

**Elect Lady of the East Ch. No. 54  
District No. 10  
State of  
Washington and Jurisdiction  
South Korea**



**What is the organization  
called the Order of the Eastern Star?**

**Information for interested members.**

## *Disclaimer*

This knowledge is only for interested personnel. It is not a printed document by the Prince Hall Grand Chapter. It was created to enhance the knowledge of people who were interested in becoming a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. I thought it would be a good idea to give interested personnel this information forehand. There are several males and females who are interested in the Order but really don't know what we are about.

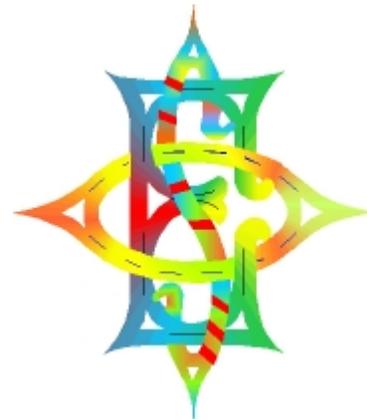
This is only a guideline but contains some good knowledge. All research was done solely be me through the internet and other sources to include several other Sisters. Hope that it is helpful in your decision in becoming a member of this beautiful organization.

I always update information within this book, when I do more research. It will continuously be a working document.

Fraternally,

*Tondra R. Madison*

Tondra R. Madison (PM)  
District Deputy Grand Matron  
District No. 10  
South Korea





## History of the Order of the Eastern Star

The history of the Order of the Eastern Star is divided into three Eras:

1. The First Era extended from 1850 to 1866, under the leadership of Dr. Rob Morris, Poet Laureate of Masonry.
2. The Second Era extended from 1866 to 1876, under the leadership of Robert Macoy of New York.
3. The Third Era extends from 1876, when the General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, was established to the present time.

Of these eras, the first is perhaps the most important as it prepared the way for the other two.

The real origin of the Order of the Eastern Star, like Masonry, will always be shrouded in mystery. Many researchers believe it had a French origin as early as 1703. By some, this is claimed to be the first inception of "Female Masonry" or "Androgynous Degrees" -- (degrees for both men and women).

There appeared at this time, to be a demand for "Side Degrees" or Degrees conferred on ladies, and quite a list sprang up -- "Heroines of Jericho", "Danger in the Dark", "Tall Cedars of Lebanon", etc. These were extensively used but soon fell into decay for lack of lasting worth.

As to the real origin of the Eastern Star degrees in its Initiatory form, there is not the least shadow of doubt that the honor belongs to Dr. Rob Morris and its real origin comes under the First Era.

Dr. Morris had traveled many years. He had written many books on Masonry which are valued references in many Masonic Libraries.

Never quite satisfied that all the good in Masonry should be confined to men, Dr. Morris felt that Masonry should be for the whole family. But by the laws of that Ancient Order, women are not eligible for its degrees. Knowing he could not change the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, Dr. Morris sought some method by which women could share with the Masonic Brother the same inspiration that "prompts man to noble deeds."

Although he harbored these feelings for years, it wasn't until 1850, while confined to his home after an accident, that Dr. Morris fully developed the Eastern Star Degrees in their present initiatory form.

During this time, he carefully thought out the symbolism and significance of the floor plan and the corps of officers. He conferred the degrees upon his wife and daughters, and some neighbors, presumably having an idea to clothe the ladies with certain words or signs whereby they might make themselves known to Master Masons.

These signs and so-called mysteries of the Order were communicated freely to all Master Masons and their relatives. Dr. Morris and other prominent Master Masons gave many lectures and conferred the degrees on many ladies throughout the nation.

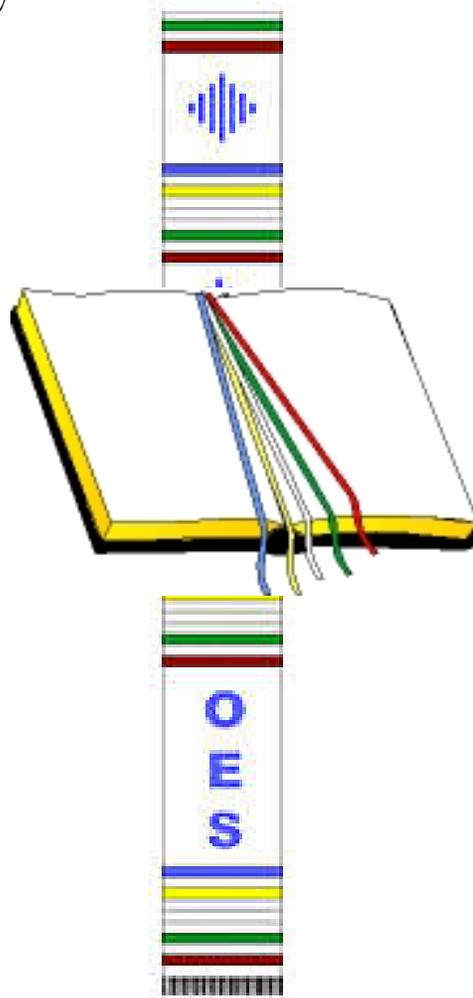
The **Order of the Eastern Star** is a fraternal organization that both men and women can join. It was established in 1850 by Rob Morris, a lawyer and educator from Boston, Massachusetts, who had been an official with the Freemasons. It is based on teachings from the Bible,<sup>[1]</sup> but is open to people of all monotheistic faiths. It has approximately 10,000 chapters in twenty countries and approximately 500,000 members under its General Grand Chapter. Members of the Order are aged 18 and older; men must be Master Masons and women must have specific relationships with Masons. Originally, a woman would have to be the daughter, widow, wife, sister, or mother of a master Mason, but the Order now allows other relatives<sup>[2]</sup> as well as allowing Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, Members of the Organization of Triangle (NY only) and members of the Constellation of Junior Stars (NY only) to become members when they become of age.

On December 1, 1874, Queen Esther Chapter No. 1 became the first Prince Hall Affiliate chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star when it was established in Washington, D.C. by Thornton Andrew Jackson.<sup>[3]</sup>

The "General Grand Chapter" was formed in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 6, 1876. Committees formed at that time created the *Ritual of the Order of the Eastern Star* in more or less its current form.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Bible

Source of all light and knowledge, without it our Ark would mean nothing. With it to guide us here on our knees, we make our vows each to the other and we should rise with a new vision and a new sense of responsibility to our fellow man and a stronger faith in God. It is the foundation of all our laws, of all precepts of right and wrong. It brings peace to the troubled heart and it is the hope for those who have lost their way.





**What It Is:** The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both women and men may belong. Worldwide, there are approximately 1 million members under the General Grand Chapter

Eastern Star is a social order comprised of persons with spiritual values, but it is not a religion. Its appeal rests in the true beauty of the refreshing and character-building lessons that are so sincerely portrayed in its ritualistic work. A deep fraternal bond exists between its members. It is the wholesome relationship of sisterly and brotherly love brought about through high principles exemplified in our lives which makes us near and dear to each other.

While this is an Order composed of people of deep spiritual convictions, it is open to all faiths, except no faith. The personal welfare of our members is vital to all of those in the Eastern Star, and it is considered a privilege to help another member whenever we can.

**Purposes:** The stated purposes of the organization are: Charitable, Educational, Fraternal and Scientific; but there is much more to it than that. Dr. Rob Morris, the Poet Laureate of Masonry, founded the Order using the beautiful and inspiring Biblical examples of heroic conduct and moral values. These portray the noble principles which should adorn the personal lives of Eastern Star members. Eastern Star strives to take good people and through uplifting and elevating associations of love and service, and through precept and example build an Order which is truly dedicated to charity, truth and loving kindness.

**Projects:** Concrete evidence of the charitable nature of the organization as it affects others is the millions of dollars which have been raised within the membership to support national, jurisdictional, and local charities. Many Grand Jurisdictions have homes for their senior members.

# Mission of the Prince Hall Grand Chapter, State of Washington and Jurisdiction Prince Hall Affiliated

Taken from the Prince Hall Grand Chapter's webpage

Our mission is to provide to the Sisters and Brothers of the Washington Jurisdiction, a voice that speaks to the goals of our beautiful Order.

The Order of Eastern Star has a spiritual appeal that will always continue. It is more than a sisterhood or brotherhood, more than a system of ritualism, or a field for social enjoyment. All its lessons are based on Biblical history and are for the betterment and enlightenment of humanity. From our five pointed star we derive fidelity, constancy, loyalty, faith, and love bound together with patience, hope and charity.

We want to provide information that will assist you in meeting the challenge to make your chapter what it should be and to keep you informed of the activities of other subordinate chapters and Grand Chapter.

2020-2021 Elected Leadership for the Prince Hall Grand Chapter  
Order of the Eastern Star  
State of Washington and Jurisdiction

Grand Worthy Matron-Karen Williams

Grand Worthy Patron- Charles Curtis

Grand Associate Matron- Theresa Bartholomew

Grand Associate Patron- Raymond Trice

Grand Conductress- Peggy Ann McClary  
Grand Associate Conductress- Ty Tolefree  
Grand Lecturer- Sharon Laing  
Grand Secretary- Linda Cumberbatch

Grand Treasurer- Beverly Hall  
Grand CC of FC, Gail Lawrence

Grand Trustees  
Cassandra White  
Stephanie Taylor  
Tracy Jones

# Frequently Asked Questions about the Order of the Eastern Star

## **Q. What is the Order of the Eastern Star?**

**A.** The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both women and men may belong. Worldwide, there are approximately 1 million members under the General Grand Chapter

## **Q. What are the requirements for membership?**

**A.** Membership in the Order of the Eastern Star is open to women 18 years of age or older, as well as Master Masons in good standings in their Lodges. A candidate may make their application through a Masonic Relationship or by being sponsored by a member of the Order of the Eastern Star who is a Master Mason. A belief in a Supreme Being is also required. Requirements may vary amongst the different Jurisidictions.

## **Q. What Masonic affiliation is required for a woman to become a member?**

**A.** None.

## **Q. When was the Order of the Eastern Star formed?**

**A.** Robert McCoy conceived the Order of the Eastern Star in 1850.

## **Q. What is the basis of the Order of Eastern Star?**

**A.** Mr. McCoy created the Degrees of the Eastern Star around the lives of five Biblical women. They were Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa. The reason was that each of these Biblical examples stands for

one of the tenets of the Order. They are Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith and Love.

**Q. Is the Order of the Eastern Star a religion?**

A. No. The Order of the Eastern Star is not a religion, even though we are religious in character. It does not pretend to take the place of a religion, or serve as a substitute for the religious beliefs of its members. Our members do come from all denominations.

**Why Should I Want To Join The Order Of The Eastern Star?**

**Q.What does the Eastern Star have to offer that other organizations do not?**

A. Each of us has an inner need to do something for others and sometimes it is difficult to determine just how to begin. The Order of the Eastern Star offers that guidance and provides an outlet, as well as serving as a resource center and support group.

**Q.Is there any social involvement?**

A. Yes. The Chapter has numerous fun activities for all members and their family and friends. Usually, the Worthy Matron has a number of social events to supplement her planned activities.

**Q.Is there any Fraternal friendship?**

A. Both women and men join a Fraternal Order to make friends and enjoy the fellowship that is displayed. Members and their families can enjoy interacting with others who share their beliefs.

**Q.Will I become a better person?**

A. Yes. The Order of the Eastern Star takes good citizens and makes them even better. We continue to be central in the development of the American promise of human opportunity and personal fulfillment.

## Popular Misconceptions

### **Q.Is the Order of the Eastern Star a secret society?**

A. No. Secret societies are underground and hard to find. We are easily found within the community; but, we do enjoy a distinctive means of identifying each other. Only members are allowed in a closed meeting.

### **Q.Can I afford membership in the Order of the Eastern Star?**

A. Yes. Financial position is not considered in the Order. Members come from all economic stations of life.

### **Q.Is my religious faith allowed in the Order of the Eastern Star?**

A. Yes, members of all religions may belong to the Order of the Eastern Star. We only require a belief in a Supreme Being.

### **Q. Is the Order of the Eastern Star time consuming?**

A. After your Initiation into our Order during a regular meeting, you may attend as your time permits.

### **Q. Is there any memory work?**

A. There is no mandatory memory work except the means of making yourself known if you wish to visit a Chapter, or if you become an officer. A short proficiency examination is strictly voluntary, but encouraged.

### **Q. Is the Order patriotic and democratic?**

A. Yes. Members are taught an allegiance to preserve the good order of their country. We strongly support the government of the United States of America.

### **Q. Is Prince Hall Masonry strictly for Black People?**

A. No. In Prince Hall Masonry we do not discriminate. We have members from many different cultures, nationalities, races and religion.

### **Charity**

### **Q.Does the Order of the Eastern Star have any special projects?**

A. Yes. The Order of the Eastern Star membership supports many charitable organizations and programs.

### **OES - A Way Of Life**

### **Q.Just what is Fraternal Life?**

A. The Order of the Eastern Star provides us with a means of compassion and concern, not only for our fellow Sisters and Brothers in the Order of the Eastern Star, but to ourselves, our Country, and our faith. In addition, it enters us into a way of life that all of us inwardly want for ourselves and our families.

### **How Does One Belong?**

### **Q. How may I express a desire to join the Order of the Eastern Star?**

A. If you are not familiar with anyone in a Chapter in your area, you may contact the Grand Secretary, of the local Grand Chapter of your state for the name, address, and phone number of a Chapter in your area to express your desire for additional information. That can easily be found on the internet.

**Q. What procedure should I follow when I have decided that I would like to join a chapter?**

A. The Chapter you intend to join will provide you with a Petition, which you must fill out completely. It should be returned to the Chapter Secretary, as soon as possible, with the appropriate fees.

**Q.What happens after I submit my petition?**

A. Your petition will be read at a Chapter meeting and submitted to an Investigation Committee composed of members of the Chapter that you wish to join. Shortly thereafter the members of the Investigation Committee will contact you individually to set up a time and place for a meeting. This is done (1) To ask a few very simple questions, (2) To provide you an opportunity to meet some of the Chapter members, and (3) To provide you an opportunity to ask and receive answers to any additional questions that you might have. The information that the Investigation Committee receives will be reported to the Worthy Matron.

**Q.What will be the next step?**

A. If all of the information is in order, the report of the Investigation Committee will be submitted to the Chapter members at a stated meeting and a vote will be taken. If favorable, you will have been elected to receive the Degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Secretary will notify you of the results of the election and arrange for you to be initiated into the Order.

**Q.How long after the election will that be?**

A. Each Chapter attempts to plan the events of each meeting for the entire year. That usually includes some flexibility to accommodate Degree meetings for new members; however, in some instances very special plans cannot be interrupted, so the Degrees will be given at the first possible date.

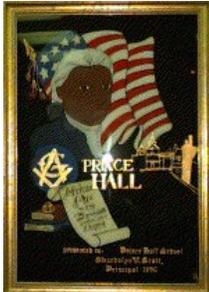
## Q.What happens at Chapter Meetings?

A. An Eastern Star Chapter meets once or twice a month to conduct its business and to confer Eastern Star degrees. If no initiatory work is being performed, the meeting will include a program of interest or entertainment. Refreshments are almost always served.



*To Be 1, Ask 1!*

# Prince Hall Masonry



Prince Hall is recognized as the Father of Black Masonry in the United States. Historically, he made it possible for Negroes to be recognized and enjoy all privileges of free and accepted masonry.

Many rumors of the birth of Prince Hall have arisen. A few records and papers have been found of him in Barbados where it was rumored that he was born in 1748, but no record of birth by church or by state, has been found there, and none in Boston. All 11 countries were searched and churches with baptismal records were examined without finding the name of Prince Hall.

One widely circulated rumor states that "Prince Hall was free born in British West Indies. His father, Thomas Prince Hall, was an Englishman and his mother a free colored woman of French extraction. In 1765 he worked his passage on a ship to Boston, where he worked as a leather worker, a trade learned from his father. During this time he married Sarah Ritchery. Shortly after their marriage, she died at the age of 24. Eight years later he had acquired real estate and was qualified to vote. Prince Hall also pressed John Hancock to be allowed to join the Continental Army and was one of a few blacks who fought at the battle of Bunker Hill. Religiously inclined, he later became a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church with a charge in Cambridge and fought for the abolition of slavery." Some accounts are paraphrased from the generally discredited Grimshaw book of 1903.

Free Masonry among Black men began during the War of Independence, when Prince Hall and fourteen other free black men were initiated into Lodge # 441, Irish Constitution, attached to the 38th Regiment of Foot, British Army Garrisoned at Castle Williams (now Fort Independence) Boston Harbor on March 6, 1775. The Master of the Lodge was Sergeant John Batt. Along with Prince Hall, the other newly made masons were Cyrus Johnson, Bueston Slinger, Prince Rees, John Canton, Peter Freeman, Benjamin Tiler, Duff Ruform, Thomas Santerson, Prince Rayden, Cato Spain, Boston Smith, Peter Best, Forten Howard and Richard Titley.

When the British Army left Boston, this Lodge, # 441, granted Prince Hall and his brethren authority to meet as a lodge, to go in procession on Saints John Day, and

as a Lodge to bury their dead; but they could not confer degrees nor perform any other Masonic "work". For nine years these brethren, together with others who had received their degrees elsewhere, assembled and enjoyed their limited privileges as Masons. Finally in March 2, 1784, Prince Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of England, through a Worshipful Master of a subordinate Lodge in London (William Moody of Brotherly Love Lodge # 55) for a warrant or charter.

The warrant was granted on September 29, 1784 under the name of African Lodge, # 459 on the register of the Grand Lodge of England by authority of then Grand Master, the Duke of Cumberland, delivered in Boston on April 29, 1787 by Captain James Scott, brother-in-law of John Hancock and Master of the Neptune. Prince Hall was the first Master of the lodge which was organized one week later, May 6, 1787.

The warrant to African Lodge # 459 of Boston is the most significant and highly prized document known to the Prince Hall Masonic Fraternity. Through it, Masonic legitimacy among free black men is traced, and on it more than any other factor, rests their case. That charter, which is authenticated and in safekeeping, is believed to be the only original charter issued from the Grand Lodge of England still in the possession of any Lodge in the United States. African Lodge allowed itself to slip into arrears in the late 1790's and was stricken from the rolls after the Union of 1813 although it had attempted correspondence in 1802 and 1806. In 1827, after further unreplied communication, it declared its independence and began to call itself African Grand Lodge # 1. It is interesting to note that when the Massachusetts lodges which were acting as a Provincial Grand Lodge also declared themselves an independent Grand Lodge, and even when the present Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was formed by the amalgamation of the two separate lodges, African Lodge was not invited to take part, even though it held a warrant every bit as valid as the others.

The question of extending Masonry arose when Absalom Jones of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania appeared in 1791 in Boston. He was an ordained Episcopal priest and a mason who was interested in establishing a Masonic lodge in Philadelphia. Delegations also traveled from Providence, Rhode Island and New York to establish the African Grand Lodge that year. Prince Hall was appointed Grand Master, serving in this capacity until his death in 1807.

Upon his death, Nero Prince became Grand Master. When Nero Prince sailed to Russia in 1808, George Middleton succeeded him. After Middleton, Petreert Lew, Samuel H. Moody and then, John T. Hilton became Grand Master. In 1827, it was

Hilton who recommended a Declaration of Independence from the English Grand Lodge.

In 1869 a fire destroyed Massachusetts' Grand Lodge headquarters and a number of its priceless records. The charter in its metal tube was in the Grand Lodge chest. The tube saved the charter from the flames, but the intense heat charred the paper. It was at this time that Grand Master S.T. Kendall crawled into the burning building and in peril of his life, saved the charter from complete destruction. Thus a Grand Master's devotion and heroism further consecrated this parchment to us, and added a further detail to its already interesting history. The original Charter # 459 has long since been made secure between heavy plate glass and is kept in a fire-proof vault in a downtown Boston bank.

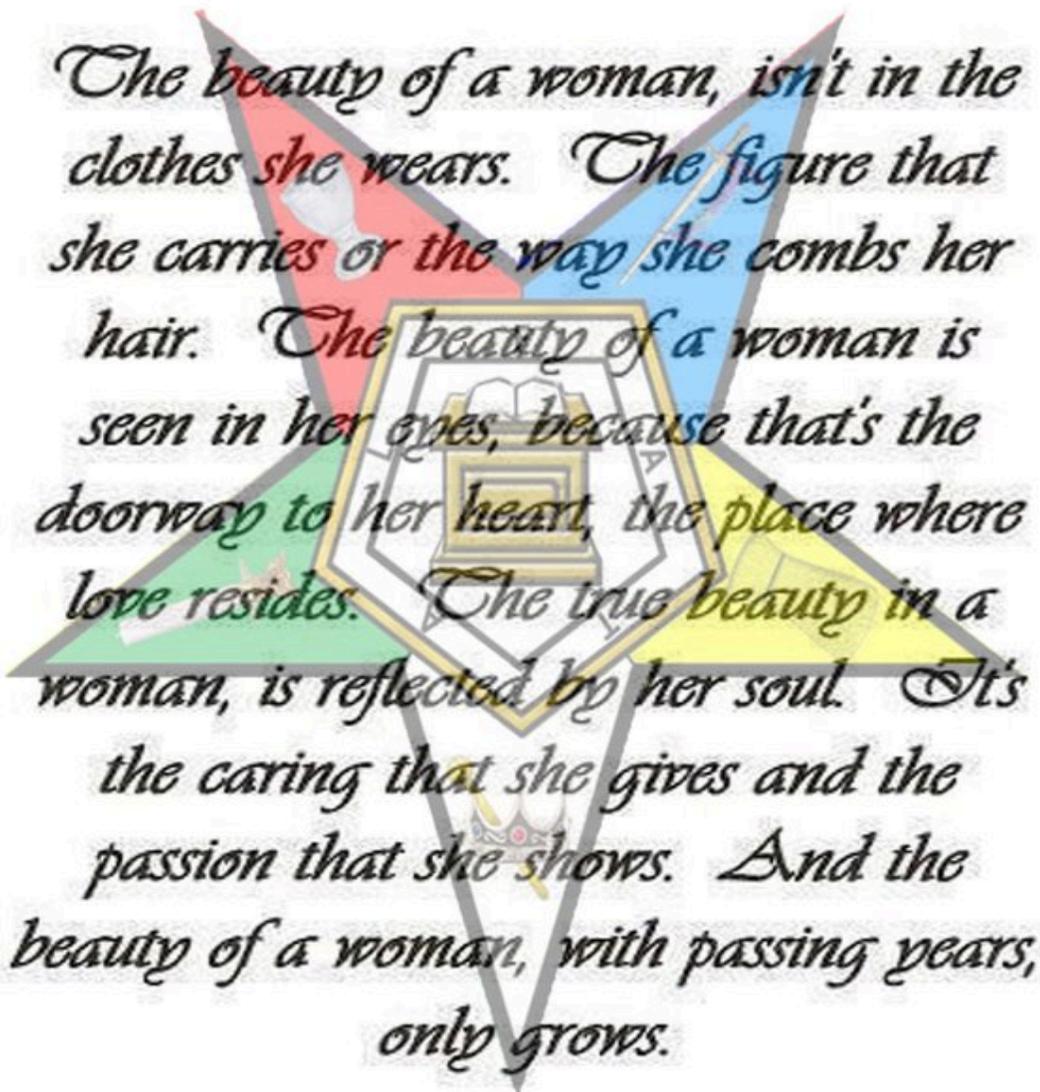
In 1946, the Grand Lodge of England again extended recognition to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge but withdrew it the same year. In 1994, the Grand Lodge of England finally accepted a petition for recognition by Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. "England cited several reasons recognition was withheld," Nicholas B. Locker, Grand Master of Prince Hall from 1992-1994, said in an interview in June 1996. "One was 'territorial boundries,' because the Grand Lodge of England had already recognized the white Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, which shared the same jurisdiction with us. "Another factor was that Prince Hall owed back payment of dues to the Grand Lodge. Back 200 years ago, there were no checks, and often dues for England were put in the hands of sailing ship captains. It was several months before the ships arrived in England, and money was lost. So it wasn't possible to say for sure that Prince Hall paid all his dues."

The ties were arranged to be formalized in June 1996. In its 212 years, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge has spawned over 44 other Grand Lodges. The subordinate lodges receive recognition once their grand lodges are recognized.

Today, the Prince Hall fraternity has over 4,500 lodges worldwide, forming 44 independent jurisdictions with a membership of over 300,000 masons whereby any good hearted man who is worthy and well qualified, can seek more light in masonry.

Prince Hall is buried in a cemetery overlooking the Charlestown naval yard in Boston's north end. His grave is situated near a large tree, his wife's grave is directly behind his. The site is marked by a broken column; a monument erected 88 years after his death by Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Massachusetts. Still today, believers in the Diety and travelers from all walks of life can be seen winding their way to that sacred spot to pay homage at the final resting

place of the first Grand Master of the "colored" Grand Lodge of Masons. This great Mason, Statesman, and Soldier, having traveled to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns; remains as the pillar of wisdom, strength, and beauty among all masons today.



*The beauty of a woman, isn't in the clothes she wears. The figure that she carries or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of a woman is seen in her eyes, because that's the doorway to her heart, the place where love resides. The true beauty in a woman, is reflected by her soul. It's the caring that she gives and the passion that she shows. And the beauty of a woman, with passing years, only grows.*



*"Because "*  
*By Bishop T.D. Jakes*

Just because someone may not have realized what a gold mine you are, doesn't mean you shine any less.

Just because someone may not have realized that you can't be topped, doesn't stop you from being the best.

Just because no one has come along to share your life, doesn't mean that day isn't coming.

Just because no one has made this race worthwhile, doesn't give you permission to stop running.

Just because no one has realized how much of an awesome woman you are, doesn't mean they can affect your femininity.

Just because no one has shown up who can love you on your level, doesn't mean you have to sink to theirs.

Just because you deserve the very best there is, doesn't mean that life is always fair.

Just because God is still preparing your king, doesn't mean that you're not already a Queen.

Just because your situation doesn't seem to be progressing right now, doesn't mean you need to change a thing.

Keep shining, Keep running, Keep hoping, Keep praying, Keep being exactly what you are already . . .COMPLETE!!

