

Masonic Digest

STILL GEORGIA

STILL STRONG



2022 - 1ST EDITION

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GRAND EDITOR - PM BERTRAM THOMAS, JR. GRAND DIGITAL EDITOR - PM JAMES Q. LEACH GRAND COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR - PM MICHAEL JOHNSON

Jurisdiction of Georgia,

As we embark upon a New Year and endeavors for 2022, let us not forget those that we lost during the journey of 2021. With a New Year comes new and greater responsibility for all of us. I take this opportunity to thank all of you for the great contributions made in 2021. Shedding tears over missed opportunities of the year gone by might cloud your vision and may cause you to miss out on opportunities of the present. Take those teachable moments to build from and use them as a springboard toward keeping your eyes on the prize and accomplishing the mission.

As the New Year is upon us, I want to take this as an opportunity to extend my heartfelt greetings for the season and appreciate you all for your accomplishments and achievements for last year. 2021 has been a great year for the Jurisdiction even as we battled a pandemic there were many accomplishments made. I thank you one and all for your support and dedication and for the extra effort rendered when you were called upon to help us move to the next level.

As we prepare to move forward for an exciting 2022. I would like to congratulate the new Worshipful Masters and Worthy Matrons as you all take the helm to lead your lodges and chapters. Galatians 6:9: Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. To those that passed, the baton of leadership thanks you for your commitment and dedication to the cause of leading your respective lodge and chapter.

As we begin to reach milestones in 2022 as a Jurisdiction. I admonish you to embrace the historical impacts that your participation and dedication assisted toward the cause. The time is now to etch your interest into the halls of history by committing and rededicating your commitment of, "what did you come here to do?" There is work for everyone to help lift the burden and lighten the load if your heart is in the right place.



*Corey D.
Shackleford Sr.*



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Family, take heed and govern yourselves accordingly, to positively serve as an ambassador for this Jurisdiction and to "let your light shine", in the deepest corners of confusion, to be a beacon of truth and integrity for those watching and observing, for those that have yet to travel your path.

God bless each of you, continue to remain safe, and know that God is always with you.

Fraternally submitted,

Corey D. Shackleford, Sr.

Corey D. Shackleford, Sr., 33°
18th Most Worshipful Grand Master
The Conservator of Masons for the Jurisdiction
of Georgia

18TH MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER'S CORNER

COREY D.
SHACKLEFORD
SR.



The BUT GOD Initiative As of 01/01/2022

MWGM Corey D. Shackleford, Sr.
RWDGM Primus T. James
RWGSW Jonathan White
RWGJW Derwin Canty
Corey D. Shackleford, Jr.
Evan Shackleford
Brother L.M. Pierce
Brother Roger L. Smith
Brother John Gilliam
Brother J.B. King
Brother Michael Brannon
Brother Turvon Casey
Brother Reggie R. Walker
Brother Steve Williams
Atlanta Masonic District #3 West
Brother Anthony Brown
Brother Maurice Butler
Brother Alfred Cook
Brother Cesar A Rodriguez Guisao
Brother Charles George
Brother Demetris Hill
Brother Eric Jackson
Brother Gerald Howell
Brother Gregory Jackson
Brother Anthony Murray
Brother DeAndre Pickett
Brother Aaron L. Prater
Brother Cedric Rhodes
Brother Eric Scott
Brother James Summers
Brother James Swann
Brother Kendall McKnight
Brother Reginald McLane
Brother Clifford Hanson
Brother Rashad Lewis
Brother Dawit Negustsi
Brother Kevin McKenzie
Brother Ronald Nealy
Brother Santonio Gleaton, Sr.
Brother Tommie King
Brother Torri Caldwell
Brother William Scurry
Brother Wendell Sims
Brother Joe Ward
Brother Joseph Wiltshire

H.R. Butler Lodge #23
Plymouth Rock Lodge #86
Foundation Lodge #592
Exodus Lodge #593
Truth & Union Lodge #594
Brother Gerald Adams
Brother Charles Bennett
Brother Marcus Cromartie
Brother Albert L. Culler
Brother Enos Garvin
Brother Maurice Gilbert
Brother Byron Jones Jr.
Brother Roderick Jones
Brother Madison Price
Brother Roderick Jones
Brother Charles George
Brother DeAndre Pickett
Brother Kendall McKnight
Brother Byron Jones Jr.
Brother Alfred L. Cook
Brother Warren Gregory
Brother Chris Jourdan
Brother Vernon Hall
Brother Llewellyn Powell
Brother Louell McCollum
Brother Arthur Willis Jr.
Brother Lavonia Sanders
Brother Titus Swint
Sister Vivian Pierce
Sister Ethel Gilliam
Sister Mable Ray
Sister Tina Delgado
Sister Doreatha Dukes
Sister Rosetta Parker Austin
Sister Jennifer Balance
Sister Michelle Banks
Sister Natalie Brown
Sister April Howell
Sister Chiquita Williams
Sister Regina Hill
Sister Ella M. Rhodes
Sister Ikisha Heard
Sister Maria J. Rhodes
Sister Chandra F. Hall



The Most of Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia was on the move to support the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of South Carolina's 2021 Grand Session during December. This was a harmonious session that included the full support of the 18th Most Worshipful Grand Master, Honorable Corey D. Shackelford Sr., Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden Jonathan White, Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden Derwin Canty, Past Grand Master Bruce James, District Deputy Grand Master LM Pierce, Grand Junior Steward J.B. King, Past Master Zack Mitchell, Past Master Henry Davis, Past Master Antonio White, Past Master Christopher Parham, Past Master John Parker, and Worshipful Master Christian Brown. All photos by Grand Digital Editor James Q. Leach. The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Chapter was represented by Grand Worthy Matron Deaidra P. Wilson, Grand Treasurer PM Kathi Henson, Grand Associate Patron McArthur Walton, and Past Patron Renaldo Woolfolk.



The Georgia delegation had the unique opportunity to send Grand Master E. Spencer Scott off in style as it was his final year as the Grand Master for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of South Carolina. We look forward to the future of the new administration and the continued fellowship support of their endeavors.

CONTRIBUTED BY
WORSHIPFUL MASTER CHRISTIAN BROWN
PRIDE OF LUMPKIN LODGE NO. 50





“SWEET 16”

SERVING WITH ENTHUSIASM,
ENERGY, & TALENT

Grand Worthy Matron's Corner

“Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced....”

Our Jurisdictional Anniversary in Perry, Georgia was awesome. Our goal was 350 in attendance, we had over 500 to attend. The program participants were members of our new chapters. Each did an outstanding job. We gave \$10,000 in Charitable donations to three different non-profit organizations in the community. The Mayor of Perry attended and thanked us with a Proclamation for visiting the city. The Steering Committee led Grand Associate Matron Sandra Parks, PDWM Rosa Weston, PDWM Cassandra Stokes, DWM Janet Cliett, and the District Worthy Matrons worked extremely hard and did a wonderful job. Special thanks to the District Worthy Patrons and Grand Trustees who stepped in to assist as well. Special guests included the Grand Lodge team, Our Honored Past Grands - Marilyn Moore, Vashti G. Pullen, Benjamin Barksdale, Ramsey Davis, and Bruce James were in attendance. So proud of what we accomplished, and the donations given to the community. The fellowship was outstanding. The silent auction, the photo booth, and the ugly sweater contest were the highlights of the evenings. Congratulations Prince Hall Grand Chapter!

Memorial Recognition

Death has invaded our Jurisdiction alike each of your families. Sending sympathy cards has become part of our ritualistic work it seems. Supporting members continuously in the last 19 months with numbers exceeding 300 in our Prince Hall Family. Continued prayers as death have not taken a vacation.

Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Georgia has experienced a tremendous loss in 2021. The death of our Grand Conductress Joyce Gilchrist in January, PGWP Marvin Knight in May, PGWP Sam McDonald in July, and PGWM Ruby C. Clayton in December. (Her 100th birthday would have been January 14th)

Scholarships and HBCU Recognition

Our Grand Queen initiatives to support HBCUs continued. We traveled to Fort Valley giving Wal-Mart gift cards to 100 students where the Grand Queen was the speaker before the pandemic. Prince Hall Grand Chapter did not allow the pandemic to stop us from giving. We continued to give our youth graduates funds to attend college. This year with no fundraising the chapters contributed approximately \$80,000 to students across the state of Georgia.

In Closing

As we enter 2022, remember this story.... “A Wise Person talking to a child and said, “There are two wolves always fighting inside of you. One is filled with anger, hate, jealousy, shame, and lies. The other wolf is filled with love, joy, truth, and peace. This battle rages inside of you and all people.” The child thought for a moment and asked, “Which wolf will win?” The old man answered... The one you feed.”

Happy New Year,

Deaidra P. Wilson

Deaidra P. Wilson

16th Grand Worthy Matron

Grand Worthy Matron's Corner

Prince Hall Grand Chapter O.E.S.'s Jurisdiction of Georgia Celebrates 122 years of service with Anniversary Celebration

Atlanta, GA (December 31, 2021) – Over the holidays more than 500 people gathered for The Prince Hall Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star Jurisdiction of Georgia to celebrate its 122nd Anniversary Celebration in Perry, GA.

The Prince Hall Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star is an organization of sisterhood sustained by fidelity, faith, and love and aims to help mankind everywhere through benevolence, charity, scholarship, and service. The anniversary celebration commemorated the organization's 122 years of service to communities throughout the state of Georgia. A schedule of events began on Friday, December 10, and was filled with an evening of fun, games, and a silent auction.

On Saturday, December 11, the celebration continued with a luncheon where three local organizations were presented with donations of approximately \$10,000. Those receiving the donations were the Abba House, Jay's HOPE 4 Kids, and the Salvation Army Safe House. Jennifer Vu graciously accepted the donation on behalf of the Abba House, which is a safe place where addicted, abused, or broken women can recover. Sgt. Bruce Williams and Jacqueline Rivera, who serves as the Executive Director also accepted their donation on behalf of the Salvation Army Safe House, which aims to assist victims in choosing to break free from the cycle of domestic violence. They provide various services, which include emergency safe shelter, crisis intervention, peer support, counseling services, and other protective services. Ashley Pike, a parent volunteer, accepted the donation on behalf of Jay's HOPE 4 Kids, which aims to improve the quality of life of children with cancer and their families in Georgia by extending hope through social, emotional spiritual, educational, and financial support. "This was a celebration of sustained sisterhood where we give cheerfully," said Deaidra Wilson who serves as the 16th Grand Worthy Matron for The Prince Hall Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star Jurisdiction of Georgia. "I pray that our continued community service will impact others to give unselfishly as we have as an organization." Later that evening, everyone was invited to wear their most hideous holiday sweater to the Ugly Sweater Social Event. Prizes were awarded to participants with the ugliest sweater.


With Love,


Deaidra P. Wilson





Masons are Friends of Education


Proverbs 3:4 says... So, you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man. Freemasonry is not a religion but is built from Christian beliefs and the men below provided those beliefs throughout their communities and became strong pillars of support when that community needed them the most. It is written that we should only use the names of admirable people, recognize substantial individual contributions and ensure a gift large enough to justify the recognition by name are a few qualifications that are considered when naming a edifice or institution after person. The men below have had that distinct honor embedded in their good character and the citizen of their respectable area found it not robbery to honor them. Here are a few members from the MWPHGL of Ga who has the honor of having schools named in their honor.


 **R.W Gadsden** - Past Master from Pythagoras Lodge No 11. R.W Gadsden Elementary in Savannah Ga named in his honor.


 **A.E Peacock** - Past Master from Eureka Lodge No 1. Peacock Hall at Savannah State named in his honor.

 **W.K Payne** - Past Master from Eureka Lodge No 1. Payne Hall at Savannah State named in his honor.

 **John W. Dobbs** - Past Grand Master of MWPHGL of Ga. H.R Butler No. 23. Dobbs Elementary in Atlanta Ga named in his honor.

 **Sol C. Johnson** - Past Master from Eureka Lodge No 1. Grand Secretary for 50 Years. Johnson High School in Savannah Ga named in his honor.

 **W.H Spencer** - Past Grand Junior Warden for MWPHGL of Ga. Lewis Hayden Lodge No 6. Spencer High School in Columbus Ga named in his honor.

 **J.L Lomax** - Past Master from Valdosta Lodge No. 19. Lomax High School in Valdosta Ga Named in his honor.


Masons are Friends of Education

 **W.S Hornsby** - Bannaker Lodge No 3. Hornsby Middle School in Augusta Ga named in his honor.


 **Silas X. Floyd** - Bannaker Lodge No 3. Floyd Head Start in Augusta Ga named in his honor.


 **Charles T. Walker** - Bannaker Lodge No 3. C.T Walker Magnet School Augusta Ga named in his honor.

 **Peter H Craig** - New Era Lodge No 107. First man of color to hold Post Master office in Augusta Ga. Craig - Houghton Elementary named in his honor.


 **Dr. Manly L. Taylor** (Past Grand Senior Warden) - Lewis Hayden Lodge #6. M.L. Taylor School in Columbus was named in his honor.


 **Augustus R. Johnson** - Bannaker Lodge No 3. A. R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet High School in Augusta Ga named in his honor.


 **David T. Howard** - St. James #4. David T. Howard High School in Atlanta is named in his honor.


 **Dr. Thomas H. Brewer** - Lewis Hayden #6. Brewer Elementary in Columbus is named in his honor.


Masons are Friends of Education


 **Bishop Henry McNeal Turner** - Pythagoras Lodge #11. H.M. Turner High School in Atlanta was named in his honor.


 **Professor T.S. Price** - Lewis Hayden Lodge #6. Price Normal and Industrial School in Columbus was named in his honor.

 **Rev. Alfred Samuel Staley** - Past Master from St. John's Lodge # 17 in Americus Ga. Staley Middle School named in his honor.

 **Martin G. Hayne** - Past Master from Eureka Lodge No 1. Haynes Elementary in Savannah Ga named in his honor.

 **Walter S. Scott** - Past Master from Eureka Lodge No 1. Walter S. Scott Middle School in Savannah Ga named in his honor.

 **Levi White** - Bannaker Lodge No 3. Levi White Elementary School in Augusta Ga named in his honor.

 **Jefferson Deveaux Davis** - Mt. Pisgah Lodge #53 in Columbus. J.D. Davis Elementary is named in his honor.

Grand Historian, Past Mast Dave Gillarm Jr.
Grand Assistant Historian Past Master Sean L. Daniels Sr.



Contact: Olivia Almagro
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HISTORY MADE AGAIN! FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM REINSTITATED AT MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE AFTER NEARLY TWENTY YEARS

ATLANTA, GA (December 10, 2021) — Morris Brown College (MBC) is proud to announce its reinstatement to participate in the Federal Financial Aid program administered by the United States Department of Education. This announcement comes on the heels of receiving accreditation candidacy by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), a Virginia-based accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. This monumental achievement came after nearly 20 years of effort, marking a historical milestone for the 140-year-old college.

Morris Brown College earning accreditation candidacy is a major achievement demonstrating the institution can meet quality standards and its engagement in continuous improvement. Candidacy indicates that the institution is compliant with the rigorous standards and criteria it has set forth, in addition to being evaluated by an on-site peer team, including the professional judgment of its evaluation team and the Accreditation Commission, based on the institution providing sound instruction and student services. As of July 1, 2020, the United States Department of Education holds all accrediting agencies to the same standard and it no longer holds a distinction between regional and national accrediting agencies. In 2002, Morris Brown's accreditation was revoked due to debt and financial mismanagement, which barred students from applying for Federal Financial Aid. After obtaining accreditation candidacy, Morris Brown College became eligible to participate in the Federal Financial Aid programs.



Financial aid is any type of college funding that does not come from family, personal savings, or earnings. It can include grants, scholarships, work-study jobs, federal or private loan programs. Financial aid can be used to cover educational expenses such as tuition/fees, room/board, books/supplies, and transportation.

FAFSA can be used to determine eligibility for the following programs:

- Federal Student Aid – Pell Grants, Student loans, and Federal Work-Study.
- State Financial Aid – HOPE Scholarship and Grant programs.
- Institutional Financial Aid – Institutional Scholarships offered by a college.
- Private Financial Aid – Private Scholarships provided by businesses or other organizations.

“We are elated about the reinstatement of Federal Financial Aid at Morris Brown College- this is history! I want to thank the team for their hard work and for making this possible. Students can now pay to attend Morris Brown College which happens to be one of the most affordable colleges in the entire state of Georgia at \$4250.00 each semester. It is my goal that our students graduate with little to no debt. Morris Brown College is now a viable option to everyone as we are historically a haven for all hungry souls. It is a new day for Morris Brown College. This is truly The Hard Reset!” as quoted by President Kevin James.

Founded by formerly enslaved religious leaders at Big Bethel AME Church in 1881, MBC is the first college in Georgia to be owned and operated by African Americans. The iconic Fountain Hall and the current Morris Brown College campus is where Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois wrote “The Souls of Black Folk” in 1903.

Notable alumni include Alberta Williams King, mother of Martin Luther King, Jr., and James Alan McPherson, the first black writer to win a Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

To learn more about Morris Brown College and the Financial Aid process, visit morrisbrown.edu.

ABOUT MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE:

Morris Brown College was founded in 1881 by the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is a private, coeducational, liberal arts college engaged in teaching and public service with a special focus on leadership, management, entrepreneurship, and technology. The institution is the only college in Georgia founded solely by African American patronage.

POST-COVID SYNDROME

CONTRIBUTED BY PAST MASTER MAURICE B. GILBERT, MD, F.A.S.A.
PORT ROYAL SCOTT LODGE NO. 591
GRAND PHYSICIAN
MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA

A disease progression has become known by many names, long haulers, long covid, post-acute COVID 19, or Chronic COVID. These symptoms may endure for weeks or months after the initial infection. It may occur in various infectious states, from mild to severe. It may be associated with the following symptoms, some being non-descript:

Shortness of breath, fatigue, brain fog, cough, headache, heart palpitations, joint and muscle pain, sleep disorder, mood changes, and alteration of menstrual cycles. The overall condition continues to be studied to determine a better management method. It may or may not be associated with medical conditions contributing to the conditions, i.e., smoking, hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and prior chronic lung issues. Multiple theories are in consideration as to why this condition occurs. None is definitive currently.

It may cause damage to organ systems: lungs, heart inflammation, kidney damage, prolongation of disturbance with smell and taste, neurological and mental health issues. The conditions that you report to your primary care provider will govern the type of additional testing necessary to monitor the progression of the disease. The critical component is to speak up about what may not seem like yourself after an infection, whether mild or severe. This is a new disease, and anything which lends itself to a change in your daily routine should be investigated. COVID 19 began in December 2019, there will still be a multitude of unknowns associated, and it will take time and investigation to determine the best method to address the effects.



Are Booster Shots Necessary / Omicron Variant

GUEST WRITER CONTRIBUTION BY RW DR. KENNETH WALTON #44
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF NEW JERSEY
Special thanks to

PM Charles Jeter, NJEMT, BLS Instructor #62
RW Dr. Jackson L. Davis III / MWPHGL Medical Department Washington DC
MW Jeffrey C. Spann Past Grand Master
MW Michael A. Wiggins, Grand Master

As the world has been navigating through the pandemic due to COVID-19, the urgency to return to everyday life has been quite unsettling. In August 2021, the US had over 90 million eligible people on record as being unvaccinated. Currently, the number of unvaccinated people in the US has declined to less than 70 million. If attempting to establish herd immunity is challenging, now the FDA has approved to administer Booster Shots to increase "rev" up your immune system to provide more protection as data has revealed that after six (6) months, the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine's potency declines. As schools reopened and many restaurants, stores, and businesses, many states are experiencing an increase in hospitalizations and deaths (more than 1,900 a day in the US). Most of the cases are with children and unvaccinated people. Mix this with the Delta variant representing most new infections reported; we now have the new Omicron variant, so the plausibility in need for a Booster Shot is quite reasonable. The first case of the Omicron variant was discovered in a fully vaccinated patient who traveled to South Africa in NOV. That patient was fully vaccinated but did not have a booster shot. As of December 12th, 43 people have been known to have been infected by the Omicron variant. Currently, the Omicron variant is the predominant cause for newly reported cases. The symptoms have been milder than the Delta variant, but the Omicron variant's transmission is more than the Delta variant. According to new research, the Omicron variant has picked up a snippet of genetic material from another virus - possibly one that causes the common cold - present in the same infected cells. This could explain why the virus transmits more easily. Therefore, similar symptoms may exist. If you develop symptoms of a cold, it is imperative to get a COVID test (PCR preferably) to confirm whether you have the COVID variant vs. the common cold. Pfizer has announced that their booster vaccine has produced enough antibodies to defer the variant. The fight against COVID-19 is not over. We are still learning about the Omicron variant, but we have tools to stop the spread of the virus; the most important among them is to get vaccinated and get a booster dose. In the meantime, the need for a Booster Shot has become more relevant than previously thought. The adverse reactions seen after receiving the first initial two (2) dose vaccination were reported in the data submitted to the FDA from Pfizer regarding the Booster Shot: (1) pain at the injection site, (2) fatigue, and (3) low-grade fever (anything below 100.4° F). The adverse events seen from the Booster were noted to be milder and less severe than reported from the initial first vaccination. Also, new research suggests that applying vigorous exercise and getting a good night's sleep the day before receiving the coronavirus vaccine may bolster the immune system and help hasten the immunization process.



Athens Masonic District No. 6

CONTRIBUTED BY DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER MARVIN J. NUNNALLY
ATHENS DISTRICT NO. 6

The Athens Masonic District No. 6 recently held its Annual Awards and Scholarship Luncheon at the Walton County Boys and Girls Club in Monroe, Georgia, with over 250 guests on hand. Most Worshipful Grand Master Corey D. Shackelford, Sr., Grand Senior Warden Jonathan White, Grand Worthy Matron Deaidra Wilson, and Associate Grand Worthy Matron Sandra Parks were presented awards. Lifetime Achievement Awards were given to Past District Worthy Matrons from Greensboro Star No. 345's Sister Lucile Hudson and Sister Ethel Gilliam. Past District Deputy Grand Masters John Gilliam-Greensboro No. 223 and Homer Wilson-Lincoln No. 62 along with Star of Mt. Zion's Past Master Robert L. Bailey. The District No. 6 Community Services Awards went to Brother Robert Lewis-Buckhead No. 213 and Sister Claudia Butt-Zenith No. 92. The Athens District No. 6 Mason-of-the-Year Award went to Brother Roderick Wise-Watkinsville No. 21.

District No. 6 Scholarships went to Athens Chapter No. 9 OES' Elijah Welch and Zollie Mattox; Star of Amaranth No. 15 OES' Jared Sanders and Criston Foster; Madison Star No. 165 OES' Javoreus Mapp and Criston Foster; Zebulon Star No. 166 OES' Khala Starks and Tenaya Starks; Greensboro No. 345 OES' Anya Lindsey, Annie Hall, and Katterria Rowland; Lincoln No. 62's Amaya Howard. Tuscan No. 38 and Zebulon Star No. 166 OES hosted the event. The program committee included Brother Lynn E. Hill-ADDGM, Sister Claudette Woodard, Sister Kassandra Williams, Sister Dawn L. Lawson, and Brother Ralph Williams.

Additionally, the Athens Masonic District No. 6 continued its bi-weekly Community Prayer Conference Calls with other Districts, including Valdosta District No. 9, Dalton District No. 21, and Macon District No. 5. Upcoming 2022 joint zoom conference calls will be with Atlanta District No. 3-East, Millen District No. 16, Louisville No. 17, Augusta District No. 2, and Columbus District No. 4.

Finally, the Athens District No. 6 shared community service projects with local youth groups, food bank distributions, ice skating fundraisers, and University of Georgia basketball games. The district fed over 5,000 families in the final quarter of 2021. "It continues to be great years for Athens Masonic District No. 6," said District Deputy Grand Master Marvin J. Nunnally. "We have bigger goals for 2022, starting with our youth and elderly projects. We will work on our voter registration drives, vaccination awareness, and community presence."



AUGUSTA DISTRICT NO. 2 DONATES TO PROVIDE A BLESSING FOR A FAMILY DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

**CONTRIBUTED BY DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER RICK TAYLOR
AUGUSTA DISTRICT NO. 2**

On behalf of The Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Honorable Corey D. Shackelford, Sr., of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Jurisdiction of Georgia, we Augusta Masonic District No. 2 were pleased to present a check for \$500 to the Reid family. The family expressed their gratefulness for receiving the blessing.

Ms. Reid exclaimed, "Thank you Jesus", as she was now able to provide a Christmas with gifts and dinner for her daughter and two sons. It was indeed a pleasure to present the gift on behalf of our Most Worshipful Grand Master and make an impression on her kids that God answers prayers. Their pet was also thankful, as can be seen when he tried to hug my leg.



2021 Ludowici Prince Hall Mason Family "The Reason for the Season"

CONTRIBUTED BY ASSISTANT DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
EDWIN THOMPSON
BAXLEY DISTRICT NO. 17

The Ludowici Prince Hall Masonic Family displayed their holiday cheer by providing items of love for a grandmother and her six grandchildren. Gifts, toys, clothing, groceries, and more love were given out by the members of the Ludowici masonic family on December 23, 2021. The participating organizations were as follows:

Ludowici Masonic Association PHA, Hourglass Lodge No. 113
Laurel Growth Chapter No. 118 O.E.S
X.L. Neal Chapter No. 118 Holy Royal Arch Masons
Birdie L. Jones Court No. 14 Heroines of Jericho
E.L. Johnson Council No. 3 Royal and Select Masters
E.C. Williams Sr. Commandery No. 28 Knights Templar
Baxley Consistory No. 209 Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite
Mary L. Ayers # 209 Order of the Golden Circle
Al Sarrar Shrine Club of Omar Temple No. 21 and Omar Court No. 91

Rosa Wiggs Order of the Eastern Star-Chapter No. 24 visited the At Home Senior Living Facility in Jesup, GA to paint Christmas ornaments. The sisters and brothers of Rosa Wiggs Chapter #24 participate in multiple community service ventures throughout the year and there was no better way than to end the year spreading holiday cheer.



AURORA LODGE NO. 54 SUPPORTS RESIDENTS WITH A TURKEY GIVEAWAY

CONTRIBUTED BY WORSHIPFUL MASTER XAVIER WIMBERLY
AURORA LODGE NO. 54

During the Thanksgiving holiday of 2021, the brothers of Aurora Lodge No. 54 provided turkeys for the residents of Forest Ridge Apartments located in Waynesboro, Georgia. As part of their annual give back to the community holiday initiative, the Aurora brothers worked tirelessly to make sure that less fortunate citizens were blessed with a turkey. These donations from brothers and the community supplemented many families who are less fortunate and did not have a turkey during this time of the year. Under the leadership of Worshipful Master Xavier Wimberly, his vision of community unity and involvement and establishing a framework of brotherhood among the craft far outweighs any lack of support some families may have. Additionally, the brothers supported the community with Halloween snacks and candy treats to the kids and citizens in downtown Waynesboro, Georgia located in Burke County. The participating officers included: Worshipful Master Xavier Wimberly; Senior Warden, I. Johnson; Secretary, Past Master Sean Kirkland; and Treasurer, Past Master Clinton Bates.

Also, the brothers of Aurora Lodge No. 54 visited our Life Member Past Master Neal C. Leonard and offered a prayer session during his brief illness. Past Master Leonard was overwhelmed with joy and was surprised to see so many brothers present. Over the years, Past Master Leonard has been a guiding light of wisdom and organizational leadership, providing advice and support to the lodge over his 50-year span of membership in the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia. Brothers who attended included Worshipful Master Xavier Wimberly, Senior Warden Weylin Hodge, Secretary Ferdinand Hughes, Treasurer Past Master Clinton Bates, (Life member) Past Master Neal C. Leonard, Sr., Brother James Jones, Brother Mario Griffin, Brother Justin Walker, and Brother Xavion Wimberly.

In Aurora Lodge No. 54, the primary focus of commitment will always be based on dedication to mankind and exemplary service in the community.



THE CARROLLTON FAMILY DONATES TO WEST-CARE YOUTH ACADEMY

CONTRIBUTED BY PAST MASTER BERTRAM THOMAS JR.
CARROLLTON LODGE NO. 57
GRAND EDITOR-MASONIC DIGEST

The brothers of Carrollton Lodge No. 57 and the sisters of Carrollton Chapter No. 28 continue to raise the bar when it comes to serving the WestCare Youth Academy and the Carrollton community. WestCare Georgia Youth Academy is a nonprofit organization that provides intensive residential treatment services in a highly structured, therapeutic environment using evidence-based approaches to addiction recovery targeting boys ages 14-17.

The Carrollton family, led by Worshipful Master Machion Bray and Worthy Matron Virginia Bray, continue working together to build on the tradition of service to WestCare by serving a full Thanksgiving lunch to over 40 residents and staff. The extensive menu included dressing, fried turkey, ham, chicken, green beans, potato salad, corn, macaroni and cheese, assorted desserts, tea, and bread. The brothers and sisters stayed after lunch to support the graduation ceremony for several of the young men from the recovery program. This ceremony was a moving experience for all in attendance. In previous years, Carrollton Chapter has provided toiletries and needed clothing while the brothers of Carrollton Lodge taught the boys how to tie bow ties and straight ties, which strengthened the bond between the Carrollton family and the residents.

During previous visits, Carrollton Chapter has provided toiletries and needed clothing. Grand Worthy Matron Deaidra Wilson, who serves on the Board of WestCare, has been instrumental in coordinating the strong relationship between WestCare Georgia Youth Academy was selected by Past Master John Bascom before he passed. This year's Thanksgiving lunch was chaired by Carrollton Lodge Junior Warden Victor Brown. This endeavor has been a major community service project for Carrollton Lodge and Chapter since 2016 and serves as a conduit to strengthen the bond between the Carrollton family and the Carrollton community.



THE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

CONTRIBUTED BY BROTHER TYRONE BLACKWELL
GATE CITY LODGE NO. 42

The Light in the Darkness... My Brothers! During this pandemic, it was expected that anything and everything would come to a standstill. That any extra-curricular activity would be halted only to be considered once we received news that it was okay to be in the company of like-minded fellows. However, the world doesn't stop revolving. The call for assistance is not put on hold because an illness has taken priority across the globe. Brothers, the year 2021 was one of hardships and loss across the board. One way or another, we have all been affected by the ongoing battle with the Coronavirus. And within the guidelines of the Center of Disease Control and the guidance of our Most Worshipful Grandmaster, we have been able to proceed with the tasks that some would deem impossible to accomplish.

Gate City Lodge No. 42 has continued to get its hands dirty in the ongoing efforts to help the community in Atlanta, Georgia. From raising funds for high school graduates to collaborating with neighborhood churches to feed those who are struggling, Gate City continues to be a positive asset within the Atlanta community. And as we step into the new year, we continue to bear the Standard of being the light in the darkness. With the renovation of the lodge building on Auburn Avenue, we are still going strong and will continue to do so with the fervency of improving the world around us.



GIBRALTAR LODGE NO. 265 COMMUNITY SERVICE

CONTRIBUTED BY WORSHIPFUL MASTER TERRENCE RINEY
GIBRALTAR LODGE NO. 265

Gibraltar Lodge No. 265, located in Wrens, Georgia, is one of Augusta District No. 2 more established lodges that is always active within the local community even during a pandemic. Under the leadership of Worshipful Master Terrence Riney, the craft has remained active in the community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic that has garnered the global spotlight by spreading fear and anxiety throughout the world and the local community of Wrens, GA, in 2021. Gibraltar Lodge No. 265 remained faithful to its masonic charitable obligations to the community of Wrens by assembling and making available personal protective equipment (PPE) packages for the elder lodge members and widows in need who were unable to get out or acquire vital sanitizing products such as sprays, wipes, sanitizing hand gels and masks during a time of national shortages and scarce resources. WM Terrence Riney, SW Tarquinius Smith, and JW Cameron Wells spearheaded this effort with support and donations from the craft.

Gibraltar Lodge No. 265 also recognized two members of its Henry C. Pitts Sr. Council No. 11 Knights of Pythagoras (KOP) Youth Group hosted a celebratory cookout upon graduation from high school. Past Master Knight & current State Senior Knight for Georgia Council of the Knights of Pythagoras Tre' Vez Bailey enlisted in the United States Air Force. Past Master Knight Evan Gibbons attends college at Georgia Southern University Statesboro, Georgia.

Finally, the members of Gibraltar Lodge showed appreciation to the teachers at its adopted school of Wrens Elementary by hosting a back-to-school cookout for over 60 plus teachers and staff. The craft even stocked the teachers' lounge with a weeks' worth of snacks and drinks such as water, sodas, snack crackers, cases of individuals packaged chips, and various other snacks so the teachers and staff could enjoy refreshments in between classes to keep them well-nourished so they could continue to put forth their best efforts when teaching the youth. The principal Mr. Xavier Thomas and his staff were delighted and very thankful for Gibraltar Lodge's effort and commitment to the community and Wrens Elementary School. The lodge promised principal Thomas that they would be back at the school following the Christmas break to deliver a load of much-needed school supplies for those students who may be in need.



GOUGH LODGE NO. 419 HONORS PAST MASTER REVEREND DR. JERRY J. SMITH POSTHUMOUS GRAVESIDE CEREMONY

CONTRIBUTED BY BROTHER DR. CHARLES J. SMITH, SR.
GOUGH LODGE NO. 419

On April 18, 2020, the Palmer Grove Baptist Church members and brothers of Gough Lodge No. 419 lost their Pastor and Masonic brother to the deadly Covid-19 pandemic. On Saturday, October 23, 2021, the brothers of Gough Lodge No. 419 honored their fallen Past Master with a private Prince Hall graveside service at the church cemetery. The ceremony was done posthumously after his death due to Covid-19 restrictions, preventing individuals from actively participating until 2021. His Widow, Mrs. Vera D. Smith, accompanied by family, church members, and friends, was presented a "Resolution" from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia, in conjunction with Gough Lodge No. 419. Rev. Dr. Jerry J. Smith, who served as pastor for over forty years, was well known as a pastor and employee for the Burke County Board of Education as a bus driver. As a pastor, he served as Moderator of the Ebenezer Baptist Association, which consisted of approximately twenty (20) General Missionary Baptist Convention churches. In addition, he volunteered with the Burke County Improvement Association.

Dr. Smith held numerous leadership positions in Gough Lodge No. 419, including Worshipful Master. He is credited with making improvements at the lodge, such as purchasing air conditioning and installing gas heat for the building. He was a Gold Card and Life Member of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia, representing more than 54 years of service. During his many years of service, he was offered a position as the Grand Chaplain of Georgia by Past Grand Master Neal McQueen.

In the Burke County/Keysville community, he assisted with the after-school youth tutorial program. He organized the Black History Beacon program, the Martin Luther King, Jr. program, parade, and banquet. Additionally, he managed and started the historic lawsuit "Peanut Rodgers vs. Herman Cabot Lodge," which challenged At-Large Voting and Redistricting, which discriminated against black voters in Waynesboro and Burke County, Georgia. The case went to the United States Supreme Court and led to a historic landmark decision. The legal battle was led by Augusta's late Attorney Judge Jack Ruffin, Jr.

Mrs. Vera D. Smith, the widow of Rev. Jerry J. Smith, expressed profound appreciation to Pastor Sam Harrison and the First Lady of Palmer Grove Baptist Church. She also thanked the 18th Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Master, Honorable Corey D. Shackelford, Sr., Worshipful Master Kelvin J. Johnson, and the Masonic brotherhood of Gough Lodge No. 419. Their generous support and historic dedication during the graveside ceremony for her husband made his final wishes symbolic and heart-warming. She said that "it was an honor to witness such a Masonic tradition which has remained fundamental to fallen brothers and leaders for over one hundred years." Mrs. Smith noted that her husband's exemplary service to the church, Burke County community and school system should reign in the hearts of all who knew him.



LIGHT OF HILTONIA LODGE NO. 433 PROVIDES FOOD AND GIFTS FOR AMKIDS BOYS HOME

CONTRIBUTED BY WWORSHIPFUL MASTER MICHAEL LITTLE
LIGHT OF HILTONIA LODGE NO. 433

The brothers representing the Light of Hiltonia Lodge No. 433 in Sylvania, Georgia contributed Christmas bags, hygiene products, and undergarments to every boy in the AMKIDS Youth Center. AMKIDS is a Boys Group Home for disadvantaged youth who have had some personal issues in their lives. The purpose of the visit was to show the young men in the facility that they are loved, admired, respected, and cared for by the lodge brothers and the community. During the visit, the brothers fellowshiped with the boys and staff members, who expressed thanks and appreciation for their generosity as it will most definitely positively impact their lives.

Also, hot meals were prepared by Worshipful Master Michael Little, Brother Nick Donahue, and Brother Melvin Hill. Food for the visit was donated by the brothers of the Light of Hiltonia. We hope that with more community participation and support, from the craft, the lodge can make this an annual event. Assisting them with this important initiative was the Order of the Eastern Star sisters from the New Marion Chapter, led by Millen District No. 16 District Worthy Matron Sister Annie Frazier. The Light of Hiltonia Lodge No. 433 prides itself by supporting our young men and by giving back to the community in a positive way. When it comes to helping our fellow man, we will always go beyond the call of duty to put a smile on the faces of our youth.



MT. PISGAH LODGE NO. 53 ADOPT A SCHOOL INITIATIVE

**CONTRIBUTED BY JUNIOR WARDEN DWIGHT GADSON
MT. PISGAH LODGE NO. 53**

On August 11th, 2021, the brothers of Mount Pisgah Lodge No. 53 had the honor of providing much-needed school supplies to Brewer Elementary School in Columbus, Ga. Among the supplies delivered were Crayons, markers, scissors, and other items. The brothers of Mount Pisgah have provided school supplies, but they give gifts to children in need during holidays. It is a pleasure of Mount Pisgah Lodge No. 53 to provide a strong presence in the lives of these young people.



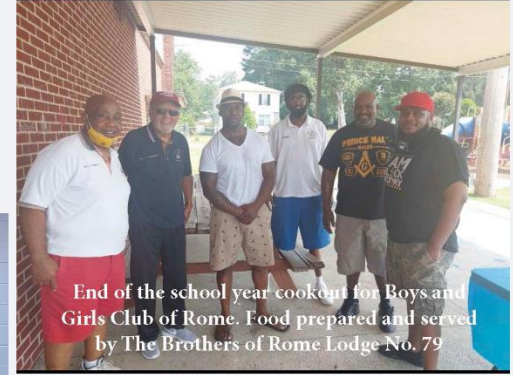
SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

CONTRIBUTED BY SENIOR WARDEN JAMES JONES
ROME LODGE NO. 79

In May, the brothers of Rome Lodge No. 79 facilitated an end-of-year cookout for Rome's Boys and Girls Clubs. The Lodge purchased hotdogs, snacks, and drinks. Several Brothers assisted in preparing the hotdogs. In addition to cooking, the brothers also placed the hotdogs in buns and wrapped them. After the cooking was completed, the brothers set up tables. Food items were placed on the tables. The Brothers then served the food to the children. Clean-up completed the cookout.

In August, Rome Lodge No. 79 awarded four high school seniors scholarships. The total amount of scholarships money awarded was \$2,750.00. One student received a \$1000.00 scholarship, one student received a \$750.00 scholarship, and two students were awarded \$500.00 scholarships. Rome Lodge No. 79 has Brothers living in five different cities to include: Rome, Cartersville, Adairsville, Rockmart, and Calhoun. Scholarship information was sent to each high school in the aforementioned Counties. Students interested in applying submitted a scholarship application to Rome Lodge No. 79. A scholarship committee composed of former educators reviewed the scholarship applications and ranked the top four applicants. Two students from Cartersville High School were selected to receive scholarships. One student from Rome High School and One Student from Coosa High School were also selected to receive scholarships. A socially distanced scholarship award ceremony was held. The scholarships were awarded to the students by Worshipful Master Tony Hill.

In October, Rome Lodge No. 79 donated to help fight Breast Cancer. The Donation was made to Rome High School. In November of every year, Rome Lodge No. 79 distributes Thanksgiving meal boxes. The boxes contain items essential in putting together a Thanksgiving meal. Two boxes are designated for the five cities where the brothers reside. The Brothers in these cities identify families that need assistance in putting together a Thanksgiving meal and distribute the boxes the Sunday before Thanksgiving..



SQUARE WORK LODGE NO. 596 PARTNERS WITH CLAY HARMONY LELAND SCHOOL TO GIVE BACK

CONTRIBUTED BY WORSHIPFUL DAVID GETER
SQUARE WORK LODGE NO.596

Good Work, True Work, Square Work in our community. Square Work Lodge No. 596 has partnered with Clay Harmony Leland (CHL) elementary school for our efforts in the community. For Thanksgiving, we provided 10 - \$110 Gift cards to families that the school selected.

This year CHL had their first toy drive of which we also supported. The lodge raised over 4,000 dollars for this endeavor. This allowed the school to provide toys for 63 families, whereas the original family count was 22. At Square Work Lodge, we are working hard, even under the Covid epidemic, to practice Good Work, True Work, Square Work in our community.



BEULAH CHAPTER No. 116 OES- ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY

CONTRIBUTED BY WORTHY MATRON DEBBIE SIMMONS
BEULAH CHAPTER NO. 116

On October 3, 2021, Beulah Chapter No. 116 held an initiation ceremony for Sister Mariah Rhodes, the Past President of Prince Hall Grand Youth Chapter, and the daughter of District Matron Sister Ella Rhodes. She currently attends Georgia Southern University. Welcome to our sisterhood Mariah!



On October 23, 2021, Beulah Chapter presented the Prince Hall Grand Chapter Scholarship to four recipients. The recipients were: Raelyn S. Evans, Mariah J. Rhodes, Benjiyah S. Walker, and Ma'Kayla C. Ross.

On October 31, 2021, Beulah Chapter No. 116 and Western Star Lodge No. 65 joined Hawk Enrichment Center in a handout lunch and voter registration drive. In November 2021, Beulah Chapter No. 116 and Western Star Lodge No. 65 served the community through a Food Drive giveaway. The weather was rainy, but that did not stop our sisters and brothers from sharing their love.

On November 20, 2021, Beulah Chapter No. 116 participated in a Thanksgiving Food Box Give-Away at Hawk Enrichment Center. Boxes were complete with Turkeys and the traditional Thanksgiving dinner items. Over 50 families received food boxes. Sister Monica Reason, Sister Sheila Youngs, and Sister Maggie Jones prepared the boxes for distribution. On December 20, 2021, Beulah Chapter No. 116 celebrated the Christmas season by delivering Christmas gift bags to Sylvview Health Care and Rehabilitation Center in Sylvania, Georgia. Due to COVID restrictions, the members could not personally provide them to the residents.



2021 Ludowici Prince Hall Mason Family "The Reason for the Season"

CONTRIBUTED BY ASSISTANT DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
EDWIN THOMPSON
BAXLEY DISTRICT NO. 17

The Ludowici Prince Hall Masonic Family displayed their holiday cheer by providing items of love for a grandmother and her six grandchildren. Gifts, toys, clothing, groceries, and more love were given out by the members of the Ludowici masonic family on December 23, 2021. The participating organizations were as follows:

Ludowici Masonic Association PHA, Hourglass Lodge No. 113
Laurel Growth Chapter No. 118 O.E.S
X.L. Neal Chapter No. 118 Holy Royal Arch Masons
Birdie L. Jones Court No. 14 Heroines of Jericho
E.L. Johnson Council No. 3 Royal and Select Masters
E.C. Williams Sr. Commandery No. 28 Knights Templar
Baxley Consistory No. 209 Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite
Mary L. Ayers # 209 Order of the Golden Circle
Al Sarrar Shrine Club of Omar Temple No. 21 and Omar Court
No. 91

Rosa Wiggs Order of the Eastern Star-Chapter No. 24 visited the At Home Senior Living Facility in Jesup, GA to paint Christmas ornaments. The sisters and brothers of Rosa Wiggs Chapter #24 participate in multiple community service ventures throughout the year and there was no better way than to end the year spreading holiday cheer.



Foundation Chapter No. 587: Celebrating 10 Years of Bonding Together to Reach our DESTINY!

CONTRIBUTED BY WORTHY MATRON TAMIKA BRYANT FOUNDATION CHAPTER NO. 587

Foundation Chapter No. 587 continues to be passionate about community service and raising awareness for serious health matters. During this quarter, our Chapter made donations to several organizations including, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Walk to End Lupus Now, the Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO), and the American Diabetes Association. In addition, Chapter members helped bring awareness to these by wearing t-shirt colors to support these foundations.

On August 21, 2021, we partnered with Reflections of Trinity by prepping and organizing food items for distribution to Cobb County residents. Later that same day, our Chapter donated \$100 in toiletry items to the Area in Need Missionary House as a part of AMD3's Youth Service Project, which WM Tamika Bryant attended. On August 28, 2021, WM Tamika Bryant & the sisters of Foundation Chapter No. 587 supported Foundation Lodge No. 592 at their signature annual event, The Bright Light Foundation's Scholarship Golf Tournament.

On September 11, 2021, we kicked off our Chapter's Shoe Drive, which collects gently worn, used, or new shoes to help those in need. On September 12, 2021, Foundation Chapter No. 587 members were very excited to see each other in person for our 2021 Chapter Picture. We were also honored to have the 18th Most Worshipful Grand Master, Corey D. Shackelford, Sr., join us for our Chapter picture as well. On September 18, 2021, we celebrated our virtual Five Point Tea event. The theme was "Destination to Destiny!" and featured each of our five Star Points as they traveled to different countries & sampled a variety of teas. Later that same day, WM Tamika Bryant dropped off the Chapter's donation of school supplies to Mableton Elementary School in partnership with Cobb County Commissioner Monica Sheffield.

Foundation Chapter No. 587 had several momentous occasions in October. On October 2, 2021, WM Tamika Bryant volunteered at AMD3's "Voter Registration Drive," held at Walmart, in partnership with the NAACP. In addition, WM Tamika Bryant, WP Micheal Gaither, and Foundation Chapter No. 587 participated in Prince Hall Weekend (Macon, GA). It was a grand celebration, and our Chapter attendees had an enjoyable time. During the second week of October, our Chapter hosted a virtual Lupus Walk to help raise critical funds for the estimated 1.5 million people living with lupus in the United States. On October 16, 2021, WM Tamika Bryant, WP Micheal Gaither, and several sisters of Foundation Chapter No. 587 participated in our Joint Quarterly Adopt-A-Mile clean-up with the brothers of Foundation Lodge No. 592. We take great pride in our partnership with "Keep Smyrna Beautiful," which keeps the community of Smyrna clean and free of litter on Atlanta Road.

Foundation Chapter No. 587 was recognized with two proclamations for our contributions to the community and in celebration of our 10th Chapter Anniversary. On October 18, 2021, we received a proclamation from Mayor Derek Norton & the City of Smyrna. On October 26, 2021, we received a proclamation from Commissioner Jerica Richardson & the Cobb County Board of Commissioners. We are truly grateful to be honored for our hard work in the Cobb County community.

In addition, we were delighted to have our 10th Chapter Anniversary on October 23, 2021. It was a virtual event, and our theme was "Celebrating ten years of Bonding Together to Reach our DESTINY!". It was a beautiful program to celebrate this milestone, with several highlights, including our guest speaker, Past Grand Master Bruce A. James. Another exciting anniversary highlight included Foundation Chapter No. 587, awarding \$2,000 in scholarships to four Cobb County students.

Foundation Chapter No. 587 kicked off November with a virtual "Chapter Retreat Weekend" on November 13-14, 2021. It was a fun-filled morning of team-building activities on Saturday and a virtual worship service on Sunday. The Chapter members enjoyed bonding, laughing, and learning more about each other.

On November 20, 2021, Foundation Lodge No. 592 & Foundation Chapter No. 587 partnered to distribute gift cards to five families in need for the Thanksgiving Holiday. In addition, WM Tamika Bryant dropped off the Chapter's annual food donation to MUST Ministries, which helps to serve the Cobb County community during the Thanksgiving Holiday. We were also excited in November to publish a YouTube video featuring our Chapter members sharing what they are "Thankful" for.

On December 5, 2021, we donated over \$250 in canned foods to AMD3's Youth Chapter Can-A-Thon and contributed to their blanket drive. We love to support the youth in our jurisdiction! Later that week, we concluded our "2021 Secret SiStar Quarterly Activity" with a fun reveal after our December Chapter Meeting. Foundation Chapter No. 587 supported the Jurisdictional Anniversary in Perry, GA, on December 10 - 11, 2021. It was a memorable weekend, and we truly enjoyed all the events, especially the Anniversary Luncheon (filled with special surprises).

On December 18, 2021, Foundation Lodge No. 592 & Foundation Chapter No. 587 partnered to distribute gift cards to five families in need for the Christmas Holiday. On this same day, Foundation Chapter No. 587 paid off Christmas Layaways for 12 families at Burlington's Austell/Cobb County location. WM Tamika Bryant & WP Micheal Gaither met the sweetest Burlington managers who helped with the process and targeted families with small kids. Foundation Chapter No. 587 and its members ended December by donating \$565 to Atlanta Masonic District No. 3 West's Winship Win the Fight 5K (Virtual) Run/Walk fundraiser. We look forward to many more years of sisterhood, community service, and bonding together to reach our destiny!



The Gate Keepers

**CONTRIBUTED BY WORTHY MATRON SHANELLE CLARKE
GATE CITY CHAPTER NO. 48**

"And one has to understand that braveness is not the absence of fear but rather the strength to keep on going forward despite the fear"- Paulo Coelho

The Gatekeepers continue to shine even as the situation around them keeps changing. Despite the coronavirus mutating and spreading, The Gatekeepers continued to spread love and kindness in the community.

In August, we celebrated our 117th Anniversary virtually, with the theme "Compassionate Sisters Benefiting Humanity." It was a great program, and the anniversary committee did an excellent job making our inaugural virtual Anniversary a success.

In September, we attended Prince Hall Day weekend in Macon, GA. It was great to gather safely in-person to fellowship with our brothers and Sisters.

In October, we supported our brothers of Gate City Lodge No. 42 at their annual scholarship and awards banquet. It was a blessing and privilege to witness their admiration for the scholarship recipients who share their love of community and learning.

In November, we joined with our brothers of Gate City Lodge No.42 and prepared Thanksgiving Baskets for life members, widows, and gold card members. It was a day of service that both participants and recipients appreciated.

We attended the inaugural Jurisdictional Anniversary in Perry, GA, celebrating sustained sisterhood in December. The weekend was filled with fun, laughter and it reminded us that we are all sisters. We also assisted Hattie L. Sims Youth 386 with their donations to Area in Need and attended the District Youth Can A Thon and Blanket Making events. It was great making no-sew blankets for the elderly and Life Members throughout the district. We honored our Chapter Life Members, Sick and Shut In, and Care Takers by blessing them with Christmas Spa Baskets. Lastly, we answered the call of True Light Haven Senior Home to assist with preparing the meal and entertaining guests for their Christmas Luncheon.

Gate City Chapter continues to show bravery and compassion to the community amid adversity. We had a great 2021 and look forward to an even better 2022. Happy New Year to all!



NEW MARION CHAPTER NO. 381 GIVES COVID-19 GIFT PACKAGES TO THE NEEDY AND SUPPORTS FAMILIES FOR CHRISTMAS

CONTRIBUTED BY DISTRICT WORTHY MATRON ANNIE FRAZIER
MILLEN DISTRICT NO. 16

On Saturday, October 24, 2021, the New Marion Chapter No. 381 located in Sardis, Georgia, prepared ten covid-19 care packages and presented them to the Missionary Ministry of Thomson Bridge Baptist Church in Waynesboro, Georgia. The items were presented as a blessing to needy families for the Christmas Holidays. The gift bags contained disinfectant spray, sanitizers, hand soap, masks, and mints.

The O.E.S Sisters strongly believe that it's always better to give than to receive. On November 21, 2021, the New Marion Chapter No. 381, located in Sardis, Georgia, presented Mr. Sly Jones and five families in Sardis, Millen, and Waynesboro with Christmas baskets for the Yuletide Holiday season. The baskets contained hams and other food items that will aid them in the preparations of a good meal for Christmas.

The New Marion Chapter is very active in Millen District No. 16 and prides itself in giving to those in need, without expecting anything in return.



GIBRALTAR LODGE NO. 265 & PARAMOUNT CHAPTER NO. 337 DONATE TO THE COMMUNITY

**CONTRIBUTED BY WORTHY MATRON STEPHANIE WYNN-O'DELL
PARAMOUNT CHAPTER NO. 337**

2021 has brought many triumphs and challenges and as we know it starts at home. Charity begins at home. During the last quarter of 2021, we were able to bless families, touch souls, give back, and let our light shine through the donation of toys to the Shepard Community Blood Center in honor of Children's Hospital of GA.

Our sisters were able to bring a truckload of vegetables to the community where it touched many of our Life members and the community. We were also able to donate to Safe Homes of Augusta, A non-profit organization for women affected by domestic violence.

Our chapter was also able to bless eight families that were displaced by an apartment fire. Gibraltar Lodge No. 265 and Paramount Chapter No. 337 came together and blessed each family with \$100.

"Helping others is not only good for them and a good thing to do, but it also makes us happier and healthier too. Giving also connects us to others, creating stronger communities and helping to build a happier society for everyone. And it's not all about money". We can also give of our time, talents, ideas, patience, love, and energy.



ST. ANDREW LODGE NO. 32 & SHILOH NO. 8 OFFER AN ETHNIC EXPERIENCE WITH SANTA

CONTRIBUTED BY SISTER JESSICA WOMBLE
SHILOH CHAPTER NO. 8

Saturday, December 18, 2021, Shiloh Chapter No. 8 along with St. Andrew Lodge No. 32 of the Louisville Masonic District offered an "Ethnic Experience with Santa."

We adopted a family and provided them with their wish list. We also gave free photos with Santa to each child as well as a surprise visit from Mr. Grinch himself.

Tis this season!!!



MINNIE M. PONDER YOUTH CHAPTER NO. 112 MILLEN DISTRICT NO. 16

**CONTRIBUTED BY PAST MATRON JOY ROBERTS
BEULAH CHAPTER NO. 116**

Minnie M. Ponder Youth Chapter had several outstanding moments during October 2021. Past Grand Youth Chapter President Ms. Mariah Rhodes made her transition from being the Youth Chapter member to becoming an active member of our sisterhood by joining Beulah Chapter No. 116, Order of Eastern Star in Sylvania, Georgia.

Ms. Rhodes is the past president of the Minnie M. Ponder Youth Chapter No. 112. The Youth Chapter also had the prestigious opportunity to perform as the S.J. Roberts Ensemble during Sunday's Program for the Prince Hall Weekend Celebration. The highlight of the show occurred as Ms. Jazzlyn Roberts performed her unique rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing,". Tears of joy and applause followed by a "standing ovation" from the audience, were given to her, as she shared her God-given talent to the masses in attendance.

Additionally, Ms. Roberts was invited to the dais to speak during the program and addressed the audience with the profound words "I Just Love to sing." Currently, Ms. Roberts is the President of the Minnie M. Ponder Youth Chapter and the Grand Marshal for the Prince Hall Grand Youth Chapter. Under her leadership, the youth chapter is excited for what lies ahead.



THE GEORGIA YORK RITE BANNER OF BENEVOLENCE CONTINUES TO FLY HIGH

CONTRIBUTED BY PAST MASTER BERTRAM THOMAS JR.
CARROLLTON LODGE NO. 57
GRAND EDITOR-MASONIC DIGEST

It has been known for many years that the fabric of the blue lodge brotherhood and chapter sisterhood is interwoven closely within the York Rite bodies. The concordant bodies of the Holy Royal Arch Masons (HRAM), Royal and Select Masters, Knights Templar, and their corresponding ladies' organizations provide a unique opportunity to unite brothers and sisters of lodges and chapters throughout the jurisdiction of Georgia under the theme of service. The York Rite pushes local lodge and chapter pride to transition into a larger collective force for positivity through fellowship and service to the downtrodden in our communities.

It is also appropriate to highlight that our 18th Grand Master, the Honorable Corey D. Shackelford Sr., is the first Grand Master in the history of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia to be elected and installed as Worshipful Master of a Blue Lodge (Foundation Lodge No. 592), elected and installed as an Excellent High Priest of a Holy Royal Arch Chapter (Zerubbabel Chapter No. 124), elected and installed as a Thrice Illustrious Master of a Royal & Select Master Council (Zabud Council No. 20), and elected and installed as an Eminent Commander of a Knights Templar Commandery (St. George Commandery No. 35).

In the spirit of service to the residents of Georgia, on Sunday morning December 19, 2021, the John H. DeVeaux Grand Commandery Magnanimous Order of Knight Templar Masons took the lead in welcoming over 30 Sir Knights from throughout the jurisdiction of Georgia to Crossing Jordan Baptist Church in Valdosta, Georgia to worship and continue the benevolent mission of the order. Led by Most Eminent Grand Commander Edward P. Russell, KYCH, the John H. DeVeaux Grand Commandery made a monetary donation to Crossing Jordan Baptist Church and a donation of toys for the children. The event was also supported by local Valdosta dignitaries; Grand Thrice Illustrious Master of the H.R. Butler Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters, Earl Lyons, KYCH; and Eminent Prior of Georgia Priory No. 12 Knight York Cross of Honor, Freddie C. Grisson Jr., KYCH. Not pictured is the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Jesse Robinson Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons, Vernon C. Hall, KYCH.

On Monday, December 20, 2021, the Valdosta York Rite extended its benevolence further into the community. The York Rite Companions and Sir Knights met at the Lowndes Associated Ministries to People Incorporated (LAMP) to distribute toys to the children there. LAMP is a caring faith-based non-profit organization that provides for the needs of homeless and hurting people of the community. The Georgia York Rite will continue to provide benevolent support for those in need and be champions for the downtrodden as we continue to hold our Holy Royal Arch Mason, Royal & Select Master, and Knights Templar banners high!



Lawrence Usher's Achievement

CONTRIBUTED BY WORSHIPFUL MASTER RONNIE C. JACKSON
ST. JAMES LODGE NO. 4

St James Lodge No. 4 is very proud to learn of your Proclamation from Dekalb County Commissioner Larry Johnson. Receiving this public acknowledgment of your achievements in golf and community advocacy is a true recognition of your tireless efforts.

Your numerous first-place titles, championships, and youth mentoring highlight your passion for golf. We count it as a privilege to have you as a member of our Lodge. We commend your excellent work and congratulate you once again.



A Proclamation

Lawrence E. Usher

WHEREAS, Lawrence E. Usher is an outstanding leader and a DeKalb County resident for over 50 years. Mr. Usher was a paratrooper in the Army and now serves as the Chief of Staff of Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 91. He is a member of the Saint James Lodge #4. He is a thirty-second-degree Mason; and

WHEREAS, Upon retiring from ATT, Mr. Usher created Usher Enterprises, where he created a fruit juice that was sold in major retailers in the Southeastern region; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Usher, has a strong passion for golf. In 1988, he was one of the founders of the Stokers Golf Club of Atlanta. He won the DeKalb County Senior Olympics Championship from 2002-2012; Mr. Usher also won 3 first place titles for the Atlanta Veterans Administration Golf Tournament. In 2016, Mr. Usher won the Stokers National Championship; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Usher is a strong advocate for his community. He enjoys educating and mentoring youth on entrepreneurship and the game of golf. He is a diligent and faithful servant of the Lord. He has served as a deacon for 45 years at Salem Bible Church under the pastorate of Jasper Williams, Sr.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Larry Johnson, on behalf of DeKalb County and its more than 750,000 citizens, do hereby recognize and honor the legacy of Mr. Lawrence Usher for his advocacy and impact within the sport of golf.

PROCLAIMED, THIS 11th day of June 2021

Commissioner Larry Johnson
District 3

Editor's Corner: Historic Masonic Recognition and the Re-opening of Our Jurisdiction: Seriousness of Our Purpose

To the Brothers and Sisters of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and Chapter of Georgia and all our Prince Hall Brothers and Sisters worldwide:

This third issue of the Masonic Digest continues to highlight our brothers and sisters' achievements and charitable endeavors throughout the jurisdiction through the ever-changing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. All of us either know someone that has had COVID-19 or has experienced it ourselves. We have lost too many brothers, sisters, and family members to this raging pandemic. But through the storm of the pandemic and adversity, still, we rise! This issue has several public health articles that address Post COVID-19 syndrome and the importance of booster shots. These articles are timely and provide insight into the ever-changing characteristics of this pandemic and the need to be vigilant and proactive about your health and the health of your fellow sisters and brothers. While the effects of the pandemic make it a challenge to chronicle lodge and chapter events in person, we remain grateful to all the lodge and chapter writers who have vividly reported their respective activities in the spirit of over 70 years of the Masonic Digest informing and educating not only the members of the jurisdiction of Georgia but worldwide through social media and the internet. Each article points to the "seriousness of purpose" of the lodges and chapters in their charitable and social endeavors while social distancing and we urge all our members and families to be safe.

Please continue to support the "But God Initiative" as it is going strong. We would like to thank all the brothers and sisters that see the big picture for the future of this jurisdiction and support our elected and appointed leaders in their vision for upward mobility.

Since our last published issue, we have had several historic events occur. On October 10, 2021, we took a step towards normalcy as we celebrated our first in-person Prince Hall Day observance in two years. The experience was hosted by Macon District No. 5 under the leadership of District Deputy Grand Master Albert James and District Worthy Matron Janet Client. The weekend was enjoyed by over 1,000 brothers and sisters who were able to enjoy a service that included music performed by our youth and a rousing sermon.

On December 9, 2021, the Executive Board of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia voted unanimously to extend and request mutual recognition from the Grand Lodge of Georgia, continuing a tradition that was executed by previous administrations of making a formal request to the eldest of the legitimate Grand Lodges within a sovereign state. This letter was submitted to the Grand Lodge of the State of Georgia on December 18, 2020. On October 26, 2021, the Grand Lodge of Georgia voted in the majority to extend mutual recognition with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia. This historic vote of confidence from our fellow brethren was a symbol of progress in the deep south and opens the door for more southern states to follow suit when their hearts and minds are ready. Kudos to the committee for working tirelessly for the benefit of progress and brotherhood within the jurisdiction of Georgia. The committee consisted of:

Past Master Isaac Robinson, Assistant Grand CCFC
Assistant District Deputy Grand Master Reggie Walker, Grand Director of Technology
Past Master Seth Gholston
Past Master Dave Gillarm, Grand Historian
Past Master William Thomas
Past Master Doug Evans, Grand Director of Education
Right Worshipful John Jefferson, Grand Secretary

Please continue to submit your articles promptly with a focus on the accuracy of all member names and titles of their office highlighted. Be mindful that if you can submit articles to your social media accounts, you can also submit to the Masonic Digest and be a key part of making this literary organ as inclusive as possible. Since the release of our last issue, all three of us have been elected to serve the 2022 fraternal year as Secretaries of our respective lodges. As we perform our duties within our lodges, we lead by example and aim for excellence and detail in the editing and creation of the Masonic Digest. We strive to include all articles and will publish them according to our layout space. All articles submitted after the stated deadlines will be published in a subsequent issue.

In the previous issue (Issue 2-Fall 2021), there was an unintentional omission of Assistant Grand Historian Past Master Sean L. Daniels, Sr. as the author of the historical article that he submitted. We invite our membership and the public to let us know if these errors occur and they will be addressed. The Masonic Digest will continue to strive to keep the membership connected and will continue to be available through the Masonic Digest link on the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia website. Thank you for your continued support of your Masonic Digest and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Georgia.

Fraternally,

Worshipful Bertram Thomas Jr. (57), Grand Editor

Worshipful James Q. Leach (107), Grand Digital Editor

Worshipful Michael Johnson (8), Grand Communications Editor

