

The Phyllis Chapter

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March 7, 2018– March 11, 2018
45th ANNUAL PHYLAXIS SOCIETY CONVENTION
&
35th ANNUAL PHYLLIS CHAPTER CONVENTION

Spring Edition 2017

Volume XXXIV No. 1



The Phyllis Magazine Featuring



Subscription

Subscription rate for one year is \$15.00 for non-members and members of the Phylaxis Society.

The Phyllis magazine is the official publication of the Phyllis Chapter of The Phylaxis Society. Any article appearing in this publication expresses the opinion of the writer, and does not become the official pronouncement of The Phyllis Chapter or The Phylaxis Society. All communications concerning the magazine should be addressed to the Editor. Inquiries concerning membership must be addressed to the Executive Secretary. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronically or mechanically, or stored in any retrieval system, without the written permission from the publish-

Articles in The Phyllis magazine are received from many sources and sometimes reflect opposing views. The views and opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the Phyllis Chapter, the Phyllis staff, or The Phylaxis Society.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Sponsorship: The Phyllis magazine, a publication of the Phyllis Chapter of The Phylaxis Society, is published twice a year in the spring and fall. Audience: The Phyllis magazine is intended for a wide audience that includes members of The Phyllis Chapter, members of the Prince Hall Family and those with a strong enthusiasm for the history of African American women, and the Prince Hall adopted rites.

Submissions: The Phyllis magazine welcomes submissions from members of the Phyllis Chapter and the Phylaxis Society, other members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family, and interested individuals who study and research Masonry. Submissions should reflect sound scholarship, including pertinent references, and have a wide appeal to The Phyllis magazine's diverse audience. Contributors should be willing to work with the editor to arrive at a mutually acceptable final manuscript that is appropriate to the intended audience and reflects the intention of The Phyllis Chapter to study, enlighten, and further the cultural interest of the Order of the Eastern Star (PHA).

Addresses for Submissions: (and enquiries) may be sent to the Editor either by mail to the postal address or electronically.



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Submit your Articles For the 2017 Fall Edition 35th Year Electronic Copies Preferred jamestikishia@yahoo.com

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Auxiliary and Jurisdiction: | |
| Mailing Address: | |
| City, State, and Zip Code: | |
| Phone Number: | |
| Email address: | |

Tikishia Smiley 100 St. Charles Lane Jacksonville, NC 28546 (910) 554-0808

Sibyl Moses, FPC, Maryland -"Keepers of the Past, A Research Agenda for the Phyllis Chapter Auxiliaries"

Tikishia C. Smiley, MPC, North Carolina - "The Original Montford Marine

Maria Taylor-Perry, MPC, North Carolina - "The Story of Maggie Strong"

Peggy McCree, MPC. Missouri - "Memory"

Eileen Jackson, MPC, Louisiana - "The Relevance of Historical African American Sacred Music To The Black Worship Experience"

SCHOOL PHOTO CONTEST

The winners of the Prince Hall School Photo Contest for 2017 are:

First Place - Semion Smith - 7th Grade

2nd Place - Aquil Fain - 8th Grade

Third Place - Tymeek Hyle - 3rd Grade

Matron's Forum

Conducted by GWM Shirley Woolfolk of Missouri followed by the election conducted by Bro. Gross.

AWARDS FOR 2017 Life Membership

Betty Baker, MPC (L) Dorris P. Bassett, MPC (L) Venecia Besselieu, MPC (L) Lena Celestine, MPC (L) Pinkie Clark, MPC (L) Shirley Evans Cooley, MPC (L) Oriel Dillard MPC (L) Eunice Dingle MPC, (L) Cheryl R. Eggleston, MPC (L) Cheryl Gary, MPC, (L) Linda Russel Guvrin, MPC (L) Sabrina Jones, MPC (L) Margaret E. Jones, MPC (L) Doris McDaniel, MPC (L) Yvonne Montague-Mason, MPC (L) Darneasha Pickett, MPC (L) Kerronda S. Prince, MPC (L) Tikishia Carter Smiley, MPC (L) Ethyl Tilley, MPC (L) Catrice Vandross, MPC (L) Denise Ward-Washington, MPC (L) De'Onna Washington, MPC (L) Cheryl W. Welch, MPC (L) Angela V. Wicks, MPC (L)

Brice Simmons Award

Rosalie Jones-Moore, FPC (L)

Fellow Award

Martha Banton, FPC (L), MO Etoile Abraham, FPC (L) CA

Monzella McKay Recognition Award lacqueline Kohlasch FPC, NM

Meritorious Service Award Barbara Callier, FPC (L), ID

Loyola Brown Membership Award Ruby E. Williams Auxiliary LA

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V.P. Council of Regions

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> The Phyllis Magazine Published in Colton, CA by Promotion Plus Print

> > Brother Joseph A. Walkes, Jr. FOUNDER - 1983

Committees

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PRINCE HALL ART: (Chairperson) Marva Montgomery, (PA); Yvonne Pierce, (PA); Barbara Lattimore, (MO); Phyllis Outten, (MD); Mary Miller, (TX)

MAGAZINE REVIEW: (Chairperson) Tikishia Smiley, (NC); Freddie Cooper, (UT); Gwendolyn Dureseau, (AR)

NEWLETTER: (Chairperson) Patricia Jones, (AR); Marie Taylor-Perry, (NC); Lena Roberts, (IL); Catrice Vandross, (DC)

NOMINATION: Appointed in 2019 for 2020 elections

(The President is an ex-official member of all committees)

Pyhlaxis Liaison- Bro William Gross, Maryland

The Phyllis Chapter 2017
Session Highlights & Workshops Presentations
St. Louis, Missouri March 8 - 11, 2017

The 2017 Phyllis session officially open on Friday March 9, 2017. Following devotion by Sis. Martha Banton, President Cooper turned the meeting over to President Campbell for greetings and information to the joint group of Phyllis and Phylaxis members.

Bro. Campbell stated he wanted to re-establish a better communication between the two bodies. Bro. Campbell introduced the new liaison to the Phyllis Chapter, Bro. William H. Gross.

Bro. Campbell encouraged early registration for the 2018 Session

The dates for 2018 are March 5 - 11 and there will be more rooms available for Tuesday and Wednesday check ins. Room rate is \$109 per night.

2019 Session is scheduled for North Carolina and the 2020 Session will be in Texas, although these locations are subject to be changed depending upon hotel prices and availability.

The Phyllis meeting continued with Sis Flora Simon going over the changes, to the Constitution and By-Laws.

Work Shops Presentations

Barbara Jones, FPC, Missouri – "Phyllis Scholar" Lena McGee, MPC, Louisiana – "Remembering Our Beloved Who Paved The Way"

Alicia Allen, MPC, North Carolina – "Historic Joint Grand Lodge Cornerstone Ceremony"

Venecia Bessellieu, MPC & Catrice Vandross, MPC, Washington DC – "PGWM Thelma J. Tyler and the Preservation of Georgina Thomas Grand Chapter"

Marlene Pratt, MPC, North Carolina – "The Pentagram"

Patricia Harris, MPC, Missouri – "The History of Gloves and their Significance"

Martha Banton, FPC, Missouri – "The Altar"

Flora Simon, FPC, Arkansas – "Interpersonal Communication Skills"

Cynthia McKeown, MPC, Missouri – "GWM Esther K. Harris: Life and Accomplishments"

Prince Hall Grand Lodge of In July, the Queen of the South Missouri and to Harmony Degreed Team was renamed Grand Chapter. Those gavels the Esther K. Harris Queen of were made of Olive Wood the South Degree Team. grown on Mount of Olive in Jerusalem.

In 1954, in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Esther K. directed the Queen of the South degree team before this august body.

In 1966, she was elected as International Grand Matron in New York. She also made a second trip to Liberia for the dedication of their Masonic Temple.

In 1970, she was appointed International Grand Lecturer of the International Conference of Grand Chapters of the Eastern Star.

In September 1990, the 45th Anniversary and Tribute Banquet was given in honor of Esther K. Harris School of Instruction. This tribute banquet honored the accomplishments and those of African descent. (This event hailed a packed house of all races and ethnicities).

Esther K. Harris was well liked and loved by all that were blessed to have known her.

Esther K. Harris's life was full of accomplishments and rich with achievements. She leaves to cherish her God filled life, her son and heir Mr. Jesse Harris.

In her obituary she wrote "Matthew, Mark, Luke and lohn Watch me while I lay, One to watch, one to pray,

Two to carry my soul away".

Esther K. Harris departed this earthly life on February 3, 1993. She was buried with her husband in one Section F. Site 595 at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery on February 8, 1993

Reference:

St. Louis Public Library St. Louis Argus Newspaper St. Louis City Office of Vital Statistics; St. Louis Globe Democrat Newspaper; Summer High School Graduation records of 1917. Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

President's Message

I consider it indeed an honor and privilege to have been elected by the membership to serve you again in this leadership role as President of the Phyllis Chapter of the Phylaxis Society. I have been a member organization since 1988 and considered it enjoyment to be a part of an organization created to bring women together as members of the Order of Eastern Star to share Masonic research projects and other information pertinent to the Order. From the sharing of this information, we grow wiser as Order of the Eastern Star members, and develop the unity of sisterhood.

During this tenure, I will strive to advance the mission of the organization by working with officers and members to provide a rewarding and enriching program to promote personal and organizational growth. I hope more members will attend our annual session and offer their expertise to help meet the needs of the Phyllis Chapter.

We all need time to reflect, to put things in perspective, and to truly value the worth of this organization and appreciate its goals. Therefore, a change in direction is inevitable. Even a small change can reap big benefits; thus, some alternatives to the normal program are being considered. I encourage each member to express to me changes they would like to see in the annual session program that would spell-progress. It will take all of us working together to persevere; a common purpose is what will bring this organization to fulfillment.

Again, I am excited for the opportunity to lead an organization I attach importance to.

Hoa J. Dimon

Flora Jean Simon President of the Phyllis Chapter 14th Grand Worthy Matron for the Jurisdiction of Arkansas



Photograph courtesy of Flora Jean Simon

Flora Simon is serving a second tenure as President of the Phyllis Chapter. Her first term was from 2005-2008, as the fifth President.

Flora Jean Gibson Simon believes that anything worth doing is worth doing well; therefore she strives to always do her very best. She now adds to that belief: when we have done out best, we should wait the result in peace. Ms Simon is the second of four children born to the late Ollie and Tim-

othy Gibson, Sr. in Dermott, Arkansas. Her father and mother were members of the Prince Hall Masonic Family; the four children followed in the footsteps of their parents and joined the organizations. President Simon resides in Dumas, Arkansas and is the mother of twins Felecia and Frederick; she has seven grandchildren and two living siblings: Bettie Gammel and Deborah Gibson.

Flora Simon is a member Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Dumas, and serves as assistant Sunday School Instructor and chair of the Scholarship Committee. She is also an Instructor for the Regular Arkansas Baptist Congress of Christian Education. In the Congress, she is certified to teach Organizing the Church for Christian Education, Leadership Education in the Local church, Leadership in the Group, and Audio Visual

November 17, 1972. Corporal Harris was buried in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

Her Legacy

In 1924 Esther K., was given a petition by the Past Matron Bertha Rose of Adah Star Chapter No. 12. Esther joined Adah Star in that same year and began a long fruitful career in the order of the Eastern Star.

Esther served as Worthy Matron of Adah Star, Grand Reporter from 1937-1941. During her term of office as Grand Lecturer she organized District I and 2 School of Instruction. Esther was invited as International Grand Deputy to accompany the International Grand Matron on her African trip, returning via Egypt, Europe and the Holy Land.

During her tenure as International Grand Deputy, she furnished one bedroom, a large dormitory room, and one bathroom of the Masonic Home. She covered the entire home with linoleum and the St. Louis School of Instruction she furnished with draperies.

In July of 1953, Esther invited

the International Grand Worthy Matron Fannie Lee to be Harmony Grand Chapter's guest in Springfield, Missouri. As a result of this invitation, Esther K., received a war bond for raising the most funds towards the International Grand Matrons first visit to Liberia, West Africa.

Esther K., helped organize the Sojourner Truth Study Club while she was a member of the Willa P. Allen Study Club.

Esther was the founder of Harmony Grand Chapter Scholar Fund, Public Relations Day and Master Masons Night. However, on October 14, 1978, Master Masons Night changed to Master Masons Day to observe as District occasion.

Her Matrons and Patrons raised funds to purchase the electric signets for the OES room in the Masonic Temple.

Her paraphernalia committee raised funds for a Chapter Standard, Christian Flag, American Flag and an Alter Cloth. She presented gavels to the Most Worshipful The Life and Legacy of Esther K. Harris Presented by Cynthia McKeown, MPC St. Louis, MO

Esther K. King was born to Mr. and Mr. John and Lucinda King on January 30, 1899.

In 1910, Esther was adopted by her grandmother, Mrs. Julia Schroder.

Esther was enrolled in De Moss Grammar School and graduated from Sumner in 1917.

In 1916, Esther joined the First Baptist Church located at 3100 Bell. In 1950, she moved her membership to True Light MB Church under the leadership of the late Reverend R.C. Clopton. While there she served on Group I Usher Board, President of the Pastor's Aide and Mother of the Church.

After graduating high school she enrolled in Madame C.J. Walker School of Beauty Culture. There she was taught the beauty of black hair. After six months of training she became an instructor.

In 1919, Esther K. met and married Mr. John Billups. They divorced in 1920. Mr. Billups died in 1923.

In 1924, Esther K. Billups married Corporal Elsworth W. Harris. They resided at 2618 Wash Street along with her grandmother and her motherin-law, Mrs. Lucinda Billups.

In 1941, Esther K., enrolled in the St, Louis College of Embalmers and Mortuary Science. During her tenure there, she served as President of the association for seven year and secretary for 25 years. In 1946 she graduated and began to work as an accountant and embalmer for Pettis Mortuary, then located in the 4100 block of Washington Avenue and ran the business until she retired in 1985.

In 198, Esther K., became Honorary Life Member of the National Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association. In 1990, while residing at the Deacons Manor Care Center. she was appointed President of residents council.

Her husband, Elsworth died on

Resources in the Church.

Education and Community Service:

President Simon is a 1966 graduate of Chicot County High School in Dermott, Arkansas where she graduated as valedictorian of her class. In 1971, she earned her Bachelor's of Science (B.S.E.) degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, majoring in General Science and Social Studies. Ten years later, she was awarded a Master's degree (M.S.) by the same institution; her field of specialization was Education Administration. While at the University of Arkansas, she was a member of the Arkansas Marching Razorback Band, and Tau Beta Sigma, an honorary band fraternity.

She also holds certification from the Arkansas Department of Education in Adult Education, and as a Curriculum Specialist for grades K-12, and Secondary Principal. She values continuing education and thus earned additional hours of credit in adult education and the sciences, by completing additional course work at the colleges in the field as program director for

University of Arkansas System, Arkansas State University, and Arkansas Tech University.

She began her teaching career in January 1971 in Carencro, Louisiana as a high school general science instructor, and taught at two other schools in Louisiana: the Forrest K. White Jr. High in Lake Charles, and the Lake Arthur High School in Lake Arthur, prior to returning to Arkansas. From 1974 until 1987, President Simon taught Earth Science, General Science, Physical Science, and Life Science in the Dumas, Arkansas secondary schools.

In 1987, she became the Director of Adult Education for the Dumas School District and also served as the GED Examiner. She remained in this position until retirement on lune 30, 2009. Beginning the year before she retired and for three years afterwards, she worked as an independent school improvement consultant with JBHM Education Consultant Firm of Jackson, MS. In January of 2011, she had a brief tenure in a new administrative

the York W. Williams Child member Daughters of Chari-Development Center in her ty (Ascension Health), and hometown of Dermott, Ar- Board member Delta Memokansas. President Simon has rial Hospital. provided a broad range of these positions, she has used services to professional, her life as an instrument to community, and social organ- help others to empower izations. In November 2016, themselves through educashe was elected as the first tion, housing, and economic Black female to the Dumas empowerment. City Council for a four year term; her first political quest. Additionally, she has been the President of the Dumas Chamber of Commerce and she has served in a leadership capacity in numerous organizations, including: Past President of the Arkansas Association for Continuing and Adult Education: President of the Arkansas Association of Administrators in Adult Education, President of the South Arkansas Adult Education Administrators. Past President of the Dumas Education Association, Coordinator of the Dumas Literacy Council, Chair of the Desha County Single Parent Scholarship Fund Program, Vice Chair of the Dumas Housing Authority Commission, President of Delta Area Community Foundation, Board member Arkansas Education Association, Board

In each of

Masonic Affiliations:

At the age of six years, Flora Simon joined the Electa-Triumphant #348 Youth Fraternity, in Dermott, Arkansas. Her membership in the Prince Hall Family has been continuous since that time. In February 2013, President Simon was elected as the fourteenth Grand Worthy Matron for the Jurisdiction of Arkansas. Within the Order of the Eastern Star, she has served on the local, district, and national levels. On the local level, she served as Worthy Matron of Electa-Triumphant #348, secretary, youth sponsor, and in many other positions; on the district level, she was the youth advisor, secretary, and District Deputy Grand Matron; on the state level, she has served the Royal Grand Chapter as the



45TH and 35TH Annual Sessions of Historic Phylaxis/Phyllis

Hosted by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of DC Hon. Alex Smith, President, The Phylaxis Society Hon. Flora Simon, President, The Phyllis Chapter

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understanding of this particu- 1955. Pages 564-565 (1 Kings lar degree. As always much is 10:10-13), 566 (Map of the hidden in the words and ac- Land of Sheba), 934 (Psalm tions of any initiation. Re- 72:10), 1227 (Isaiah 60:6), search is encouraged by each 1600 (Matthew 12:42), 1717 of those being initiated or (Luke 11:31), 699- 700 (2) who have been in the Order and wish further enlightenment.

Selected Bibliography

Dean, Edith, "All the Women of the Bible", New York: Harper-SanFrancisco, A Division of HarperCollinsPublisher, 1955. Pages 120 - 124.

- ² Sauter, Megan, "Who is the Queen of Sheba in the Bible? Investigating the Queen of Sheba and her Kingdom." 8/31/16 (08/31/2016T09:40)
- ³ Spangler, Ann and Syswerda, lean E., "Women of the Bible" a one year devotional Study of Women in Scripture updated & expanded, ZondervanPublisher, 2007.
- 4 Patterson, Dorothy Patterson General Editor, Kelly, Rhonda Harrington Managing Editor and others. "The Woman's Study Bible NKIV", Thomas

I hope that this adds to the Nelson Publisher Nashville, Chronicles 9-12)

> 4 The Woman's Study Bible -Opening the Word of God to Woman, The New King James Version, Copyright 1955 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

> Related reading in Bible History Daily:

> Has not been read by me (RM E. Fucles) at this time

The Rock-Hewn Churches of Lalibela

Expedition Claims Evidence of Queen of Sheba Found in Ethioþіа

Ancient Jerusalem: The Village, the Town, the City



Source for picture: https:// www.bing.com/images/search? q=Queen+Sheba+From+Africa&FO RM=IRBPRS&=706

Grand Lecturer, Grand Juvenile Matron, Grand Recorder, Grand Secretary, and State Director for the "Pearls of Love" a girls youth group, and Prince Hall Grand Lodge Building Clerk. On the national level, Flora served as director for the youth group Empress of the Galaxy¹.

In addition to her membership in the Order of the Eastern Star, President Simon is actively involved in several Prince Hall women's organizations. She is a member of the Shirley W. Inghram Phyllis Auxiliary in Arkansas. She is the Past Loyal Lady Ruler of the E. U. Reed Assembly #78, Order of the Golden Circle, Pine Bluff, Arkansas; and is a member of Mt. Moriah Court #9. Heroines of lericho, Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Pine Bluff Guild #3 (also known as the Templar Crusades), in Pine Bluff. Arkansas: and has been a member of the Mohammed Court #39, Daughter of Isis, Little Rock, Arkansas, In April 2015, she was awarded the title of Past Grand Princess Captain and in 2016 the title Past Grand State Loyal Lady Ruler.

Special Interest:

President Simon enjoys listen-

ing to a variety of music, playing quiet games, facilitating events, observing nature, and traveling. She was once considered as an avid seamstress but over time that has ceased. Lately, she has made traveling her hobby. She has traveled extensively in the United States, including Alaska, and Hawaii. Also she has traveled to Canada, Mexico, Spain, France, Puerto Rico, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Croatia, Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands and the Caribbean.

Recognitions and Awards:

President Simon's recognitions and awards have been numerous from local, state, and national organizations. Some of her awards are the: Dumas Lions Club Woman of the Year: State of Arkansas House of Representatives' Citation; District Four Order of the Eastern Star Distinguished Leadership Award; Fred Johnson Jr. Arkansas Council of Deliberation Eagle Award for Extraordinary Service; Distinguished Leadership Award from the Academy for Leadership Training; Luther H. Black Outstanding Adult Education Administrator; Individual Achievement Award

sion on Adult Literacy; Leadership Arkansas Award for Volunteerism for Community Development from Teamwork Arkansas (AP&L); and Arkansas' Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Patron Leon F. Marsh, Sr. and of the Year.

Sources:

'The Empress of the Galaxy was a youth group for girls sponsored by the Prince Hall Conference of Grand Matrons and Grand Patrons; it no longer exists.

HISTORY OF REGINA **CHAPTER NO. 67** by: Sister Betty Baker MPC (LIFE) California

REGINA CHAPTER NO.67, got its beginning in the mind and aspiration of The Worshipful Master M. Robinson Baker of Monarch Lodge No. 73 who wanted the mothers. wives, sisters and daughters to become members of the Order of the Eastern Star. To bring this dream to life, he called on Lucille B. Hilliard for the task of organizing the club. They called themselves 'The Gold Donnas.

Petitioning the Grand Chapter of California, The Gold Donnas were instituted into Regina U.D. on lune 19, 1954 and constituted as Regina Chapter No. 67 Order of

from the Governor's Commis- the Eastern Star (O.E.S.), Prince Hall Rite of Adoption (Monarch Lodge No. 73, our Adopted Lodge) on December 18, 1954 in Berkeley, California under the administration of Grand Worthy Grand Worthy Matron Geraldine O'Connor. Sister Luella B. Hilliard was the first Worthy Matron; Rose C. Randall was the second Worthy Matron with Brother Alfred C. Bard serving as Worthy Patron for both Worthy Matrons.

> Through the years the Chapter contributed to many charitable organizations, youth scholarships, City of Hope, American Heart Association, Blood Bank, Sickle Cell Anemia, NAACP, the United Negro College Fund, HIV/AIDS and Breast Cancer to name a few. They rendered aid to the sick and distressed members. In 1996 the Sheila F. Wilson Memorial Scholarship fund was established in honor of Sister Wilson who was a Chapter member. Each year deserving students are awarded a scholarship in her memory.

As the membership continues to grow from the 32 Charter Members, to well over 200 members Regina realizes that the progress of the Order of the Eastern Star Continue on page 19

the Bible and in a text called them. To this day, many Ethithe Kebra Nagast. Dated between the 6th - 14th centuries C.E., the Kebra Nagast Chapel of the Tablet next to (The Glory of Kings) is an important text to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. It names the Oueen of Sheba as the beautiful queen Makeda and identifies the land of Sheba as ancient Ethiopia. Kribus thoroughly examines the latter claim in his article "Where is the Land of Sheba - Arabia or Africa?"

According to the Kebra Nagast, Queen Makeda travels to Jerusalem and has a love affair with King Solomon. Makeda then returns to the land of Sheba - giving birth to a son, Menelik, along the way. Menelik is raised in Ethiopia, but when he turns 22, he travels to lerusalem to meet his father. King Solomon is delighted with his firstborn son and tries in vain to convince Menelik to remain in Israel and succeed him as However, Menelik king. chooses to return to the land of Sheba. Solomon sends the firstborn sons of Israel's elders with his son from Israel to Ethiopia, and the Ark of the Covenant travels with

opians believe that the Ark of the Covent resides within the the Church of Maryam Tsion in Aksum, Ethiopia.

Ethiopians claim the Queen of Sheba as part of their heritage, and through her union with King Solomon; Ethiopians also claimed a connection between their kings and the Davidic monarchy of Israel. Bar Kribus explains: "Their [Ethiopian] kings were seen as direct descendants of the House of David, rulers by divine right."

There is much to be learned about this great queen. We can justly say that the Order of the Eastern Star is enriched by this degree which demonstrates that females are the equal with men. The Queen of the South through her business negotiations shows that females are wise, of sound judgment and aptly able to lead and excel.

What I have written is just a little of the research which has been done and continues today.

the equivalent in today's val- to ascend to the throne as ue about \$3,600,000.00. his first born². The follow-Solomon was worth ing information taken from \$20,000,000.00 in US gold (2)Sauter Megan, "Who is coins. King Solomon derived the Queen of Sheba in the much of his wealth from the Bible? Investigating the traffic of spice merchants, Queen of Sheba and her tolls, dues, iron and copper. Kingdom The exchange of gifts is one (08/31/2016T09:40) I will of the first examples of good give the text verbatim as public relations for business written. purposes on record. The "In return King Solomon Queen of Sheba was indeed a gives the Queen of Sheba wise woman as she left with gifts and 'every desire that more than she gave. It she expressed'. (I Kings should be noted that she was 10:13). After receiving these not one of king Solomon's gifts, the queen returns to pagan wives but she did re- the land of Sheba with her ceive all that she desired, a retinue". child.

orded as Solomon's first Solomon ends there, but born 2. A close look at what later lewish Christian and that Menelik was born in rated the story - adding de-Ethiopia upon the Queen's tails to the famous queen's return to her home land, visit, Menelik and his followers migrated to Abyssinia. The present royal house of Abyssinia (Ethiopia) claims descent from Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, but there is no record in the Bible I. It. was reported that Menelik visited King Solomon but refused his offer to remain

8/31/16

The Biblical account of Her child, Menelik, is rec- Queen of Sheba and King I have seen written indicates Islamic sources have elabo-

> In his article "Where is the Land of Sheba - Arabia or Africa?" published in the September/October 2016 issue of Biblical Archaeology Review, Bar Kribus investigates the location of the land of Sheba and looks at the figure of the

Past President Freddie Cooper, FPC Annual Address

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV



Freddie Cooper, FPC, Life

Grand Master Henry R. Willis, Jr., Most Worshipful Grand Master of Missouri, Grand Worthy Matron Shirley M. Woolfolk, members of Harmony Grand Chapter, Grand Associate Patron Ivory Graham: Honorable Robert Campbell, FPS, of the Phylaxis Society; Honorable William Gross, FPS, Phyllis Liaison; Phyllis Chapter Elected and Appointed Officers and all members of the Phyllis Chapter.

I greet you in the name of

Our Heavenly Father, and I thank you, Sisters, for being in attendance at 34th Annual Session of The Phyllis Chapter. We are blessed to have had members with the courage, tenacity, and faith in the purposes of the this organization because it is they who have enabled the Phyllis to exist for a long period of time and to continue its growth and survivability. Some of you have been involved since the beginning and you are still standing strong. Now, that is, a gift to me. This gift is a blessing and an honor for all its members. Why? This is an organization not only of purpose, but one which offers abundant satisfaction and enlightenment to all who would dare to genuinely undertake the journey.

The purposes and goals of this wise women and men who august body remain intact despite occasional attempts to this organization and other prevent or obstruct efforts in appropriate topics of interest. The maintaining its integrity. Yet, still we stand. Our membership remains steady with spurts and declines. The provided members who have left us behind to carry on their legacy as well as others who just decided to follow other to be. However, with our strong faith in God as well as

Many of our unwavering champions are longer no among us. At this time, I name a few of them, by doing so does not lessen the valuable contributions and love of other decreased members, but rather for the essence of time. The primary notable person was our founder, Brother Joseph Walkes, who left us twelve years ago. Last year, our first president, Sister Brice E. Simmons passed. Prior to her passing one of our oldest members, Sister Karyellen Dunn passed and recently Sister Henrietta Marie Thomas left us. My thinking is they would be disappointed, if we failed to continue the work or uncovering the history of the Order of the Eastern Star, the

in recent years, there had been attempts to change the thing we were never intended strong faith in God as well as the bravery to stand up for ourselves, we remain The Phyllis Chapter, independently incorporated. Therefore, we have the right to maintain control of our destiny. Yet, in order maintain that viability, we must continue to remain forever fervent to our fundamental principles, rules and regulations. Of course, we may update to bring clarity freshness rather than change just for the sake of change. In order to accomplish the goal of preserving the identity of The Phyllis Chapter, we must not only know and un-

In order to accomplish the goal of preserving the identity of The Phyllis Chapter, we must not only know and understand those fundamental principles, rules and regulations, we must live by their content; that is, we must respect and uphold them in highest esteem!

Chapter 1: 1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 13. 2 Chronicles: 9:1, 3, 9, 12 Matt: 12:42 Luke 11:31

Most of the information, however, must be gained from additional resources. The Queen of the South is also mentioned in "Sura 27 of the Koran"I. See "Selected Bibliography" for additional reading on your own.

From, "All the Women of the Bible" by Edith Dean (I.) she begins her account of this un-named biblical woman with this following paragraph. "Comes from Saba to prove Solomon's wisdom and wealth. Brings with her a large retinue, also lavish gifts for Solomon, Art, music, and literature memorialize her. Jesus mentions her."

The Queen of the South is the first woman on record who pitted her wits and wealth against those of a king. She came to Jerusalem herself rather than sending an ambassador from her kingdom of Saba in southwest Arabia, a distance of I, 200 miles. It should be not ed that her intentions were

for probably the trade zone demarcation and to work out an alliance with Solomon. It should also be noted that king Solomon commercial ventures expanded after her departure.

This was approximately nine centuries before Sabean women Christ. occupied as high a position of power and authority as did the Queen of Sheba. The international Standard Bible Encyclopedia states that "in almost all respects women appeared to have been considered the equal of men and to have discharged the same civil, religious and military functions." Ancient Himyaritic inscriptions and other ancient sources write of their culture and political powers. The Old Testament mentions it in a number of passages among which are Psalms 72:10, Isaiah 60:6, and Jeremiah 6:20.

The riches of this Sabean Queen's kingdom are evident from the gifts brought to Solomon. She brought according to I Kings 10: 10

The Queen of Sheba or the Queen of the South Presented By PWM Emily R. Fucles California

Ruby V. Forsha Auxiliary

character that is central to stones and "almug" or several female Masonic Or- "algum" wood (IKings 10:11) ders. In the Order of the which was used for the Eastern Star, the second de- house of the Lord and for gree is called the "Queen of the king's house, also harps the South". The Queen of and stringed instruments for the South is portrayed in the singers (1 Kings 10, 2 Chroncharacter of "Queen of She- icles: 9:1) were part of the ba" who poses hard questions gifts offered and brought through members of her reti- over on the ships from nue. Her land "Saba" or "The Hi'ram and O'phir. (I Kings land of Sheba" which is now Eastern Yemen is south of Ierusalem allowed the Sabeans to control the trade routes stretching from southwestern Arabia northward into Palestine. The Oueen of Sheba intended to negotiate a trade agreement with king Solomon; she was successful, since the listing of Solomon's wealth includes merchandise "from all the kings of Arabia".4

The Queen of the South, as she is called, visits King Solomon, traveling a distance of approximately 1,200 to 1,400 miles, bearing many gifts4; gold, spices in great quantity, biblical scriptures of I Kings: and precious stones. Great

This "Lecture" is about a quantities of gold, precious Chapter 10).

> The Queen of the South is one of the most powerful but un-named woman of the bible. References may be found in various sections of the Old Testament and New Testament. The fact that she is mentioned in the bible, even by Jesus (Matt: 12:42), plus the various references support that she was a powerful person of her time and would be in ours. Some of the biblical text which will enrich your knowledge of the Queen of Sheba or the Queen of the South in the

Over the years, members of dismantling the Affordable The Phyllis Chapter have worked to improve the mechanics of this organization without over turning those foundational principles. At the onset, when this organization was originally requested, it was because the wives of some Phylaxis Society members wanted to engage in constructive, organized activities while their husbands were occupied with the Phylaxis Society. That was the origin of our existence.

State of the Nation

During the past year and a half, we witnessed and continue to behold gross changes in our country. I have heard many people say, "I have never seen anything like this before in my life." My reference is to the total disrespect and disregard for people as evidenced by the mean spirited demonstration in politics- mocking the humanity of people, their lives and their opened this message with a livelihood. However in large numbers, people around the 7:14, there is hope. The Bible world have let their voices be gives us the way to achieve heard through protest and other demonstrations.

Many Americans now live in fear of some aspects of their lives. Those aspects include Health Care Act, gutting environmental protections, defunding Medicare and Social Security, cuts to the Public Education fund and eventually abolishing the Department of Education, deporting of millions of immigrants, and building a wall along the Mexican border but not along the Canadian border. Even though all of the items mentioned above are looming on our horizon, we know that God is still on the throne. We do not know his plan. Yet, we must have faith, do what we can, and trust him.

President Obama gave us hope. It seems that the new administration has plans to deprive people around the world of a glimmer of hope that was once proclaimed eight years ago. However, I repeat, God is still on the throne. As I passage from 2 Chronicles what we should do as a people. But, will we?



State of the Phyllis

2016 was a productive year for the financial officers and secrethe majority of the Phyllis taries elected and appointed officers, Councils and committees. I extend my warmest thanks to Phyllis committees and members who contacted me for the exchange of important information, who offered support, and provided assistance, when needed. I commend and offer extreme gratitude to all who worked diligently to keep our Chapter functional during the past year. Your performances were and always will be vital for a strong Phyllis Chapter. I appreciate your words of encouragement as well.

Even though we have gathered annually for the most part in March of each year, many of us meet more often between annual sessions through the use of media such as telephone, telecommunication, email, regular mail and/or text messages. Communications were ongoing with numerous committees, such as constitution and Bylaws, Magazine, Newsletters, Special Affairs, Local and National Conference Chairs, special projects, website and Awards and Certificates. And of course, there were quarterly communication and at times

more frequent contact with

One project that was troubling for a number of years was the return of Phyllis Magazines. With update of the US Postal service's use of computers to verify zip codes and addresses, the number of returned magazines has declined dramatically. Before mailing the magazines, the printing service we have used the past three years, confirms the addresses submitted to them prior to the printing process. Now, rather than receiving over 29 returns, that number has dropped to about six.

To keep this situation in check, we need to have all auxiliary secretaries to inform the Phyllis Financial and Executive Secretaries of deaths and address changes because doing so eliminates the expenses for reclaiming those returned magazines. In turn, we encourage members to inform their auxiliaries of any changes. For At-Large members, you are encouraged to notify your Regional Vice President of changes in your contact information.



Friday Work Shop 2017





Pictures on the walls, events and the Phyllis group tour in the old Court House in St. Louis Missouri



Besides it is more costly to re- form your Auxiliary President send magazines. When we do, it or Regional Vice President that means we pay three times for mailing one magazine. That is, we pay to send it the first time. We pay to collect the returned ones. Then we pay a third time, after the address is corrected and the magazine is mailed once more. We definitely need your help to eliminate this problem.

Our ancestors lived with a hopeful spirit that instilled in us the fact no matter how dark it seems, we must continue to seek the light. The Phyllis Charter provides opportunities to seek light that was lit by Sisters and Brothers of the past. They stood valiantly, made sacrifices and left legacies for us to uncover. We need to encourage each other to seek that light and to learn of the trials, tribulations, and successes of our ancestors.

In fact, many of us find solace in uncovering the past because it gives us hope for the future. The audacity of our predecessors can give us courage to dig further to uncover and "Celebrate the achievement of Our Stars".

Six recommendations to all members:

I. If you do not mind sharing your email address, please in-

your email address maybe shared for the purpose of receiving the newsletter.

- 2. Be conscious about keeping personal information updated.
- 3. Start working on presentations as soon possible following the current session.
- 4. Contact your Auxiliary President or Regional Vice President if you would like to share positive or negative changes in your life, the life of close family members or activities of your auxiliary.
- 5. Register for the hotel and annual session early because it gives the conference coordinator an advantage on securing rooms and negotiating prices.
- 6. Start planning for our 35th Annual Session immediately.

Thank you for being here and sharing this session with the members of The Phyllis Chapter. I love you all. I enjoy serving the members of the Phyllis Chapter as your President.

Grand Worthy Matron Shirley Woolford, MO Jurisdiction



Theme:

nen helping others through our works, God is well pleased"

Scripture:

But do not forget to do good and share, for with such a sacrifice God is well pleased. Hebrews 13:16

When I was told that the Phyllis and Phylaxis Convention was being held in St. Louis, I was excited. Then I was told as Grand Worthy Matron, I would host remember. it and I became weary, but nonetheless, I prayed and thought about all of the good help that is here in the great Jurisdiction of Missouri.

We have two Auxiliaries in St. Louis, the Harris McCree Auxiliary and the Barbara A. Jones Auxiliary which includes Barbara A. Jones, as the National Coordinator. Both were a big help to the success of the convention.

We began our quest by meeting and developing working committees along with the Phylaxis Society of St. Louis. The convention has not been in the St. We used our resources wisely and cre-Louis area for more than fifteen years.

Our plans came together and this past thy Matron of Missouri. week, March 6 through March 11, 2017, marked the success of another convention for the Phyllis and Phylaxis Society.

I would like to thank the Harris-McCree Auxiliary and especially Sister Peggy R. McCree, President for accepting the position as Chair and Coordinator for the Convention.

I would be remiss if I did not thank everyone that helped and participated in making the convention something to

I am very pleased to have met so many new and interesting Sisters and Brothers, some of whom I met previously at Midwest Conferences in the past. It is always a pleasure to refresh these acquaintances.

With the help of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge where Henry R. Willis Jr. is the Grand Master, and Grand Worthy Patron James R. Thomas, I want to say thanks for their untiring support and assistance.

ated a team that has made us proud and I am very pleased to be the Grand Wor-

Fraternally Submitted,

Shirley M. Woolfolk **Grand Worthy Matron**





Preserving Our History
The Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter
Order of the Eastern Star
Jurisdiction of the District of Columbia
By Sister Glaceria Brown Mason, MPC,
President of Leila A. Pendleton



Photographer: PM Jeanette Felicia Alexander of Audrey Robinson Underwood Military Chapter No. 15.

On Saturday, July 9, 2016, members of the Leila Amos Pendleton Auxiliary of the Phyllis Chapter followed the tradition set by the late PGWM Thelma Jones Tyler in 1985 by attending and participating in the biannual Joint Archival Ceremony at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University in Washington, DC. The Joint Archival Ceremony was attended by The Honorable Norman L. Campbell, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, PHA; Grand Worthy Matron Venecia C. Bessellieu, Ph.D.; Grand Worthy Patron Albert Pope; and the officers and members of Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star (PHA) in the Jurisdiction of the District of Columbia.

This bi-annual ceremony is a formal

occasion where historical materials documenting the activities of subordinate OES chapters are presented to Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center for preservation. The Moorland Spingarn Research Center is the official repository for the District of Columbia's Prince Hall Masonic and Eastern Star history, and the keeper of our legacy for During this year's ceremony, Prince Hall lodges, Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter future generations and subordinate chapters deposited their history and memorabilia.

In addition, monetary donations were made by MWGM Campbell and GWM Bessellieu to the organization.

Within the stillness of the Founders Library

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where the Moorland-Spingarn Re- our ceremony came from search Center is housed on the MWGM Campbell, GWM Besselhistoric campus of Howard University, down a narrow hall, books, manuscripts, and old sheet tion of New Jersey and PM Sibyl music lined the shelves atop historical artifacts encased in glass for preservation were on dis-The Joint Archival Ceremony of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter was held with standing-roomonly attendance. of Sisters and Brothers, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center staff, and family of deceased members who witnessed the presentation of historical artifacts of their loved ones.

This ceremony was efficiently organized and coordinated by Worshipful Grand Historian, Alonza Tehuti Evans (L24) who prepared the program, communicated with the OES chapters and provided a list of the types of historical materials that should be included in the presentation. Worshipful Associate Grand Historian, James Morgan, III (L18) served as an effective and efficient Master of Ceremonies. Dr. Clifford L. Muse, Jr., Director and University Archivist sincerely welcomed us to Moorland-Spingarn's Research Center. PM Regina Bolden-Woodard (C5) enlightened the audience of the significance of this bi-annual ceremony. Eloquent words of encouragement and the usefulness of

lieu and visiting guests, MWGM Shelton J. Prescott of the Jurisdic-E. Moses, Ph.D., Jurisdiction of Illinois. Grand Master Campbell thanked MWGM Prescott for attending the ceremony. freshments were served following the formal ceremony.

The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center is housed in the Founders Library on the campus of the historic Howard University. The Library opened its doors in 1939. The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center is recognized world-wide as one of the most comprehensive repositories for the documentation of the history and culture of African Americans.

The Research Center collects, preserves, and makes available for research, resources which chronicle the African American experience. To learn more, visit the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center

Source:

Website http:// a t coas.howard.edu/msrc/ collections.html.

Several members of the Leila A. Pendleton Auxiliary were in attendance at this Joint Archival Ceremony:

Glaceria Brown Mason, MPC tary Emeritus in 1994 after serving (President), Lynette Gravely- 29 years as Secretary of Regina Campbell, MPC (Vice President.), Chapter #67. Members that were Dr. Venecia C. Bessellieu, MPC, elected to the Grand Chapter in-Life, Patricia A. Young, MPC, cluded Sister Rosa M. Hines as Eunice J. Dingle, MPC, Sheila A. Grand Secretary of Charity, Sisters Smith, MPC, and Jane L. Robison, Veola O'Neil, Donna McKinney, MPC.

Continue History of Regina Chapter No. 67

Grand Chapter and the com- in the Grand Chapter. munity depends strongly on the success of its fundraising efforts, programs and activities.

Regina Chapter has been active in The Golden State Grand Chapter since its inception, receiving O.E.S. Queen titles, four Grand Star Point titles and awarded numerous first place trophies. Past Patron Harold D. Mure was the 1st Regina Chapter #67 member to be elected as The Most Worshipful Grand Master of The Prince Hall Most Worshipful Prince Grand Lodge F&AM, State of CA, Inc. Sister Luella B. Hilliard, Past Worthy Matron was the 1st Regina Chapter member to be elected as Grand Worthy Matron of the Golden State Grand Chapter. Sister Madeline C. Moses, Past Matron was the 2nd member to be elected as Grand Worthy Matron of Grand Chapter. Charter Member and Past Matron Sister Susie Sawyer received the title of Secre-

Denise Kimble as Grand Trustees and Sister Shirley Rogers Broadnax, who is currently serving as Grand Secretary. In addition many of our Past Matrons have held numerous appointed positions

Regina is proud of its 63 years of history and has been blessed with new Matrons each year. To date, no Past Matron has ever served more than once. Its members are grateful to the 32 original and two surviving Charter Members, Past Matron Sister Vera leffries and Sister Veola O'Neil and thankful to Past Matrons and Past Patrons of Regina Chapter #67 for their dedication and continuous support.

REFERENCES: Regina Chapter #67 -60th Anniversary Souvenir Journal 1954-2004

Monarch Lodge #73 Archival Docu-



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