

MOST EXCELLENT GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF TEXAS

THROUGH THE VEILS



TMRC PECAN GROVE PRESIDING JEWELS. ELECTION/INSTALLATION SEASON COMING UP!

WELCOME TO "THROUGH THE VEILS" MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!



Companions, thank you for those who have used the alternative email address we published last month! It allows for your photographs and visuals to be included in this platform, social media, and the website while remaining organized. For any content submission, please continue to us GrandChapterOfTexas@gmail.com.

As always, the [Newsletter Survey](#) will remain open and allow your ideas and opinions on this publication be received! All submissions are anonymous. Thank you!



CONTACT / SUBMISSIONS

Companion

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Editor

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MOST EXCELLENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Companions,

I have been a HUGE baseball fan all my life. Just about everyday as a kid, I was playing baseball with the neighborhood kids. I always imagined myself standing in the batters box at Yankee Stadium. With legends and leaders like Ruth, Mantle, DiMaggio, Berra and many others. My favorite was always Lou Gehrig. A quiet guy who never sought the attention as Babe Ruth did. Gehrig proved himself by keeping his head down and getting to work. With this ethics in life he would become the Yankee Captain. With June 2nd being Lou Gehrig Day I wanted to take this months newsletter to share a small part of his life.

When we think of leaders, it's easy to imagine the ones who dominate headlines, pose for cameras, and shine in the public eye. But leadership is not always loud. Sometimes, it's quiet resilience. Sometimes, it's grace under impossible pressure. And sometimes, it looks like Lou Gehrig.

Lou Gehrig, known as the "Iron Horse" of baseball, played 2,130 consecutive games for the New York Yankees, a streak that stood for 56 years. He was a powerhouse at first base, a reliable hitter, and a core of one of the most legendary teams in baseball history. But what made Gehrig a true leader wasn't just his stats or his fame—it was how he carried himself when everything started to fall apart.

In 1939, at the height of his career, Gehrig was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a progressive and ultimately fatal disease that attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. It was a devastating blow. His body was weakening. His career was ending. But Gehrig's response was not bitterness or self-pity—it was dignity, courage, and a quiet strength that inspired a nation. Even as his muscles failed him, Gehrig stood tall at Yankee Stadium on July 4, 1939, and delivered one of the most iconic speeches in sports history. "Today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth," he said. In the face of a terminal diagnosis, he chose gratitude. He chose humility. That moment wasn't about his batting average. It wasn't about fame. It was about heart. Lou Gehrig's legacy goes far beyond baseball. His name lives on not just through the disease that took his life, but through the example he set: that true leaders lead by example, by character, and by perseverance in the face of unimaginable hardship.

Leadership isn't measured by how many pictures you take or how many likes you get. It's about what you do when nobody's watching, and how you lift others even when you're falling. Gehrig didn't need to post about perseverance—he lived it. He showed that strength isn't always physical. Sometimes, it's emotional and moral. Sometimes, leadership is choosing to say thank you when you have every reason to scream.

In a world full of noise, being a leader is more important than ever. Like Gehrig, it means standing firm in your values, even when your body can no longer carry you forward. Be the leader that everyone wants for what you have done to make our fraternity a better place.

Fraternally,

Don Paul Payton
Grand High Priest





FROM THE GRAND ORATOR'S SCROLL

Moses is one that almost all of us are familiar with. Having been born during a time when Pharaoh had commanded all male Hebrew children to be drowned in the Nile, his mother instead placed in a small ark in the river. Pharaoh's daughter discovered, adopted, and raised him as her own. After reaching manhood, he discovered his true identity and then became a leader in the effort to free the children of Israel from Egypt after meeting God at the burning bush. After crossing the Red Sea and receiving the Ten Commandments, Moses lead the Israelites for forty years in search of the Promised Land. Having passed authority to Joshua, Moses was to viewed the Promised Land but passed away before entering.

DRESSING UP DEGREES - GUEST SUBMISSION

Lubbock Chapter No. 248 held a full-costume Royal Arch degree for two candidates earlier this month. A special note was that their Veil Guard's costumes matched their veil. Comp. James Arthur Clark conferred as the Most Excellent High Priest.



-- GRAND CHAPTER JULY 15TH DEADLINES --

GOLDEN KEystone NOMINATIONS

BY-LAWS CHANGES TO BE APPROVED AT GRAND SESSIONS

RESOLUTION SUBMISSIONS

STATEMENTS OF AVAILABILITY

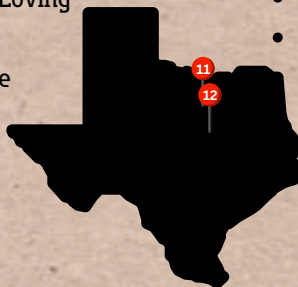
DISTRICT BREAKDOWN

DISTRICT 11

- Goodnight-Loving
- Cleburne
- Stephenville
- Hillsboro

DISTRICT 12

- Waco
- Temple



FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS



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CONVIVIVUM RECAP



KILGORE / TYLER, TEXAS



GRAND CHAPTER ONLINE STORE – SHIPS TO YOU!

– FUNDRAISER JEWEL –



The Grand High Priest's Fund Jewels were commissioned for Capitular Masons in Texas and elsewhere to support the effort of the "No Mason Left Behind" program. By donating **\$150.00** (plus an online fee and shipping) to this program, you will receive a jewel in a beautiful red presentation case. The jewels can be purchased [online](#) and shipped to you! They are typically worn the right side of your red chapter suit jacket.

– TEXAS SHEKELS –



Online purchases for the Texas Shekels can be found [here](#). Minimum quantity for online purchases are five shekels are calculated for your desired quantity. These shekels are being sold in record numbers as many Chapters and Districts purchasing in bulk to give to new Mark Master Masons, to visitors, and to add to your own personal collection! Additionally, many Companions themselves are purchasing in bulk to give to new Master Masons or to Masons who have not joined the York Rite as a possible recruitment gift. Their purposes are endless!

STATE WIDE FESTIVAL



September 26-27

The Statewide York Rite Festival is back on after rescheduling! Mark your calendars for **September 26-27**, when this highly anticipated event will take place at the Grand Lodge Memorial Temple in Waco, TX. For those looking to get involved, **Gabriel Jagush** is the main point of contact for any questions or assistance. Registration and more information will be available on the website soon, so stay tuned for updates. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to network with fellow members and experience a memorable weekend of York Rite traditions!

COUNTERPART CORNER



Congratulations to Randall Morris on his election and installation as President of the Texas Allied Masonic Degree Association (TAMDA). Thank you for your dedication to York Rite Masonry in Texas!

COMMITTEE COLUMN

- GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMITTEES -



JURISPRUDENCE

The Committee on Jurisprudence consists of five members. All amendments to the Constitution, all resolutions proposing amendments to the Laws of this Grand Chapter, all matters pertaining to Masonic Jurisprudence, and such other matters as the Grand Chapter or the Grand High Priest may decide, as well as all decisions construing the Constitution and Laws of this Grand Chapter, shall be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence for examination, consideration, and report thereon before same shall be acted upon by this Grand Chapter.

In reviewing the decisions of the M. E. Grand High Priest or the R. E. Deputy Grand High Priest every ruling of the Committee on Jurisprudence thereon, if approved by this Grand Chapter, shall have the force and effect of an Edict until it is modified, amended, revoked, or suspended by subsequent action of this Grand Chapter.

The Jurisprudence Committee following each Session of this Grand Chapter shall file in the Grand Secretary's office a copy of all changes to be printed in the Constitution and Laws of this Grand Chapter within ten (10) days following the close of the Grand Chapter Session in which Laws and Edicts were approved.

The current Committee chairman is E. Chance Chapman, whose term expires in December 2029.

**"WHERE THERE IS UNITY, THERE IS
ALWAYS VICTORY."**

- PUBLILIUS SYRUS -

SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF YORK RITE MASONS

ARKANSAS - KANSAS - LOUISIANA - MISSOURI - OKLAHOMA - TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 19-20



The 68th Annual South Central York Rite Conference is just around the corner, and we invite you to join us in **League City, Texas**, for an exciting and informative weekend. The conference will be held on **September 19-20, 2025**, at the **South Shore Harbour Resort**, located at 2500 South Shore Blvd, League City, TX 77573.

Hotel accommodations are available at the South Shore Harbour Resort for just \$149 per night (before taxes). Be sure to [reserve your room](#) by the hotel deadline of August 25, 2025, to secure the discounted rate. Please note that the conference registration deadline is September 12, 2025.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with fellow York Rite leaders from around the nation, engage in thought-provoking discussions, and enjoy a weekend of camaraderie and learning.

We look forward to seeing you at the 68th Annual South Central York Rite Conference!



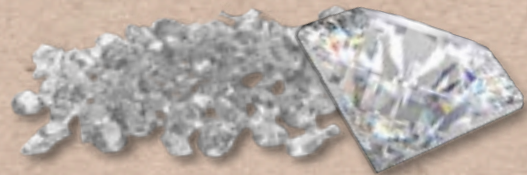
PRESERVING OUR PASTS

V.: E.: DR. SIMON JOSHUA MORRISS, MD, PGHP

Simon Joshua Morriss (1843-1902) was Exalted a Royal Arch Mason on April 13, 1878 in St. Johns Chapter 60, and later affiliated with Kildare Ch. 145 and Atlanta Ch. 163 as a Charter Member. He served as the **forty-third** Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas (1892-1893). When he was 18, he enlisted in the Alabama Infantry and was promoted to the rank of Captain where he participated in all the great battles and was wounded several times. He was in command of the infantry when it finally surrendered at Appomattox. After returning from war, he began the practice of medicine and surgery. Active in politics, Dr. Morriss was elected to the Texas Senate representing the first district in 1896. He served in the 25th and 26th Legislatures where he would Chair the Public Health Committee and was a member of seven additional committees.

EXPLORING EXODUS IDENTIFYING THE TWELVE STONES

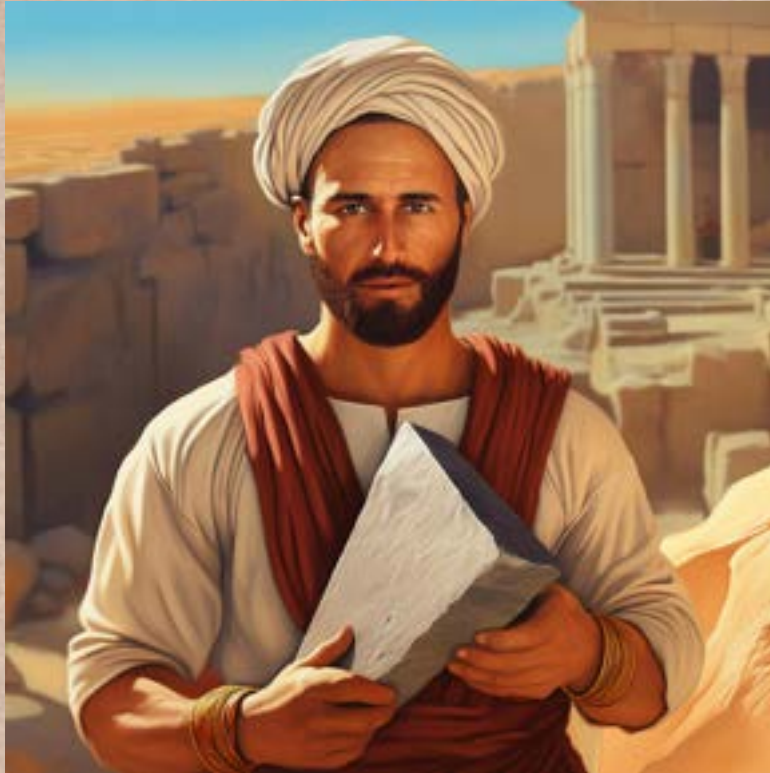
In the Book of Exodus, we are introduced to Aaron's Breastplate, which is also known as the Breastplate of Judgement. Aaron wore this breastplate which had twelve stones on it representing the twelve tribes of Israel. It was meant to remind him of his obligations not only to God, but also to the people. This breastplate is the symbol used for Past High Priests, and it bears 12 precious stones that are not explained esoterically. Nearly every translation is different and some stones have since been renamed. The **Masonic Heirloom Bible** will be the version used for the remainder of this segment!



DIAMOND

Diamond is the third stone of the second row of the Breastplate. Diamonds, derived from the Greek word "adamas", meaning "invincible" or "unbreakable," are a symbol of strength and beauty, hence why they are the primary gemstone for marriage and important gifts. Diamonds are made of the same material as graphite (pencil lead), but under immense pressure and heat deep within the Earth, they crystallize into the hardest natural substance known to man. Additionally, some diamonds are actually older than the earth itself.

AN EYE ON AI



With the rising cultural influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI), this artistic digital image was generated after entering certain keywords in order to form a visualization of our ancient craft. The words used were:

Ancient
Young Stonemason
Rock Quarry
Israel
Keystone Trapezoid
Temple in Background
Desert

The generated AI caption of the photo reads, "In ancient Israel, a young stonemason within a rock quarry chisled the perfect trapezoidal key stone for a glorious temple seen in the deserted background."

GRAND PHOTOGRAPHER'S PORTFOLIO



 **Texas Grand Chapter**
Photo Gallery



TEXAS MASONIC RETIREMENT COMMUNITY UPDATES!



Kick Loneliness to Curb at Texas Masonic Retirement Community

Tired of eating alone? Sick of playing solitaire? Bored with watching movies or ball games by yourself? Move to Texas Masonic Retirement Community and be instantly surrounded by friends. These are folks just like the Lodge members and neighbors you've known for years. You'll choose from our convenient apartments, luxury high-rise units, or our cottage duplexes. We offer floor plans to fit every budget and lifestyle. Give us a call at (817) 275-2893 today to schedule a tour or learn more. Or, visit our website at YourTMRC.org for a video tour and lots of information. We look forward to hearing from you!

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE STATE



JUNE

19-22 // Grand Assembly of Rainbow Girls (Waco)



JULY

10-13 // Texas DeMolay Conclave (Fort Worth)



EDITOR'S NOTE

COMPANION MICHAEL COTE II
ASSISTANT STATE COORDINATOR & E.. GRAND ORGANIST

Companions,

As we close this sixth edition, marking halfway through the year, I continue to find myself filled with gratitude for the unique publishing position many of you have trusted me to continue. This fellowship is grounded not only in the strength of our present bonds but in remembrance of those who came before us. Let us remember the delight found in history such as the stories and traditions. History, after all, is not meant to be edited but rather preserved for understanding. As David McCullough wisely said, "History is who we are and why we are the way we are." May the richness of our shared past continue to guide our journey forward—with eyes open, lessons embraced, and unity strengthened. **This newsletter is for you!**

