

MASONIC DIGEST

SPECIAL EDITION



Special Release - Double Issue

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Masonic Digest Editors

PM Bertram Thomas, Jr. (57) & PM James Q. Leach (107)

EDITOR'S WELCOME

SUBMITTED BY: MASONIC DIGEST EDITORS

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

This eighth issue of the Masonic Digest is our first double issue highlighting the fall of 2023, winter, and spring of 2024 community service and social activities in which the Brothers and Sisters have engaged. This eighth issue features the Grand Master's and Grand Worthy Matron's Corner of 19th Most Worshipful Grand Master Honorable Primus T. James and our 18th Grand Worthy Matron Sallie Mills.

As you continue to support your lodge and chapter endeavors, remember to be mindful of your health and wellness. National Mental Health Awareness Month was in May, and National Men's Health Awareness Month is in June. Please ensure that you visit your Primary Care Physicians and create a daily health maintenance regimen, as we want to increase the quality of life of our membership. Also, keep in mind that the COVID-19 pandemic is still in existence.

Your well-being is paramount to the leadership of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Georgia. You must follow the updated guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local health departments.

Please continue to support the "But God Initiative" as it is a sound and viable method to perpetuate financial stability for our Grand Lodge. We want to thank all the brothers and sisters who continue to embrace the long-range vision of our past and current leadership regarding the financial future of this jurisdiction.

We as a jurisdiction must also continue to support the efforts of Morris Brown College. They are fully accredited and continue to offer tuition discounts to our members. The college is led by one of our brothers, Dr. Kevin James, who needs our continued support. Please take advantage of this unique opportunity to further your education.

Please submit all pictures as separate files outside the articles instead of embedding them within the article. Please submit only in Word format and not PDF format. Continue highlighting your youth activities and your lodge and chapter functions as we strive to include all articles and will publish all according to our layout space. Your articles will be published in a subsequent issue for any that did not make it into this issue due to the deadline. Thank you for supporting the Masonic Digest, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, and the Most Worshipful Grand Chapter of Georgia.

GRAND MASTER'S CORNER

**MOST WORSHIPFUL
PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
JURISDICTION OF GEORGIA**

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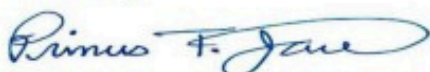
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From the Desk of the Most Worshipful Grand Master

Greetings and welcome, as we prepare to enter Prince Hall Weekend, we have had an exceptionally good year of Masonic fellowship research, and scholarship. As we continue to seek light, let us notice the difference and growth in ourselves and each other. Let us continue to encourage each other to improve our lodges. As members we should always work with in our twenty-four-inch gauge. I hope and pray that you and your families remain safe and healthy as we practice masonry into our new normal. This is certainly not the time to relax on our safety and the safety of others. We should always ask the Almighty to protect us and grant us Wisdom and understanding.

As MWGM along with the RWDGM and RWGJW we traveled on a journey to the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, where I was blessed to serve as the RWGJW for the Opening Ceremony of African Lodge No. 459. It is always a good thing to take a journey from Darkness to Light. As Masons, we are reminded that our journey is never complete, and that we must continue to seek knowledge and understanding through our lives. We are encouraged to live virtuous lives and to make a positive impact in the world, using the knowledge and understanding we have gained throughout our Masonic Journey. It was an experience I will never forget. Each of us have burdens that we bear, and because we have advanced to becoming Master Masons, it does not mean that we forget how to carry a load we have been given. There are going to be some scars in the path of improvement, some bigger than others, because improvement requires going deep within your soul and facing the truth to our organization.

Fraternally,



Primus T. James, 33°
Most Worshipful Grand Master



GRAND WORTHY MATRON'S CORNER

SISTER SALLIE RUTH MILLS

18TH GRAND WORTHY MATRON CORNER



Prince Hall Grand Chapter O.E.S. Jurisdiction of Georgia

Serving with Joy through Charity, Truth, and Loving Kindness

3 John 1: 4-5 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren and strangers.

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

I pray you and your family are doing well! The passages from 3 John 1:4-5 convey the deep satisfaction of achieving our true purpose. They emphasize the significance of being unwavering in our kindness to others, whether acquaintances or strangers. These verses serve as a reminder that each gesture of compassion and love, regardless of its size, can profoundly affect those we encounter. Throughout my travels in this vast domain, I have witnessed this and am grateful for the numerous remarkable, transformative deeds you accomplish with joy in service.



PRINCE HALL WEEKEND

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in Unity." I want to express our gratitude to Brother Ronald Skrine, DDGM, Sister Ollie McKinnon, DWM, Brother Roy Flanders, DWP, and the Valdosta District No. 9 for their generous hospitality shown during Prince Hall Weekend. Your dedication is a testament to the power of commitment.

Despite the unexpected challenges of the hurricane recovery efforts, you did an outstanding job - 5 stars!



HOLIDAY BLESSINGS

Sisters and Brothers set out to make a difference while sharing and caring. Together we made a difference!

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the multitude of ways you have extended your hand in community service during the holiday season. From Youth Holiday Donations, Assisted Living to Shelters, your collective efforts have truly made a significant impact across the Jurisdiction.

Let us continue to reach out to Communities and to our Seniors, Sick and Shut in or those who simply need a word of encouragement!

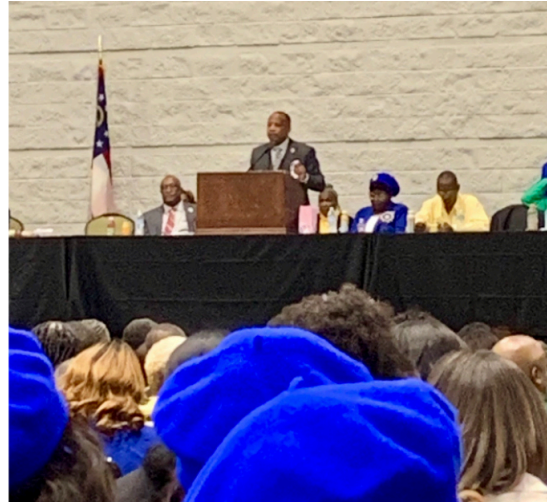
WINTER MIDWINTER MEETING



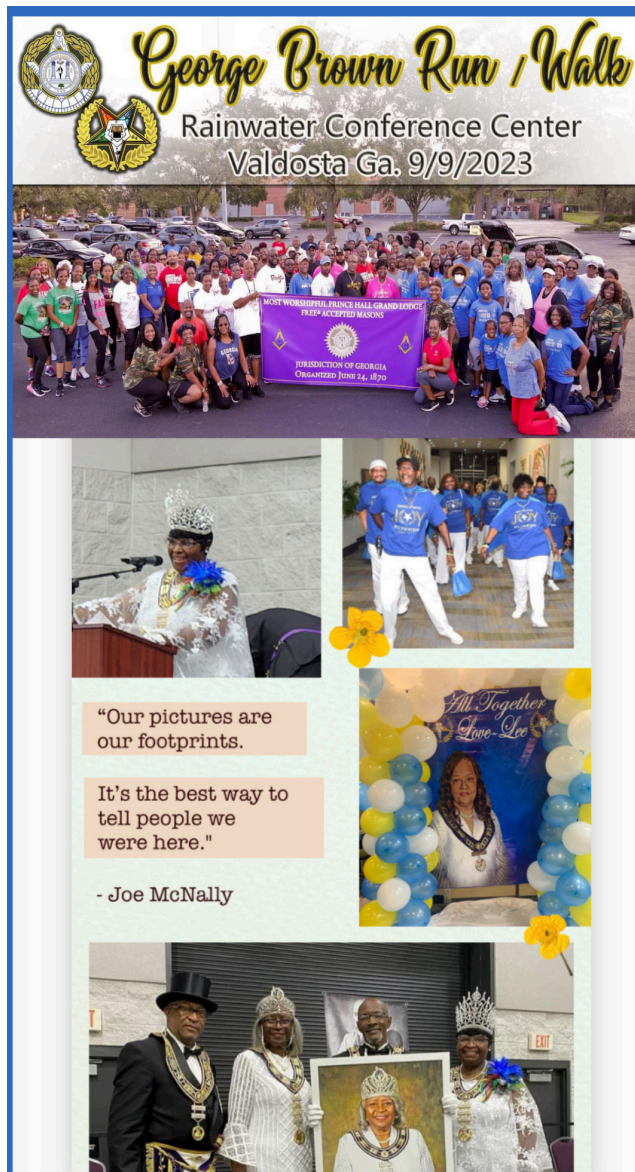
I would like to express my appreciation to Grand Master Primus T. James and our joint Leadership Team for their exceptional efforts in achieving a record attendance at the Mid-

Winter Meeting. I also acknowledge Macon District No. 5 for hosting such a successful and harmonious event. I am confident that this achievement sets the stage for a glorious Grand Session in June.

GRAND WORTHY MATRON'S CORNER



GRAND WORTHY MATRON'S CORNER



Grand Youth Session
March 22-24
In Statesboro, Georgia



GRAND WORTHY MATRON'S CORNER



TRAVEL

**GA Jurisdiction attended the Southeast Regional Conference,
January 18-21, 2024 in Nassau.**



GRAND WORTHY MATRON'S CORNER

GRAND QUEEN OUTREACH INITIATIVES

The Chapters and Districts deserve recognition for their exceptional support of the Grand Queen, Sister Audrey Warner-Pinckney's Community Outreach Initiatives. Firstly, during our visit to Valdosta in September, we expressed our gratitude for the enthusiastic support of the three Boys and Girls Clubs in surrounding area.

Later in February, we supported the Beverly Knight Olson Children's Hospital in Macon during the Midwinter Meeting. It was truly remarkable to see the children receive such beautiful and generous blessings!

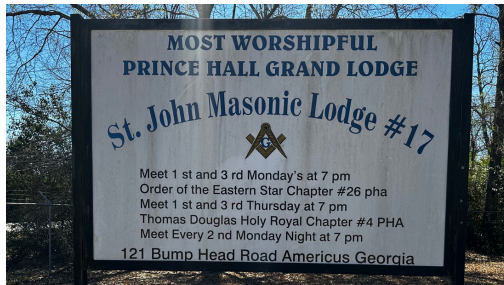
#PHGCCAWEARRED

American Heart Association: We want to extend our gratitude to all who have supported the American Heart Association and raised awareness about heart health and those who attended the 2nd Annual Central Georgia Red Dress Luncheon in Macon. Your social posts and pictures under #PHGCCAWearRed have been truly inspiring and have brought me tremendous joy. Our donation campaign is still ongoing, and contributions are welcome!

"Without service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop." - Dr. Dorthy Height

THE AMERICAS, GEORGIA EXPERIENCE

SUBMITTED BY PM DAVE GILLARM
GRAND HISTORIAN



"If you don't tell your story, someone else will." – Carmine Gallo. One of the major projects of our Grand Lodge historical team is to record and tell our history from every part of the state. One of the first steps on this project was in the city of Americus.



Before arriving in Americus, Georgia, I spoke with DDGM Gary Felder and informed him that I planned on coming to Americus to document various historical sites and graves there. I also asked him about other sites of historical significance to Prince Hall Masonry in the Great State of Georgia. He then told me about a brother whom I needed to speak with who had a vast knowledge of Americus, and his name was PM Joe Clark.

I met PM Clark at the home of St. John Lodge #17. He gave me a tour of the building and explained the cornerstones that were on the building. One of the cornerstones showed that the lodge had been established on June 26, 1872, with Reverend Charles Bradwell as its first Worshipful Master. Reverend Charles Bradwell was one of the leading African Methodist Episcopal Ministers in the state during his life. According to an article in the Voice of Missions, on February 1, 1900, during his time as pastor in Americus, 200 members were added to his church!

After the lodge tour, PM Clark drove me around town to several sites. He showed me some of the properties owned by the Grand Lodge at one time and gave me fascinating stories about previous times in Americus. He informed me that he had been a Mason since 1969. To help put this in perspective, the Grand Master at that time was Dr. X.L. Neal. He had only been Grand Master for 7 years when PM Clark became a Mason. PGM Neal would go on to serve for another 21 years until 1990. PM Clark has been a Mason longer than I've been alive, and I was truly in awe of his dedication.

After visiting the properties, we went to the site of our old orphan home. The Orphans Home at Americus was brought into existence via a resolution that the Grand Lodge passed during the session from June 22-24, 1899. This home was the vision of PGM William Edward Terry, and its main building would be named after him later. For many years, the Grand Lodge would meet annually there. As we passed the location, we discussed how it must have looked for so many members to be in that area during the late 1800's. We talked about how members would come to town via the train and stay with other members because they wouldn't have been allowed to stay in too many hotels, if any. Brotherhood would have taken on an entirely different meaning in those days.

Next we went to Everview Cemetery. PM Clark informed me that many past members were buried there, and we would visit their graves. One of the first graves that we visited was the grave of Past Grand Worthy Matron Viola Hart-Felton. PGWM Hart-Felton was born on April 11, 1870, and passed away in office on March 31, 1933. She was a staple in the Americus community and our Grand Chapter.

While at her grave, we discussed various historical facts about her. One thing that we talked about is that she and PGM Dr. Henry Rutherford Butler Sr. shared a birthday. PGM Butler was born 8 years before her on April 11, 1862. After leaving her grave, we visited the grave of Past District Deputy Grand Master Lee Andrew Fuse. We sat down for a few minutes, and PM Clark began to talk about PDDGM Fuse's life. He spoke about how he was related to him and how great of a man and a Mason he was.

As he reflected on PDDGM Fuse's life, I couldn't help but wish I had the opportunity to meet him, too, and I know that the Jurisdiction suffered a tremendous loss when he passed away. Upon leaving the cemetery, we visited the old Americus Colored Hospital. This hospital opened in 1923 and was open to all races. According to the historical marker, it allowed black nurses and doctors to practice in an actual hospital because it was open to all races. I began researching this hospital and found a vast reception to celebrate that occasion when it opened. .

THE AMERICAS, GEORGIA EXPERIENCE

CONT'D

One of the day's speakers was Past Master Alfred Samuel Staley, a local minister and educator in Americus. He has a middle school named after him and was also a St. John Lodge #17 member. Afterward, we walked across the street to look at Campbell's Chapel AME Church, organized in 1877. We then visited many more sites in Americus, including the former home of PGWM Viola Hart-Felton.

We finished our tour back at the lodge where PM Clark reiterated how important our history is and how many great things had happened in Americus. I would like to thank PM Clark for taking time out of his day to show me around and give me a one-of-a-kind tour of Americus. PM Clark is a walking history book and an absolute gem in our organization. Also, I would like to give a special thank you to DDGM Gary Felder for making this tour happen.



CHILDREN ARE THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE RESOURCES

SUBMITTED BY: PDWM T. JOY ROBERTS
MINNIE M. PONDER YOUTH CHAPTER NO. 112



Under the guidance of Beulah Chapter No. 116 and director Katherine Ponder, Minnie M. Ponder Youth Chapter No. 112 can't help but be inspired to do great things. In February, the youth chapter participated in Family and Friends Day. During the program, they portrayed different influential and historical African Americans in honor of Black History Month while assisting with the fun and games. The youth chapter also welcomed 4 new members in February. March was a busy month for the youth. The youth chapter was invited to attend the annual District meeting. During the meeting, youth chapter president Kassidy Roberts thanked the district members for their support and allowed all the youth to introduce themselves. They were elated to be invited and to participate. This was one of many invitations extended to the youth. Past youth chapter president Jazzlyn Roberts was invited to sing at the Council of Deliberation in Atlanta, GA. Tears flowed as she sang "I'm Still Holding On" for the audience. Ms. Roberts continues to share her gift throughout the jurisdiction of Georgia. The youth chapter also joined forces with Beulah Chapter No. 116 and Western Star No. 65 to assist at the Screven County Soup Kitchen. The youth helped prepare over 100 meals and helped with delivery. Members of the youth chapter also assisted in the reorganization of Mt. Zion Youth Chapter No. 351 of Athens District. Ms. Kassidy Roberts presided over the meeting as President. CJ Roberts assisted the young men and acted as Sentinel. Congratulations to Athens District! At the end of the month, the youth prepared for the Grand Youth Session. They had a "Tie-Dye" day at the K.C. Childers Masonic temple. They had fun creating their shirts and became creative in using different colors and designs. These shirts were made to wear to the youth session Glow Party. Not only was the Glow Party entertaining for the youth chapter, but the entire session was a success. Our very own Kassidy Roberts was sworn in as Grand Youth Associate Conductress during the session. CJ Roberts was also sworn in as Grand Youth Sentinel. Congratulations to them both. The youth continue to have monthly meetings, events, and community service and increase their membership. The youth director, assistants, and coordinator continue encouraging, supporting, and mentoring our youth to show their excellent work.



LEOMIA HURST YOUTH CHAPTER ATTENDS THE 2024 YOUTH GRAND SESSION

SUBMITTED BY: ASSISTANT DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
EDWIN R. THOMPSON / BAXLEY DISTRICT NO. 17



Leomia Hurst Youth Chapter No. 140 attended the 2024 Youth Grand Session in Statesboro, GA, on Saturday, March 23rd, and Sunday, March 24th. Four adults and eight youth attended; two seniors were recognized: Landon Wilson and Kirstin McRae. Greyson Williams, kindergartener (new member), was awarded 3rd Place for reading 80 books. Creuntary Denson was crowned and tied 2nd Place as the 2024 King. We salute all of our youth and look forward to next year. We worshipped with Tabernacle Baptist Church in Statesboro Sunday morning, followed by dinner at Old Times Country Buffett. Earnest Chapter No. 17 and Leomia Hurst No. 140 thank everyone who contributed money to this event. We especially thank DDGM Terrence Gibson for attending, spending time with the youth, and treating them to an ice cream on Saturday evening. We are so thankful and blessed to have a safe trip there and back. To God be the glory.



TRAIN OF LOVE

SUBMITTED BY WORTHY MATRON MICHELLE WILLIAMS
TRUTH AND UNION CHAPTER NO. 590

Truth and Union Chapter No. 590 has been busy working on our Train of Love journey. We've encountered some excellent stops along the way. We started getting back to the basics, learning about Love, referencing 1 Corinthians 13:1. We've now pulled into another station where we're learning to: "Rekindle Our Spirit of Love with a Servant's Heart referencing" 1 Corinthians 16:14.

On our journey aboard the train of Love, one of our first stops was at Grand East, where we were privileged to have one of our very own, Sister Lorraine Bailey-Johnson, win the Queen's Contest for AMD3W. This accomplishment allowed us to present eight Sol C. Johnson Scholarships to some highly deserving First-year college students during our "Star-Studded" Five-Point Tea held in Snellville. It was a pleasure to have Our District Worthy Matron, S. Diane White, and our District Associate Patron, John Hanson, who told our Chapter, "We have truly set the bar high." We were also blessed to have our Past Grand Patron, Cecil James, in attendance to help us capture our Star-Studded event.

The Love Train swished us back to Grand East on May 20, 2023, so that we could join with other chapters and be a part of our first Initiation. We were blessed to gain three new Sisters into our Chapter. We could tell our candidates were very nervous, but they didn't know how anxious we were trying to prepare to ensure their Initiation Day was as memorable and full of Love as we could make it.

We enjoyed stopping at our back-to-school stop, which was held at our new Chapter location in Lawrenceville. We had the opportunity to Love on so many bright-eyed students and their parents. Not only did we give out approximately 300 backpacks along with school supplies, but we also had Jumpers for the children to play in. We were blessed to have our own Beautician and Barbers who Blessed the students with new looks for their first day of school. We truly loved designing and painting the young ladies' fingernails. The glow on their faces truly brightened our day, and the Love in those eyes just melted our Servant Hearts.



TRAIN OF LOVE

CONT'D



Our train of Love made another stop at the Grand East in October. We were privileged to have six new Sisters join our Chapter. It was indeed an evening of love shared amongst the chapters that played apart. Grand Worthy Matron Mills encouraged us to Love our Sisters as she did us when we became a part of this wonderful organization. Her words of wisdom have stayed deep in our hearts and minds.

For Thanksgiving, we stopped at New Mercies Christian Church in Lilburn for their Thanksgiving food drive. We were able to help bless families by packing boxes of food with other organizations and distributing it to the needy. We truly enjoyed this experience because we were privileged to bond with many people with pure Servant Hearts over a light breakfast. We were greeted with so many smiles and made some great connections.

For Christmas, the Love train brought Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and some of his Elves to the Budgetel Hotel in Lilburn to show Love to the families. We gave out toys to the children and gifts to the parents. Some children weren't sure about our Santa, but they truly loved Mrs. Claus. Santa was so pleased with our Chapter that he gave us more gifts to take on the train. We ended up at Grand East for the Youth's Christmas party. We had so much fun assisting with games and making cards for older people. We tried to be a part of the new school but were informed several times that we should stay in our lane with the old school. The Love train started the new year at Grand East for the 2024 AMD3W annual coat drive. Being amongst so many people who showed their faithful servant's heart was a blessing. Truth and Union Chapter and Lodge showed up and showed out. The Love Train also stopped at the MLK parade in Gwinnett County, where we partnered up with the United Ebony Society and assisted with welcoming vendors and providing information to the public. The goal of Truth and Union No. 590 is to show the world our Servant's hearts and to continue spreading as much Sisterly Love as we can on the Love Train!!! I am Worthy Matron Michelle Williams, and it has been my pleasure to navigate you on the Truth and Union Love Train!!!



ANNUAL RAINBOW TEA AFFAIR

SUBMITTED BY: ASSISTANT DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
EDWIN R. THOMPSON / BAXLEY DISTRICT NO. 17

On March 16, 2024, Adah Chapter No. 3 hosted our annual Rainbow Tea Affair to raise money for scholarship funds. Since the Eastern Star's emblem is the 5-pointed star and each point of the star represents a color and a biblical ideal or a woman from the bible as a reminder for members to embody the virtue and essence of those women, we decided to highlight the event with a fashion show with sisters wearing evening gowns to demonstrate each color of the star.

They were escorted by the Masonic brothers wearing black suits, black ties, and white shirts.



As each sister walked the red carpet, her color and an explanation of the woman she represented were narrated by the Past Matron, Carolyn Clements.

DOING MORE IN 2024

SUBMITTED BY: DISTRICT WORTHY MATRON T. JOY ROBERTS
BEULAH CHAPTER NO. 116

Under the leadership of Worthy Matron Sheila Youngs, Beulah Chapter No. 116 ended December of 2023 with warm hugs and smiling faces to the residents of Sylvview Nursing Home in Sylvania, GA. The project “Socks for Seniors” was a significant success as the residents were overwhelmed and overjoyed to receive a goodie bag with warm fuzzy socks and warm smiles from the sisters of the Beulah Chapter. “More in ‘24” includes being more visible within the community and more involved with our youth.

Members of Beulah Chapter No. 116, Spring Fountain Chapter No. 278, along with Western Star Lodge No. 65, Spring Fountain Lodge No. 414, and Light of Hiltonia Lodge No. 433 all participated in the Screven County MLK Jr. Parade in January. The parade crowd waved, smiled, and commented on how great it was to see such “distinguished” ladies and gentlemen. Some individuals also gave thanks to various community service events. To finish January with a bang, members of Beulah Chapter were delighted to attend the first meeting of Minnie M. Ponder Youth Chapter No. 112. The youth did an outstanding job in their first meeting of the year with their newly elected officers.



Congratulations to Miss Kassidy Roberts, the new president and current Youth Grand Associate Conductress, and Miss Brionna Gant, the new vice-president of the youth chapter. With the assistance and guidance of youth director Sister Katherine Ponder, the youth are excited for the upcoming youth session and ready to join the venture of “Doing More In 2024.”

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

SUBMITTED BY: PAST MATRON ANNIE FRAZIER
NEW MARION CHAPTER NO. 381



March 13th: New Marion Chapter No. 381 donated gift cards to Mrs. Regina Golphin's STEM Class for door prizes.

The next day, on March 14th, New Marion Chapter No. 381 donated snacks to the Dialysis Center in Waynesboro, Georgia.

On April 15th, the chapter enjoyed Bingo & Sweets with the Seniors at the Senior Center in Waynesboro.

New Marion Chapter No. 381 also showed leadership by hosting Millen District No.16 Chapter of Sorrow.



SHINING BRIGHT THROUGH SERVICE

SUBMITTED BY: PAST MATRON KYRA M. CALDWELL TEMPLETON
VIOLA HART-FELTON CHAPTER NO. 584

Viola Hart-Felton Chapter No. 584 members continue to work in the name of SERVICE to our community! In February 2024, the chapter served the community by hosting “A Hearty Affair Chili Cook-Off,” a Western-themed event focused in honor of American Heart Health Month. The love was shared through our taste buds, and we were able to raise funds to sponsor a special recipient with heart disease monetarily.

As we worked to shine bright through service, our chapter participated in the Riverdale Prom Dress Giveaway. Chapter members helped young ladies in the community select amazing prom gowns and accessories. Additionally, Viola Hart-Felton partnered with Major Moves Into Destiny Transportation (Owned by Sister Shibre Mitchell) to giveaway a VIP limousine ride to a well-deserving high school student. The young lady thoroughly enjoyed her special day!

Honoring our legacy is truly an act of service. Annually, our chapter travels to Americus, Georgia, in March to pay homage to our beloved namesake, Sister Viola Hart Felton, who held the office of Grand Worthy Matron for a term of thirty-two years, the second person elected to this office in the Jurisdiction of Georgia. We are extremely proud of our chapter's heritage and will continue to immerse ourselves in Sister Viola Hart Felton's service-oriented spirit.

Viola Hart-Felton Chapter also had the privilege of presenting at Harper Elementary School's career day in Riverdale, GA. Students were engaged and exposed to various career paths throughout the day. We truly enjoyed inspiring our youth! The historical solar eclipse in April 2024 was a time to pause and honor the miracles of God. Viola Hart-Felton Chapter hosted the inaugural “Titan Tunnel - Day of the Eclipse” welcome back assembly for the Charles R. Drew High School students in Riverdale, Georgia! From the cheers of the participants to the sounds from our very own DJ, Worshipful Master Martin Seay from Port Royal-Scott Lodge No. 591, students were warmly greeted from spring break as they ushered in Quarter 4 of the academic year.

Our members were genuinely excited to shine bright as the sun prepared to cross paths with the moon. Our chapter also participated in the Atlanta Walk to End Lupus in April 2024. Our members gained some miles as we supported an excellent cause in Metro Atlanta.

Viola Hart-Felton Chapter No. 584 strives to shine our light through service in everything we do!



*‘Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do...’
Ephesians 6:7-8 NIV*



PROGRESSING WITH LOVE AND TOGETHERNESS

SUBMITTED BY: SISTER CONNIE BRANNON
PUTNAM CHAPTER NO. 34



In October 2023, Putnam Chapter celebrated its 62nd Anniversary at Griggs Chapel AME Church with Reverend Austin Walker as the speaker. Our theme was "Together We Stand Making a Difference with Love". In November 2023, We were fortunate to have 2 Patrons who served in the United States Military. Tokens of appreciation were presented to our Patrons, Bro. James Hudson, Jr. and Bro. Willie Jeff Reid, in honor of Veterans Day, and expressions of love for their dedicated service to our chapter. In our effort to continuously build fellowship within and outside the chapter Brothers and Sisters, we met for Sunday Brunch at Rock Eagle, where food and laughter were found to be good for the soul.

Hoping to foster continued growth in the Order, Putnam Chapter No. 34 initiated 3 New Sisters. Tenisha Cole, Melissa Strozier, and Randee Spencer have been warmly welcomed and have proven to be full of energy and hidden talents. While welcoming new members, we realize how fortunate we are to have 3 Grand Pearls (Susie Brundage, Leila Williams, and Viola Yarbrough) who continue to support and participate in many of our activities. We give an extra special thanks to Grand Pearl Sister Leila Williams, who, when able, travels near and far to events and is always willing to offer words of wisdom.

To give back to the community through service, Putnam Chapter No. 34 has donated game prizes to our local Nursing Home, provided undergarments to the primary school, and snacks to the Police and Fire Department. In addition, members have participated in the local food drives held monthly in our community. Also, we strive each year to provide two high school graduates from our community with scholarships for college by having a Scholarship Banquet. In summary, Putnam Chapter No. 34, though sometimes few in numbers, continues to move forward with love, togetherness, and commitment to shine our light in the community and the district. On the district level, our members attended Prince Hall Day in September 2023 in Valdosta, Georgia, and were also at the Mid-Winter Meeting in Macon, Georgia, in February 2024.



GIVING BACK WITH A PURPOSE

SUBMITTED BY: PDWM T. JOY ROBERTS
BEULAH CHAPTER NO. 116



“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.”
Helen Keller

Beulah Chapter No. 116 continues to be bonded in unity and love as we continue to “Do more in 2024.” Mid- Winter Leadership meeting in Macon, GA, was the jumpstart for the information needed to continue onward with a successful year.

February was also the chapter’s annual Family & Friends Day Celebration. As always, there was fun, fellowship, and an outstanding speech on “Love” by Grand Lecturer Susie Reed. Family, friends, and the community attended this event well. March was busy for the chapter as we prepared and accomplished all endeavors.

The chapter participated in the annual District Meeting in which several officers from the chapter were elected to positions. We congratulate Worthy Matron Sheila Youngs, District Treasurer, and Past Matron T. Joy Roberts, District Associate Matron. Sister Roberts was also reappointed as Grand Assistant Youth Director. We also congratulate our new District Matron, Sister Rachel French. Beulah Chapter continued to work for the community as the chapter, along with Western Star No. 65 and Minnie M. Ponder No. 112, volunteered at the Screven County Soup Kitchen. Over 100 plates were prepared and delivered throughout the community. As the overseers of Minnie M. Ponder No. 112, the chapter ensured that our youth were ready with the essentials needed for the youth session. Items such as snacks, pearls, bowties, and t-shirts were donated for the session’s social event.

As we ended the month of April, we assisted the district in playing significant roles in District Degree Day. Sisters Shelia Youngs, T. Joy Roberts, Susie Reed, Ella Rhodes, Debbie Simmons, Sylvia Roberts, Katherine Ponder, Maggie Jones, and brother Anthony Youngs participated in rehearsals. They assisted in ensuring that the degree day was a success. Beulah chapter completed April with an amazing volunteer opportunity at the “Special Field Day” activities at the Screven County Recreation Department. This day was fantastic as we saw the smiling faces of the athletes. We cheered them on as each chapter member was assigned an athlete as their “mentor/coach” for the activities. The hugs, smiles, and words of gratitude will forever stay embedded in our hearts. As we continue to strive, let’s not forget to receive blessings, and you should be a blessing to others. Beulah Chapter No. 116 is indeed blessed beyond measure.



WOMEN OF STRENGTH & PURPOSE

SUBMITTED BY: ASSISTANT DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
EDWIN R. THOMPSON / BAXLEY DISTRICT NO. 17

On April 13, 2024, at 4:00 pm at Centilla Missionary Baptist Church, Earnest Chapter No 17 of McRae, Georgia, held its Annual Night in White. Minister Shirley Smith of Glenwood Grove Baptist Church was the speaker for this occasion. About fifty people came out to hear the word.

Minister Smith spoke on the theme, "Women of Strength." The subtitle was "Women with a Purpose." What a mighty word!! She highlighted the many women in the bible. Just to name a few, there were Sarah, Mary, the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Deborah, and others. It was a night to remember. One of our youth, Kristiana Reese, who is attending Spelman College in Atlanta, shared her college life journey with the congregation. We are so proud of her and her accomplishments. She is now in the process of beginning to do her internship abroad. An offering was taken to assist her with this endeavor.

We are so grateful for our pearls coming out to be with us. They were Sisters Annell McRae, Mary Smith, and Vergilene McDonald. Worthy Matron, Annie Roundtree Bess, and the members of the Earnest Chapter would like to thank everyone for attending this service.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truthful Lodge #375 P.H.A.
 Statesboro Masonic District 18
 TruthfulLodge375@gmail.com

**Serving Portal Middle High School (PMHS)
 Black History Quiz Bowl
 Portal, GA ~ February 26, 2024**



Truthful Lodge #375 P.H.A. of Portal, GA collaborated with a local sorority and sponsor by businesses listed to hold its 3rd Annual PMHS Black History Quiz Bowl in an effort to share the rich history, heritage, and culture of African Americans. It was formulated to be a friendly competition between Juniors and Seniors going head-to-head to answer questions from all areas of knowledge, including history, literature, science, fine arts, current events, popular culture, sports, and more. The Seniors won 38-35.



Students received resource packets containing a myriad of information on the rich culture and accomplishments of African Americans allowing students to build their knowledge, boost their self-esteem, and teach them the value of teamwork.



"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots." -Marcus Garvey



Helping others has a huge impact on the community, the essence of Truthful Lodge 375 P.H.A. is to serve others and to do good.

SERVING BULLOCH COUNTY COMMUNITY

SUBMITTED BY PAST MASTER MICHAEL RANSOM
TRUTHFUL LODGE NO. 375

Truthful Lodge #375 P.H.A. of Portal, GA, represented Statesboro District 18 in the Bulloch County NAACP Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Parade for a day of celebration. The Theme: Thrive: In Movement, In Culture, In Community". Worshipful Master Maurice McDowell, Senior Warden John Robinson, District Deputy Louell McCollum, and Assistant District Deputy Elrico Rackard led the march. Other brothers who participated in the parade were Past Master Michael Ransom, Past Master O'Quillian Mercer, Past Master Jonathan Paine, Past Master Renoaldo Spells, Brother Linus Robinson II, and Brother Roy White.

"He who masters' the power formed by a group of people working together has within his grasp one of the greatest powers known to man."
-Idowu Koyenikan-

Bro. Rev. Francys Johnson introduced the guest speaker, Minister Thomas James, for the Day of Service at Elm Street Church of God.

Helping others significantly impacts the community, and the essence of Truthful Lodge 375 P.H.A. is to serve others and do good.

No Images submitted.

FREE LUNCH FOR THE COMMUNITY

SUBMITTED BY: WORSHIPFUL MASTER EMMETT L. JIMERSON
PLYMOUTH ROCK LODGE NO. 86



Plymouth Rock Lodge No. 86 and Arena Chapter No. 29 held the “2nd Annual Free Lunch for the Community” event on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at Liberty Baptist Church, 395 Chamberlain Street, SE, Atlanta, GA 30312, where Dr. Zeddie Scott is the pastor.

The church has served this community for 116 years and was elated to host the Food Giveaway.

PAST MASTERS APPRECIATION

SUBMITTED BY: WORSHIPFUL MASTER EMMETT L. JIMERSON
PLYMOUTH ROCK LODGE NO. 86



Plymouth Rock Lodge No. 86 honored Past Worshipful Masters for their leadership and commitment to service. The Past Masters Appreciation was held Friday, February 23, 2024, at Grand Lodge East in South Fulton, GA.

MWGM The Honorable Primus T. James participated and congratulated the Lodge on the ceremony. He stated, as did many others that the Lodge Meeting reminded him of the old days on Auburn Avenue. After the meeting, the brothers enjoyed a delicious repast and wonderful fellowship.

Each honoree and the MWGM received a plaque and a painted portrait of himself to commemorate service rendered and gratitude for continued support.

THE LUDOWICI MASONIC FAMILY CHRONICLES

SUBMITTED BY: ASSISTANT DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
EDWIN R. THOMPSON / BAXLEY DISTRICT NO. 17



On Saturday, January 6, 2024, the Ludowici Masonic Family participated in the Ludowici Martin Luther King Parade. Each Masonic body that meets in Ludowici came together dressed in full regalia to represent The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia.

The Ludowici Masonic family consists of Hourglass Lodge No. 113, Laurel Growth Chapter No. 118, Baxley Consistory No. 209, Mary L. Ayer's No. 209, X.L. Neal Chapter No. 118, Holy Royal Arch Masons, Birdie L. Jones Court No. 14 Heroines of Jericho, E.L. Johnson No. 3 Royal and Select Masters, E.C. Williams Commandery No. 28, Omar Temple No. 21 A.E.A.O.N.M.S. (Al SARRAR Shrine Club). The following weekend, the Ludowici Masonic Family traveled to Jesup, GA, to assist and participate in their Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade along with Altamaha Lodge No. 321 and Rosa Wiggs Chapter No. 24.

The family then continued their services by setting up and participating in the Hinesville, Georgia, Martin Luther King Jr Day Parade. Hourglass Lodge No. 113 has been assisting with the setup of the Martin Luther King Jr Day Parade for over 30 years.



SETTING THE STANDARD

SUBMITTED BY: SAVANNAH FIRST MASONIC DISTRICT MEDIA TEAM

The Savannah First Masonic District continued its execution of setting the standard throughout the year's second half by exhibiting the tenets that comprise this august body. The Savannah First Masonic District Education Committee plays an essential role in promoting knowledge, personal growth, and understanding among members of the Masonic fraternity. The committee organized various educational activities, workshops, lectures, and discussions to foster a deeper understanding of Masons and Eastern Stars principles, history, symbolism, and values.

By holding regular training sessions on the first Saturday of each month, the Education Committee ensures consistent learning opportunities for members of the First Masonic District. These gatherings allow members to come together, exchange ideas, and deepen their knowledge of Freemasonry. Participating in these educational sessions is a beautiful way to connect with fellow Masons and Eastern Stars. The commitment to continuous learning empowers members to thrive intellectually and spiritually, positively impacting both individual growth and the broader Masonic community.

July 19, 2023, marked a significant milestone for Eureka No. 1 as the lodge honored Brother Robert Pluitt, presenting him with a distinguished purple Lifetime Member Jacket and the esteemed title of Honorary Past Master. The celebration highlighted the power of unity and fraternity as members gathered to pay tribute. PM Pluitt's legacy will forever shine as a guiding light, strengthening the bonds of brotherhood and motivating the lodge to continue its mission of service and community betterment. The day marked a profound recognition of his contributions and the enduring impact he has made.

Lodges and Chapters of the Savannah First Masonic District continued working to impact their community by committing to giving back and supporting local students. Mt Moriah Lodge No. 15 and Mt. Moriah Chapter No. 37 joined forces to help Savannah State University's S.T.A.R Program. They donated clothing, food, and toiletries, providing essential relief to students facing economic hardships. Pythagoras Lodge No. 11 and Savannah Chapter No. 159 organized a back-to-school giveaway, helping students start the academic year with the necessary supplies. The brothers of Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 15 extended warm wishes to students and parents at the West Chatham Elementary School, fostering a sense of community support. Easter Lily Chapter No. 117 also played its part by assisting students at Savannah State University. These acts of kindness showcase the First Masonic District's dedication to improving lives and strengthening their community.

On July 31, the Brothers and Sisters of the First Masonic District came together for a day of spiritual reflection and unity. The day started with a harmonious gathering for the 5th Sunday Church Fellowship at St. Phillip Monumental AME Church. Later that evening was the District Five Point Tea. The chapters collaborated wholeheartedly, utilizing songs, engaging skits, and impactful presentations showcasing the heroines.



SETTING THE STANDARD

CONT'D

It was a remarkable day, where bonds were strengthened, and the spirit of togetherness prevailed, leaving everyone with cherished memories of this meaningful occasion.

The District celebrated new leadership among its ranks with the appointment of Past Master Jason Brown of Prince Hall Lodge No. 28 as the District Associate Patron for the Savannah First Masonic District. This significant milestone recognized not only his dedication to Freemasonry but also his leadership qualities and commitment to the Masonic community.

In the heart of the First Masonic District, a remarkable tapestry of history, tradition, and fraternal fellowship came alive during the third quarter as several lodges and chapters celebrated significant anniversaries. Prince Hall Lodge No. 28 and Prince Chapter No. 258 marked their 140th and 107th years, respectively. Pythagoras Lodge No. 11 and Savannah Chapter No. 159 commemorated their 148th and 111th years, Limerick Lodge No. 437 and Limerick Chapter No. 336 jointly celebrated 105 and 104 years, and Hilton Lodge No. 2 and Solomon Temple Chapter No. 95 observed their 157th and 115th years, respectively. These anniversaries exemplify the enduring dedication to Masonic principles and the strong bonds within the First Masonic District, showcasing a legacy of unity and fraternal fellowship that continues to thrive.

Our Sister Audrey Pinckney, Grand Queen of Prince Hall Grand Chapter Jurisdiction of Georgia, led a donation drive of games and balls to the Boys and Girls Club of America, Valdosta, Georgia. The initiative was tasked to the entire Jurisdiction of Georgia and was a success. The impact of the First Queen Initiative was evident as the children of the Boys and Girls Club of Valdosta, Georgia, received generous donations. Their faces lit up with excitement, revealing a world of possibilities and opportunities for fun and growth.

The 2023 Savannah First Masonic District Weekend, which took place from October 6-8, 2023, was a splendid display of unity, togetherness, and remarkable accomplishment. Brothers and Sisters from across the district gathered for a series of events showcasing camaraderie within the Masonic community.

The weekend commenced with a friendly Golf Tournament on Friday morning, setting the tone for a weekend filled with excitement and sportsmanship. Members gathered for a Meet and Greet/Game Night later that evening. Saturday unfolded at L. Scott Stell Park with a cookout. The Saturday Grill Off Competition added an extra layer of excitement. Sunday morning worship was held at Sunbury Missionary Baptist Church in Midway, Georgia. The spiritual gathering provided a moment of contemplation and unity. The day concluded with the Deputy's Banquet, where lodges, chapters, and district members were honored for their exceptional contributions.

The highlight of the evening was the recognition ceremony, where awards were presented to various individuals and committees that have significantly impacted the district. The district, comprised of dedicated committees, saw the following recognitions and awards: Education Committee, Events Committee, Community Liaison, District Community Events and Fundraising Committee, Youth Activity Committee, Knight of Pythagoras (K.O.P.), and District Media/Information Committee, which was named the 2023 Committee of the Year.

Recognition was also given to all Worthy Matrons and Chapters of the District, each receiving well-deserved acclaim. Worshipful Masters and Lodges of the District were also recognized. 2023 Lodge of the Year was presented to Eastern Star Lodge No. 58. The 2023 Worshipful Master of the Year was presented to Worshipful Master Lorenzo Mills of McKinley Lodge No. 211. The Master Mason of the Year was presented to Brother Gabriel A. Jones of Pythagoras Lodge No. 11 and the Special Deputy Award was presented to Sister Rosetta Daniel of Prince Hall Chapter No. 258.

In April, the 2024 State Knights of Pythagoras (KOP) Meeting convened in Savannah on April 5 and 6, with Joseph F. Hymes Council #12 serving as host. Statewide Councils arrived at 602 E. Broad Street for a meet and greet, followed by an outing at Fun Zone in Pooler. The official session opened at 9 am on April 6. The KOP youth conferences, encampments, and assemblages provide opportunities to enhance and cultivate the leadership, life skills, and personal development of the young people it serves.

SETTING THE STANDARD

CONT'D

The Joseph F. Hymes Council #12 eagerly anticipates upcoming events, including the 2024 KOP Summer Camp at Ft. Fort Valley State University and the 2025 KOP National Encampment in North Carolina. Council officials extend their heartfelt gratitude to PDDGM Joseph F. Hymes, Sr., and PGWM Lynnette S. Hymes for sponsoring transportation for the Knights during the meeting, K&B Transportation, who served as the official sponsor, and to the Savannah First Masonic District for its continuous support.

This District is grateful to Council Director Gabriel Jones and Assistant Council Directors Phillip Walker and Jeffery Walker for their diligence and unwavering support to the young men of the Joseph F. Hymes Council #12.

Congratulations are extended to Brother Robert D. Simmons, Jr. of Pythagoras Lodge No. 11, who was recently appointed District Deputy Grand Master. Brother Simmons succeeds Brother Everett E. Tolbert. We also extend congratulations to Brother Tolbert, who has been bestowed the title of District Deputy Grand Master Emeritus by the Honorable Primus T. James, the 19th Most Worshipful Grand Master. The title celebrates Brother Tolbert's 19 years of collective service as Assistant District Deputy Grand Master and District Deputy Grand Master. We are grateful to Brother Tolbert for his steadfast service to the First Masonic District.

As we embark on a new year, we reflect with grateful hearts on all that was achieved in 2023 and stand ready to chart new courses in 2024!



CAN YOU SOLVE THE SUDOKU PUZZLE ?

ANSWER WILL BE IN THE NEXT ISSUE

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**WANT TO REP YOUR LODGE OR
CHAPTER IN THE NEXT EDITION?**

**SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLE(S)
VIA EMAIL**

**TO:
MASONICDIGEST@MWPHGLGA.ORG
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**DEADLINE
JANUARY 1, 2025**

**FEEL FREE TO SUBMIT YOUR HOLIDAY ARTICLES,
COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND ELECTION RESULTS.**