

The Masonic Digest

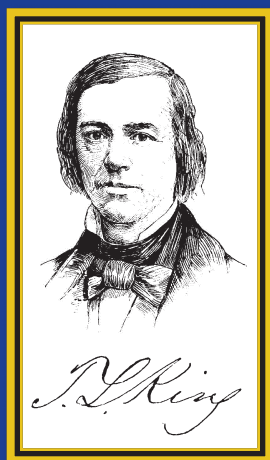
Volume 63

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

Summer 2014



Laying of Memorial Wreath to Honor Thomas Starr King and Freemasonry



From Vision To Reality

Official Journal of



Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons
State of California, Incorporated
ISSN 1553-9245

The Honorable Lovell Morgan

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The Masonic Digest is published at 9027 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90003-3229

POSTMASTER: Send notice by form 3679 to the Grand Secretary at the above address.

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Mission Statement - The mission of this Masonic Digest Team is to obtain material of a Masonic nature, to condense said material when necessary, and to present the material for dissemination to the Prince Hall Masonic Family.

Where to send articles - All articles suitable for this publication must be submitted to:

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VOLUME 63

Summer 2014

Cover Photo by RW Aaron Washington

(L to R): RW James E. Wade-Hannibal Lodge #1, WM Edgar C. Brown-Hannibal Lodge #1, WM Steven Cheechov-Pacific Star King Lodge #136, Reverend Dr. David Sammons of the Unitarian Universalist Church, MWGM Lovell Morgan and MWGM John Cooper

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MASONIC DIGEST IS OCTOBER 15, 2014**

Laying of Memorial Wreath to Honor Thomas Starr King and Freemasonry

Submitted by:
Louis L. Garrett Sr.
SW Hannibal Lodge No. 1

On Friday, November 8, 2013 on the corner of Franklin Street and Geary Blvd. John L. Cooper III, Grand Master, of California and Lovell Morgan, Grand Master, MWPHGL of California placed a wreath at the Thomas Starr King, a Pioneer for Social Justice in California, burial site. A reception, program and dinner followed the wreath laying ceremony.

Rev. Thomas Starr King, first minister of the Unitarian Church, legendary citizen of California who worked to save California for the Union in the Civil War, worked tirelessly on behalf of the American Abolition movement. Rev. Starr King was an outstanding American and a Freemason, (member of Oriental Lodge No. 144 and Orator of the Grand Lodge of California).

John William Templeton, curator of the African American Freedom Trail and the guest speaker at the laying of the Memorial, described the relationship between Hannibal Lodge No. 1 and Grand Orator Rev. Thomas Starr King. Starr King, pastor of the First Unitarian Universalist Church, came to California from Boston in 1860 and promptly spoke at Hannibal Lodge No. 1; he worked with black members of the Underground Railroad. Starr King gave speeches around the state encouraging California to stay in the Union, leading to the election of one of his members Leland Stanford, as governor of California. The relationship with well-connected

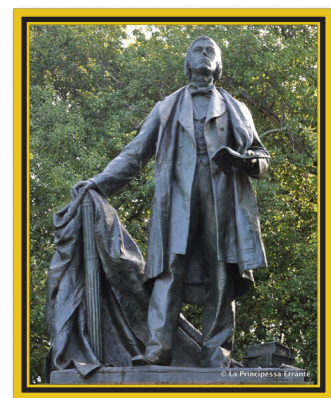


white abolitionists such as Starr King and Leland Stanford are part of why Hannibal Lodge No. 1 is so important to American History.

He is buried outside his church on Franklin Street, and he was honored on this the 150th anniversary of his death. One of the first things that he did upon arriving in San Francisco in 1860 was to speak at a meeting held at Hannibal Lodge No. 1, denouncing Slavery and calling for California to vote for the election of Abraham Lincoln. Upon the out break of the Civil War, he spoke on the steps of his church (located across the street from Union Square) to an estimated 40,000 people. He worked across the State for the next three years raising troops and funds for the Union cause. His statue was one of our two statues representing the State on California and was placed in the United States

Capital Building, honoring his many good deeds as a citizen of California. Rev. Thomas Starr King's Statue now stands in a park in Sacramento outside our State Capital.

This tribute was to a man and Mason who truly walked upon the Level and acted upon the Square. 



More Light: In the First Degree we are taught the Benefits of Masonic Justice, but now it is time to stop Injustices from Prevailing

Submitted by:
George Blue
Most Worshipful Past Grand Master



My Brothers, initially my thoughts were to write an article about Masonic Justice. After giving it some thought, I decided to write instead about Masonic Justice and Injustice, which in my estimation covers much more in the masonic education process because it is more to the point and may be better understood. My reason for writing this article is in response to the questions and concerns by the brothers who are asking when I will be coming back to Grand Lodge. It is indeed a thought provoking question, one that I will attempt to answer truthfully and sincerely as a man and a mason. The challenge that confronts me is how to best express my thoughts so that the craft will understand my dilemma and that the Masonic Injustice that I have been a recipient of as well as others without just cause has weighed heavily on my mind since 2009.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Lovell Morgan is to be applauded in his successful actions to start a much needed healing process by restoring three expelled dedicated masons to their rightful place as Past Masters in their respective lodges and to their seat in Grand Lodge. These brothers never received their appropriate due process rights in accordance with the Constitution. In that, two of the brothers were never charged with misconduct or un-masonic conduct nor did they receive a masonic trial. The other brother was tried inappropriately; these decisions resulted in all of the expulsions to be unwarranted, unjust, and unfair. Yet, we, the voting members of this Jurisdiction allowed two administrations to inflict an average of four years of expulsion on our brothers, waste OPM, (other people's money) all in the name of justice, but actually it was injustice. It's an injustice when a brother's masonic rights are violated and he is treated unfairly.

Rectifying and correcting these unjust expulsions as well as suspensions (that the Grievance and Appeals Committee rectified by complying our Constitution) are without a doubt giant and positive steps for me and many others. However as many of you know there are additional issues and concerns that need to be addressed that was not administered in accordance with the Constitution causing brothers undue stress and

shame. Yes, these issues need to be addressed and corrected before the healing process can really begin for some of us. However, I am aware that some of my brothers are reading this article and saying, what is brother Blue talking about?

I began working at the Grand Lodge level on the Grand Session Committee in 1979 to 1988, then to Junior Grand Steward, Senior Grand Deacon, and all elected Stations to Grand Master in July 2001. During that period, and even today, I sincerely believe that we must work together for survival and understand each other and our purpose as brothers and to support unwaveringly the ideas and precepts of our order, and not forget to employ the use of common sense in our thinking and actions. We must judge with candor, admonish with friendship and reprimand with justice. There is that operative word again "justice." We may have conflicts, but it is in the resolutions of conflict that we as masons stand out. In other words "we disagree to agree."

In most instances, every Masonic conflict or disagreement should be discussed in a logical and compassionate manner to solve the differences. We must never allow injustice to impede our rational thinking and behavior toward each other. The very core of our existence teaches us

Continued on page 8 "More Light"

“115”

Submitted by,
Willie Dee Humphrey
RW Past Grand Lecturer



The nucleus for this Lodge came from the old lodge name Mount Hamilton. Sojourners of this Lodge were Masons from the East Coast pioneering to the West Coast. C.L. Morton was the first Worshipful Master of Acacia Lodge, which then was called Acacia Lodge No. 22 U.D. (Under Dispensation). This U. D. Lodge petitioned the Most Worshipful Sovereign Grand Lodge of California at its 45th Annual Communication, held in Alcatraz Hall in San Francisco, California on June 19, 1899, Most Worshipful W. H. Maudlin was Grand Master, and during this communication Acacia's number was changed from No. 22 to No. 7. This Lodge of 22 members was dedicated on August 2, 1899, receiving its warrant dated July 31, 1899 at Giers Hall, Oakland, California. The warrant was signed by Grand Master, Edmond A. Clark, Senior Grand Warden, W.A. Strickland, Junior Grand Warden, Israel McKee and Grand Secretary, Frank Jackson.

Since its inception, many of Acacia Lodge's members have served as Grand Lodge Officers. Past Master Harold D. McGhee served Acacia as Treasurer for fifteen years, he later attained the Station of R.W. Senior Grand Warden, and he now wears the distinct title R.W. Senior Grand Warden Emeritus. PM McGhee is the senior member of Acacia, he will celebrate one hundred and one years on October 18, 2014. In 1902 Past Master, Charles L. Morton served the Grand Lodge as Junior Grand Warden. In 2006, 2007 and 2008 Past Master, Willie Dee Humphrey was elected to serve the Jurisdiction as R.W. Grand Lecturer. In 2005 - 2007 Past Master, Herby Price, Jr. was elected to serve the Jurisdiction as Most Worshipful Grand Master. In 1962, 63, 64, 65 and 1966 PM. Walter C. Taylor was elected to serve as Most Worshipful Grand Master. Past Master, William J. Anderson served the Jurisdiction as Deputy Grand Master in the years 1914 - 1918, unfortunately, leaving Los Angeles, he lost his life in an automobile accident in the Grapevine Mountains (Interstate highway 5). During the early fifties, Acacia and East Gate Lodge No. 44, held numerous joint meetings and collectively conferred the three symbolic degrees.

Acacia has the honor of having two Lodges in the Jurisdiction of California named after two of its distinguished members, Past Master, Walter J. (W.J.) Anderson and Past Master, Elias (Eli) Baker. Past Master, Elias (Eli) Baker served Acacia Lodge at the Tyler's Station for more than thirty years. Past Master, Baker was a steadfast Brother

and was well known as being extremely versed in the general subject of Masonry.

January 1, 2003, the members of Walter C. Taylor Lodge No. 36, constituted May 22, 1922, merged with Acacia No. 7., prior to merging with Acacia Lodge, Walter C. Taylor (then named West Gate Lodge No. 36) merged with W. J. Anderson Lodge No. 57, which was constituted in 1948. The new lodge was named W. C. Taylor Lodge No. 36.

For the past seventy-three years, the Brethren of Acacia has hosted its Annual Mothers' Day Breakfast. This event was adopted by the Lodge as a means for the Brethren to thank and honor its wives and widows for their many years of faithful support and to remind them that they are not forgotten.

The erection and completion of the present Masonic Hall during the 1920's, at the corner of 30th and Myrtle Streets, was accomplished largely from the financial support of the Brethren of Acacia Lodge.

Acacia Lodge has always maintained an active role in supporting the community at large, including sponsorship of its little-league baseball team. The lodge is progressing very well, financially sound; enjoys strong membership support and has a very bright future. It receives excellent support from its adopted Chapter, Queen Esther Chapter No. 4, Order of the Eastern Star, which was chartered in 1900, making it the oldest Prince Hall Affiliated O.E.S. Chapter in Oakland, California. 

ASCENDING AND DESCENDING JACOB'S LADDER APROPOS A MASONIC PERSPECTIVE

R. W. MILLARD LOWE, 33°

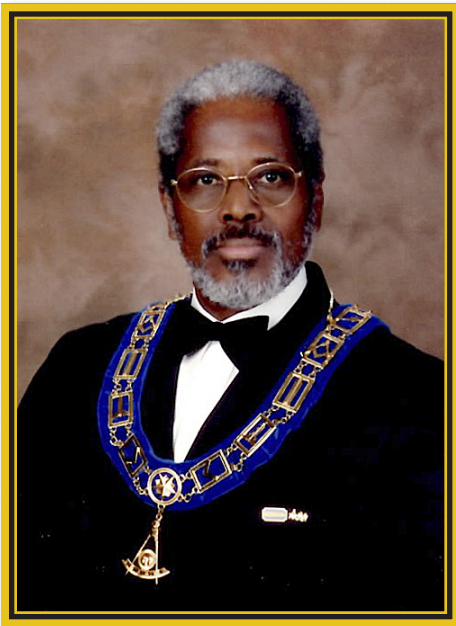
GRAND ORATOR

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set upon the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold the Lord stood above it and said: "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac ... Behold I am with you and will keep you wherever you go ..."
Genesis 28: 12-13; 15

The cold ground was my bed last night; and rock-stones were my pillow ...

Bob Marley



First of all, let me say that I am not an Ordained Minister of the Gospels; but I am a child of God, tutored by the prophets and ministers of yesterday and of today! Having said that, you are admonished to realize that this presentation merely offers a personal interpretation of the symbolic meanings of Jacob's Ladder from the perspective of a Prince Hall Fellow Craft Mason.

Perhaps the most widely quoted definition of Freemasonry is that "... it is a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols." In this definition, morality is used to refer to "... right and proper conduct in the relationship of man to God and of man to man." That Freemasonry is veiled in allegory is to suggest or point out to the novice that Freemasonry employs figurative stories of events suggested, but not expressly stated, in order to relay a message of moral teaching. Stated in another way, when we say that Freemasonry is veiled in allegory, we simple reveal to the novice that Freemasonry, as the word allegory implies, uses "... narrative(s) with an underlying meaning different from the surface meaning [of selected stories and legends], often personifying abstract ideas, told to teach or explain something ..." which in masonry eventually alludes to Faith, Hope, Charity and Immortality!

In the First Degree lecture, we are instructed that symbolically, "The covering of the lodge is none other than the clouded canopy or starry decked heavens, where all good masons hope

at last to arrive ..." To arrive at such a place of being, is the essence of Masonic perfection. Thus the lecture implies that we should symbolically use the visionary Ladder of Jacob to aid us in overcoming the "ups" and "downs" of this descended Earthly pilgrimage in our efforts to finally ascend into the Heavenly Tabernacle.

On our tracing board, we see that the representation of Jacob's Ladder consist of several rounds, rungs or steps; which in some interpretations are also referred to as "gates" to be passed through. Generally, there are seven of these depicted—this number being a mystic or sacred number in the numerology of Masonry. However, the emphasis of the lecture is upon the upper "three principle rounds", representing Faith, Hope and Charity; which are often referred to as the "Three Theological Virtues."

In the lecture, we are taught that of these three Theological Virtues, charity is the greatest, as "... Faith may be lost in sight; Hope ends in fruition, but Charity extends beyond the grave throughout the boundless realms of eternity." One

might ask here, “How can charity extend beyond the grave?” This question makes sense when we limit the word “Charity” to its usual meaning of giving material alms giving. But when we dwell in semantic contemplation, it is revealed to us that the word “Charity” alludes to its synonym, “agape” ... A.K.A. ... “Love.” Thus, love is the true meaning of Masonic charity, which “... extends beyond the grave.” You see, charity as simply “alms giving” ends with the death of the giver/receiver; but love is eternal! And the manifestation of this love “... is in the giving of one’s self.” Indeed it is this love of which the Scriptures speak: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [For] Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friend.” The Scriptures further echo “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Beloved Brethren, in the fullness thereof—on the subject of love—the Scriptures say to us: “If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal ... if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing ...” Indeed, the Scriptures admonish us to know and contemplate the nature of the love of the Creator: that love which must also abide within us and be expressed in all our words, actions and deeds. Of this, the Scriptures say: “Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude ... does not seek its own interests ... does not rejoice over wrong doing but rejoices with truth. [Love] bears all things, believes all things, hope all things, endures all things. Love never fails.”

For the Fellow Craft contemplating these Scriptures and the symbolism of Jacob’s Ladder in modern masonry, be admonished to focus your mind upon Paul’s summarizing words: “When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child; when I became a man, I put away childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. *And now abideth faith, hope, [love]; but the greatest of these is [love].*

In the interest of brevity in an attempt to “wet your appetite” in your search for more “light”, this presentation merely offers one Fellow Craft’s perspective of the Masonic nature of the three principal rounds of Jacob’s Ladder.

Yet, the presentation would be remised if it did not draw attention to the lower rungs of Jacob’s Ladder. When we further exam the tracing board representation of Jacob’s Ladder, we observe that there are four near Earth rungs designated by the letters T, F, P, and J, which alludes to the Masonic tenets of Truth, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice; also known as the four Cardinal Virtues in Masonry. Without “climbing” these four Earth bound rungs/steps/rounds, it is impossible for one to “set foot” upon the three principle rounds in his attempt to arrive at that perfection of which all good Masons hope at last to arrive. Therefore, let us now briefly put these four Cardinal Virtues into their Masonic perspectives.

In its simplest sense, temperance refers to moderation; and for us as masons symbolizes restraint upon our passions and affections; keeping our minds free from the intoxication of vice.

Fortitude symbolizes the moral courage that every good mason must possess in order to maintain the high principles


of our order no matter what the consequences may be; practicing out of the Lodge that which has been inculcated within the Lodge.

Prudence symbolizes wisdom. In Masonry, we are taught that “... wisdom dwells in contemplation; there we must seek her.” In other words, wisdom comes from thinking upon the acquired knowledge that enlightens us in our quest to becoming “at-one-ment” with our Creator and being of “one accord” with our fellow Brethren. Indeed, wisdom manifests herself in knowledge, truth and love.

For the mason, Justice symbolizes equality—an equality that goes far beyond that of the “blindfolded lady.” Being true to our God and our country, we should govern our conduct and actions with a clear vision, doing what we do because it is just and true, not because we are forced to.

My dear brethren, as we individually and collectively continue to ascend the Theological Ladder of Jacob, let us be forever mindful that as we reach one hand to “invisible helpers” above, we must likewise descend the other hand to assist our fellow brethren below us.


Finally, in the words of W. L. Wilmshurst, let us ever be mindful that “... as the sides and separate rungs of the ladder constitute a unity, so all life and all lives are fundamentally one, and none lives to himself alone ... Indeed Life and the ladder it climbs, are one and indissociable.” Is not Wilmshurst likewise suggesting that so should it be with us, our Creator and our fellow beings?

Brethren, let us continue to climb on towards that perfection we all hope at last to arrive! May the God of Love and Peace continue to delight to dwell with and keep you. 

Veterans Hospital Visit

Submitted by:
Noble Victor C. Perry

While taking part in the 2014 California Desert Conference/Gala Day in Ontario California, Noble Lovell Morgan, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons State of California, Incorporated, is pictured (center), as he joined other Prince Hall Shriners from California, and members of the Desert of California for a visit to the Loma Linda VA Hospital in Riverside County.

Members of the Shrine brought gifts and good conversation to the Veterans at the hospital. Grand Master Morgan stated it was good to mingle with the Veterans and listen to their stories. 



Photos by Clifton W. Smith

Working to Achieve Safe Care for Veterans

A female nurse draws blood from an elderly male patient



If you experience symptoms like increased thirst, frequent urination, unexplained weight loss, increased hunger or tingling in your hands or feet — your doctor may decide to run a test for diabetes.

Department of Veterans Affairs researchers are locked in battle with an enemy that is quietly maiming and killing thousands of Americans who have served their country.

It's not posttraumatic stress, depression or traumatic brain injury.

The Culprit

"Type 2 diabetes is at epidemic proportions among the Veteran population," noted Dr. Tim O'Leary, acting director of VA's Office of Research and Development. "It affects nearly 20 percent of Veterans who use the VA health care system, compared to 8.3 percent of the general population. This means that diabetes — and with it, the risk of heart disease, stroke, blindness, renal disease and amputation — affects more than one million Veterans at any given time."

To make matters worse, millions of people don't even realize they have the disease, since it can start out so subtly.

"This is of tremendous concern for us at VA," O'Leary said, "and why we're doing research that not only helps Veterans avoid developing diabetes in the first place, but also helps them avoid developing those several other conditions I just mentioned."

The physician noted that VA already has an extensive research portfolio when it comes to diabetes, and is adding to it all the time.

"Let me tell you about a few of the hundreds of studies we have underway," O'Leary said. "Many of our researchers are studying weight management, since being overweight or obese are significant

risk factors for developing diabetes and are also epidemic among the Veteran population. Approximately three-quarters of Veterans are overweight," he observed, "and nearly 40 percent are obese."

O'Leary said VA has participated in a number of large clinical trials, such as the Diabetes Prevention Program, where it was shown that losing weight and increasing exercise can reduce the progression from pre-diabetes to type 2 diabetes.

"This effort," he said, "has contributed to VA's national weight management program, called MOVE, and has also been used beyond VA to improve the health of all Americans."

Millions of Americans are unaware that they have diabetes, because there may be no warning signs.

You Are What You Eat

O'Leary said that while weight management is critical, diabetes isn't entirely about how much we eat, but what we eat.

VA researchers are taking a close look at the role diet plays with regard to insulin resistance (the body's inability to efficiently process the hormone insulin). "In one study," O'Leary said, "researchers found that having too much iron in the diet can lead to insulin resistance. In another study, they found that fish oils

What are some of the risk factors of diabetes?

Family history of diabetes
Being overweight
Being over age 40

Have had gestational diabetes
Not enough physical activity
A Weighty Issue

— those omega 3 fatty acids we hear about so much — may help improve your insulin resistance.” (Fatty fish include salmon, mackerel, herring, sardines and albacore tuna.)

But what if you already have diabetes? Work on Your Social Skills

“Our researchers have found that social networking — that is, in-person counseling and support groups — are highly effective at helping Veterans manage their diabetes,” said Dr. David Atkins, director of Health Services Research at VA’s Office of Research and Development.

“In one VA study in particular,” he said, “our researchers found that group educational meetings — led by a pharmacist — can help patients with diabetes and depression get better control over their blood sugar levels. In another study, we found that patients with diabetes were better able to control their blood sugar if they simply talked with other diabetics, as well as their nurses, about their condition.

“And in a very recent study, we found that African Americans with hard-to-control diabetes made significant

gains in keeping their blood sugar under control after working with mentors who had similar health problems,” explained Atkins.

“In other words,” Atkins concluded, “support and encouragement from other people can make a big difference in your motivation to stay healthy. The more people you connect with, the better off you’ll be.”

- See more at: <http://www.va.gov/health/NewsFeatures/2014/May/VA-Battling-Silent-Epidemic.asp#sthash.J5LF72fd.dpuf>



*“More Light”
Continued from page 2*

Friendship, Relief, Truth, Morality and last but surely not least is Brotherly Love. It is the tenet called “brotherly” that so negatively weighs on my mind. What does the principle of brotherly love encompass? “By the exercise of Brotherly Love, we are taught to regard the whole human race as one family—the high, the low, the rich, the poor, who being created by one Almighty Parent and inhabitants of the same planet, ought to aid, support, and protect each other. On this principle Masonry unites men of every country, sect, and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance.” In the process of rectifying injustice it may lead to perpetuating more healing, and to a brother I am again reminded of our fourth cardinal

virtue, Justice. It tells us in the First Degree that “Justice is that standard or boundary of right which enables us to render unto every man, without distinction, his just due. This virtue is not only consistent with divine and human laws, but is the very cement and support of civil societies. As justice in a great measure constitutes a good man, so should it be the invariable practice of every Mason never to deviate from the principle thereof.”

I also realize that we are human beings and that we constantly make errors, it is said in our teachings “that to error is human but to forgive is divine.” However, there has yet to be total restitution made in the injustice that has befallen other brothers. Nevertheless, this is a dilemma and I must deal with in the best interest of

my health. I pray God that my healing will one day be complete and I will join with my brothers at Grand Lodge and take my rightful place as a Most Worshipful Past Grand Master.

I encourage each of you my “Christian Brothers” as Past Grand Master Harold Mure would address us, to always stand for what is right and just and to always keep green in your mind Justice the Fourth Cardinal Virtue taught to us in the First Degree. It will enable us to always render decisions that are equitable, bears’ common sense, and with compassion.

May we, take due and timely notice and govern ourselves accordingly.

CONCLAVE CALIFORNIA KNIGHTS TEMPLAR DONALD R. WARE, KYGCH, 33°, SGIG RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER PACIFIC PRINCE HALL COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, STATES OF CALIFORNIA AND HAWAII

TO THE RT. EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER SIR MYRON TISDAL; TO THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER ... AND ALL OTHER SIR KNIGHTS AND GUESTS HEREIN ASSEMBLED AT THIS GRAND CONCLAVE OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, GOOD MORNING!



I bring you greetings on behalf of The Pacific Prince Hall Grand Commandery, Knights Templar for the States of California and Hawaii. I currently serve as our RT. Eminent Grand Commander. This is indeed an historic occasion and I am more than delighted to be here.

I also wish to bring greetings to you on behalf of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons for the State of California, where the Honorable Lovell Morgan serves as our Most Worshipful Grand Master. He and I, as the RT. Worshipful Deputy Grand Master were in Jackson, Mississippi at the Conference of Grand Masters of Prince Hall Masons which closed this past weekend. We had the wrong dates for this event until very recently. He was unable to change his schedule. However, he wants you to know that you have the full

support of our Grand Lodge in the future fruit that will come from our mutual recognition.

As I looked at your glorious history of Knights Templar, I was impressed by its longevity and continuity. Forming in 1853 as one Commandery in San Francisco and quickly forming three Commanderies by 1858. You were then able to petition for and receive sanction to form the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of California. This great Grand Commandery continued to grow and grow and eventually formed No. 39 here in Bakersfield, the host of this Grand Conclave. You grew beyond this to splendidly cover the entire State of California; Congratulations.

I was able to review the formation of your Grand Commandery "in the you were there" 1950's 60's television format. You made this historic deliberation available as part of your one hundredth anniversary. Reading did indeed give me a sense of actually being there. A marvelous historical document! No doubt much work, love and dedication was involved in putting that masterpiece together.

YOUR MOTTO: LUX ET LEX PROMULGENTUR which means the light of the promulgation of the law, RINGS TRUE; ESPECIALY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; as we are a country built on the light of the laws promulgated by the people and for the people We are a COUNTRY OF LAWS NOT EDICTS.

THE PACIFIC PRINCE HALL GRAND COMMANDERY was established in 1908. We are also over one hundred years old. OUR MOTTO: MAGNA EST VERITAS ET PRAEVALEBI SAYS THAT: TRUTH IS MIGHTY AND WILL PREVAIL. IS TIMELY. THE TRUTH IS THAT WE ARE MAN AND HAVE BEEN SEPARATED To understand the truth about man and his journey we must understand the recurring theme of separation and reunion ... be IT THE PROTOCOL SON AND HIS FATHER;... . EVEN TO OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST AND GOD THE FATHER.

Go back to the man after Gods own heart; King David. The King was many things including a warrior, the

*Continued on page 12
"Knights Templar"*

Unrecognized Masons

Submitted by:
RW John B. Williams

Why Don't Prince Hall Masons Recognize Four-Letter Masons?



What is a Four-Letter Lodge?

In answer to this question, consider this example. Robert J. Fletcher, a Past Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of California, was a star in the firmament and was said to have been one of the brightest and most inspired Masons in the jurisdiction. In 1909, however, PMWGM Fletcher disregarded resolutions passed in this Grand Lodge. He was subsequently tried by Philomaethan Lodge No. 2 and was expelled from the Order. He applied for reinstatement in 1910, but he was never reinstated as a Prince Hall Mason. In that same year, as an expelled Mason, without authority from any Masonic body, without a charter or dispensation from any Masonic lodge or grand lodge, he formed an

organization that he called Robert J. Fletcher Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. (Ancient Free and Accepted Masons). He filed with the State of California to have his organization incorporated under that name and went about the business of conferring degrees styled on his previous teachings, on unsuspecting men of California. In 1913, the name of Fletcher's organization was changed to Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. with Fletcher as Grand Master.

Thus began one of several so-called "grand lodges" in the State of California operating without the blessings of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge F&AM of California because they were not formed under proper Masonic authority. In other parts of this nation, the un-chartered formation of lodges styling themselves "Masonic" has been successfully contested in court. In an action in New Mexico the court stated,

We think the appellant's use of the word, "Mason" or the terms "Free and Accepted Masons" or "A.F. & A.M." or "F. & A.M.," renders the name of the Grand Lodge so strikingly similar, as to cause confusion, tends to deceive the public and induces persons to join one institution when actually they intended to join the other.

Bringing such suits has proven to be cost-prohibitive; the disbanded "grand lodges" typically change

some part of their name or change some part of their emblem, and open up again without missing a single meeting of a subordinate lodge.

Here is the problem: We learn in the very first degree of the Order that a charter or dispensation is part of the indispensable furniture of a lodge. No body of men can be considered Masonic without such a charter or dispensation from some legitimate Masonic authority.

Legitimate Freemasons are part of an Order rooted in heritage and law

Legitimate Freemasons are part of an Order rooted in heritage and law. Legitimate Freemasons have a lineage based on their charter and this lineage traces back, not to the time of King Solomon (as Scottish Rite Masons claim), but to the time of the Grand Lodge system founded by the Grand Lodge of England in 1717. Spurious bodies styling themselves Masons have come into being over the centuries, but unless they are chartered by recognized bodies, they are not taken as being Masonic. Some people refer to these bodies as bogus or clandestine, but it is safer to refer to them simply as "unrecognized" or "spurious."

Please note that there are legitimate Grand Lodges that use AF&AM, or the

four-letter name. The presence of three letters or four letters does not make a lodge spurious. By the same token, the presence of "Prince Hall" in the name does not make them legitimate; the so-called "Prince Hall" Grand Lodge of Florida is not recognized by other Prince Hall Grand Lodges (Union Grand Lodge is). The key lies in the origin of the Grand Lodge.

How are Prince Hall Masons Different?

Prince Hall Masonry goes back to the year 1775 when 15 men of color were made Freemasons by British colonial soldiers. The Prince Hall fraternity has since grown parallel with the so-called Regular (Caucasian) Freemasonry in the United States through periods of slavery, segregation, and racial tension to become the predominant Black fraternal organization in the nation.

Who are the Scottish Rite Masons? The so called "Scottish Rite" Masons are a group of Afro-Americans practicing a brand of Masonry that is not recognized as legitimate by Prince Hall Freemasons anywhere in the world. They are a spurious body that constituted itself outside the body of recognized Masons as an independent order.

Are these the same as the AASR Masons of the 32nd and 33rd degrees?

The Scottish Rite Masons who confer the Symbolic Degrees are not to be confused with the men in Prince Hall Consistories who operate under the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and who confer the 4th through the 33rd degrees. The unrecognized body claims authority to charter Blue Lodges and empowers these lodges to confer the first three degrees of Masonry.

What about the Principle of Brotherly Love?

Every Prince Hall Grand Jurisdiction that I have visited, and every one that I have heard about teaches the practice of Brotherly Love:

"By the exercise of Brotherly Love, we are taught to regard the whole human race as one family—the high, the low, the rich, the poor, who being created by one Almighty Parent and inhabitants of the same planet, ought to aid, support, and protect each other. On this principle Masonry unites men of every country, sect, and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance."

Although our Grand Lodge considers certain fraternal bodies as being spurious, it opens its arms to any man who has mistakenly applied for Masonic membership in these spurious bodies, and our Grand Lodge allows such men to become Prince Hall Masons by way of a special Healing ceremony.


Race is not an issue in deciding Masonic recognition

If we can recognize White Masons, why can't we recognize Black Masons?

Race is not an issue in deciding Masonic recognition; the racial make-up of a group is entirely irrelevant and offers no advantage either in favor of or against recognition of a body. The fact is that our Grand Lodge recognizes Black Masons in virtually every state of the nation, provided they pass the test of Masonic legitimacy. There are Black bodies that we do not recognize Masonically for other reasons.

1. Some of them are not known to us. Our fraternal Relations Committee attempted to identify all organizations operating in California using the emblem of the square and compass. We did not find them all. Of those we found, we sent correspondence to the last known address of each asking whether they wished to enter into discussion regarding items of mutual interest. We received a response from only one of them. We offered that body an opportunity to enter into discussions that might lead to the formation of a unified grand lodge encompassing their members and ours: they refused to discuss the idea.

2. Recognition between two Masonic bodies must be mutually desired. We do not recognize a body that has no interest in recognition. Overtures must come from both parties, and only after mutually agreeable discussions have been concluded between representatives of the two groups will recognition be recommended by the Fraternal Relations Committee. Even then, the matter must still be approved by both Grand Lodges in session.

This is a difficult issue for anyone committed to Masonic ideals, because there are men out there, members of the four-letter lodges, who are as devoted to the principles of Masonry as some of us are. Many of you will agree that a man who has pledged himself to conform to the principles of the Masonic Order, a man who has obligated himself in the same manner as we have, even if he has been tricked into making this pledge by a spurious, unrecognized organization, is a greater friend to us than one who has made no such pledge. This is the reason that we accept these men into the Order under the relaxed standards of the Healing process. It is not the man but the organization that recognition excludes. 

Uniter of his separate tribes INTO The United Kingdom of Israel and a great writer or Psalmist. We find him in great contemplation and reflection as he wrote:

BEHOLD HOW GOOD AND PLEASANT IT IS FOR BREthern TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY!

IT IS LIKE THE PRECIOUS OINTMENT UPON THE HEAD, THAT RAN DOWN UPON THE BEARD; EVEN AARON'S BEARD, THAT WENT DOWN TO THE SKIRTS OF HIS GARMENTS;

AS THE DEW OF HERMON, AND AS THE DEW THAT DESCENDED UPON THE MOUNTAIN OF ZION: FOR THERE THE LORD COMMANDED THE BLESSING, EVEN LIFE FOREVERMORE. AMEN.

He says that this dwelling together is like an anointing from God and as we walk in that anointing, THE blessing that has been commanded by God for us will be given to us ... life for evermore.

I stand on the foundation of the first degree to bring you this message.

To further the TRUTH, that is Man's future reconciliation with one another, we completed the following the following action:

The Magnanimous Order of the Pacific Prince Hall Grand Commandery, Knights Templar for the States of California and Hawaii: Edict No. 1, Greetings:

WHEREAS, it is of mutual benefit that the Pacific Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of California and Hawaii work in fraternal relations with the California Grand Commandery of Knights Templar.

WHEREAS, our two Grand Lodges; The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons for the State of California

and the California Grand Lodge of Masons share mutual recognition.

WHEREAS, the California Grand Commandery of Knights Templar has extended formal recognition to the Pacific Prince Hall Grand Commandery, Knights, for the States of California and Hawaii.

THEN, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: BY THE Grace of the Grand Architect of the Universe, and the power vested in me vested as the Rt. Eminent Grand Commander, Knights Templar, Pacific Grand Commandery, Knights Templar for the States of California and Hawaii, I extend full Masonic recognition to the California Grand Commandery, Knights Templar.

Executed this 7th day of September, the year of our Lord, 2012.

Donald R. Ware, KYGCH, 33°, SGIG
Othello Burton, KYCH, 33°


Rt. Eminent Grand Commander
Rt. E. Grand Recorder, Attest

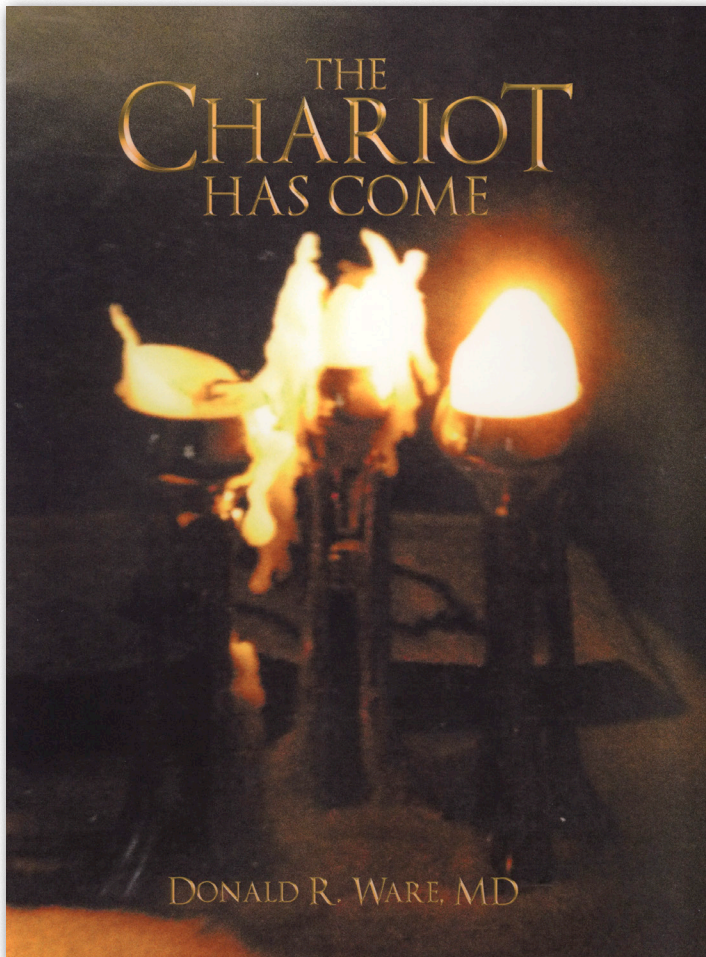
This was ratified at our Annual Grand Conclave in, 2012. However, there was no representation from your

Grand Commandery. We did invite The California Grand Commandery of Knights Templar to attend our next Annual Grand Convocation, in 2013, Fresno, California.

Toward that goal, we were delighted to hear from Sir Myron last year regarding visitation and receive both him and Sir Fenton Mereness, your Rt. Eminent Generalissimo at our GRAND CONCLAVE. We had a wonderful time and spoke as to how we will interact, in terms of mutual recognition in the future.

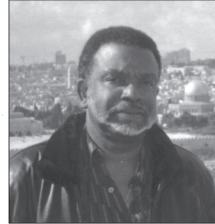
The event was made a feature article in the Christmas edition of our Masonic Digest. I want to present you and Sir Knight Mereness a signed copy on behalf of our Grand Commandery.

While our histories getting to this point in time vary, our destiny for the future, I believe is tied together... . I am delighted to be here today as a living testament to our steps toward the reconciliation of man ... and our future ... let it be bright and may it prosper ... Sir Knights let us continue. 



After many tries for conception, Callie was finally pregnant. But, early on in the pregnancy she began to bleed. She was in danger of losing the baby and quite possibly her life. After being advised by many doctors at affluent hospitals to abort the unseen child, she and her husband, Henry pushed on and found comfort and help at the Los Angeles County Hospital. They knew that if this baby was not born, there would be no other. The couple had been advised by the doctors, that whether or not the baby was born, she must have a hysterectomy to permanently stop her life threatening bleeding. This would end any hope of natural motherhood for the Wares. The baby Donald was born but developed Polio at an early age; yet I overcame that challenge to become a professional dancer. I was raised in a poor neighborhood but conquered that situation to become a well-known doctor and change agent. I went from my poor neighborhood to New York, Washington, DC, and Cambridge MA only to return home to face opposition from doctors, a local hospital, and one of the largest Hospital Corporations of its kind in the World. Along the way, in the midst of the fight; the Holy Spirit revealed itself in voice, visions, with physical signs and wonders in my life. These things gave me the victory over tyranny; for the benefit of us all.

This life account is about victory against all odds. It says that God is alive; is interested in the lives of the least of us; and will intervene in our lives for the good of us all.



Donald Russell Ware, M.D., was born in Los Angeles, California. He is the child of parents who migrated from Texas to California during World War II in pursuit of a better life. His mother was a successful career woman living in the 1940s. She was struggling with a very difficult pregnancy; trying to bring it to term. He was her first and only child born to her at age 38. She bled almost the entire pregnancy and required experimental techniques being pioneered at the County Hospital during that time. His father was an educator and labor leader. Many prayers, excellent medical care, and numerous visits from family members and friends helped her to have an excellent recovery. She delivered her only child in the Thanksgiving season.

Due to circumstances, he was raised by his mother. He attended the Los Angeles Public School System. Many believed, at that time, there was little hope of success for a person of color. He did excel in Academics and Leadership. He went on to study at the University of Redlands. After 3 years, he was accepted at The University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine. After 3 years of Medical School, he enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health. He earned a simultaneous degree in Medicine and Public Health after four years of study. He then moved to the Bronx, New York to study Internal Medicine at Montefiore Hospital; he moved to Bethesda, Maryland where he became the Medical Officer of the United States' most successful public education/intervention effort: The National High Blood Pressure Education Program. Later, he moved to Cambridge, MA to be a part of the Harvard University Health Policy Program. At the apex of his success, his mother became ill. He moved back to his native California to oversee her condition. He became a Fellow in Adult Clinical Cardiology at Kaiser Foundation Hospital of Los Angeles. He remains in Los Angeles at this time.

While in attendance at the Grand Session, Dr. Donald R. Ware will be available for book signing with a limited amount of books available for purchase. Books are available at Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble Book Store. Saturday, July 12, 2014 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon



The Uninformed Brother

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge History committee has been busy researching proceedings from years' past. As there were some proceedings that were missing; specifically, 1910, 1944 thru 1951, we sought out the assistance of some senior members of our Grand Lodge to fill in the void.



Past Master Lou Harris of Angel City Lodge No. 18, who is approaching four score years and

12, became a Master Mason in 1956. Past Master Bob Burnett of Crescent Bay Lodge No. 19, who is approaching four score years and 8, became a Master Mason in 1947. Past Master Louis J. Carter of Eli Baker Lodge No. 62, who is four score years and 10, became a Master Mason in 1953. These 3 worthy brothers have been of



great value and provided a wealth of information from their personal records. Lou is chairman of the Grand Lodge Archives. Bob, although the youngest of the trio, has actually been a Mason the longest. Louis J., was able to find and deliver Grand Lodge proceedings from 1948 thru 1951. Among many other titles, he is also a Grand Lodge Secretary Emeritus.

We greatly appreciate their efforts because we know they are a part of the Grand Lodge's unsung historians.

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"Uninformed Brother"*

Giving back to the community


Submitted by:
S.W. Stephen M. da Silva
Eli Baker #62 F&AM

The officers and brothers of Eli Baker lodge #62, Free and accepted masons of California, are branching out with their effort to give back to the community for the children. Last year the outgoing Worshipful Master, Gerald Evans, allocated money to be donated to Bushrod Park. This is not the first time, nor the last time that these donations have been given to the park. It is though, the first time that I have inquired how the monetary donation is spent. In talking with the Bushrod park director, Micah Hammock, which happens to be our sister of Rebecca Chapter #56. I was told by sister Micah Hammock, that the monetary donation is spent on snacks for the after school program. I am hopeful that the current Worshipful Master of Eli Baker #62, DeAndrae Cole, will be able to

see the need for the donations to be given more frequently. I would like to thank, Past Master Gerald Evans, and Worshipful Master DeAndrae Cole, for the effort that they are putting forward, to put a positive outlook toward Masonry. I have personally been told by the general public, after they see my signs and emblems, on my truck, motorcycle, and clothing, "I thought you masons were extinct, little do they know that we're alive and well. I urge all you brothers to inquire with local charities, and children's programs, to help out to the best of your abilities. There are needs that our children and communities have to fulfill simple requirements. The brothers of Eli Baker #62 F&AM that you see in the photo are as follows from left to right; Bro. Jeffrey Burns Sr., Junior Steward Aundray Rogers,

Worshipful Master DeAndrae Cole, Past Master Largie Green, Senior Warden Stephen M. da Silva, Senior Steward Cleamus O. Tervalon.

If you would like to help our outreach to help the children of Oakland, there are two charities that we are asking for help:

- 1) Donation to Eli Baker #62, use the name of BUSHROD PARK in the memo section. This donation is for the snacks for the after school program at Bushrod Park.
- 2) Donation to Eli Baker #62, use the name of SCHOOL SUPPLIES in the memo section. This donation is to supply 4 schools in the Oakland area that you had read about in the winter edition of the Masonic Digest. 

Thank you my Brothers and Sisters in advance for your charitable contribution.



SMOOTH ASHLAR LODGE NO. 119, RECEIVES ITS CHARTER


**Submitted by:
RW David E. Jenkins**

March 10, 2014 proved to be a very rewarding day for the members of Smooth Ashlar. After serving the necessary period of time and satisfactorily meeting other requirements, the members received their long-awaited Charter!

The historic event was held at Menifee Lodge No. 289, F&AM, 27221 McCall Boulevard, in Sun City. The Most Worshipful Grand Master, the

Grand Master Morgan congratulated the Lodge members, and stated he was certain that when an OES Chapter was adopted, it would become a valued partner to the lodge, and a positive force within the community.

Congratulations to the members of Smooth Ashlar. We welcome them to District No. 13, wish them every success and stand ready to assist in any way possible.

NOTES: Meetings are held at 27221 McCall Blvd, Sun City. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM: Stated meeting held on the first Wednesday of the month and Intermediate meeting, the third Wednesday of the month. WM Ronald Henderson can be contacted at (760) 805-4034. Smooth Ashlar's mailing address is P.O. Box 234, Murrieta, California 92564. 



Honorable Lovell Morgan was the Installing Officer, and he was accompanied by the RW JGW David San Juan, and RW SGD Robert J. Eagle Spirit, Sr. RW Carletus P. Chairmano performed duties of Installing Grand Marshal in a splendid fashion. Approximately 70 lodge members, members of the Order of the Eastern Star, plus family and friends were in attendance.



WHAT TYPE OF EXPERIENCE AWAITS YOUR FAMILY?

Submitted By:
PM Hermon L. Borders
Philomathean Lodge #2

Rarely, do we think about or give much attention to the realness of how swiftly time is passing by. Rarely, do we give any consideration to life's adverse mortality events that at some unforeseen date and time will enter into the lives of every family. Sorrowfully, such events present themselves, mostly without any notice or warning. Now, as it relate to you and your family, what would be your response to this question? "If my life came to an end today, do I have in place the necessary documentation that will insure a no drama transition of life without me and a reasonable measure of financial stability for my family that will be left behind?" The reality of such life events is that your family, without a doubt, will be faced with family decision making, estate and financial situations that will be overwhelming.

The following instruments noted below are some of the essential plans which, when properly place, will insure that one's family will continue their lives in similar or like manner, to which they had become accustomed. The idea here is to arrange in advance for the transfer of your estate assets into a planned format that will insure minimum expense and delay.

DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE

This document is used to appoint a person of your choosing, to make Health Care decisions for you when you when you can't make such decisions for yourself. The authority of such person becomes effective upon a Licensed Physician declaring you unable or

incapable of making your own decisions. But, the appointee does not have the authority to commit you to a mental health facility, approve psycho-surgery, sterilization or abortion. The power delegated is only through ones incapacity or upon one's demise.

DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR REAL PROPERTY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

This document is used for you to grant a person of your choosing, the authority to make decisions for you in the areas of property and financial matters, upon a Certified Medical Physician declaring that you are unable to make such decisions for yourself. This document grants a person of your choosing, the authority to make decisions relative to all of your assets. Whereas, a Special Power of Attorney only grants authority to consummate specifically described transactions. This delegated power is "Durable" because it remains effective even after a mental incapacity. This authority will expire upon it being stated in writing by a Certified Medical Physician, that the appointer can again take care of their own affairs or upon the appointer's demise.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

A Last Will and Testament by definition, is a legal document allowing ones appointee the authority to distribute one's assets, upon one's demise. Distribution to whomever the appointer chooses. But, in reality, a Last Will and Testament does not ensure that one's assets will actually go to the beneficiaries they have

chosen. In our Society today, a Last Will and Testament serves as only the wishes and instructions as to the distribution of any noted assets. A List Will and Testament containing Real Property, Bank Accounts, Credit Union Accounts, Investment Account, etc., will require PROBATE.

LIVING TRUST

Primarily used as a PROBATE avoidance technique. But, while one's is still living, a LIVING TRUST provides for a successor to manage one's affairs upon a Licensed Physician declares one incapable of handling their own affairs. A LIVING TRUST is a tool used to protect and manage one's assets (Real Property, Bank Accounts, Credit Union Accounts, Investment Accounts, etc.) before and after one's demise. More importantly, a LIVING TRUST is not subject to any PROBATE proceedings. Therefore, all provisions of the LIVING TRUST will remain private and protected from outsiders.

YOU WANT YOUR FAMILY TO AVOID PROBATE AT ALL COST

PROBATE, in no uncertain term, is a court process each and every estate owner wants to avoid, for their family, at all cost. Be advised, if one does not have those essential tools in place to avoid this process, it will be assured that their family members become involved in this unpleasant experience. Further, in PROBATE proceedings, a judge decides on those entitled one's estate assets.

*Continued on page 19
"What Awaits"*

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, & African American Museum and Library at Oakland

On November 2nd, collaboration between the Golden State Prince Hall Research Lodge and the African American Museum and Library at Oakland—AAMLO-- resulted in materials about Prince Hall Freemasonry being donated to the Museum and Library by our Grand Lodge as a first step in building a greater relationship. The day's presentation program concluded a year's

Bros. William Higgs and Clarence Baker met with AAMLO to explain the need for materials about Prince Hall and the MWPHGL of California for the AAMLO collection. They were also in communication with the Grand Lodge and MWGM Lovell Morgan and the executive team to review the material that would be donated to AAMLO. It should be noted that in

this process AAMLO has a Masonic Archives that had been donated by Brothers who have passed on to the Celestial Lodge above.

Research Lodge representatives collaborated with Ms. Veda Silva, the AAMLO Project Coordinator, to put together the Program. This program was an excellent affair, with all of the Lodges on the East Bay and San Francisco participating in the event. Special thanks needs to be addressed to Bro. Bernard Chaffers for catering the event and to Bro Terrace Boyd for printing the program. The highlight of the event was the participation of our MWGM Lovell Morgan & RWGJW David San Juan.

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"AAMLO"*



effort to add a collection of resources about Prince Hall Freemasonry and California's Masonic Family to the archives of this great institution, so that it would be available to the researcher and to the general public. The AAMLO is one of the most important places in the Country dedicated to African American Research. Its Archives and its Library house a very rare and very extensive collection of resources on African American history

Prior to this donation, there was very limited literature on Prince Hall or on the Grand Lodge in their collection. The donated materials included The Grand Lodge's 'Proceedings' from 1855 through 2008 on a flash drive, and Dr. Charles H. Wesley's book entitled Prince Hall Life and Legacy.



MWGM'S WORKSHOP AND OFFICIAL VISIT FEBRUARY 8, 2014 (SOUTHERN AREA)

**Submitted by:
RW David E. Jenkins**

The Host Lodge was Lillard G. Dandridge No. 99, and the event was held at 1112 North Maclay Street, San Fernando, California 91340.

David San Juan, Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden (RWJGW), led the morning "breakout" session for Worshipful Masters and Wardens. Early on, he asked for a show of hand as to how many attendees had a copy of the Grand Lodge Officer's Training Handbook? Quite a few hands went up. RW San Juan pointed out that, in 1990, our jurisdiction had 5840 members. In 2014, we have approximately 3000 (Surely, we need to concentrate our efforts on reclaiming, and retaining). He had slides which aided his comments regarding Quarterly Reports, examining the differences between Managers and Leaders, Mentoring, Communication, and the Trestle board (plan development). Regarding the Budget – Lodge Secretaries were invited to contact

what, where, how, when]. What are "Take-A-Ways"/main points? Attach financial data to reports. In this manner the data could easily be separated from the main document, and sent to Audit Committee. Committees should start on reports at least one month in advance of the due date. The original report goes to the Secretary. Meetings should start and end on time otherwise it is a disrespect upon those member's in attendance. RW San Juan mentioned having a Vision = a need to set realistic goals. Be sure to thank individuals for criticism, then "move on". Admit not knowing. Promise to research item and bring back an answer. Don't allow self to be rushed into a decision. But, don't forget: Bring back answer. An effective leader stays in touch with committee members and Past Masters. Such a leader is creative, doesn't micro-manage, is humble and open (approachable). The individual is, therefore, open to ideas, is fair, can be trusted, is assertive

includes delegating. He set limits on discussion periods. Allows Lodge to discipline Brothers who are deemed to be "out of order". All members should be willing to solve problems "in house". Importance of Burial Service; and choosing a Chaplain who is wise, and reverent. Marshal, Deacons, and Stewards also need to be proficient. Lodges should have a Bylaws Committee - chaired by SW, or he is a member. Review the Bylaws annually. Burial Service by at least October or November. Otherwise, the process could hold the Lodge hostage, and/or could jeopardize its Charter. Enter that date information into the Bylaws. Constitution: Before a member is suspended (Non Payment of Dues), a committee is to visit that Brother to investigate the circumstances. Need volunteers to assist the Golden State Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star in setting up and taking down equipment. Resolutions – submit ninety days before start of Annual Communication. Brother San Juan then opened a Question and Answer period. It covered many other areas and certainly seemed beneficial. RW San Juan distributed a "hand-out" regarding "Masonic Leadership". His E-mail address: david_sanjuan@yahoo.com.

not aggressive. He inspires, and encourages. When in good taste, he uses a sense of humor to diffuse hostility. Some critical skills: interacting, ability to discuss issues



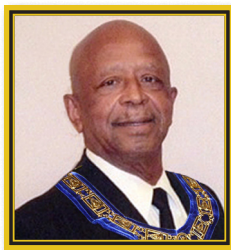
him for a copy of "LAMP"; 100 questions dealing with that subject. He spoke to the need for more effective Officer Meetings, Copies of Reports (and content: should include name of committee, subject, name and address) [should answer, who,

not personalities, knowing members, giving credit when due. Non-effective leaders can find themselves "alone". Degree team members reading from Ritual = a poor example for Candidates. Worshipful Masters should concentrate on leading which

At 3 PM, the Official Visit portion was opened with Protocols being observed. MWGM Lovell Morgan's remarks included mention of Evergreen Plan. It began in 1992. Currently,

*Continued on page 20
"Workshop"*

The Uninformed Brother (Continued)



Johnnie Moore was born in Cleveland, Arkansas November 30, 1925. When he was 20 years old, he married Cleo.

On August the 10th of this year, they will have been married 68 years! They have one son, John Lewis Moore Sr., and 2 grandsons; John Lewis Moore, Jr., and Ronnie K. Moore.

When Johnnie came to California, he met a Mason by the name of Forest Harvey, a deacon in his church. One day Forest said “man, why don’t you join the Masons?” He brought him an application and the process was started in 1963. Johnnie was raised as a Master Mason in Angel City Lodge No. 18 June, 1964. Rex Williams was the Lodge’s Worshipful Master and Paul Washington, Grand Master. Johnnie will be receiving his 50th year life membership this year.


After joining his Lodge, Johnnie wasn’t interested in working around the Lodge so the first thing he did was to learn the 3-5-7. After performing this work, he was appointed Senior Deacon and the rest is history.

In 1971, Johnnie became Worshipful Master of Angel City. While in office, Past Grand Master Herbert Greenwood passed. This was the first burial that he performed. During his year, Johnnie buried 12 brothers.

As a Grand Lodge officer, Johnnie has served in many capacities. Among them, Grand Bible Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer and Chairman of Building and Maintenance for many years. He’s always worked hard and tirelessly. Johnnie said “my wife used to stay mad at me because I spent so much time down at the Lodge and the Grand Lodge, working and fixing”. But he said, “your wife must work with you in order to be successful”. The Grand Lodge building on Figueroa St. in Los Angeles has a conference room. The walls of that room are filled with

the photographs of our Past Grand Masters, Past Grand Worthy Patrons and Past Grand Worthy Matrons. Johnnie is the individual responsible for that pictorial history.

In October 1980, Johnnie became a Grand Inspector General receiving his 33rd Degree , in Orlando Florida. He takes pride in having been Past Master of Angel City Lodge No. 18, Past Commander-in-Chief of Los Angeles Consistory No. 26, Past Patron of Debra Chapter No. 13, Order of the Eastern Star, Past Potentate of Egyptian Temple No. 5, and Past member of the Temple’s Drill Team. He also served 2 years in the United States Marine Corp in the South Pacific Theater, Guadal Canal.

Johnnie has always been known for his superior ritualistic work. He said, “you’ve gotta have it in your heart and be dedicated to be a good Mason.” He and his wife, Cleo, play a competitive game of dominoes regularly. When asked who wins, he said, “she does, most of the time”. 


“What Awaits”

Continued from page 16

The PROBATE court process is very expensive. In most cases, PROBATE hearings require the services of a PROBATE Attorney. And because of the over-burdened court system, your case can be tied up for a year or more. This means, your family will not receive the assets you intended for them to receive until the PROBATE procedures are complete. Be mindful,

PROBATE proceedings are handled by estate Attorneys. Attorney fees and court costs can consume a big percentage of your estates value. Assets may be ordered to be sold, to pay the on-going PROBATE costs, usually for less than fair market value.

The information provided herein is for discussion and information

purposes, only. The preparation of these afore mentioned documents should be done only upon the advice and implementation of an Estate Planning Professional. If you don’t have such a person that you can call upon. You may contact me, PM Hermon L. Borders, Philomathean Lodge No. 2 at 530 902-6365 for directions and assistance. 


"Workshop"

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only 15% of membership is enrolled. It will now be an Assessment after member receives the Third Degree. We'll need to process a Resolution for that matter, and for Reinstatements - our second significant change. Health and Safety (Alzheimer's/Dementia). Certainly need increased awareness. Importance of knowing members; be aware of any differences in their habits. Could check with city/state/federal government/American Alzheimer's Association/American Association of Retired Personnel for information. Grand Master asked for ideas - which could include relief from Per Capita Tax. Relief for deployed military members also discussed. Need committee to visit delinquent members. Better use of Money Market. Accidental Death/Disfigurement Insurance. Important. Could be helpful to family/beneficiaries. Make sure that Lodge secretary has your correct address. Seems that Grand Lodge officers

are principally using the Website. Check out Lodge Helper. Worshipful Masters should be fixing problems. Ways and Means: Some Lodges are not supporting this function. In fact, a few Lodges returned all of the raffle tickets, and them submitted students for scholarship. Not fair. No applications will be accepted under those circumstances. We only wind up hurting the students. Grand Lodge allocates \$11,000.00 for the program. Lodge Reports must be submitted electronically. No reports located for the year 2009. Endowment - "1/15" - need 15 Brothers from each of our 57 Lodges to donate \$120.00 a year. In five years, total in plan would be \$433,000.00. Could donate on-line. Is tax deductible. (RW Senior Grand Deacon Robert J. Eagle Spirit, Sr. - reminded that recommendations for Awards (Secretary/Treasurer of the Year, Inspirational, etc.) are due to him by May 16, 2014. He also mentioned, and displayed various shirts available for sale. They included those for Grand Lodge officers, Past

Masters, and members. Colors - Purple, Gold, Black, Blue and White. Sizes - Small to 5XL. Cost - \$30.00 to \$40.00. Deadline - May 30, 2014. RW Eagle Spirit also spoke to pictures of Grand Lodge officers for this year's Souvenir Journal. Pictures are due to him by May 14, 2014. Contact him at (610) 888-2366 or rjwsr03@yahoo.com. He then distributed information regarding the shirts and pictures). RW Senior Grand Warden Samuel King - Pythagoras Knights have one full council in Los Angeles, and four Study Clubs. They are located in Oakland, Sacramento, Santa Ana, and San Diego. Website: opkca.org. Need Advisors. Letter forthcoming.

MWGM Morgan ended his comments by thanking the workshop leaders, attendees, and members of Lillard G. Dandridge Lodge No. 99 for their work. After Prayer, the Workshop and Official Visit closed at 4:35 P.M. 



"AAMLO"


Continued from page 17

AAMLO did an excellent job of pulling out the unique archives and pictures of some of our past and current members. This was also a great opportunity for our members to not only review the Masonic Archives but to see what AAMLO has to offer for them.

The African American Museum and Library at Oakland AAMLO is a unique non-circulating reference library, and is dedicated to the discovery, preservation, interpretation and sharing of historical and cultural experiences of African Americans in California and the West for present and future generations. Its collection consists of approximately 12,000 volumes by or about African Americans. Among its many subjects are books on religion, the military, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, the Black Panther Party, and Africa in relationship to the African-American experience, genealogy, and California history.

The over 160 collections in the archives contain the diaries of prominent families, pioneers, churches, social and political organizations. Freedom's Journal, the Liberator, California Voice, Sun Reporter, Muhammed Speaks, and the Black Panther newspapers are available on microfilm.

The collection was started in 1946, by Eugene and Ruth Lasartemay and Jessie and Dr. Marcella Ford, both believed to be Masonic families, who began collecting the oral histories and artifacts that documented the activities of African Americans in and around Oakland, the Bay Area.

The program also featured WM Michael Essien, Master of the Research Lodge, Mr. Rick Moss, Museum Curator, Ms. Veda Silva, Program Coordinator, and Ms. Shawun Ruth Anderson, President of Friends of AAMLO. 

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Our numbers are dwindling, but before we go, we need to do what we can to ensure the work of educating the young goes on. Even in America, as you know, times can be hard. The need still exists to help young people without a family who have the means to assist with higher education or vocational training.

Let Us Build an Endowment! This is our chance to make a difference.

YES WE CAN!



The Masonic Digest

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103rd Imperial Court Session, Daughters of ISIS
August 15 - 21, 2014 – Tamps, FL

York Rite Annual Grand Session - September 18 - 21, 2014
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Where There Is No Vision, The People Perish:
But he That Keepeth The Law, Happy Is He. Proverbs 29:18