



PHGC OES State of Washington & Jurisdiction

STARBrite Newsletter

	Issue No. 2 May 11, 2025	
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GWM Dr. Tysha Tolefree

From The Office of the GWM

Dearest Sisters and Brothers,

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. With the many issues and new developments happening around us, to us, and/or others that we know; it is important that we “center our well-being” now and always. In moments of chaos and quiet, please remember that there is a higher being that still sits on the throne.

Let’s also continue to find ways to shine light and provide comfort to our often overlooked “sheroes” and “heroes” among us – our caregivers. Whether family members, healthcare professionals, or community supporters; caregivers tirelessly share their time, energy, and hearts to care for others. In their dedication, however, they often put their own well-being last. Whether it’s call, a short visit, or otherwise, it is so important that we keep in touch with our sisterly and brotherly caregivers. While many of our caregiver’s volunteer their time, it is a thankless job and not for the weak at heart. More importantly, their devotion and commitment to serving often has no boundaries. Please keep them in prayer and their spirits lifted!



DDGM Monique J. Thomas
Creative-in-Chief

From The Office of the GWM (cont.)

During this month, I ask you to not only honor their compassion and resilience, but also to reiterate the fact that caregivers need care too. Mental health is not a “buzz word” or a privilege - it’s a critical necessity. True sisterhood requires action. Let’s show up for one another and ensure that no sister or brother walks this journey alone. Be a light along the pathways that lie ahead of us. Supporting those who support others is essential to an empowered, mutually supportive, and compassionate community.

The ask during this month and always is to:

- Encourage rest and emotional support for caregivers.
- Create safe spaces for them to share and seek help.
- Recognize the signs of caregiver burnout and provide resources.
- Show gratitude and remind caregivers their well-being matters deeply.

Below are some pictures from our Caregiver’s Relief project. Members who attended the Leadership Development Conference in April assembled caregiver baskets for recognized caregivers in our jurisdiction. Items were donated by each chapter, assembled, and delivered accordingly. This project was positively received and more importantly we were able to provide a small token of love and appreciation. These efforts are in close alignment with “What Wilt Thou?” and “Love one Another” – where both require action on our parts. Together, we can build a culture that values empathy and mutual support. When caregivers receive care, everyone benefits.

If you are reading this and you need support, please reach out to a Sister or Brother who may have or know someone with resources that can help. If you are a Sister or Brother with resources to share, please do so.

To aid you in acknowledging caregivers and nurturing their well-being, feel free to use these hashtags to post photos of sisters and brothers wearing **green** in support of each other: **#InMayWeWearGreen, #MentalHealthAwareness, #CaringForCaregivers, #YouAreNotAlone**

Blessings upon blessings,

Dr. Tysha Tolefree
54th Grand Worthy Matron
PHGC Order of Eastern Star
State of Washington & Jurisdiction

A Celebration of Grace, Strength, and Unconditional Love: Honoring Mothers Everywhere



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY !

May 11, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On this special day, we honor our mothers, grandmothers, “other mothers,” and motherly caregivers who nurture those around them through the love, strength, and unwavering devotion that they provide. Often experiencing the highs and lows of sheer pride, joy, disappointment, and grief; motherhood is a gift to be cherished and celebrated.

To every mother, grandmother, “other mother,” and caregiver - celebrate you on this day and thank you for the positive impacts you make in the lives of your families and the young lives whose you touch through PHGC Order of Eastern Star, Washington & Jurisdiction. We also hold deeply in our hearts those whose mothers are no longer physically with us. May their memories continue to bring comfort and light.

Again, **Happy Mother's Day!**

Dr. Tysha Tolefree
54th Grand Worthy Matron
PHGC OES, WA & Jurisdiction

Prince Hall Grand Chapter, OES
Washington & Jurisdiction

When the Stars Align: A Leadership Conference to Remember



Leadership Conference Attendees



PGP Michael Lewis Assembling Baskets

When the Stars Align: A Leadership Conference to Remember (cont.)

On **Saturday, April 26th**, our 2nd Annual Leadership Conference brought together powerful voices, inspiring sessions, and heartfelt service under the theme "When the Stars Align." From 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., leaders united for a day of connection, growth, and purpose.

In addition to meaningful workshops, we distributed Caregiver Relief Baskets to honor those who care for others selflessly — a small gesture with a significant impact.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed to this special day. Together, we shine brighter.



OES Members Assembling Baskets

Districts Unite for Leadership and Learning at Upcoming Study Session



Save The Date

Joint District Study Sessions
 Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Order Eastern Star
 State of Washington & Jurisdiction

Location	Date	Time
Tacoma Lodge & Virtual	May 17, 2025	9 a.m. - 2 p.m. (PST)

Grand Lecturer's Workshop

- ◆ Chapter of Sorrow
- ◆ Understanding Chapter Roles
- ◆ Mastering How to Run Effective Chapter Meetings

Point of Contacts:

DDGM Monique J. Thomas (District #1) &
DDGM Janet Ellis (District #2)

Light Refreshments, Fun, Prizes, and a 50/50 Raffle!

Wear Comfortable Shoes, Bring a Pen, Notebook, and Your Enthusiasm!

4th Special Joint District Study Session - Grand Lecturer's Workshop

Districts Unite for Leadership and Learning at Upcoming Study Session (cont.)

Get ready for growth!

On **Saturday, May 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (PDT)**, members from Districts 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, and 10 will come together for a Joint District Training Session—in person at Tacoma Lodge and virtually for members across the globe.

Led by Grand Lecturer Shiree Springfield, the session will cover vital topics on chapter operations, leadership, and ritual work.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their ritual, Constitution & Bylaws, instruction booklets, and your A-game enthusiasm!

The day includes light refreshments, a 50/50 raffle, and opportunities to learn, connect, and lead with purpose.

Don't forget to register by Friday, May 16th!

Register [**here**](#).

A Night of Honor, Elegance & Celebration



Join us for a special evening of elegance, celebration, and heartfelt recognition at the Grand Sweetheart Silent Auction & Banquet on **Friday, May 16th, at 6 p.m.**, as we honor our esteemed Grand Sweetheart, Timeka Gist-McHenry.

This memorable night will feature an exciting silent auction, delicious dinner, and uplifting fellowship as we recognize her grace, service, and sisterhood.

Tickets are \$50 – secure yours today!

Contact SAM Tameka Sanford at (360) 559-7297 for more information.

Let's show our love and support for Grand Sweetheart Timeka in style — we look forward to seeing you there!

Annual Esther Day Celebration



PRINCE HALL GRAND CHAPTER
ORDER OF EASTERN STAR
STATE OF WASHINGTON & JURISDICTION
ANNUAL ESTHER DAY CELEBRATION



SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025 AT 2:30 P.M.
REV. DR. LINDA M. SMITH, PASTOR
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH,
4519 NE 10TH ST, RENTON, WA 98059

Join us for a day filled with faith, fellowship, and sisterhood as we honor Queen Esther's enduring legacy with grace, reverence, and unity.

We invite you to join us on **Sunday, June 1st**, at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Baptist Church (4519 NE 10th St, Renton, WA). A virtual option is available for our stateside and overseas members. District One is hosting this event, and all members are encouraged to attend.

Line up: 1:45 p.m. | Service: Begins at 2:30 p.m.

The repass will take place immediately after the service.

Important Dates to Remember

Support a Great Cause While You Shop!

Shop at [PridefulPatchez.com](https://pridefulpatchez.com) and use code PHGC at checkout! Your purchase helps fund scholarships through the Prince Hall Grand Chapter OES State of Washington & Jurisdiction partnership — and supports a Black-owned business.

Style with purpose. Shop with pride.

(253) 202-5511
<https://waphgc.yalifestudios.com/>
306 24th AVE so Seattle,
Washington 98144





Support Prince Hall Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star with Prideful Patchez!

We have partnered with Prideful Patchez as we are raising money for our scholarship fund.

DATE: From August 5, 2024 - May 30, 2025

Shop with us at <https://pridefulpatchez.com> and use our exclusive purchase code: **PHGC** to contribute to our cause.

Shop & Support:

- Custom Patches: Unique, culturally inspired, and socially impactful patches.
- Accessories: Pins, stickers, and more to showcase your style.

Together, we can make a difference. Every purchase helps support Prince Hall Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star and our mission in raising money for our scholarship fund.

<https://waphgc.yalifestudios.com/>
www.pridefulpatchez.com

Celebrate Exceptional Leadership at the GWM & GWP Banquet



Prince Hall Grand Chapter
Order of Eastern Star



Grand Worthy Matron & Grand Worthy Patron Banquet

HONORING



GWM Dr. Tysha Tolefree



GWP Errol Irby

Social Hour: 6pm - 7pm

Saturday
7
June

LaQuinta Inn & Suites
1425 E 27th St
Tacoma, WA 98421

Join us on **Saturday, June 7th at 6:00 p.m.** as we honor the remarkable service and leadership of Dr. Tysha Tolefree, Grand Worthy Matron, and Errol Irby, Grand Worthy Patron.

Tickets: \$80.00

Dress to impress and prepare for an unforgettable evening of dining, tributes, and celebration!

For tickets or more information, contact:

- 📞 GAM Sharon L. Holley – (253) 985-3781
- 📞 GAP Renaldo Peters – (301) 605-4607

Let's raise our glasses and our gratitude to two incredible leaders — this is one event you won't want to miss!

Important Dates to Remember

**An unforgettable evening of
elegance and celebration**

A poster for the Potentate & Commandress Ball. At the top left is a logo of a sphinx head. At the top right is a logo of a sword and a shield. The text reads: "Yemen Temple # 152 & Yemen Court # 12", "Potentate & Commandress Ball", "POC: NOBLE CLARENCE WILLIAMS 254-206-6603 DAUGHTER CARLA IRBY 360-480-0220", "SATURDAY JUNE 21, 2025 6PM -7PM SOCIAL HOUR 7PM-12AM BALL", "LaQuinta Tacoma-Seattle 1425 E. 27th Street Tacoma, WA 98421", and "Tickets: \$75 ea 2 for \$125". At the bottom is a photo of a man and a woman in formal attire.

Yemen Temple # 152
&
Yemen Court # 12

**Potentate &
Commandress
Ball**

POC:
NOBLE CLARENCE WILLIAMS
254-206-6603
DAUGHTER CARLA IRBY
360-480-0220

SATURDAY JUNE 21, 2025
6PM -7PM SOCIAL HOUR
7PM-12AM BALL

LaQuinta
Tacoma-Seattle
1425 E. 27th Street
Tacoma, WA 98421

**Tickets:
\$75 ea
2 for \$125**

Yemen Temple #152 & Yemen Court #12 proudly present the Potentate & Commandress Ball on **Saturday, June 21st at 6:00 PM** Tickets: \$75 or 2 for \$125.

Join us as we honor leadership, legacy, and community in true royal fashion. You won't want to miss a night full of style, sophistication, and spirited fellowship!

To secure your ticket today, contact Noble Clarence Williams at (254) 206-6603 or Dt. Carla Irby at (360) 480-0220!

Let's celebrate with class, culture, and connection!

Get ready to Sip, Swirl, and Create!

Join Prince Hall Grand Chapter for our Annual Sip & Paint on **Friday, July 12th** — a day of fun, creativity, and fellowship you won't miss!

No experience is necessary—bring your smile, favorite beverage, and a spirit ready to paint the afternoon away!

Donation: \$40

Contact GC Brenda Wraggs at bwraggs253@yahoo.com and GAC Ye'Vette Redd at yevetteredd1215@gmail.com
Register here [\[Registration Link\]](#)

Art + Laughter + Good Vibes = A Colorful and Unforgettable Day!

A poster for the Sip & Paint event. It features a logo for Prince Hall Grand Chapter, a logo for the event, and a photo of a bottle of wine, a glass of wine, and a paint palette. The text reads: "Prince Hall Grand Chapter", "Annual Sip & Paint", "Join us for sips, laughs, light refreshments and a keepsake you can treasure made by you! Proceeds from this event go towards supporting Prince Hall Grand Chapter, OES.", "DATE: Saturday, July 12, 2025 TIME: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm", "LOCATION: Hotel Murano - 1320 Broadway - Tacoma, WA 98402", "Donation: \$40 Includes: canvas, paint and 2 drink tickets", "RSVP and donations are required no later than June 30, 2025", "RSVP using the link below https://forms.gle/aYBGC1uzgJUe6wkD6", "FOR MAIL IN: Make checks payable to: PHGC OES", "MAIL TO: Ye'Vette Redd - 725 114th Street CT E - Tacoma, WA 98445", "For more information please contact: GAC Ye' Vette Redd : yevetteredd1215@gmail.com GC Brenda Wraggs : bwraggs253@yahoo.com".

Prince Hall Grand Chapter

Annual
Sip & Paint

Join us for sips, laughs, light refreshments and a keepsake you can treasure made by you! Proceeds from this event go towards supporting Prince Hall Grand Chapter, OES.

DATE: Saturday, July 12, 2025 **TIME:** 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

LOCATION: Hotel Murano - 1320 Broadway - Tacoma, WA 98402

Donation: \$40
Includes: canvas, paint and 2 drink tickets
RSVP and donations are required no later than June 30, 2025

RSVP using the link below
<https://forms.gle/aYBGC1uzgJUe6wkD6>

FOR MAIL IN: Make checks payable to: PHGC OES
MAIL TO: Ye'Vette Redd - 725 114th Street CT E - Tacoma, WA 98445

For more information please contact:
GAC Ye' Vette Redd : yevetteredd1215@gmail.com
GC Brenda Wraggs : bwraggs253@yahoo.com

Important Dates to Remember

Get Ready for Grand Session 2025!

**PRINCE HALL
GRAND SESSION
2025**



HOTEL MURANO • TACOMA
JULY 12TH – 16TH

HOTEL REGISTRATION AT
<https://grandsession.org/hotel-reservation>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
gec@mwphglwa.org

Get ready for the most exciting event of the year — Grand Session 2025, happening **July 14th–16th** — and it's all just a click away at GrandSession.org!

- ✓ Register for Grand Session
- ✓ Reserve your souvenir journal ad
- ✓ Book your airport shuttle & hotel

- 📘 Everything you need in one place — easy, fast, and 100% secured online!
- ◆ Advance Registration: \$200 (by June 20th)
- ◆ Late: \$250 | On-site: \$275 (with approval)

Don't wait — secure your spot now at **GrandSession.org**!

