



# THE PERFECT ASHLAR



*By the Rough Ashlar we are reminded of our rude and imperfect state by nature; by the Perfect Ashlar, of that state of perfection at which we hope to arrive by a virtuous education, our own endeavors, and the blessings of God"*

Issue 32

HiramofTyre.org



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**From the Editor** DGM Bro. Phinehas Mosley



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## Inside this issue:

## 2023 Grand Session

We held our 111th Annual Communication in Bakersfield CA this year. As for this writer all went well.



Elections were held and our Deputy Grand Bro Harold Jones was elected Grand Master, me, Bro Phinehas Mosley was



have a new GWM in Sis. Lenell Billingsley, GAM is Sis DeAnn Smith. For other all officers refer to MWHOTGL minutes or GWM digest.

elected Deputy Grand Master. Most other officers remained the same. One notable change was we elected a new Grand Treasurer in Kevin Harrison.

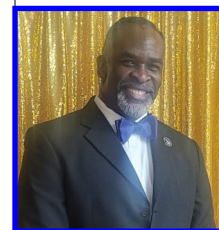


*As for our sisters, we*



**Pictured: Harold Jones, P. Mosley; Lenell Billingsley, DeAnn Smith**

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**Muhammad Aadam, GWP**

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Bro. Michael Davidson 32° (EB)

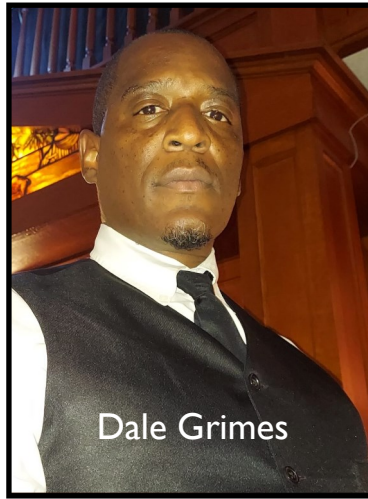
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Phinehas Mosley 32° KT, (LA);  
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Clifford Nalls 33° (BA);  
Wilfred Mitchell 33° (BA)  
Charlie Roudolph 33° KT (BA)  
\*Darius Page (LA)

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Bro. Albert Shehee, (Asst.) (BA)  
Bro. Phinehas Mosley 32° KT (Sec)  
Bro. Carl Jackson 32°(trea) (EB)



**Dale Grimes**



**Lori Wright**



**Kevin Harrison**



**Patricia Bennett**



**Judah Aton**



**Wanda Bland**



**Jeremiah Tolbert**



**Zodia Jordan,  
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Sis. Lori Wright (LA)

**Grand Asst. Secretary/Supply  
Clerk** Sis. Myisha Tyes-Lee (BA)

**Grand Mortuary Secretary**  
Sis. Angel Brantley (LV)

**Grand Lecturer**  
Sis. Wanda Bland

**Grand Conductress**  
Sis. Toni C. Lewis

**Grand Assoc. Conductress**  
Sis. Teresa Estrada

**Grand Warder**  
Sis. Judy Matthews

**Grand Treasure**  
Sis. Patricia Bennett

**Grand Trustee**  
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D. Wasdon (chair), I. Baker, N.  
Ward, L. Lawson, Z.. Jordan,

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Sis. LaShawn Kennard

**Schools of Instruction  
Grand Lecturer**  
Sis. Wanda Bland - Director

**Louise M. Murray (South)**  
Assistant Directors: Sis. Bettye  
Holland, V. Tarver, R. Wise

**Adele M. Price (North)**  
Assistant Directors:  
Sis. Dureen Adams, S.Towner



## Grandmasters Corner



*This is one of our Grand Masters favorite lecturers.*

As Grand Lecturer I have the pleasure and responsibility of traveling across the state and meeting the Brethren from across the jurisdiction. The enthusiasm and attendance has also been nothing short of exceptional. In comments from those in attendance, all have pledged to join the crusade to preserve and in some cases to re-instate our proud ritualistic presence.

We have all heard the line that our ritual separates us from all other organizations; and that's true. But we have to live it, not merely speak the words.

I remember when our ritual was not allowed to be opened in open lodge. Proficiency before being Passed to Fellow craft and Raised to Master Mason was never an issue for debate. When a Brother was called on to serve, he eagerly accepted the challenge. He did not negotiate as to whether he needed to learn the ritual attached to the office. He embraced the challenge. Why are we not there now? How did we let our standards slip? I assure you it was not intentional, but merely an offshoot of our attempt to be more receptive of our Brothers needs and their circumstances.

The Grand Instructors have embraced a "TEAM" concept as they work in their districts. In order for our Fraternity to be successful we need to hold fast to our principals and tenets while fostering a nurturing environment to encourage our brothers to succeed.

I have witnessed a growth in a few new Brethren eager to grow and become successful. What we need to do is to provide them with the tools, education, and environment for them to mature and become leaders in the Craft. While I have personally witness much of this over the course of

my term, it needs to be the rule rather than the exception.

Our forefathers had the proper equation for success. We need only to follow what has been laid down for us to succeed. As Grand Lecturer it is part of my job to inspire and encourage all to do their best ritualistically.

Every Brother has a very distinctive set of strengths and weaknesses; we must continue to impress on all the need to hold ourselves to a higher standard. If we are honest with all our candidates from the start and not only lay out all the wonders of being a member of this Craft, but informing them that it is not free, we can avoid many future uncomfortable situations. And while we are holding our new Brothers to be proficient, we must practice what we preach.

Our Lodges should be a warm environment that encourages learning and provides all in attendance with a warm brotherly feeling. Brothers, we are at a very critical stage of our existence, if we are to succeed as a grand Lodge, our leaders must be transparent, honest and walk steadfast in the path of our predecessors. Our self-efficacy, our self-awareness and our self-belief are the bedrock qualities of our attitudes.

Our masonic commitment and ability is based on the level of the three qualities, Faith Hope and Charity. In the forward-looking, working, and learning grand Lodge, everyone is responsible, to have the freedom to make every day actions worth doing. Our GL is as good as its individual members; ability to steer their own actions powered by friendship, morality, and brotherly love.

In closing, my Brothers I would like to address our attendance. Brothers, it doesn't have to be this dismal. We have hidden too long. We must open up and advertise our good will.

Continued on next page

'Grands corner' Continued from page

I would like to charge every brother to look into his heart and determine what kind of Mason you would strive to be. If the Worshipful Master asked each of us, to go forth and find one good man, where would you go, where would you look? In churches or places of worship? On the Job? Relatives, neighbors? Why don't you look at yourself? You are a good person so you should look for the same qualities in others as you have in yourself. You should strive to replace yourself. In doing so you will have found a good man and strengthened the Fraternity.

Fraternally,  
Bro Harold Jones 33°



GM Thanksgiving Message    Nov. 22, 2023

Each year, we celebrate Thanksgiving by giving grace, as we surround ourselves with loved ones and give thanks for those dear to us.

Thanksgiving blessings recognize God as the source of all things that make our lives great, whether it's part of our daily routines or our more spiritual moments. We may not always make the time to connect with God every day, and Thanksgiving reminds us of his blessings, constant support, and presence.

Community and relationships are among life's most precious treasures. Let us take time out to enrich these precious connections. So, this Thanksgiving let's take a moment to appreciate the great interpersonal support and encouragement one gives to each other.

Today, most precious brothers and sisters of Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge and Golden Poppy Grand Chapter, I am giving thanks to you for all you've done for our organization and a special blessing to those who are no longer with us as well as the sick and shut in, may your holiday be full of warmth, joy, and happiness.

Bro. Harold Joes GM



## My Journey to the Third

I have always wanted to be a member of this organization as I grew up around my uncle who was a mason. All the masons treated me like I was one of them except when it was time for the meetings and then I had to remove myself from their presence.



In my younger years I was not financially able to become a member but when I moved to Los Angeles I was able to attend the Alpine Lodge #1 brunch and once again I was drawn to the organization. After speaking with some of the brothers and discussing

what the costs were, I immediately knew I would join. Once I joined I was taken through my first degree and I was so excited and enthusiastic that I was determined to learn my ritual. Looking back at all my advancements I see how they progressed in terms of difficulty.



The foundation was laid on the first degree and I could not wait for my 2<sup>nd</sup> degree. When the time came for my advancement I was nervous because I felt the pressure of moving up and the ritual got a little more difficult, but I remained determined and my brothers encouraged me on my journey. Now when I was advanced to the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree that one was not only exciting but it made me anxious because it was the final step to becoming a Master Mason and I really wanted to belong. Since being raised, I am excited for what I can offer the organization and how it can help me to be a better man.

- Bro. Kelvin Anderson



Friday, November 17, 2023, Alpine #1 hosted a joint 3rd degree where brothers (l-r) Kelvin Anderson, (A#1), Julian Aragon, (A#1), Andrew Davalos, (King David #8). Bro. D. Grimes (KDL#8) is in picture on right side



# Christmas & Freemasonry

At its surface, the Christmas holiday has no intrinsic connection to the fraternity of Freemasonry. What I mean by that is no where in the degrees does it link itself to any particular holiday in its practice, in particular the Christmas holiday season.

There are, however, certain celebrations that have become a part of the fraternity which are linked to one of the interesting symbols that resides at the heart of the practice. Without any specific reference, Masons are said to come from a Lodge of the [Holy Saints John](#), the specific why and how of this connection is lost in the sands of metaphorical time, but some connection infers a balance to the celestial equinox (from summer to winter and back again).

Through this link, winter is said to be represented by the **Saint John the Evangelist**, whose feast day falls on December 27th.

This Holy Saint John has an interesting symbolic significance, in that, as [John the Baptist](#) (who represents the other Holy Saint John) was the precursor to the coming Christ, John the Evangelist is said to be the first disciple at the Lake of Genesareth who recognized the Christ and believed that he had risen.

Of the Saint it is also said that he was the only disciple of Christ to not to forsake him in the hour of His Passion at the foot of the cross. [John the Evangelist](#) is also called the Apostle of [Charity](#), which may be in part, his connection to Freemasonry in addition to his unwavering resolve and purity of his love of the divine.

In creating the original construct of the two Johns, the conclusion that I came to was that they struck a balance between zeal and knowledge.

The Baptist who was the precursor of the Christ living in his zeal for the coming son of God and the Evangelist as the representation of knowing that the Christ was the son of God. Only in piecing the component of knowing did it become clear to me that it was not about the degree of knowledge gained, but the degree to which the Evangelist trusted his intuition, to know what was before him. An interesting parallel comes in the book of Matthew where this very lesson is communicated to Peter from the Christ who says in *Matthew 16:15-17*

*"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"*

*Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

*Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."*

This is somewhat out of original context, but illustrative of revealed knowledge based on experience, on learning.

John the Evangelist came to that knowledge by his experience with the Christ. Another way of looking at this experience is coming *from darkness to light*, an awakening, and if you take it further, the dawning of awareness. This awareness sits squarely with the idea of [Sol Invictus](#), or the conquering sun which overcomes its captivity of night from the summer solstice and again begins to vanquish the night in its ever increasing minutes of daylight.





Looking at some of the other symbolic connections, the Evangelist is said to relate to the alchemical symbol of the up pointed triangle which represents fire, where again we can see a link to light and knowledge. When we combine the alchemical sign of the Baptist with that of the Evangelist, we create the Star of Solomon, and the duality of fire and water, further, the duality of light and dark and summer and winter.



Further work attributed to John the Evangelist are the *Epistles of John*, and the book of *Revelation*, though his connection to them in later centuries has been contentious, as much of his life from 2000 years ago is lost to time. Within the church his feast day is first mentioned in the Sacramentary of Pope Adrian I near 772 A.D.

The message of the church, and something each of us can take away from John the Evangelist is to "*Apply thyself, therefore, to purity of heart, and thou shalt be like Saint John, a beloved disciple of Jesus, and shalt be filled with heavenly wisdom.*"

The feast of the Evangelist is little remembered today, except within Masonry where it is celebrated by a few lodges that still practice the Table Lodge ritual where brothers gather together to celebrate it with toasts to those brothers present and absent. In the past, it was considered a feast day of high importance for Freemasonry because of its proximity to the holidays and the presence of lodge members being close to home. Because of this, it gave those brothers a festival to meet under to punctuate the closing of the year. Meeting like this though is something less convenient in this modern day as most with families travel abroad to celebrate the holiday.

Because it is celebrated less does not diminish the importance of the day, nor the symbol itself, as in the modern ritual we are reminded that we come from the Holy Saint John's in Jerusalem, and as such we should pause and reflect on just what that means. John the Evangelist gives us an important lesson to pursue knowledge and wake from the darkness and renew our commitment to the awakening light of the Victorious Sun. Even taken out the Christian metaphor, we can salute with Sol Invictus, as knowledge is re-awakened from its cold wintry defeat.

Through the lens of symbolism, John the Evangelist gives us a means to find resonance with the holiday of giving and compassion to the fraternity of brotherly love, relief, and truth. Happy Holidays!

<https://freemasoninformation.com/masonictraveler/christmas-and-freemasonry/>



## Esther Chapter #2 Annual Breakfast

EC2 Annual Breakfast held on November 11th once again was a success. With our annual breakfast date being on Veterans Day, EC2 celebrated our Veterans. Giving honor to our brothers in the Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre, family, and friends. Our day of fellowship was amazing. Giving thanks to our cooks, Sister's Roz, Lori, Monique, Sammy, Melody, Gina, and Avis. EC2 would not have a good breakfast without you. Thank you for all you do. EC2 would like to thank our brothers, sisters, family, and friends, thank you for all your support. EC2 would like to give a special thank you to our Brother Michael Myles for inviting others and purchasing 19 breakfasts along with a love token to top off his support. Brother Miles EC2 is forever grateful for all your love and support. EC2 annual breakfast is our Chapter's jewel. As EC2 Annual Breakfast Chair and Associate Marton I thank our entire organization for your love and support.



- Sis. Lashawn Kennard







In November, **Alpine Lodge #1** held another successful fried turkey fundraiser. This year was our 2nd time doing it and it was bigger and



better. We had a good time as while the brothers were frying the turkeys all the patrons and supporters were lounging around having a good time eating homemade gumbo and drinking a variety of spirits. We would like to thank the brothers from friendly Lodge 19# for assisting us in this endeavor. In addition we were excited to see our very own Nathaniel Garrett (*blue hoodie*) who is on leave from the army. He along with his Alpine brothers, Kevin Harrison, Phinehas Mosley, Jay Green all worked in harmony to make over a dozen families happy during this Thanksgiving season.

- P. Mosley



**Sisters Day of Fellowship 2023**



# Master Mason Day 2023

10.28.2023

*In building the temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used, and no hammer, or chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built. -1 Kings 6:7*

As Grand Lecturer of The Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge AF&AM, it is my duty to help our jurisdiction exemplify the ritualistic work of the craft so that there may be uniformity amongst the lodges, and to address matters appertaining to the craft. So, after giving thanks and praise to the G.G.A.O.T.U, I was privileged and honored to do just that at this years Master Mason Day Ceremony.



One of the first duties I had to perform since becoming the newly elected MWGL at this year's Annual Communication, was to organize this year's MMD event. I soon found myself becoming more and more anxious and excited as the day of the event grew nearer, as I wanted to make sure that we performed well for our also newly elected MWGM, Bro. Harold Jones. The ceremony was started by RWM Bro. Michael Davidson from San Andreas Lodge #70 who coordinated a beautiful opening. Bro. Davidson said a few eloquent words before conducting the MWGM to the altar for Grand Honors. After the grand honors were given, Bro. Raymond Strom from Sons of Solomon #73 welcomed the Grand Master and all the brothers in attendance.

came from two newly raised Master Masons, Bro. Eric Winston and Bro. Jason Gardner from Amos Lodge #14 who both gave amazing lectures. The newly raised masters gave lectures about the working tools of Freemasonry and their operative and speculative use in today's modern age. The new master's spoke with such energy and passion that it seemed as though they had been 'mason's first in their hearts' for quite some time. It was a great reminder that masonry is still alive and well and, on the hearts and minds of today's generation. As RWGL it was my pleasure to speak on the purpose of maintaining the ritual work because it is through ritual and prayer that we give thanks and praise to God. We first enter the lodge on the point of the compass, and we are taught to stand on our square as Mason's; we are to rest assured that if we continue our journey to attain more light, the blessings of the material universe will soon be bestowed upon us as long as we stay diligent and maintain the ritualistic work of the craft.

After the lectures were given, some of the past grand master's spoke and gave their remarks and insights on the proceedings of the day. Everyone was impressed by the lecture's that were given that day. The closing remarks were given by the MWGM Bro. Harold Jones. Much to my delight, the MWGM was pleased with the ceremony and with the way the brothers conducted themselves throughout the day. He said it was a wonderful day of fellowship and peace and harmony because as masons we know that peace and harmony are the strength of all institutions and more especially, this of ours. The MWGM also challenged the brothers to do more for one another and to work in accordance with the rules and regulations of our constitution to avoid animosity and strengthen our ties to one another. The MWGM emphasized unity and solidarity amongst the brothers of the craft so that we can continue to be an example for new brothers' coming in. The

The highlight of the day's festivities



Continued on page 13

Amos #14 (l-r)  
Bro, Jason Garner  
Bro, Dale Potts  
Bro, Eric L Winston.



**Grand session and supreme.**





# Vatican confirms Catholics still forbidden to join Masonic lodges

By Vatican News Nov. 15, 2023

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, in a document signed by the Prefect, Cardinal Victor Fernández, and approved by Pope Francis, has reaffirmed that Catholics are forbidden from joining Freemasonry.

The Dicastery responded on Wednesday to a question from Bishop Julito Cortes, Bishop of Dumaguete in the Philippines. "After explaining with concern the situation in his diocese, due to the continuous increase in the number of members of Freemasonry, [Bishop Cortes] asked for suggestions on how to adequately deal with this reality from a pastoral point of view, while also taking into account the doctrinal implications" of the situation.

The dicastery's response makes clear the importance of involving the Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, "notifying them that it would be necessary to implement a coordinated strategy among the individual bishops that would involve two approaches."

The first approach addresses the question on the doctrinal level: the dicastery reiterates that "active membership in Freemasonry by a member of the faithful is prohibited, because of the irreconcilability between Catholic doctrine and Freemasonry (cf. the 1983 [Declaration of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on Masonic Associations](#)), and the [Guidelines](#) published by the Bishops' Conference in 2003."

Therefore, the note explains, "those who formally and knowingly are members of Masonic lodges and have embraced Masonic principles fall under the provisions of the above-mentioned Declaration. These measures also apply to any clerics enrolled in Freemasonry."

The second approach concerns the pastoral



response: the dicastery suggests that the Philippine bishops undertake "a popular catechesis in all parishes on the reasons for the irreconcilability between the Catholic faith and Freemasonry." The bishops of the Philippines are also asked to consider whether they should make a public pronouncement on this topic.

The November 1983 declaration was published shortly before the new Code of Canon Law entered into force. The 1983 CIC replaced the Code of Canon Law published in 1917; among the new features noted – by some with satisfaction, by others with concern – was the absence of an explicit condemnation of Freemasonry and excommunication for those affiliated with it. Both had been present in the earlier Code. The Declaration, signed by the then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger and the Secretary of the Congregation, Archbishop Jérôme Hamer, and approved by John Paul II, reiterated that Catholics affiliated with Masonic lodges are "in a state of grave sin."

*Editor's note: The things some religions do to control the people's free will and keep them in the dark amazes me. I have personally spoken to masonic Catholics and they don't see a conflict with masonry and their beliefs, in fact many have said that freemasonry has strengthened their Christianity. In the 70's Catholics were allowed to join then they changed their minds in the 80's with no real explanation as to why.*



.. **MM Day.** Continued from page 10

The MWGM stated that unity amongst the brethren of the craft will only help to benefit us in the end and make us stronger.

The day was closed out by Bro. Wilfred Mitchell of Berkeley #23, who gave a heartwarming prayer that felt like good and wholesome instruction for the brothers' labors throughout the

day. As MWGL my impression was that our lodge, along with the Past masters Council, did an

excellent job putting together the day's ceremonies. I know that our lodges will continue to

grow and prosper as long as we encourage one another, follow the guidelines of the constitution, and continue to work together as our ritual prescribes. Our institution of Freemasonry has been tried and proven again and again and remains here as a growing body still today. As Masons we pledged our fidelity to the rite by placing our hands on the VOSL, and so with our hands we will continue to build temples and monuments and edifices dedicated to the Creator in such a way so that no tool was heard in the building of the temple (1 Kings 6:7). So mote it be!

-Bro. Judah Aton R.W.G. Lecturer





# Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge

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Charles E. Gage 33°, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master

Dale A. Grimes, Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

Charlie Rudolph, Right Worshipful Grand Mortuary Secretary

Muhammad S. Aadam 32°, Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer



## GRAND MASTER'S TROPHY CRITERIA

**DURING PAST GRAND MASTER OTIS CLOPTON'S TERM, AS GRAND MASTER, HE STARTED A TRADITION OF AWARDING A TROPHY TO THE LODGE THAT MADE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND LEADERSHIP TO OUR CRAFT DURING THE YEAR. THIS TROPHY WAS ALSO CREATED TO PROMOTE FRIENDLY COMPETITION BETWEEN LODGES AS A TOOL TO FOCUS ON OUR OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP.**

**THE CRITERIA THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IS BASED ON A 100 POINT SYSTEM, AND IS DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:**

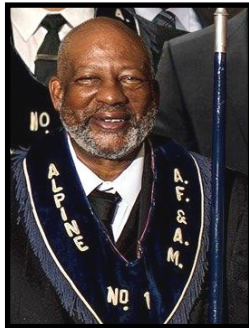
- 1. THE LODGE WITH THE MOST NET INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP RECEIVES.....35 POINTS.**
- 2. OPENING OF LODGE PERFORMANCE .....20 POINTS**
- 3. DEGREEWORK. ....15 POINTS**
- 4. COMMUNITY SERVICES. ....30 POINTS**

**Total points: 100**

**It is the District Deputy Grand Master's and Grand Instructor's responsibility, together, to evaluate and choose the top competitor for their area and then to determine the winner of the Grand Master's Trophy.**



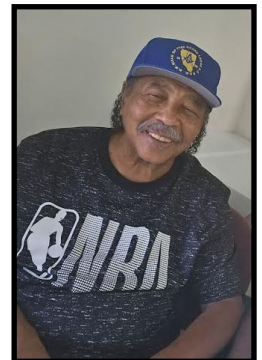
DGM Phinehas Mosley, DDGI's Donnie Monford,



Byron Roberts,



Anthony Anderson,



Reese Withers



# New Leadership, New Ideas

In January 2023, I asked these newly elected leaders what their plans were for the year. I wonder if they were able to be successful in accomplishing their goals.

These are the questions:

**A.** Your name; **B.** lodge/chapter, how long you been a member; **C.** what's going good with lodge/chapter; **D.** areas in which you plan to improve? How? **E.** Any calendar dates or send me your calendar of events? (see upcoming events page for partial 2023 calendars)

## **A. Sis. Rosalyn Wise (Past Matron)**



**B.** Membership: **Esther Chapter #2** since 2001 now at 22years.

**C.** What's Good: Esther Chapter #2, Blessed to fully open with filled seats on 2nd Wednesday at 6:30p. Currently, I preside as

Worthy Matron and I couldn't be more pleased to have charge over such great siStars. Unity is growth

**D.** Area of Plan: At each meeting have a learning moment (observations) therefore, each member can and will be to be able to advance seats with acknowledge.

## **A. Bro. Reese Withers (Past Master)**



**B.** Mt Olive #71 Since 3/1989

**C.** We have older brothers and a few fellowcrafts. Some returning after 20 years.

**D.** We will have monthly instruction by Bro. L. Gray. We will support others in their family and community events. Make good members better in lodge once they join. Would like to re-start feeding homeless and toys for tots. Johnnie McKay used to do a excellent job heading that up.

**E.** planning a 3rd degree

## **A: Bro. Tim E. Bryant (New RWM)**



**B: Alpine #1** for 5 years (2018)

**C:** We have great minds that think alike and we support each other. Good fellowships.

**D:** Fellowship with other lodges/chapters by using the hall more for events/fundraising. Planning a golf range fellowship when weather permits. More teaching.

**I wonder what plans your new leader has for 2024?**

**And advise all against keeping an ineffective leader in office for another year.**

# A vision for tomorrow's generation:

## Eric McDaniel

*Bro. Eric Versalius McDaniel is a member of Friendly Lodge #19 and current Sr. Deacon.*

Eric McDaniel is the owner and founder of the residential and commercial paint service company, Ultimate Paints. Born and raised in Louisiana, Eric got into trouble at a young age. He joined the military to change his life's trajectory. After leaving the military, he obtained his contractor's license and founded the company, primarily focusing on residential paint services.

After doing some commercial work, Eric decided to grow his business and pursue more lucrative opportunities, like government contracts. But he realized that he needed advice and guidance to achieve this goal. He connected with an advisor at The Center by Lendistry, who has worked with him on developing crucial aspects of running a business, like developing a business plan, elevator pitch, vision board, and managing the company's financials. His advisor also helped him obtain Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Veteran-Owned Small Business



(VOSB) certifications, which are critical for accessing federal opportunities, programs, and financial resources intended to benefit diverse entrepreneurs.

Eric employs at-risk youth from the community and teaches them the painting trade, from beginning to end. He wants to make a difference in the community and impact the lives of youth by providing good wages and opportunities for their future. He fondly recalls running into one of the youth that he worked with years ago. Now a young man, he is pursuing his Doctorate at UCLA. They say it takes a village to raise a child, and Eric is part of that village. Eric plans to expand to other states and create a pre-apprenticeship program for at-risk

youth, like he once was. The Center has helped him to focus on how he can achieve his dream of making an impact in the community.

"The Center by Lendistry has opened my eyes to so much, like fine-tuning what business is all about, where I want to go, and what I must do to grow my business. I know how to be a contractor, but I also need to know how to be a businessman. My business wouldn't be where it is right now without the services offered by The Center," said Eric.

The Center provides individualized support to help diverse entrepreneurs reach their dreams, including business plan development, accounting and finance best practices, and procurement and certification assistance to help women and diverse-owned businesses grow and succeed.

Learn more about our services and schedule a consultation at: <https://thecenterbylendistry.org/services/>.







St. Johns Day /  
Eastern Star Day  
June 2023  
LA and Bay Area





# HOLLYWOOD POWER PLAYER,

## JONATHAN E. COLEMAN

### BRINGS CLARITY TO LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

*Brother Coleman is one of the newer members of Alpine Lodge #1. I've compiled a few of his interviews from national magazines (Sheen, Hype, Black Enterprise) together to give us a better understanding of who he is as a person.*

Being a producer of live entertainment is a skill set that not a lot of people can successfully pull off. Jonathan E. Coleman has been able to do so while being involved with live events like BET Experience's gospel performances and 106 & Park LIVE. Even working red carpet specials for the BET & Soul Train Awards. He has also served as a talent manager for shows including CBS's The World's Best, NBC's The Titan Games, and has taken on various roles for the Grammy Awards, the Academy Awards, and the American Music Awards.

As he is currently supporting the production of Kanye West's Sunday Service as a producer and choir manager, he is expanding his business, Jonco Entertainment, to include a new venture, Infiniti Music Group.

L'Immensite by Louis Vuitton is one of his favorite colognes. Coleman



has learned the powerful role that first impressions play when it comes to amassing some of the endless possibilities in the entertainment industry. He's a rare gem in many ways — from his unmatched work ethic to his uncommon hazel green eyes.

Coleman has a distinctive ability to visualize ideas from conception and manifest them into reality through his innovative productions. He knows exactly how to draw opportunities to himself that would probably take someone else decades to obtain. Standing at 6'3, the Los Angeles native and global event producer embraces California style to the fullest. Coleman adorns

his frame with what he calls laid-back fashion pieces.

*Continued on page 20*



**First impressions are so important in business. How have your image and presentation positioned you to be one of the top producers in Hollywood?**

*Wow, I had to grow to get to this point honestly. Starting out, I had to recognize and understand that first impressions, appearance, conversation and relatability were so important in managing my network and relationships in the industry. I grew to understand that your appearance is something that people are going to remember about you. People remember those who take time in their appearance and how they present themselves. Relatability, to me, is relating to people I would like to connect with and understanding their needs while simultaneously communicating my needs to them, then finding common ground. It also means being a helpful person. So, even if I'm not able to meet their need individually, I'll find someone who can — without expecting anything in return. What people say about me is that I'm a connector. They say this because of my network and the kind of people that I have established relationships with. I'm able to bring exactly what the person wants to the table.*

**You have consistently produced incredible live events for more than a decade. How difficult is it to be innovative and create shows that are different each time?**

Consistently, wow! That's such an honor. To be quite honest with you, it's been rather easy. God has given me the gift to be able to look at situations and offer a view that's groundbreaking and futuristic. That's exactly how I attack each project, by finding out how I



can relate to the target audience and how I can grab their attention. The best way to get their attention is by being innovative, groundbreaking and forward thinking. It's a blessing to have that type of ingenuity come naturally.

**What would you say were your three most innovative events?**

*Kanye West's Sunday Service* is at the top of the list because in that space, that's what was required from my employer from the first day — to be innovative, think outside the box and to always consider the audience and their experience.

Working with **BET** and red-carpet specials is always eventful because each year, we have to figure out how to be different and relatable. We also have to be sure not to do what we did the year prior to keep our audience engaged. We also keep the artists engaged when they're on the red carpet. That has always been a joy and highlight.

I think my work at West Angeles Cathedral was very impactful because we took what other people would look at as church productions and we transformed them into first-ranked productions. There were times when we created full musicals with rotating stages and we had people flying through the sky. This was taking place in a church. Our audience was 5,000 people in each setting and hundreds of thousands of viewers watching online. I would always challenge myself to take the productions to the next level to show that Christian people can produce things on a high-end level.

**How do you measure the success of a live event?**

*Continued on page 20*

I measure the success of a live event by the reaction and the response of the audience. Often, when I am planning a live event, I ask what kind of conversations do I want them to have after the event? How do I want them to feel? What kind of conversation are they having on the ride home, when they get home, and when they call a friend? I try to set the expectations of those conversations when I put on an event. So, I measure the success of a live event by the reactions and responses from the audience.

**Your position requires you to constantly compete with yourself. What is your process for raising the bar and becoming more creative and innovative?**

That's a great question and a big part of my process is staying in tune with the needs of the audience. It's very important as a producer that you stay current with the needs of your audience. That's the only way you're going to be successful with being innovative and properly communicating the resolve that you want the attendees to have when they leave. I stay current with social issues that affect humanity and I think about the types of conversations I want the audience to have when they're leaving the event. It's very important from the very beginning that I'm zeroing in on those needs and making sure that they come out in the production.

As far as competing with myself, that's how I do it. Over and over again, I stay current with the issues at hand. I believe that as long as I meet that need, I will always win. And when I win, we win.

**What is your formula for teamwork and building long-lasting relationships?**

My formula for teamwork is very simple and age-old. No one person can do one thing by themselves and it takes multi-

ple minds to push out a product or a project that is A-1. I really try to lean on the expertise of who can do it best. I get a team in the room and I like to listen to everybody's opinion. I share information and transparency is important, that everyone knows what everybody is doing, everyone knows what is going on. I open the floor for everyone to have an opinion, now we may not take everybody's opinion, but I love to hear everyone's opinion because more than not, they are introducing something that me as a leader has never thought of, which increases the value of the team and the projects.



**What goes into the business side of producing and talent management?**

Attention to detail. That is first and foremost the biggest thing that I felt really pushed me into another area is my extreme attention to detail. I really pay attention to the nuances and the things that they are requesting. I never get in my own way where I think that I know better but I use my expertise to push their ideas and their projects forward to the best of my ability. That has always been my business model. Of course, then creating a great team of people that can bring that vision or that project to pass. I always try to get the best people that do the best things to come together to turn out the best project for the best idea. I keep the relationships very strong between me and these individuals. I do a good job the first time around so they'll want to keep on hiring me and keep working with me. Meeting the needs of the artist/contractor and going above and beyond those needs. Giving them more than they expected or asked for.

***Continued on page 21***



**As CEO of Jonco Entertainment, you recently expanded your brand and co-founded Infiniti Music Group. Tell us more about Infiniti Music Group.**

Infiniti Music Group is licensing made easy. During the pandemic, I was quarantined and having a number of different conversations with friends who are writers and artists, and then friends that are music supervisors for film and TV. Kind of like the parallel of my life, I tend to find the need and then meet the need. Since I have a huge network of both artists/writers and film supervisors, why don't I create a platform that will meet both of their needs? At that time, usually, artists and writers put out music on platforms like Tidal and iTunes, and then they have a shelf life. A life where people are listening to and promoting their music for like 2 months. Then, after 2 months, their music fades away on that platform and kind of just sits there. After talking to film and TV supervisors who spoke about their over-extended budgets using popular music not being able to find good music on their own. So, Infiniti Music Group created a platform where we will house catalogs of artists and writers' music spanning various genres. I will also allow music supervisors to search and browse through music that

they cannot find on their own. And when they find music they like, they can license it right on the spot. This also gives the music of writers and independent artists a second chance at life. It's meeting the growing needs in this rapidly changing world.

**What advice would you give to someone who wants to follow your path to become a successful producer?**

Do a lot of self-work, your success is about your personal development and personal growth. I was always gifted with certain talents that I knew would be used for greatness but in order for me to be recognized with those gifts, I had to do a lot of self-work. It was like eliminating but's. People may say you're good, but ... I didn't particularly like the but's so, instead of spending the time bathing in the accolades of how good I was at what I was doing, I chose to spend a huge amount of time working to eliminate the but's. My advice is to make sure you're ready and do the self-work so that when the opportunity presents itself you're prepared and ready for it.

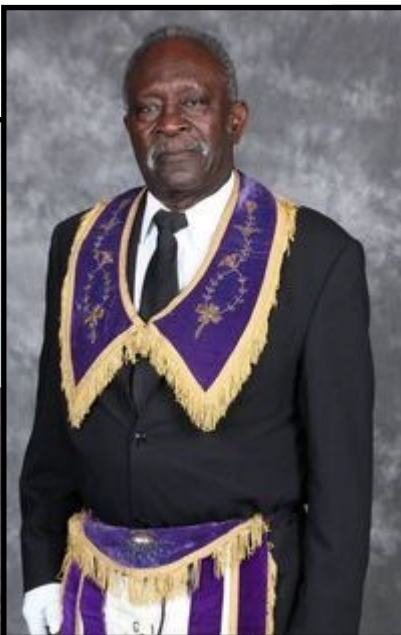
You can follow Bro Coleman on Facebook by typing Jonathan E. Coleman or on Instagram @ joecoblaze



**2023-2024 Grand Lodge Officers**



# REMEMBERING...



Top left: Richard Carter Jr., Rising Sun #2, Bottom left: Willie Ceon Jones, Rising Sun #2, Middle: Oscar Willie Jr., (Past Grand Bible Bearer) Exec. #69; right: Herb Garner, Exec #69; bottom right: Quillie Gooden Jr. (Past Grand Trustee) San Andreas #70.



**Bros. Darius Page, & Melvin James (Rising Sun #2) are on each side of casket**





# CONGRATULATIONS!



Congrats to Bro. Damien Walton St. Andrews #16 on becoming a sought after boxing.. referee.



Bro. Stanley Hollis on becoming the coach of the Travelers Softball team, which is a team consisting of masonic brothers, currently they are practicing for their July 2024 Frat Games.  
*Contact Bro. Mosley if interested in joining.*



PGWWM Sis. Lashawn Lawson on her marriage to Mr. Freddie Roberson





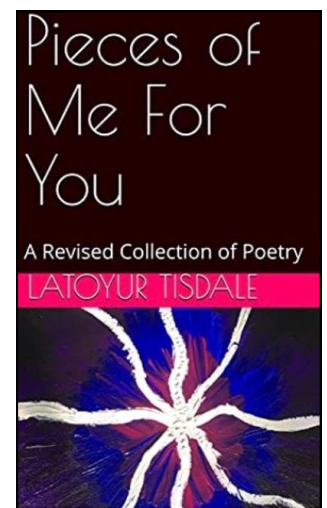
# A Poem from "Pieces of Me For You"

<https://latoyur.com/home>

DANCER

I wish I was a dancer  
make my limbs flutter across the stage like words on a page  
lightly, effortlessly  
gliding, tipping and tapping  
landing all in the right spots  
to have my arms reaching east to west  
to the ends of the earth  
embracing the audience with each movement and motion  
swaying to the rhythm  
a rhythm that encamps the ears  
and entraps the eyes with  
My Dance  
nothing rough or harsh  
but easy and smooth like butter  
like silk  
like the voice of a sexy man on the other end of the phone at 2am  
I wish I could dance and make these long legs stretch out from  
beneath me  
stand, bend, curve and lift  
all at the same time  
travel in circles, ending up on notes imaginarily planted on the hardwood panes of the stage  
allowing the music to possess my body and mind  
nothing else matters  
but the music  
my hips, thighs, arms, back, legs and core  
all feel the beat of the drum  
the call of the strings  
beckon of the bass  
and seduction of the horns  
at once ...I move  
Oh I wish I was a dancer  
floating on the stage, this visual canvas of motions  
painting a picture that only the composer  
and choreographer once saw  
I want you to see how these melodic  
notes that are soaring in the heavens  
how they made me feel  
Free as I lift my leg and kick  
Bold as I leap to the ceiling  
Loved as I spin with my arms open wide  
I feel the dance  
I feel the music  
I feel poetic.

Author: **LaToyur Tisdale**  
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**Happy 50th Anniversary to Norman and Nadine Ward!!** To all of our family and friends that gathered from near and far, to help us celebrate this glorious time, just know, you helped make it the wonderful affair it was! Please know, we are going to cherish your love, your faces, your cheers, your hugs, your kisses, your gifts and most importantly, your prayers of Thanksgiving for us! There are so many of you, we need to personally thank and believe me, we will! Please give this old couple a little time! We both have colds and are recuperating from all of the fun! Please know, we love you and we will always keep each of you close in our hearts! - the Ward's





# EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar

**December 8** @10am Herb Garner Funeral. Angelus Funeral Home Los Angeles

**December 9** Northern Area Joint OES Initiation @10am. 8105 Capwell Dr. Oakland Ca.

**December 12** Sis Pat Bennett birthday, call her ask how old she is and wish her well

**December 16** Los Angeles Area Joint Installation day @ 12 noon DDGI LA Area Bro. Donnie Monford—chair

**December 16** Bay Area Joint Installation Day in Oakland.

**December 16** LA Area Holiday Glitz & Glam Sneaker Ball 5900 S. Broadway LA CA 4-8pm Donations \$10 Please bring an unwrapped gift for children Sis. Rosalind Wise—chair

**December 17** LA Area; St. John the Evangelist Day at Metropolitan Baptist Church 11am. 4200 So. Hooper Los Angeles CA. full upper house dress with crowns

**December 31, 2023—Jan 1, 2024** New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance Buffett Breakfast; Contacts: Melvin James 310.713.1836; Joe Rogers Jr. 323.369.3666; Michael Myles 323.806.9384

**January 13** Serenity Chapter #82 hosts an Initiation and lunch 10-4pm Jshauntae Marshall 702.337.4793 LaToyur Tisdale—chair

**January 13** Bridal Trunk and Pajama party for Sis LaShawn Roberson (sisters only) Sis. LaToyur Tisdale—chair

**January 14** Fellowship and float decorating. Sis. LaToyur Tisdale—chair 615.332.4452

**January 15, 2024** MLK Day Parade in Las Vegas, Nevada 8am -Ronald Willis 725.666.5115 & LaToyur Tisdale-chair call 1.800.465.0711 for hotel reservations

**January 27, 2024** LA Past Masters Council monthly meeting and elections @ 7pm

**January 30, 2024** Masonic Building & Holdings Assoc. LA meets for elections @ 6.30pm

**Feb 24, 2024** **MWGM Official Los Angeles area visit @ 3pm in Los Angeles, CA**

**March 16, 2024—GWM—Official Las Vegas visit @ 12 noon**

**April 27, 2024** GWM Official Northern Area visit @ 12 noon in Oakland, CA

**May 18, 2024** GWM Official Southern area visit @ 12 noon in San Diego, CA

**May 18, 2024** **Alpine #1 Annual Anniversary Dinner** Celebrating 115 years

**June 9, 2024** **Los Angeles area, St. John Day/Eastern Star day**

**July 12– 15, 2024** **112th Annual Communication in Modesto, CA; Details in early 2024**

**July 26-Aug 2, 2024** United Supreme Council Biennial Session in Columbia, SC