, Prince Hall, accompanied by several of the charter members of African Lodge (later No. 459 in the “English Register”), appeared before General Washington in Cambridge where he had gone to assume command of the Revolutionary forces. The object of the interview was to present a petition to General Washington for the enlistment of free blacks in the Patriot Army. On December 30, 1775, the General granted the petition and issued the following General Order: “As the General is informed that numbers of free Negroes are desirous of enlisting, he gives leave to the recruiting officers to enlist them. I shall lay the matter before Congress, who, I doubt not, will approve of it.” This opened the way in the fight for liberation for the participation of a remarkable number of Negro soldiers. Prince Hall himself enlisted in February, 1776, and served approximately two years.

Three thousand Negro soldiers fought in the Revolutionary War. Among them were notable examples of individual exploits of bravery and dedication. In the paved sidewalks of the absurdly crooked streets of old Boston is a memorial slab marking the grave of one of the first casualties of that War. The victim was a Negro. His name was Cripus Attucks and he was buried in Middle Burying Ground with great pomp by distinguished citizens of the city. There were also other black heroes. A Negro soldier, Peter Salem, fired the shot that mortally wounded the British Major Pitcairn. Solomon Poor, another black soldier, so distinguished himself at the Battle of Bunker Hill that he received a citation by the Massachusetts Colony. Still another soldier, recorded only as Sampson, armed with a scythe, swept his way through the British works at Brandywine Beach. The famous Black Legion brilliantly covered the retreat of the American and French army at the Siege of Savannah and saved the same from annihilation.

Despite every incitement to a contrary reaction, the Negro from Colonial days to the present time has been a loyal American. His unrequited attachment is to a Country which has paid little on its debt to him.

GATHER FROM 28

The current officers of the Adolphus P. Hall Grand Chapter follow:

Elected:
James R. Gaither, Most Excellent Grand High Priest
William McNeil, VE Deputy Grand High Priest
Johnny H. Jones, VE Grand King
Dwight L. Parker, VE Grand Scribe
James W. Elibee, VE Grand Treasurer
Anthony K. Wells, Sr., VE Grand Secretary
Robert J. Dalkins, Sr., Grand CFC

Appointed:
Thorold A. Johns, PHP, Assistant Grand Secretary
James E. Atson, PHP, Correspondence Secretary
Clarence Davis, PHP, Data Processing
Thomas E. Garner, PHP and
Terry Hill, PHP, Grand Recorders
Johnnie Walker, PHP, Grand Captain of the Host
James E. Atson, PHP, Grand Principal Squire
Leon Fisher, PHP, Grand Royal Arch Captain
Randolph Hussey, PHP, Grand Master 3rd Vail
David Brown, PHP, Grand Master 2nd Vail
Lynzie O. Teasley, PHP, Grand Master 1st Vail
Eleanor Jones, PHP, Grand Marshall
Andrew Parker, PHP, Grand Sentinel

Subordinate Chapters
Mount Vernon No. 1, PHP Earl Hazel, Jr.
Union No. 2, PHP Richard Whiting
Prince Hall No. 3, PHP Edward Barlow
St. John No. 7, PHP Phillip X. Tally
Keystone No. 11, PHP Johnnie E. Jackson
Markwell No. 12, PHP Antwone Johnson

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PRINCE HALL GRAND MASTERS' CONFERENCES

Genealogical Tree of Prince Hall Masonry
Sister Cheryl G. Williams
Grand Worthy Matron
Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter

Cheryl Gwynette Thompson Williams was born on the 23rd day of June, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The middle child of three children of Gwendolyn C. Thompson, Past Grand Worthy Matron and Past Imperial Commandress, and the late Alvin L. Thompson, Past Worthy Patron and Past Illustrious Potentate. Cheryl graduated from the Milwaukee Public Schools and furthered her studies at the Milwaukee Institute of Technology; Tennessee State University, majoring in Home Economics Education; and Statistics and Economics at Virginia State University. Her 29 year long career in public service has been spent at the Federal Trade Commission where she provides statistical and research support to economists and lawyers in their work on antitrust and consumer protection matters.

She has been a faithful member of First Baptist Church of Highland Park for 22 years, serving as the secretary for the Women For Christ for 11 years, and presently as secretary for the Progressive Baptist Convention of Maryland’s Women’s Auxiliary.

Cheryl has a 27 year old son, Dwight Darwin Williams, Jr. Her Masonic affiliation includes:
- Redemption Chapter No. 14, Order of the Eastern Star, serving as Matron in 1990;
- Mecca Court No. 2, Daughters of Isis, serving as the Illustrious Commandress in 1997;
- Mecca Court’s Drill Team and Mecca Court’s Egyptian Daughters;
- The Imperial Court, Daughters of Isis, presently serving as the Deputy Imperial Convention Director;
- Columbia Court No. 6, Cyrene Crusaders, presently serving as Princess Martha;
- Lydia Court No. 3, Lilies of the Circle of Perfection, presently serving as the Royal Associate Conductor;
- A member of the Richard Howell Gleeves Assembly No. 2, Order of the Golden Circle;
- A member of Thornton A. Jackson Court No. 3, Heroes of Jericho.

Cheryl enjoys cooking, sewing, entertaining, and traveling. She is a strong believer in “Spreading God’s Love in Caring for others and Sharing what He has given us” Her favorite scripture is “This is My commandment that ye love one another as I have loved you.” St. John 15:12. Her favorite slogan is: “God Loves You and So Do I.”

Herman “Buck” Marshall, Jr.
Grand Worthy Patron
Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter

At the 105th Annual Session of the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter, O.E.S., P.H.A., Herman “Buck” Marshall, Jr. was elected as Grand Worthy Patron for 1998. Bro. Marshall is a Past Patron of Martha Chapter No. 11 where he served first as Associate Patron for one year and then as Worthy Patron for four years. In 1996, he was elected to the Office of Associate Grand Patron.

Bro. Marshall is a product of Washington, D.C. and attended both District of Columbia catholic and public schools. He graduated from Cardozo Senior High School. During his early childhood, he attended the Modern School of Music where he learned to play the clarinet, saxophone and melodophone under the tutelage of Mr. Edward Smith. While attending Cardozo, he participated in several sports and was known as a “three letter man.” His main athletic focus was in running track. He became one of the fastest runners in D.C. track history. While running track, he participated in all major track events such as track meets sponsored by the Philadelphia Enquirer and Washington Evening Star Games. He also participated in track meets at Madison Square Garden, New York City; Penn Relays, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Camden Relays, Camden, New Jersey; Seton Hall and many others. He received many awards and commendations including an Athletic Scholarship for one year to the University of Pittsburgh.

Bro. Marshall entered the Department of the Treasury in 1957 and the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) in 1960. During his career in the USPS, he took many administrative and management courses at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK; Bolger’s Institute, Rockville, MD; and the Management Institute of D.C. He was a manager for 25 years when he retired in 1990 from the Bulk Mail Center, Largo, MD with 35 years of government service.

Grand Patron Marshall is a member of St. Bernard’s Catholic Church, Suitland, MD. He is a member of Widow’s Son Lodge No. 7 where he served as Worshipful Master in 1991. He is actively involved in scholarship work of the 1991 Masters and Matrons group. He is a 32° mason in the Jonathan Davis Consistory No. 1, A.A.S.R. Buck is also a noble of Mecca Temple No. 10.

He also serves the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge in the following capacities: MWGM’s representative to the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter and as Worshipful Assistant Grand Lecturer.

Grand Worthy Patron Herman “Buck” Marshall, Jr. is married to the former Ethel Coler of South Carolina. They are the proud parents of four boys and four girls. They have been blessed with fourteen grandchildren.
Dr. Jackson Lee Davis, III
Brother Soars to the Stars

By Col. Nathaniel M. Adams, Jr., MWPGM

Dr. Jackson Lee Davis, III, a member of Doric Lodge No. 19, was recently elevated to the rank of Brigadier General, United States Air Force (Brig. Gen., USAF), at the District of Columbia (D.C.) National Guard Armory. A Brig. Gen. wears a one-white metal insignia on rank on his uniform. Also, a USAF officer of this very rank is presented with a blue flag containing a white star in its center. Brig. Gen. Davis’ wife, the former Annette Edwards; his aunt, Mrs. Malkis Roberts; and his children, Jackson, IV and Kimberly, assisted military officials in pinning on the General’s new insignia in presenting him with his flag during the ceremony.

Two “firsts” are associated with this historic promotion. Bro. Davis is the first Prince Hall Mason of our jurisdiction to be elevated from Col. to Brig. Gen. He is also the first Medical Doctor in the D.C. Air National Guard to be elevated to this exalted rank.

Brig. Gen. Davis is a member of Prince Hall Chapter No. 5, Holy Royal Arch Masons. He is also a member of Gethsemane Commandery No. 3, Knights Templar. Additionally, our brother is numbered among the active members of Lloyd A. Tyler Council No. 3, Royal and select Masters. Jonathan Davis Consistory No. 1 also claims him as a member, with whom he participates every faithfully as part of the “House of Rosen Crux” Team which depicts some of those events associated with the Good Friday Easter weekend. In addition, he is a member of Mecca Temple No. 10, with whom he is very active as a regular participant with Mecca’s championship drill team. The Imperial Council is extremely fortunate to have the General as an Imperial Deputy Medical Director. A 33rd mason, Dr. Davis is a member of the Commanders of the Rite. Also, the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction, counts Bro. Davis as a vibrant member of its Medical and Health Department.

Bro. Davis is a native of Washington, D.C. and a product of its public school system, graduating from the McKinley High School, where he began his military experience. Afterwards, he entered Howard University, and received his undergraduate B.S. degree, a M.D. degree and completed his residency in urology at the Howard University Hospital.

The General’s military career began when he successfully completed the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps requirements at Howard University and was commissioned a 2nd Lt., USAF. Subsequently, after receiving his medical degree, he began assuming his many USAF duties and accompanying challenges. Our brother has commanded active duty USAF clinics in the United States and overseas. Additionally, he has commanded USAF Reserve and Air National Guard Hospitals.

Commemorative performances in each of these command assignments resulted in his being named the State Air Surgeon of the District of Columbia Air National Guard. From this position, as a newly-promoted USAF Brig. Gen., Dr. Davis was elevated to the position of the Air National Guard Assistant to the Command Surgeon. Air Mobility Command, located at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. In this position, he serves as the Senior Medical Air National Guard Advisor to the Command Surgeon of the Air Mobility Command, and as such, provides medical liaison between the active Air Force and the Air National Guard.

Dr. Davis is a Chief Flight Surgeon, who has been credited with over 800 flying hours. Among his many awards and decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal, with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, with one oak leaf cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, with bronze star, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Small Arms Expert Marksman Medal and the District of Columbia Meritorious Service Medal, with one oak leaf cluster.

In civilian life, the General is in private practice in Washington, D.C., specializing in urology. He has a faculty appointment as a clinical instructor in the Division of Urology, Department of Surgery at Howard University Hospital. He also serves as an Occupational Medicine Consultant to the United States Postal Service.

Dr. Davis received the Vence Merchants Award for Excellence in Aerospace Medicine. Additionally, our Grand Lodge has awarded him the Humanitarian Award for Excellence. Also, he has been cited for the numerous articles which he has published in the field of urology.

In addition to his Masonic and military affiliations, our brother belongs to several other organizations such as the National Medical Association, the National Guard Association of the United States, the Alliance of Air National Guard Flight Surgeons, Kapoor Alpha Psi Fraternity and the Tuskegee Airmen. He is also a diplomate of the American Board of Urological Examiners.

Many who have known our brother over the years, only know him as “Doc Davis,” a friendly greeting to which he readily responds. Very few, if any, would suggest that this “down-to-earth” friendly brother would have accomplished such as has been compiled and summarized in this latest article. Once more, this gives meaning to the old phrase, “You can’t tell a book by its cover.”

Phyllis S. Byrd
Youth Fraternity

By AOG Margaret E. Anderson

The officers and members of the Youth Fraternity, as well as sponsors and staff, enjoyed the first three months of the year. The year began with the January inaugural meeting, where the inaugural address of the Prince M'Donough and Prince Patrons were heard. The address of the Prince Patrons was the highest moment. They graciously consented to serve another year. The staff and sponsors were captivated by the enthusiasm of the youth as they assumed responsibility for the inaugural program by volunteering to sing, bring words of tribute and words of welcome.

At the February meeting in celebration of Black History Month, each youth read a quote from a famous African American woman. Also in February, the youth journeyed to Baltimore to attend a Pre-College Career Fair which was held during the celebration of Black Engineers Week.

At the March meeting, the Youth Fraternity celebrated its 51st Birthday. They were visited by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, other Grand Lodge Officers, the Most Venerable Grand Master Knight and a Wonderful contingent of Sir Knights.

The Fraternity is looking forward to a year filled with fun, educational and cultural enlightenment.

1998 OFFICERS

Princess Matron .......... Cornelia A. Harris
Prince Patron ............ Daryl C. Hutchison
Associate Princess Matron .... Kacie O’Neal
Associate Princess Patron .... Wilbert O’Neal
Treasurer .......... PM Harriet Anderson
Secretary Jr. .......... PM L. Pearl Herbert
Conductress ........... Tiffany McDowell
Associate Conductress .... Stephanie E. Newcombe
Marshall .......... Chanel Holland
Chaplain .......... Latoya Franklin
Inner Guard .......... Charles Thomas
Outer Guard .......... Phillip McCall
Banner Bearers .......... Patrick McColl
Musician .......... PM Lourena Coverdale

STAFF OFFICERS

Directress ACC .......... Margaret E. Anderson
Assistant Directress .......... PM Mary Ellington
Treasurer .......... PM Hilda Isham
Secretary .......... PM L. Pearl Herbert
Sponsors .......... PM FM of 1998

ASSISTANCE from page 18

The program also provides assistance through a Health Insurance Counseling Project (HICP). HICP answers questions about health insurance. Assistance is provided in resolving medical bill problems and applying for Medicaid.

The Advocates for Older People Service Sites are:

Advocates for Older People
320 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, DC
Senior Citizens Counseling and Delivery Service
2500 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE, DC
(410) 216-2124

Jewish House Service Center
4000 Aftermath Street, NW, DC

Eligible individuals can call AOP at 202/676-3900 to discuss their problem or to make an appointment to speak with a representative. Arrangements will be made to see individuals at a service site that is convenient for them. Arrangements will be made to visit homebound individuals. See Barnett indicated that free presentations can be arranged for groups.
Dt. Sharon Evans Newsome Takes Helm of Mecca Court No. 2, D.O.I.

By M. Ethel Howard
Staff Reporter

On December 9, 1998, Sharon E. Newsome was elevated to the office of Illustrious Commandress of Mecca Court No. 2, Daughters of Isia for 1998. Dt. Newsome was created in July 1983 and is the first of that class to be elected as Illustrious Commandress of the largest Court in the Imperial Domain.

Dt. Newsome has a beautiful history as a member of the Masonic Family of Washington, D.C. She was Worthy Matron of Thrift Chapter No. 12 in 1989. In 1997, Dt. Newsome served as the Assistant Grand Lecturer of the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter. Additionally, she is in the moving line of Thornton A. Jackson Court No. 3, H.O.J.

Illustrious Commandress Newsome is a member of the Egyptian Daughters of Mecca Court No. 2 and a proud member of the Court's famous Drill Team. She has continuously worked to make Mecca Court an outstanding one.

Sharon Evans Newsome

Dt. Newsome is the daughter of Raymond and Dorelce Evans. In her acceptance speech, she thanked her father for his affiliation with Fellow-ship Lodge No. 26 and with Mecca Temple No. 10 which permitted her to join the Eastern Star and thence the Daughters of Isia.

She began her year with a delightful kick-off meeting held in the Brent Dining Room. The room was filled with guests and members from Mecca Temple No. 10 and Mecca Court who had come to wish her well. The Grand Worthy Matron, Jr. Past Commandress Cheryl G. Williams along with III. Poten-taile Raymond Richardson of Mecca Temple No. 10, The Imperial Deputies of the Desert and Oasis, James Whitmyer and Charles Robison, respectively, as well as the Imperial Court Deputies, Lula M. Campbell and Brenda R. Swanson. In a word, the dining room was 'packed'.

Outlining her program for the year, Ill. Comm. Newsome introduced a new office for this year- Stephanie Newsome, her daughter, has been named 'special administrative assistant.' Stephanie is quite a busy young lady who balances her time between school, church, the Phyllis S. Byrd Youth Fraternity and is the Captain of the Jr. Isierettes Drill Team. She performed her duties in her new station with dispatch and efficiency usually reserved for those with more experience.

Prince Hall Day
Sponsors and Patrons

The following names were not printed as sponsors or patrons in the program for Prince Hall Day:

Nellie Abner, C3
Eunice Alexander, L19
Harrison C. Baker, Jr., L1
Herbert Bates, L8
Ira B. Bennett, L10
Ernest Blackmore, L8
Norman I. Bush, L20
Nadine C. Brown, C2
Lula M. Campbell
Mitchell P. Chapple, L6
Alvin T. Colly, L26
John M. Dunkerley
Jackson Davis, L19
Andrew M. Davis, Jr., L8
Robert J. Dawkins, Sr.
Zelia M. Diggs, C9
Leroy Dowdle, L16
G. Delores Ellenbe, C4
Alfred M. Evans, Jr., L25
Nancy C. Hall, L14
Herman Harris, L17
John G. Harris, L17
Mary W. Harvel, C8
Vicki Prince Hayes, C1
Odean Horne, Sr., L26
Sarah Horne, C11
Paul Nance, Jr., L24
Ernest Lenson
Eugene Lessane, L5
Solomon L. Williams, L7

William Lucas, L16
Donnese Lucas, C6
Chauncey McIntosh, L24
Alma R. Mickens
William D. Missouri, L27
William R. Monroe, L3
Eddie Moses, L18
George Murray, L15
Clarence L. Muse, L20
James Nicholson, L17
Stanley Norris, L22
Mary L. Piggies
Anderson Pledger, L7
C. Tom Prince, C1
Carl V. Proctor, Jr., L26
Alfred W. Pailey, L4
Richard Rhodes, L5
Shandy Richardson, L4
Richard A. Roundtree, L9
Aurelia Smith, C2
Julius Stokes
Mildred V. Stroudel, C5
Calvin Street, L25
David Stroman, Jr., L24
Melinee E. Thompson, C7
Vince E. Terrion, L4
Clarence R. Watson, L17
James M. Ware, Sr., L18
Howard Webster, L5

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On Sunday, February 1, 1998, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter (Order of the Eastern Star) held a Gospel Concert at Israel Baptist Church in the District of Columbia. The spacious sanctuary at Israel Baptist Church was filled.

Ms. Raynette Ray of WYCB Radio Station was the Mistress of Ceremonies. Performing groups were: The Young Adult Choir of Central Baptist Church of Washington, DC; the King's Men of Washington, DC; the Harmony Ensemble of Vermont Avenue Baptist Church of Washington, DC; The Eugene Weathers Chorale of Galilee Baptist Church of Suitland, MD; and the Seven Sons of Washington, DC. The Central Baptist Church Young Adult Choir set the tone for the Concert. They cultivated, convinced, and captivated the audience with their melodic praise of God in Songs. The choir had never performed before such a large audience, nor had they been on program with renowned groups. Nevertheless, as one member of the choir said, "through the grace of God, we got it done."

In their comments, Most Worshipful Grand Master Warren R. Whitley and Grand Worthy Matron Cheryl G. Williams expressed delight with the attendance and success of the program.
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- Order of Eastern Star
- Daughter of Isis
- Elks Head
- 11½ Clock Hour

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