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The Phyllis



Mary R. McGhee
24th Grand Worthy Matron
North Carolina and Jurisdiction

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**Brother Joseph A. Walkes, Jr.
 Founded the Phyllis Chapter in 1983**

Magazine Subscription

The Phyllis magazine is the official publication of the Phyllis Chapter of The Phylaxis Society. The subscription rate for one year is \$15.00 for non-members and members of the Phylaxis Society. Articles 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 rights reserved.

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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 diverse 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. 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).

Phyllis Chapter Elected and Appointed Officers

Elected Officers

President – Flora J. Simon, FPC - Arkansas
First Vice President – Sibyl Moses, FPC – At Large (Illinois)
Second Vice President – Marlene Pratt, FPC – North Carolina
Treasurer – Barbara J. Callier, FPC - Idaho
Financial Secretary – Eileen Jackson, MPC - Louisiana
Executive Secretary – Barbara Jones, FPC - Missouri
Recording Secretary, Catrice R. Vandross, FPC – District of Columbia

Past Presidents (Living)

Alfreda D. Brumfield, FPC (LA) - Freddie Cooper, FPC (UT) - Flora J. Simon, FPC (AR)

Appointed Officers

Phyllis Magazine Editor – Tikishia Smiley, FPC (NC)
Phyllis Magazine Emeritus – Jeannette Walkes, FPC (KS)
Conference Coordinator – Peggy McCree, MPC (MO)
Chaplain – Mary R. McGhee, MPC (NC)
Vice President of Directors – Gwendolyn Dureseau, FPC (AR)
Vice President of Regions – Florence Shepard, FPC (NC)
Vice President of Auxiliaries – B. J. Callier, FPC (ID)

Directors

Special Affairs – Martha Banton, FPC (MO)
Prince Hall Art Project – Yvonne Haigler, MPC (PA)
History and Historical Site Projects – Sibyl Moses, FPC (IL)

Region I – Eunice J. Dingle, MPC (DC)

- ♦ CT, DE, DC, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, VA, WV, W Europe

Region II – Betty Bell, MPC (KY)

- ♦ AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN, KY, Bahamas, West Indies

Region III – Patricia Jones, MPC (AR)

- ♦ AZ, AR, CA, CO, HI, LA, NV, NM, OK, TX

Region IV – Cynthia McKeown, MPC (MO)

- ♦ AK, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, MA, NE, OR, ND, SD, WA, WI, WY, Canada, Far East

Committees and Committee Members

(The first name will be the chairperson; the second is vice-chair; the President is an ex-official member of all Committees.)

Audit: Eula Bell, (TX); Lena M. Celestine, (NM); Daphne Roberts (PA); Eunice Dingle, (DC); Lydia Lewis, (MO)

Budget and Finance: Peggy McCree, (MO); Barbara Callier, (ID); Linda C. Hunter, (AR); La June Crews, (MS); Eileen Jackson, (LA)

Constitution and Bylaws: Estella Johnson, (CA); Constance Bowie, (TX); Emily Kent-Street, (TX); Tikishia C. Smiley, (NC); Rocheryl Ware, (MS)

Special Affairs: Vera Crowder, (MO); Faye Jones, (NC); Rosalie Stevenson, (NM); Della Horace (AR); Charletta Williams, (KY); Jan Blackwell Robinson, (MD)

Awards and Certificates: Sibyl Moses (IL); Jeannette Walkes, (KS); B. J. Callier, (ID); Florence Shepard, (NC); Flora Simon, (AR)

History: Jeannette Walkes, (KS); Freddie Cooper, (UT); Barbara Jones,(MO); Eileen Jackson, (LA); Venecia Bessellieu, (DC); Aisha Lawful, (NJ); Shirley Hamilton Carter, (NC)

Historical Sites: Sibyl Moses, (IL); Naomi Hunter, (MO); Audrey Hopkins, (NJ/NC); Janice Justice, (NJ); Marlene Pratt, (NC); Terryl D. Williams, (MO)

Prince Hall Art: Marva Montgomery, (PA); Yvonne Haigler, (PA); Barbara Lattimore, (MO); Phyllis Outten, (MD); Mary Miller, (TX)

Magazine Review: Freddie Cooper, (UT); Gwen Dureseau, (AR)

Newsletter: Patricia Jones, (AR); Flora Simon, Pres. (AR)

Local Coordinator: Terryl D. Williams, St. Louis, MO. (Barbara A. Jones Aux.)

National Coordinator: Peggy McCree, Rock Hill, MO. (Harris-McCree Aux.)



The Phyllis Chapter Flora J. Simon, President

125 South College Street
Dumas, Arkansas 71639
(870) 382-0704 H (870) 377-1302 C
fjsimon@centurytel.net



President Flora Simon, Grand Worthy Matron, AR



Mayor Flora Simon, Dumas, AR
Picture furnished by *Dumas Clarion*)

It is often spoken that change is inevitable..... Make it your friend. Louis L' Amour has been quoted as saying, "Some say opportunity knocks only once. That is not true. Opportunity knocks all the time, but you have to be ready for it."

Because we are all leaders in some manner, change should be one of our strongest leadership tools. We are in a period of rapid change in many areas. Much of it is good. Our moral and spiritual principles remain as ever, but we should gladly accept and embrace positive changes in other areas.

We should make all relationships win/win. In all thing where we have control, make it easy for us and others to do the right thing and difficult to do the wrong thing. Where and when possible, we are to design our own system to implement this idea. When done, we will take a quantum leap in leadership ability.

MARY R. MCGHEE

Grand Worthy Matron, NC

Grand Worthy Matron Mary McGhee, a native of Granville County, was born to the late Henry and Grizell Perry Royster. She is the baby girl of twelve children. Mary joined Queen Esther #536 - Piedmont Region in 1980. She served as District Lecturer for three years, District Deputy Grand Matron for nine years and Grand Dean of Education for six years. During her tenure as Dean, GWM McGhee compiled information she used to create "*OES At a Glance.*"



GWM McGhee started her journey to the East by way of the North as Grand Associate Conductress (2010-2013); Grand Conductress (2013-2016) and Grand Associate Matron (2016-2019). It was in September of 2019 that by God's grace, she ascended to the Grand East, as the 24th Grand Worthy Matron for the Jurisdiction of North Carolina.

GWM graduated second in her class from G.C. Shaw High School in 1964. Her educational background includes studies at: Southeastern Business College, Durham Tech, Vance Granville Com. College, East Carolina, NC State, Townes State, and Shaw Universities. She retired from the State of NC with 32 years of service as a Staff Development Specialist with the Murdoch Training Center. After retirement, she returned to Murdoch and worked for 18 additional years. GWM McGhee was awarded the Murdoch Center Employee of the Year Award and the Secretary's Award for Excellence.

GWM McGhee is affiliated with several other civic organizations to include: Past Commandress for Imran Court Daughters (3yrs), member of Minor Perkins Auxiliary Chapter, Chaplain for Phyllis Chapter, past member of the SECU Loan Review Committee (10yrs), Oxford Business and Professional Society, and presently serves as Secretary for N. Granville Medical Center. She maintains her Basic Life Support Instructor Certification and serves as a part-time Faculty member with CPR Consultants Inc.

GWM McGhee loves God and all things of God. She is a faithful member of Michael Creek Missionary Baptist Church where she serves as a Deaconess, Senior Choir Vice-President, and an assistant Sunday School Teacher. She is married to Past Grand Patron Telessie McGhee. They are the proud parents of one son, Captain Kelvin B. McGhee (Navy) and two daughters Celeste Hunter and Latonya McGhee. They have three grandsons RoVonte Moody, Nehemiah and Noah Hunter, one granddaughter, Mikayla McGhee, and one Great Grand Za'Kai Moody. Her hobbies include reading, traveling, watching TV, and bowling.

As the 24th Grand Worthy Matron for the Jurisdiction of NC, Sister McGhee's vision includes the implementation of a plan to reclaim and retain membership. GWM McGhee established "*The Catch a Falling Star Academy*". This academy is designed to provide a mentoring and educational system which pairs newly initiated/reclaimed members with a "A Guiding Light" to assist in their OES Journey.

GWM McGhee is a prayer warrior; believing that nothing is too hard for God and as servants of God we should always be "Available, Acceptable and Accountable" to God and to our membership.

ESTHER THE BEAUTIFUL

Peggy Redus McCree (L)

Harris/McCree Auxiliary

St. Louis, MO

Esther is the third star point. She illustrates justice, courage and fidelity to kindred and friends. She is symbolized by the white sash to make her known to all proper inquires the light, knowledge and beauty of the white ray which symbolizes light, purity and joy.

Her badge is the crown and scepter within a triangle which is an emblem of royalty and power. This reminds us of Esther's courage to save her people and the king's fidelity and justice. Her Hebrew name is Hadassah. Her Persian name is derived from the Persian word for star which is Esther.

“Let's get a little history about Esther”

King Xerxes of Persia was the world's most powerful monarch who ruled the Persian Empire around 486B. C. During the third year of Xerxes reign, he had a huge festival so that he could display all of his wealth to the high ranking governors and officials of his empire. King Xerxes also had a wife named Queen Vashti, and she was holding a celebration for the women of the empire. As the ceremonies progressed, King Xerxes summoned Queen Vashti so that he could show off her beauty to the people in attendance. Instead of appearing before the king the queen refused to listen to her husband's request. Since she was disobedient to her King, Queen Vashti was forever banished from his presence.

King Xerxes had to send out a decree that women were not to follow her example. He did this to avoid civil unrest that could have resulted from massive domestic abuse and chaos within the empire.

This story sets the background for the rise of an extremely beautiful woman named Esther and her godly cousin Mordecai. God had decided to allow the people of Judah to go into captivity to Babylon because of their sins and Mordecai was a young boy when this incident had taken place. Mordecai had an uncle named Abihail who had a daughter named Hadassah. Now Hadassah was an extremely beautiful young woman and she was also called Esther. Mordecai had taken her into his home after her father and mother had passed away.

Esther grew up secure inside of Mordecai's care and she also learned about the importance of her Jewish heritage from him as well. The people all over the region of Susa knew about Esther's beauty. One day King Xerxes decided to find a new queen and he had appointed agents inside of each province for the purpose of making them responsible for finding beautiful virgin females to bring to the king. Well this activity took place over a period before they came across Esther.

Once Esther was chosen for this task, Mordecai reminded her that she must never tell the king or his servants about her Jewish identity.

Esther eventually won the heart of the king and his servants and she was selected to become the new queen of Persia.

Mordecai held a position inside of the king's palace and he went there every day to perform his duties. One day he overheard a conspiracy between two of the king's guards who wanted to assassinate Xerxes. Mordecai alerted the king and the guards were found to be treasonous and were eliminated. King Xerxes appreciated Mordecai's information, but he didn't reward him. Meanwhile a powerful prince within the Persian Empire named Haman had become the second most powerful ruler in the land. King Xerxes told the people that they should bow down to him whenever they see him. Everybody agreed this decree except for Mordecai.

Whenever Haman came into the palace, every official would bow except for Mordecai and his defiance made Haman extremely angry. Haman decided to devise a plot to not only kill Mordecai for his defiance but the rest of the Jewish people as well. Haman was an Agagite and his people were old enemies of the Jews. Prime Minister Haman influenced King Xerxes to kill off a group of people within his empire that were different than the rest of the people because they would not obey the laws of the land. Prime Minister Haman cast lots so that he could determine the best day to carry out the king's decree once it was approved. The people were Jewish.



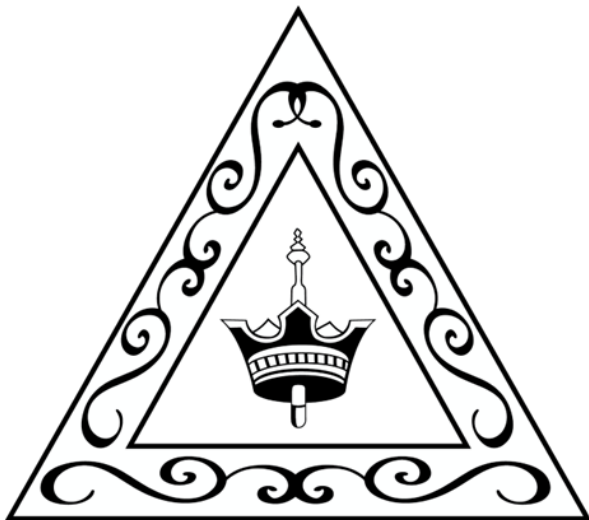
Prime Minister Haman also decided to build a 75 foot tall hanging platform for Mordecai.

While this platform was being constructed King Xerxes had read through his royal records and realized that he never rewarded Mordecai for saving his life from the assassination plot. He summoned Haman and asked him what he should do to honor a man for his service. Prime Minister Haman naturally thought he was talking about himself and told him to dress the man in royal garments and to lead him through the streets on his royal horse. King Xerxes told Prime Minister Haman to do this for Mordecai and Haman was humiliated by the experience.

Mordecai found out what Prime Minister Haman was planning to do to his people and he began to despair. He knew that he had to appeal to Esther to save the people. Esther wanted to save the people but there was one major problem. She just couldn't go into the presence of the king, she had to be invited otherwise she might lose her life. Mordecai had to convince her that if

she didn't follow through with these actions that God was going to get another savior to take her place and that she didn't follow through with these actions that God was going to get another savior to take her place and that she would be killed. Esther agreed and fasted and went in to see the king. The king honored her presence, and she requested a two day banquet with the king and Prime Minister Haman. On the second day of the banquet,

Queen Esther revealed to the king what had happened and Haman was hanged on the pole he designed for Mordecai; The Jewish people managed to avoid being exterminated by Haman's sympathizers and Mordecai was elected to his position. God used Queen and her cousin Prime Minister Mordecai to save the Jewish people from being exterminated while under the rule of the Persian Empire. The Festival of Purim was established by Mordecai to remind Jewish people how they were saved by Queen Esther and Mordecai from extermination.



God Won't Ask

God won't ask what kind of car you drove, but will ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation. God won't ask the square footage of your house, but will ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the fancy clothes you had in your closet, but will ask how many of those clothes helped the needy.

God won't ask about your social status, but will ask what kind of class you displayed.

God won't ask how many material possessions you had, but will ask if they dictated your life.

God won't ask what your highest salary was but will ask if you compromised your character to obtain that salary.

God won't ask how much overtime you worked, but will ask if you worked overtime for your family and loved ones.

God won't ask how many promotions you received, but will ask how you promoted others.

God won't ask what your job title was, but will ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask what you did to help yourself, but will ask what you did to help others.

God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, but will ask how you treated your neighbors.

God won't ask about the color of your skin, but will ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask how many friends you had, but will ask how many people to whom you were a true friend.

Written by: Jill E. Penley

A Military Soldier Makes History In The Order Of Eastern Star, PHA, In The State Of New Jersey

By Michael Blackmon, OES, Atlantic Chapter #3

On January 25, 2020, Eugeneia Lewis became the first Military Soldier to be honored in the State of New Jersey Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation at the 111th Annual Banquet for her dedicated service in the Community, Military and to the Atlantic Chapter #3, Order of the Eastern Star located in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Eugeneia Lee Lewis was born in Vineland, New Jersey and is the proud daughter of Eugene Lewis and the late Carol DeFlanders Lewis. Following graduation from Egg Harbor High School she graduated from Stockton University receiving a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Social Work with a Minor in Africans Studies. She received a Master Degree of Social Work from Rutgers University. She is the proud mother of two beautiful children, Devin Lewis 29 and DiShayna Dennis 25. Eugeneia Lewis attends the Victory AME Zion Church.

She served 7 years in the United States Marine Corps and 14 years in the United States Army National Guard. The Sergeant First Class is currently serving with the Joint Directorate of Intelligence in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

From June 22, 2008 to May 26, 2009, she was deployed to Al Basrah, Camp Bucca, Iraq- Detainee Operations. She received a "Battlefield" promotion to Corporal and a follow on promotion to Sergeant.

For her service in Ali Al Samem, Kuwait from February 1, 2018 to December 27, 2018, she received the Recognition of Excellence by Special Operations Command Center (SOCCENT) Tampa, FL and a Certificate of Appreciation from Director of Logistics and Lead Exercise Logistics Planner SOCCENT.

Decorations, Awards, and Citations

Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Army Accommodation Medal Award, Army Achievement Medal Award, National Defense Service Medal Award, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, The Danish Signal Regiment Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon Award, Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/ M Device, New Jersey State Ribbon, New Jersey Good Conduct Ribbon, New Jersey Merit Award and the New Jersey Distinguish Service Medal.



Philanthropic Associations

Atlantic Chapter #3, Order of Eastern Star; Member of the Juvenile Conference Committee in Buena Vista New Jersey from 2011; American Legion.

She is shaped by her history and she is encouraged to contribute heartfelt work in her community. Eugeneia is ever prayerful in doing the work that the Grand Architect has laid out before her.

Directions to Heaven

First of All, WHOSOEVERWILL must make a U-turn on the ROAD OF REPENTANCE, then make a right onto BELIEVETH BLVD. Keep straight and go through the green light, which is JESUS CHRIST! From there you must turn onto the bridge of FAITH, which is over troubled water. When you get off the bridge make a right turn and keep straight. You are on the KING'S HIGHWAY: HEAVEN BOUND. Keep going for three miles: One for the FATHER, One for the SON One for the HOLY GHOST.



Then exit off onto GRACE BLVD. From there make a right turn onto GOSPEL LANE. Keep straight and then make another right onto PRAYER BLVD. As you go on your way yield not to the traffic on TEMPTATION AVENUE, and also avoid SIN STREET because it is a DEAD END. Pass up ENVY DRIVE and HATE AVENUE. Also pass HYPOCRISY STREET, GOSSIPING LANE, and BACKBITING BLVD, You have to go down LONG SUFFERING LANE, PERSECUTION BLVD, and TRIALS and TRIBULATIONS AVENUE. From there, make another right turn onto PEACE STREET. Keep straight and you will come to the parking lot of IMMORTALITY. It's alright to park there. Get out of the body and junk it. Go into the building not made by hands, sit down and talk to KING JESUS.

Tell Him all about your troubles and dwell in His house forever.

North Carolina



North Carolina is located in the southeastern region of the United States. North Carolina is the 28th largest and 9th-most populous of the 50 United States. It is bordered by Virginia to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, Georgia and South Carolina to the south, and Tennessee to the west. Raleigh is the state's capital and Charlotte is its largest city. The Charlotte metropolitan area, with an estimated population of 2,569,213 in 2018, is the most populous metropolitan area in North Carolina, the 23rd-most populous in the United States, and the largest banking center in the nation after New York City. The Raleigh metropolitan area is the second-largest metropolitan area in the state, with an estimated population of 1,362,540 in 2018, and is home to the largest research park in the United States, Research Triangle Park.

The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill is the oldest State University in the United States. In 1903 the Wright Brothers made the first successful powered flight by man at Kill Devil Hill near Kitty Hawk. The Wright Memorial at Kitty Hawks now commemorates their achievement. High Point is known as the Furniture Capital of the World.

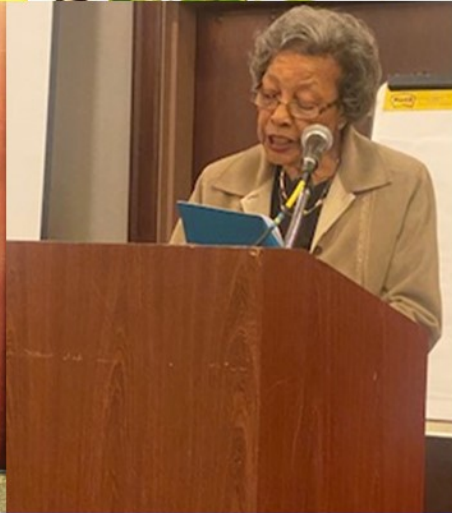
Raleigh is the capital of the state of North Carolina and the seat of Wake County in the United States. Raleigh is the second-largest city in the state, after Charlotte. Raleigh is known as the "City of Oaks" for its many oak trees, which line the streets in the heart of the city. The city covers a land area of 142.8 square miles (370 km²). The U.S. Census Bureau estimated the city's population as 469,298 as of July 1, 2018. It is one of the fastest-growing cities in the country. The city of Raleigh is named after Sir Walter Raleigh, who established the lost Roanoke Colony in present-day Dare County.

Raleigh is an early example in the United States of a planned city. Following the American Revolutionary War when the US gained independence, this was chosen as the site of the state capital in 1788 and incorporated in 1792 as such. The city was originally laid out in a grid pattern with the North Carolina State Capitol in Union Square at the center.

Raleigh has a population of 449,477 and is one of the best places to live in North Carolina. Living in Raleigh offers residents a suburban feel and most residents own their homes. There are a plethora lot of restaurants, coffee shops, and parks. It is always voted one of the best place to live in America, and the reason why is ridiculously obvious. Between the great food, the cheap cost of living, and the endless things to do, it's a no brainer. Besides, ask anyone here, there's no better living than southern living

HBCU's in North Carolina

Bennett College (1873)
Elizabeth City State University (1891)
Fayetteville State University (1867)
Johnson C. Smith University (1867)
Livingstone College (1879)
NC A&T State University (1891)
NC Central University (1910)
St. Augustine's University (1867)
Shaw University (1865)
Winston-Salem State University (1892)





Venecia C. Bessellieu Research and Education Chapter Holds Historic Inaugural Meeting

By: Sis. G. Delores Ellerbe, MPC

Having a great vision in early 2015, then Grand Worthy Matron Venecia C. Bessellieu made a recommendation in her Stewardship Address to establish a Research and Education Chapter within Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter (GTGC) to work in conjunction with the David A. McWilliams Research and Education Lodge. The purpose and goal of the Research and Education Chapter is to conduct research specific to the GTGC of the District of Columbia and its subordinate chapters. At the 124th Annual Communication of GTGC in December 2016, the Grand Body approved the naming of the Chapter after GWM Venecia C. Bessellieu, thus the name of the chapter became the Venecia C. Bessellieu Research and Education Chapter (VCBREC) and requested that By-Laws be developed and brought back for final approval. The following members got busy developing those By-Laws for VCBREC:

PM Catrice R. Vandross (C-5), Chairperson, PGWM G. Delores Ellerbe (C-4), Co-Chairperson, PM J. Felicia Alexander (C-15), PGWM Margaret E. Anderson (C-6), PM Norma J. Brooks (C-11), Sis. Christine Vaughn (C-5), AP Milford Alphonso (Al), and Vaughn, Jr. (C-5)

After two years of working diligently to develop the guidelines and subsequent By-Laws for this “hybrid” chapter, and after several rejections, at the 126th Annual Communication of GTGC, under the leadership of then GWM Patricia L. Young, the VCBREC By-Laws were approved by the Grand Body and GWM Young appointed the following officers: Worthy Matron: PM Catrice R. Vandross (C-5), Worthy Patron: Bro. Milford Al Vaughn (C-5), Associate Matron: PGWM G. Delores Ellerbe (C-4), Associate Patron: WP Kenneth Pough (C-14), Conductress: PGWM Margaret E. Anderson (C-6), Associate Conductress: PM LaJuan O.G. Hunter (C-14), Treasurer :PGWM Patricia L. Young (C-1), Secretary: PM Norma J. Brooks (C-11), Marshal: Sis. Christine Vaughn (C-5), Sentinel: PAP James L. Vandross, Sr. (C-5), and Warder: PM J. Felicia Alexander (C-15).

This new entity within GTGC is not a chartered chapter but is comprised of current members of the 15 subordinate chapters who are dedicated to the research and education of the beautiful allegories of Eastern Stardom, in general, and the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, PHA for the Jurisdiction of the District of Columbia and its Jurisdiction, in particular, to illuminate the Order and be better agents of change and service in our community.

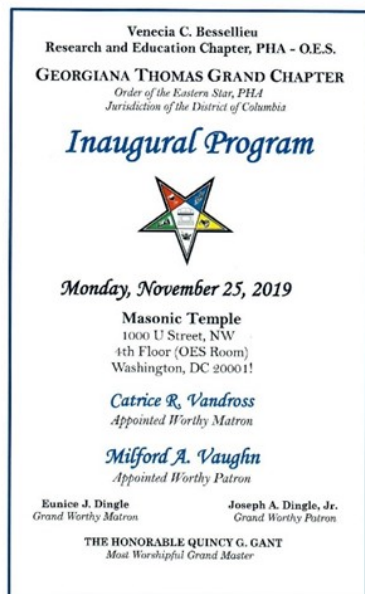
The VCBREC will assist in educating, collecting, compiling, and preserving the history of the GTGC. Members will also assist in providing light and knowledge to educate our membership on the importance of preserving our collective histories, and will research and collect data from various sources to assist the 15 subordinate chapters in the preparation and compilation of their historic highlights and their various research endeavors. There are three types of membership in VCBREC: Research, General, and Honorary.

A Research Member is one who has completed the required research guidelines. She must have written and presented a research paper, or have conducted a seminar/workshop, or provided light and knowledge in open session within the VCBREC or the Phyllis Chapter. Research Members are eligible to hold elective office.

A General Member is an active member of the Eastern Star who pays dues. S(he) will have a voice and can vote in VCBREC. General membership of a Sister is any Eastern Star who is a member of a GTGC subordinate chapter in good standing. She is eligible to hold an appointed office in VCBREC. General Membership of a Master Mason is any Brother who is a member in good standing of one of the warranted lodges of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of DC and a member of a GTGC subordinate chapter in good standing. He is eligible to hold office in VCBREC.

An Honorary Member is an active member of the Order of the Eastern Star of a Prince Hall Affiliated Jurisdiction. Membership may be granted to individuals who have provided distinguished service to VCBREC. Honorary members will have the right to present their valuable research in our Jurisdiction, but Honorary Members are not eligible to hold office within VCBREC. Membership in VCBREC cannot be obtained through demit. In addition to the officers named above, the following list completes the “charter” members of VCBREC: PM Yvonne D. Baskerville (C-12), PGWM Dr. Venecia C. Bessellieu (C-5), Bro. Alonza Tehuti Evans (L-14), MWGM Quincy G. Gant (C-14), PM Iceleen Griffin (C-16), PM Elizabeth L. Howard (C-4), GS Carolyn D. Joyner (C-6), PM Dorothy Kittrell (C-5), PP Marco Kittrell (C-5), PM Eric Konohia (L-26), PM James Morgan (L-18), PGWM Jane R. L. Robison (C-1), PP Alvin Smith (C-1), PGWM Ruth C. Smith (C-8), PM Tamalyn Smith (C-1), PM Juanita E. Vandross (C-5), PAP James L. Vandross (C-5), PM Dr. Shelly Walker (C-8), PGTru Addie L. Watson (C-6), and PM Juanita Griffin Zani (C-16)

Having met all the requirements to operate under the GTGC, and with the blessings of Grand Worthy Matron Eunice J. Dingle (C-6), VCBREC held its Inaugural Communication on Monday, November 25, 2019, with Appointed Worthy Matron Catrice R. Vandross (C-5) and Appointed Worthy Patron Milford Al Vaughn (C-5) presiding in the East during the ritualistic opening. Special gratitude is extended to WM Yolanda Edwards-Brown for the use of the regalia of Prince Hall Chapter No. 5.



Above Inaugural Program and Charter Members present (Top Row, L-R): PGWM Venecia C. Bessellieu (C-5), GS Carolyn D. Joyner (C-6), PGWM G. Delores Ellerbe (C-4), PP Kenneth N. Pough (C-14), PM Catrice R. Vandross (C-5), PM Norma J. Brooks (C-11), Sis. Christine Vaughn (C-5). (Middle/Bottom Row, L-R): PGWM Jane R.L. Robison (C-1), PM LaJuan O.G. Hunter (C-14), PGWM Margaret E. Anderson (C-6), Bro. Al Vaughn (C-5), PGWM Patricia L. Young (C-1), PM J. Felicia Alexander (C-15), PM Juanita Griffin Zani (C-16), PM Elizabeth L. Howard (C-4), PAP James Vandross (C-5). Not pictured but in attendance was PGTRu Addie L. Watson (C-6).

All other officers appointed by PGWM Young were present and performed in their stations during the Inaugural Communication. Visiting PM E. Millá Jordan (C-12) served in the station of Adah. Also in attendance were Associate Grand Matron Sheila A. Smith (C-12) [representing GWM Eunice J. Dingle] and PGWP Albert Pope (C-12) [representing GWP Joseph A. Dingle] who were out of town attending to her ailing father. The following “charter” members were in attendance (alphabetical order): PM J. Felicia Alexander, PGWM Margaret E. Anderson, PM Norma Brooks, PGWM G. Delores Ellerbe, Bro. A. Tehuti Evans, MWGM Quincy G. Gant, PM Iceleen Griffin, PM Elizabeth L. Howard, PM LaJuan O.G. Hunter, GS Carolyn D. Joyner, Bro. James A. Morgan, PP Kenneth N. Pough, PGWM Jane R.L. Robison, PM Catrice r. Vandross, PAP James L. Vandross, Sis. Christine Vaughn, Bro. Milford Al Vaughn, PGTRu Addie L. Watson, PGWM Patricia L. Young, and PM Juanita Griffin Zani.

The following visitors were in attendance: PM R. Denise Better (C-6), Sis. Linda B. Cross (C-5), WM Yolanda Edwards-Brown (C-5), Sis. Gerly Sapphire Harris (C-12), PM Asya L. Heatley (C-7), Wor. Milton Hopkins, PM Marion Ethel Howard (C-4), Sis. Patricia Ireland (C-5), WGCOS Marcus D. James, Sr., PM E. Milla Jordan (C-12), Sis. Jocelyn Long (C-12), Sis. Nataki MacMurray (C-6), PM Donna L. Miller (C-4), WM Demetrice Parker Phillips (C-2), PGWP Albert Pope (C-12), Sis. Sharae Sharp (C-6), and AGM Sheila A. Smith (C-12).

Shortly after the opening, there was an alarm at the door and Most Worshipful Grand Master Quincy G. Gant (C-14), with his core of officers, was admitted. MWGM Gant was greeted at the altar and escorted to the East.

Under the guidance of the very capable Mistress of Ceremonies, PGWM Margaret E. Anderson (C-6), the Inaugural Program commenced. The first half consisted of the invocation by WP Milford Al Vaughn, a welcome by PGWM G. Delores Ellerbe, historical highlights by PGWM Venecia C. Bessellieu, and an inaugural poem by PM LaJuan O.G. Hunter. PGWM Patricia L. Young, along with MWGM Quincy G. Gant, AGM Sheila A. Smith, PGWP Albert Pope and PGWM Bessellieu, presented the “charter” members with a beautiful, frameable Certificate of Membership and the first appointed officers with a Certificate of Appointment.



Above: Presenting certificates to appointed officers and "charter" members of VCBREC were (L-R); PGWM Patricia L. Young (C-1), (under whose leadership VCBREC was authorized), MWGM Quincy G. Gant (C-14), AGM Sheila A. Smith (C-12), PGWM Venecia C. Bessellieu (C-5), and PGWP Albert Pope (C-12).



Above Left: Incoming Worthy Matron G. Delores Ellerbe congratulates outgoing Worthy Matron Catrice R. Vandross for her unwavering efforts to start the VCBREC.



Above Right: First elected Worthy Matron, PGWM G. Delores Ellerbe, and first elected Worthy Patron, PP Kenneth N. Pough, pause for photo after being installed.

Appointed Worthy Matron Catrice R. Vandross then gave her Visionary Address, where she shared the highlights that brought us to this inaugural evening, the By-Laws of VCBREC that make this chapter a little different from the other 15 chartered chapters, and finally the goals and objectives of VCBREC for the ensuing year. The main goals for 2020 are to (1) research and produce the next edition of the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter Highlights, covering the years of 2003 - 2020, inclusively; and (2) develop and present several educational workshops to present to the membership at various times throughout the year. The members of VCBREC are in harmony with the direction she outlined.

For the outstanding work performed by Appointed Worthy Matron Vandross, she received many gifts of appreciation for a job well done. She also presented "research kits" to all officers in attendance. After remarks from the Appointed Worthy Patron Vaughn, PGWP Pope, AGM Smith, and MWGM Gant, visitors were invited to retire to the Brent Dining Room where light refreshments awaited them.

After the guests retired, the Chapter was polled with 20 members present and MWGM Quincy G. Gant served as moderator and installing officer for the first elected officers of VCBREC. The following slate of officers were declared duly elected for FY 2020, and with the assistance of Wor. Marcus D. James, Sr., and Wor. Milton Hopkins, they were installed: Worthy Matron: PGWM G. Delores Ellerbe (C-4), Worthy Patron: WP Kenneth Pough (C-14), Associate Matron: PGWM Margaret E. Anderson (C-6), Associate Patron: Bro. Milford Al Vaughn (C-5), Conductress: PM LaJuan O.G. Hunter (C-14), Associate Conductress: PGWM Patricia L. Young (C-1), Treasurer: PGWM Venecia C. Bessellieu (C-5), and Secretary: PM Norma J. Brooks (C-11)

The following appointed officers will remain in their stations: Marshal: Sis. Christine Vaughn (C-5), Sentinel: PAP James L. Vandross, Sr. (C-5), and Warder: PM J. Felicia Alexander (C-15)

Although VCBREC will hold its meetings quarterly (November, February, May, and September) it has a ritualistic opening in November and a ritualistic closing in September. During the course of the year, members engage in research for the identified initiatives and educational workshops for our membership. The theme for this year is: ***"The Past Will Live, So Let's Get Busy."***

With all the business being conducted for this meeting, prayer was offered, the altar was attended, and PGWM G. Delores Ellerbe, newly elected Worthy Matron, called Venecia C. Bessellieu Research and Education Chapter to recess until its next Communication.

NOTE: Since inception, the following have become members of VCBREC: GWM Eunice J. Dingle, PM Marion Ethel Howard, and Trustee. E. Millá Jordan.

Elected Officers of VCBREC

PGWM Margaret E. Anderson
Associate Matron

PGWM Margaret E. Anderson
Associate Matron



PM Lajuan O.G. Hunter
Conductress



PM Norma J. Brooks
Secretary

PGWM Venecia C. Bessellieu
Treasurer



PGWM Patricia L. Young
Associate Conductress

Original Signature of Members

Venecia C. Bessellieu Research
and Education Chapter Meeting
November 25, 2019

MWGM Quincy G. Grant
WAGOS Marcus D. James Sr
Wor. A. Tehuti Evans
Wor. James A. Morgan
WM Demetrio Parker-Phillips
Wm. Helanda Edwards-Brown
E. Milla Jordan
Dana L. M. 114
Sharae Sharp
Nataki MacMurray
Dana S. Gleebe
Delicia Tisdale
James L. Vandross
J. Felicia Alexander, PM (C-15)
Kenneth N. Pough, PP (C14, L24)
Gerly Sapphire HARRIS (C-12)
Jocelyn Long (C-12)
Addie A. Watson
Linda B. Cross
Marion Ethel Howard
Lajuan O.G. HUNTER (C-14)
James R. Morgan
Wor. Tehuti
M. TED HOOKINS

JANE R. L. ROBINSON
Carolyn D. Joyner
Albert Pope
ELIZABETH L. HOWARD
ASYA L. HEATLEY
Brenise Betten
Patricia L. Young
Janita Griffin Zani
MARGARET E. ANDERSON
Lajuan O.G. Hunter
Christine Vaughn
AL Vaughn
Norma J. Brooks
Catrice Vandross

Jane R. L. Robinson
Carolyn D. Joyner
Albert Pope
Elizabeth L. Howard
Asya L. Heatley
Brenise Betten
Patricia L. Young
Janita Griffin Zani
Margaret E. Anderson
Lajuan O.G. Hunter
Christine Vaughn
AL Vaughn
Norma J. Brooks

Carole Reynolds

In My Own Words

Member At Large Hawaii

My life as a volunteer started long before my journey in the Order of the Eastern Stars. As a child my father Mervin Aird made doing good deeds and giving back to others fun and a permanent part of our lives. I remember from an early age volunteering with him at the orphanage for Disabled children. My father would dress up as Santa Claus every Christmas, we had a donkey cart and reindeer antlers on the donkey. He would ride up the street and we would give out toys to the children from all around town. He was also a member of the Seafront Lions Club, so we were always volunteering somewhere collecting glasses, washing cars, giving out food; it just was a part of my everyday life.

When I came to America my passion for helping people in need didn't waiver. Everywhere I went there always seemed to be a need for people that just wanted a hand up. My father would always say "it's never a hand out Carole, always a hand up", so that is where my journey began. My grandmother would always say "learn something new every day so you don't waste a day, and in order to do that you have to surround yourself with people. Meet new people every day no matter if they were educated or not. Pay no mind to where they lived or where they were from. Everyone has a story and a lesson to be learned inside them that they are just waiting to share." About 15 years ago my husband William T. Reynolds III who served in the U.S. Air Force and I were stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland. I was substitute teaching at Mead Middle School at the time and I thought to myself, "What can I do to give back to the students?" After a long talk with my husband, we became mentors.

It all started with some of my friends and they're teenaged children coming to my

house after school. The kids loved spending time at my house because I was always doing some sort of arts and crafts. Because of my upbringing on the island of Trinidad, I learned a lot of things not commonly done in the so-called civilized world. I used some of my ancient knowledge to teach the kids things like, how to take lint from the drying machine and make paper. At first they thought I was crazy, but once they all made paper from the lint they thought it was pretty cool. The word quickly got out that I was spending time with some of the students. It didn't take long before a large group of students came to me and asked if I would create a dance/step team as an after school activity.

Once again, I spoke with my husband who always supports me and he agreed just as long as the school approved of it. I informed the students that I would talk to the principal to get permission and support from the school administration to see if we could make this happen. After speaking with the principal and explaining what the kids were asking for he agreed with one stipulation; I had to open it up to all students. I was overjoyed that I would be able to create something the students wanted to participate in at the school that had never existed. The principal was so onboard with the idea, he helped me create the flyers to be posted around the school. He also announced over the school intercom that afternoon that anyone who was interested in joining the school step team to meet in the school gym after school. To our surprise one hundred students showed up in the gym that day after school.

My husband and I knew very quickly that we could not do this without some help. We decided to reach out to some of our friends who were members of Greek sororities that

Were accustomed to stepping since I knew nothing about stepping. Someone somewhere once said "Build it, and they will come". With the help of several of our friends our efforts to start a small program after school evolved into something much greater than I anticipated. We eventually became "It Takes a Village". The evolution of our rag tag organization increased the number of children coming out to join the step team. Those who didn't meet the step criteria wanted to know could we start a choir, then we were asked to provide math tutors. I did not know how to say 'NO' because I've always been able to find help for anyone in need. My husband and I soon realized that the children we provided opportunities for in Baltimore were lacking cultural history and cultural pride.

Overtime our request from the students became greater, we were not just filling the gym and providing our services as step instructors, my husband became a choir director, and we also had one of our students who was a black belt in karate who wanted to start a self-defense class, which evolved into a young gentleman's club teaching self-esteem and character building. With the assistance of many adult volunteers we decided to take our group on a cultural field trip. So we came up with a plan to take all the students on a train ride to Washington D.C. to see the Black and Wax museum, the African Museum and the American Heritage Museum. We didn't know that none of the children in our group had ever been on a train. The excitement from the kids on the train let me know that all my work was not in vain. The parents of the students in our group were very grateful because their children were excelling in school due to the requirements we put in place that everyone in our group must have at least an overall C average in order to participate in any of our events.

I remember just before we left Maryland we decided to do our career day at Meade Middle School, the children had just done a school pro-

gram that categorized them into groups by their test scores. The goal was to compare students in America to those in Korea. The results of the program showed that Korean school systems believed that African American children were only going to be good at jobs as plumbers and welders, etc. Although we all need such professions we could see what those results did to the children's self-esteem. Here was a group of children from another ethnic background whose families are pushing them to be doctors and lawyers telling them that they would only be good for manual professions.

After witnessing this catastrophic mental and emotional opinionated display by people from another country of what our children should aspire to be, I told my students to write me letters explaining what they wanted to be when they grow up. Thirty five children and I went out into the community, and with the help of my husband and our team we found mentors in all the career fields that were presented to us to come and speak to our students so they could see that it can be done. Over the years we have followed the paths the children of our program have chosen and were proud to see that the majority of them have blossomed into beautiful, talented and prosperous young adults. All good things must come to an end.

My husband received orders to Hawaii and my family and I moved to the Island of Oahu. Not long after arriving in Hawaii my husband became a Prince Hall Mason. I was never the type of person to be attached to groups but my husband eventually persuaded me to become a member of the Prince Hall Order of Eastern Star. In 2005 I put my petition in for membership and was accepted and became a member of Cosmopolitan Chapter Number One, Prince Hall Order of Eastern Stars of Hawaii, Right of Adoption, Inc.

I had some of the greatest mentors in the world who are now deceased. The first Grand Worthy Matron of Hawaii sister Vivian Rich Hill whose legacy was to always be a lady.

Then there was Sister Sheila Scott who reminded me that when you see a sister, you cannot judge her because you don't know the journey she's been traveling on. Also, to always greet each person you meet the way you would want them to greet you.

Sister Mary Nelson, she would pop my legs if I did not cut those corners or if I stepped out of my chair the wrong way. Sister Nelson taught me that the ritual even if it seems redundant at times was the discipline that created the spirit of unity.

Through the order I soon realized that I now had women who were for the most part like-minded. We had a heart of a servant, we had the spirit of a giver, and we had teachers that taught us our purpose as servants to our communities and by our oaths we were bound to protect one another.

It has been 14 years since I first joined the order. It doesn't even seem that long, but over the years I have watched young woman bloom from the seeds that I have planted. I have wanted to give up many times but I have learned many things about myself along this journey. There are many women like I once was that need sisterhood and the right mentors to help guide them along their journey. The Order of Eastern Stars has been that light in the east that has guided me into being a better woman, wife and friend to my husband and mother of my children.

There was something my grandmother shared with me many years ago, or what I realized one day, or it was just something I had learned about my own self along my journey. When you don't open your heart or your hands you cannot receive, nor can you give. So I walk around all day figuratively of course, always looking for an opportunity to serve. Being an eastern star has been an honor. Although there have been rough times, the good days outweigh the bad days so I won't complain. I am always ready to serve.

PHYLLIS CHAPTER 2021 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Theme:

“Embracing Change and Transformation”

ALERT !! We are tentatively planning for a virtual conference this year, instead of the on-site conference. **ALERT!!**

You will receive the official workshop registration from your Auxiliary President

Here is some information to help you in our preparation. If you need more information, Please contact our 1st Vice President Sibyl Moses

Length of presentation

20 mins ___ 30 mins ___ 40 mins ___ 50 mins ___
(time may be limited)

Time preferred

___ morning ___ afternoon

You will need to give a brief summary of the presentation

Type of presentation

Research ___ Informational ___ Leadership ___
Motivational ___ Entertainment ___

Format of your presentation

Lecture ___ Demonstration ___
Lecture/Demo ___ Lecture/Presentation ___

**Mail completed registration: Sibyl E. Moses
8201 Sixteenth Street #1012, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: (301) 495-2949 (732) 497-7988 (cell)**

Email: sibyl.moses@gmail.com

DEADLINE: December 31, 2020

(please call to discuss if extra is time needed)

PLEASE PHONE OR EMAIL SIBYL E. MOSES IMMEDIATELY

Guidelines for Workshop Presenters

A workshop must fall into one of the categories listed below:

Research – Topics researched and materials documented that directly or indirectly relate to the Order of the Eastern Star (PHA).

Leadership Development – Leadership and communication topics that will aid in the personal development of Phyllis members.

Informational – Presentations based on history, methods, procedures, or general knowledge which is directly or indirectly related to the Order of the Eastern Star (PHA).

Motivational – Topics for personal growth or enrichment. The project does not have to be related to the Order of the Eastern Star (PHA), but must contain meaningful content.

The presenter must determine if the presentation will be in the format of:

Lecture

Demonstration

Lecture/Demonstration

Lecture with participant participation

In addition to the four workshop categories listed in number 1 (one), members may submit materials they would like to present for entertainment, such as a relaxer, skit, quiz, game, recitation, etc. These activities will be used as fillers between workshops and will be limited in number.

A letter of intent, with an outline or synopsis of the workshop, must be submitted to the Phyllis Chapter's 1st Vice President for review and approval prior to the presentation. The letter, outline and/or synopsis, must be received by December 31, 2020. The 1st Vice President will confer with the President before topics are accepted for presentation.

All persons submitting materials for review will be notified of acceptance before or on January 30, 2021.

The Phyllis Chapter's Executive Board reserves the right to edit and/o reject any material sent to be considered for approval as a workshop presentation.

The Story of The Phyllis Chapter Memorial Design



July 2019 -In preparation for the 2020 Session being held in NC, I contacted President Simon for some guidance on what she wanted the Session to look like. She immediately said she would like some "uump" added to the Memorial Service held on Thursday morning. The service is usually short and does not adequately show relevance and respect to our deceased members who have contributed so much to our Chapter and Auxiliaries. So, my mind began to think about what could be done to heighten our celebration. While working on another project for the Phyllis Magazine mailing list, I came across some names that should be added to our list for 2020.

August 2019 – In a dream at 4:00 am, I was awakened with a design for the tribute. Later that day this design was sent to our two creative artists (Sister Mamie Ingram and Sister Tikishia Smiley). One week later, Sister Ingram called and said, "Don't worry; we've got this". Yet, I was still a little worried but I knew I could count on this becoming what I had envisioned. Well, one day in late August Sister Ingram came over with the backboard and said "This is what we will put our emblems on. I thought OK; this will work!

September 2019 Meeting - Sister Smiley came to the meeting with a design (my dream) and it fit perfectly on the center of the backboard. Sister Ingram stated that the pencils would be added later. Well.....it took all I had to hold back the tears. You never expect your dream's reality to look just as you imagined. The members were told about my idea to have each deceased member remembered with a rose inserted into a heart. Our membership put the finishing touches to the presentation, even using yellow and blue ribbons on the Marshal's baton.

It was a beautiful service with the Phylaxis not following the usual procedure of doing their service first and Phyllis last. (I think they got a little nervous when the TEAM lined up for the procession for our service. LOL) Pictured at the top is the Phyllis Chapter Memorial Service Design donated to the Phyllis Chapter from Minor-Perkins Auxiliary. There are 11 roses representing the sisters of the Phyllis Chapter who passed from January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019. The TEAM: Sisters Helen Alexander MPC (Life), Leslie I. Caldwell MPC, Mamie Ingram MPC (Life), Gwen Joyner MPC (Life), Barbara Martin MPC, Janet McGrant MPC, Vanessa Murchison MPC (Marshal), Rose S. Nelson MPC (Life), Tikishia Carter Smiley FPC (Life), Janet Steed MPC, Glenda Walston MPC (Life) (Musician) and Sisters Eileen Jackson (LA) and Phyllis Outten MPC (Life) MD, representing sisters from their state.

Thanks also to Sister Gloria Gilliam McFarlin, florist, for her help with the design and flowers.

Welcome to the NEW LEADERSHIP



President
Flora J. Simon, FPC
Arkansas



First Vice President
Sibyl Moses, FPC
At Large (Illinois)



Second Vice President
Marlene Pratt, FPC
North Carolina



Treasurer
Barbara J. Callier, FPC
Idaho



Financial Secretary
Eileen Jackson, MPC
Louisiana



Executive Secretary
Barbara Jones, FPC
Missouri



Recording Secretary
Catrice R. Vandross, FPC
District of Columbia



Virtual Conference Survey



Please reply to the survey by November 15, 2020

You may reply via mail, text or email to:

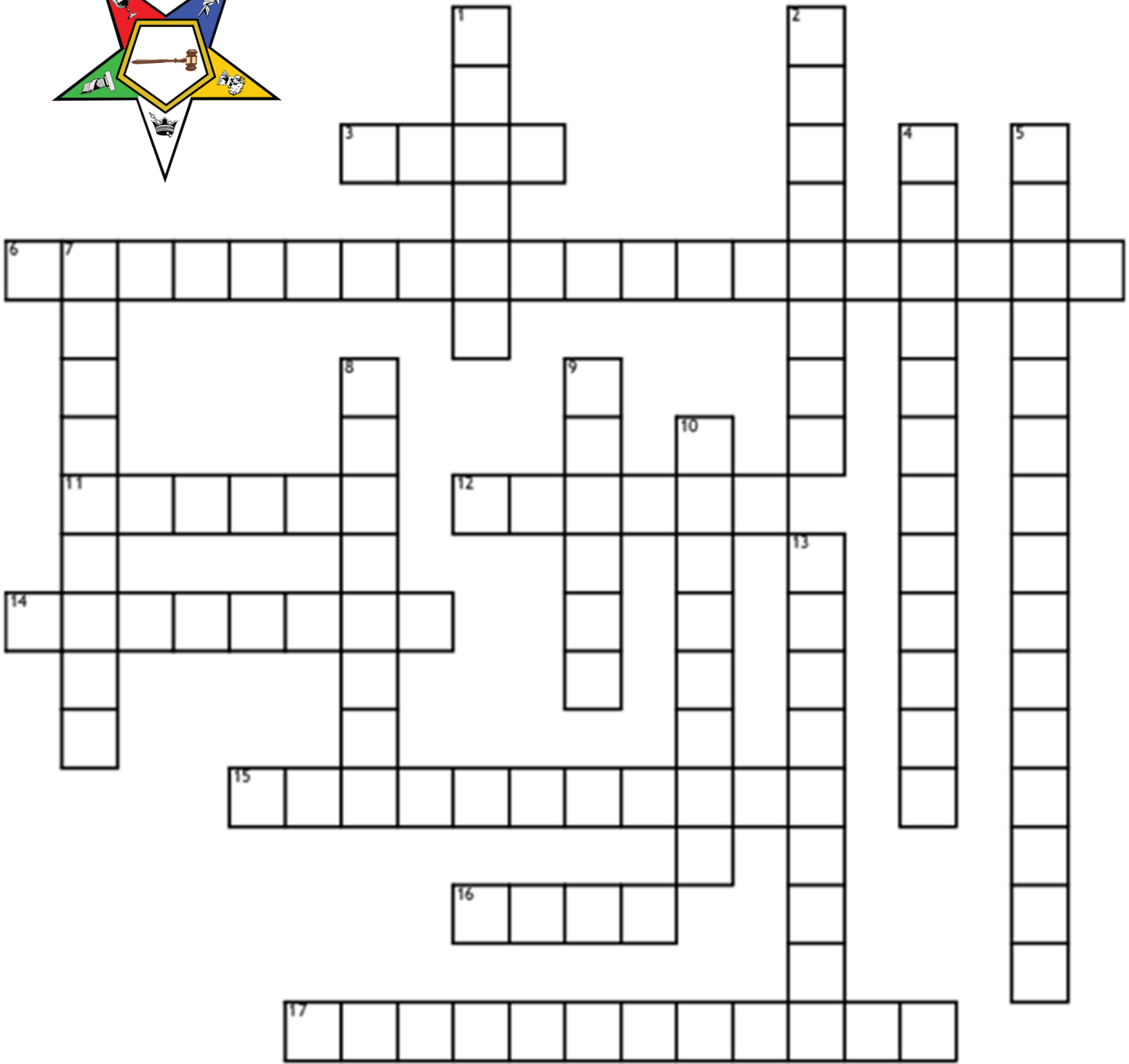
Flora Simon, President 125 South College Street Dumas, Arkansas 71639

Text: (870) 377-1302, email: fjsimon@centurytel.net

1. Have you used any of the following technology platforms for meetings like church?
A. Zoom
B. Google Meeting
C. Other: _____
2. How many times have you used this technology?
A. 1-5
B. 6-10
C. 11-15
D. More than 16
3. Do you have experience hosting a meeting using Zoom or Google Meeting?
A. No
B. A Little
C. Moderate
D. Extensive and I am excited to assist
4. Are you willing to pay a small fee to attend the Annual Phyllis Chapter Conference virtually?
A. \$20.00
B. \$25.00
C. 35.00
D. 50.00
5. Are you planning on making a presentation during the Virtual Conference?
A. Yes
B. No
6. How long should each segment of the conference last?
A. 1 Hour
B. 1 1/2 Hours
C. 2 Hours
D. 2 1/2 Hours
7. How excited are you about participating in the Virtual Conference?
A. Very Excited
B. Somewhat Excited
C. Excited
D. Not Excited

Please update your email address and phone number with your Auxiliary President or Secretary. If you are an At-Large member, please contact the Phyllis Chapter's Financial Secretary Eileen Jackson, MPC at eileenj58@aol.com.

OES Officer's Regalia



Across

- 3. Sheaf with Wheat within a Triangle
- 6. Baton within a Star
- 11. Cup within a Triangle
- 12. Dove within a Star
- 14. Crossed Batons within a Star
- 15. Scroll and Baton within a Star
- 16. Sword and Veil within a Star
- 17. Gavel within a Star

Down

- 1. Crown and Scepter within a Triangle
- 2. Lyre within a Star
- 4. Square and Compass within a Star
- 5. Refulgent Sun within a Star
- 7. Crossed Pens within a Star
- 8. Open Bible within a Star
- 9. Broken Column within a Triangle
- 10. Crossed Swords within a Star
- 13. Crossed Keys within the Star

The Phyllis

Tikishia C. Smiley
100 St. Charles Lane
Jacksonville, NC 28546

Return Service Requested

MAIL TO:

Nothing was finer than being in North Carolina

