Introduction

With 100 years of history to build upon for the future, I take this opportunity to provide a brief history of Moussa Temple No. 106. Beginning in 2018, I began to collect photos, newspaper articles, review annual/election reports, conduct home visits, and travel to the Imperial Council Headquarters in Memphis, Tenn., to bring the most factual information to the reader.

This journal also serves as a very important historical document which I hope is cherished by all past, present, and future members of Moussa Temple, our families, and supporters.

In this centennial year, the Prince Hall Shriners of Moussa Temple No. 106 celebrate and honor their Past Potentates who are featured in this commemorative souvenir journal.

We have a lot to be thankful for and we celebrate those Nobles who are building their futures with us today and who are working to ensure that Prince Hall Shrinedom in the Oasis of San Antonio continues to serve Military City USA for another 100 years.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the all the Nobles of Moussa Temple No. 106 who contributed to this journal.

Additional thanks to Imperial Deputy of the Oasis, Hon. Past Imperial Potentate Anthony L. Davis, Past Potentate Jerry Smothers, Daughter Grace Hill of Moussa Court No. 119, and Daughter Willie Mae McVea (widow of Hon. Past Imperial Potentate Norris L. McVea, Sr.) for allowing me to come to their homes and capture information featured in this brief history.

A deep thank you to Past Potentates William Woods, Roosevelt Tennessee (deceased), Jerry Smothers, and James Pearson for identifying many of the Past Potentates who served during the 1960’s – 1990’s.

The following Nobles played essential roles in the planning and execution of our Centennial Celebration: Illustrious Potentate Justin Shaw; Imperial Deputy of the Oasis, Hon. Past Imperial Potentate Anthony L. Davis; Imperial Deputy of the Desert, Hon. Past Imperial Potentate Burnell White, Jr.; Past Potentates Jerry Smothers; Dr. Charles E. Russell, Jr.; Kenneth W. Bankston; Martin Conner III; Edward Jones; Stacy Foushee; Derek Scott; Fentress Posey; Hon. Past Potentate Grady Peavy, Jr.; Chief Rabban Larry Smith; Assistant Rabban John Janice, Jr.; Recorder Darrin Prude; Assistant Recorder Shevin Ravenel; Assistant Treasurer Alfred Trigg; High Priest & Prophet Kenneth Carnes; Oriental Guide James Houston, Sr.; 1st Ceremonial Master Luis Baez; 2nd Ceremonial Master C. Kaurian Butler-Edwards; Marshal Robert Bonner, Jr.; Captain of the Guard Andre Gholson; Outer Guard Phillip Rowland; Nobles Graddie Robinson; Cedric Super; Michael Moore; Angello Gordon; Warren Smith; Joe Monroe; Nathaniel Tennyson; Anthony Rosser; Robert Brown, and Michael Files.

Much of the information contained within this history is derived from the San Antonio Register which was the prominent newspaper for the Black community in San Antonio from 1931 – 1990's. The articles can be accessed via The Portal to Texas History (https://texashistory.unt.edu/).

Semper Fidelis,

Centennial Chairman
Moussa Temple No. 106, Oasis of San Antonio, Desert of Texas received a dispensation from the Imperial Council, Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine of North & South America and its Jurisdiction, Inc., on April 17, 1921. Other Temples within the Imperial Domain to receive the same on that day were Hella Temple in the Oasis of Columbia, Desert of Tennessee and Amer Temple in the Oasis of Dayton, Desert of Ohio.

On Aug. 2, 1921, Moussa Temple was chartered to be a charitable and social organization dedicated to the welfare and extension of Prince Hall Masonry, which was adopted as its primary principle and guide. Since that time, Moussa Temple has gone on to operate as a fraternal, benevolent, and charitable organization. Its membership is dedicated to the principle of fostering civic, economic, and educational development programs in the San Antonio community.

The Charter Divan Members of Moussa Temple were Illustrious Potentate David L. Sparks, Chief Rabban George Bell, Assistant Rabban Earnest Simms, High Priest & Prophet W. M. Stiles, Oriental Guide Herple U. Ellis, Sr., Treasurer Alex Thomas, Recorder James A. Young, 1st Ceremonial Master Clifford Minter, 2nd Ceremonial Master James Edwards, Marshal F. D. English, Captain of the Guard Edward Lewis, and Outer Guard John Ray.

The Temple held its meetings at the Beacon Light Hall near downtown located at 220 Chestnut Street on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. This building is now the headquarters of San Antonio Growth for the East Side (SAGE).

The first elected and appointed officers of Moussa Temple were Illustrious Potentate John J. Miles, Sr., Chief Rabban James Rainey, Assistant Rabban E. C. Sanders, High Priest & Prophet W. M. Stiles, Oriental Guide Q. A. Brooks, Treasurer Alex Thomas, Recorder James A. Young, 1st Ceremonial Master Clifford Minter, 2nd Ceremonial Master W. S. Webb, Marshal Peter E. Seay, Captain of the Guard Harvey Hilliard, and Outer Guard John Hunt.

According to the 1921 - 22 Annual Report to the Imperial Council, Moussa Temple had a total membership of 50 Nobles of which 13 were newly created members. At that time, all Nobles were Knight Templar Masons of Alamo Commandery No. 7 except for one. Per Capita Tax paid to the Imperial Council was .50 cents per member. Additionally, while serving as the Illustrious Potentate, Noble John J. Miles, Sr. was appointed the first Imperial Deputy of the Oasis of San Antonio and served a total of 32 years.

On July 16, 1922, the Black Camel made its first journey to the Oasis of San Antonio and carried away Noble D. B. Whitley. His widow, Hattie Whitley, received a death benefit payment of $200 from the Imperial Council.

In December 1922, Noble James Rainey was elected Illustrious Potentate in which he served one year. He was followed by Noble David L. Sparks who also
served one year. P.P. Rainey would later be appointed the Imperial Advisor. Additionally, he served Moussa Temple as Recorder for 25 years and as Treasurer for eight years.

In December 1924, Jack (John) I. Warren was elected and served until December 1926. He became Imperial Deputy of the Oasis after P.P. Miles. P.P. Miles returned as Illustrious Potentate in December 1926 serving until 1930.

From 1931 to 1933, Noble Herple U. Ellis, Sr., served as Illustrious Potentate. He was followed by Noble Oscar B. Shelby who served until 1935. P.P. Shelby would also become the Imperial Deputy of the Oasis. Most notably, P.P. Shelby was a District Deputy Grand Master (District 19) of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and Grand Inspector General of Texas Knights Templar.

In December 1935, Noble Spurgeon H. Kelley became Illustrious Potentate of Moussa Temple serving for one year in which he was followed by Noble Dan Brown who served for one year. P.P. Kelley was re-elected to the Office of Illustrious Potentate in December 1937 serving until 1939.

P.P. Ellis returned to the Office of Illustrious Potentate after P.P. Kelly and served for six years. Later, he would become the Imperial Organizer. He was followed by Noble John D. Rhodes who served from 1947 to 1950. P.P. Rhodes was instrumental in the organization of Moussa Court No. 119, Daughters of the Imperial Court, an Auxiliary of the A.E.A.O.N.M.S., Inc. On July 11, 1948, wives, daughters, sisters, and mothers of Nobles of Moussa Temple met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Mahalia, 226 South Monumental Street. The purpose was to organize a local Court. An ad in the San Antonio Register was published to make the announcement.

Additionally, in the 1950’s, Moussa Temple held annual Tuberculosis-Cancer Fund Dances at the Keyhole Night Club on the 4th of July. These Dances included music, a gala floor show, and prizes to the best gingham-dressed attendees.

In December 1950, Noble Charles Johnson, Jr., was elected Illustrious Potentate and was followed by Noble James L. Hull who served from 1952 to 1957. P.P. Hull would later become the Imperial Deputy of Realm II.

In December 1957, Noble Gemeral E. Berry, Sr., was elected as the 16th
John D. Rhodes
Born in Guadalupe County, TX
June 1, 1894, died March 30, 1971
Private, U.S. Army, (WWI)
22 August 1918
Civil Service Maintenance Worker
Wife: Single
Beacon Light Lodge No. 50
Buried at Fort Sam Houston
National Cemetery

General E. Berry, Sr.
Past Imperial Deputy
of the Oasis
Recorder for 30 Years
Born in San Antonio, TX
Aug. 17, 1912, died June 14, 2002
Retired Civil Service Worker at
Brooks Air Force Base,
Wife: Leotha Berry (Deceased)
Past Illustrious Commandress
Moussa Court No. 119
Blue Bonnet Lodge No. 192
Buried in
Meadow Lawn Memorial Park

Illustrious Potentate serving for two years. He
also would go onto serve as the Imperial Deputy
of the Oasis. Most notably, he served Moussa
Temple as Recorder for 30 years.

Following P.P. Berry was Noble Luke Flowers,
Jr., who served from December 1959 to June
1962. He would later be appointed as the
Imperial Deputy of the Oasis.

From June 1962 to June 1965, Noble John R.
Griggs, owner of the Life Saver Grill, one of the
city’s finest restaurants during the era of
segregation, was elected Illustrious Potentate.
He would go on to serve as the Imperial Deputy
of Realm II and as the Imperial Organizer.
Additionally, the local Commanders of the Rite,
33° Masons, is named after P.P. Griggs.

Following P.P. Griggs was Noble James E.
Stevenson, Sr., who served from 1965 to 1966.
He would later be appointed as Imperial Deputy
of the Oasis.

In June 1966, Noble Willie F. Wilson, Sr., was
elected as the Illustrious Potentate and served until June 1969 when the Temple
elected Noble Lawrence Clark who served until June 1970. P.P. Clark would
later become Imperial Deputy of the Oasis
Emeritus.

After P.P. Clark, Noble Frank Boyd was elected
as the 22nd Illustrious Potentate. He served until
June 1972. He would later become Imperial
Deputy of Realm II and the first Imperial Deputy of the Desert of Texas. His
wife, Dt. Lucille Inman Boyd, the first Illustrious Commandress of Moussa Court
No. 119, was elected as the Imperial Commandress of the Imperial Court in
1972 at the Imperial Session held in Washington, D.C. During her two-year
term, she held her national office at the Beacon Light Hall.

Following P.P. Boyd, who later received the Honorary Past Imperial Potentate
Degree, was Noble James A. Hall who served for one year until June 1973 in
which he was followed by Noble Daniel M. Branford who served until June
1975. P.P. Branford would later become the Imperial Organizer.

In 1975, Noble William E. Woods (Temple life member) was elected as the
25th Illustrious Potentate serving for one year. He would later serve as the
Imperial Deputy of the Oasis and Imperial Deputy of the Desert of Texas. Most
notably, he is an Honorary Past Grand Master and Past Deputy Grand Master
of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.

Noble Jobe C. Ricks became the Illustrious Potentate in June 1976 and served
until December 1978. He would later become the Imperial Advisor. P.P. Ricks
was followed by Noble William A. Haynes who served one year. He would also
become the Imperial Deputy of the Oasis and the Imperial Organizer.
In December 1979, Noble William H. “Ole Barracuda” Craig was elected Illustrious Potentate and served one year after which he would later become the Imperial Organizer. He also served numerous years as the Advisor to Moussa Court.

During the 1970’s, Moussa Temple sponsored party bus tours to major cities throughout the country to include Denver and Miami Beach. And during that decade, Moussa Temple and Moussa Court held annual Arabic Oriental Balls on New Year’s Eve. Part of the fundraising campaign was raffling off a new car which supported the scholarship and building fund drives. During the 1978 ball, I.P. Ricks presented a plaque to Assistant Rabban Everett Rhambo for recommending 15 new Shriners during the 1977 Shrine Year.

In 1971, Moussa Temple observed its 50th Anniversary. At that time I.P. Boyd presented a plaque to P.P. Ellis who was the last living Charter member of the Temple.

Additionally, in the 1970’s, Moussa Temple hosted annual Sweethearts Dances to raise funds for scholarships. Some of the dances were held at the 20th Century Club, 3514 Nebraska Street (now Martin Luther King Drive). Many of these types of events were planned and coordinated by Noble Richard H. Cobble, the Temple’s Promotional Director.

In June 1976, Noble G. J. Sutton, who in 1973 became the first Black state representative elected from San Antonio, died. He and his brother, Samuel, were the owners of Sutton and Sutton Funeral Home, the oldest black-owned mortuary in San Antonio.

In June of 1978, Moussa Temple went to Austin to create a new Temple. Thirty-four novices were taken over the Hot Sands and Cheops Temple No. 200 was born in the Oasis of Austin. A gala affair was held the same night. It was attended by many from various places in Texas to include members of Nubia Temple No. 191, Oasis of Killeen, and Doric Temple No. 76, Oasis of Houston, who was represented by I.P. Thomas H. Routt (Past Grand Master of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas). The Creation Ceremony was held at Mt. Bonnell Hall.

In the 1970’s and 1980’s, Moussa Temple sponsored Talent and Beauty Scholarship Pageant Contests at the La Villita Assembly Hall and made annual donations of turkey baskets to the needy during the Thanksgiving Holidays.

In December 1980, Noble Joseph E. Telfair, Sr., was elected as Illustrious Potentate serving two years. He would later become the Imperial Deputy of the Oasis and Imperial Deputy Group Supervision. The Texas Commanders of the Rite is named in his honor. He was followed by Noble Norris L. McVea, Sr.,
who became the 30th Illustrious Potentate of Moussa Temple serving for two years. H.P.I.P. McVea would later serve as Imperial Deputy-at-Large. During the 113th Imperial Council Session held in New Orleans, he was awarded a Certificate of Life Membership. Following H.P.I.P. McVea was Noble Theodore Newton who served from December 1984 to December 1986.

Serving as Illustrious Potentate from December 1986 to December 1987 was Noble Collie R. Williams, Jr. He was followed by Noble Albert Van Slyke, IV, who served one year until December 1988. He's now a member of Crescent Temple No. 148, Oasis of Columbia, Desert of South Carolina. Additionally, he was a founding member of the Temple’s Alamo Gas House Gang Clown Unit. After P.P. Van Slyke, Noble John E. Willridge was elected Illustrious Potentate and served until December 1990.

During the 1980’s, Moussa Temple held annual Western Award Dances at the Highlands Social Club, 2929 South W.W. White Road. Proceeds from the events supported the Herple U. Ellis, Sr., and Lucille Inman Boyd Scholarship Fund which was awarded annually to two high school students. Additionally, cash prizes of $100, $50, and $25 were raffled off.

In 1985, Moussa Temple participated in a bicycle rodeo and parade in cooperation with a Veteran of Foreign Wars Post. Additionally, Moussa Temple, joined by Moussa Court, visited the Eloise Japhet School for Handicapped Children, and participated in their annual Christmas parties where the officers and members provided gifts, refreshments, and cheer to approximate 200 children. To further support the fight for Civil Rights, Moussa Temple became a Silver Life Member of the NAACP in June 1988.

Additionally, in 1985, Moussa Temple began having its meetings at the Masonic Temple located 502 Burleson Street at the corner of Burleson and Hackberry Streets after the death of Bro. Alex R. Jernigan who was the owner of the Beacon Light Hall.

In December 1990, Noble Roosevelt Tennessee became the 35th Illustrious Potentate and served for two years until 1992. He would later become the Imperial Deputy of the Oasis. Most notably, he is an Honorary Past Grand Master and Past Grand Senior Warden of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.

In August 1991, Noble John A. Tucker, Jr., a prominent businessman passed away. Simply known as Tucker or Uncle John by the Black community, he was the owner of Tucker’s Kozy Korner at East Houston and Cherry Streets for over 40 years.

Following P.P. Tennessee was Noble E.W. Allen, Sr., who served from December 1992 until December 1993.
He was followed by Noble Cubie C. Horton who served for one year. Cubie Horton Chapter No. 14 (Order of the Eastern Star) is named in his honor.

In February 1993, Noble Alfred Curl, a well-known San Antonian, passed away. Noble Curl was active in the community having served on the Board of Directors of the East Side and Calderon Boys Club. A retired Air Force Master Sergeant, Noble Curl participated in four Pacific Theatre Operations during WWII.

In April 1994, the Motor Patrol Department of Moussa Temple was one of the participants in the 3rd Annual 60+ Mardi Gras Parade. The patrol was escorted by I.P. Horton. Members included Unit Captain Willie E. Foster, Sr., Co-Captain Jerry Smothers, P.P. John E. Willridge, Sr., P.P. William H. Craig, Nobles James Stevens, Jr., Larry Evans, Sr., and Raymond Bankston. Additionally, Moussa Temple attended the Texas Desert Conference and Gala Day in the Oasis of Beaumont. During the conference, Noble C.W. Bankston was created a Noble of the Mystic Shrine. The Temple’s current student aid program is named in his honor.

In December 1994, Noble Jerry Smothers became the Illustrious Potentate and served until December 1995. Following P.P. Smothers was Noble Green Davis, Jr., who served one year till December 1996. He would later become the Imperial Deputy of the Desert of Texas.

In December 1996, Noble James Stevens, Jr., became the 40th Illustrious Potentate serving till December 1997. In August 1995, P.P. Stevens won first place in the solo singing competition at the 37th Imperial Council Session held in Indianapolis. He had also placed in solo competitions at Imperial Sessions held in New Orleans, Los Angeles, and Detroit.

Following P.P. Stevens was Noble C.W. Bankston who served two years until December 1999. He would later be appointed as the Imperial Organizer.

In the 1990's, Moussa Temple began hosting free professional Children’s Variety Shows (Kids Day Out) held at locations throughout the city including the Villita Assembly Hall, Freeman Entertainment Center, VFW Posts, and the East Side Boys & Girls Club. The shows featured exciting variety, humor, magic, and just plain fun. Funds raised from the shows were used for many of the Temple’s charitable and community activities some of which included food baskets for the needy, Christmas parties for underprivileged children, donations to the United Negro College Fund, the NAACP, and sickle cell anemia research.

During this decade, the Temple was enriched, philanthropically, by the aid of Noble Foster’s coordination with a company’s
charitable arm, “Performance Production”. Additionally, the Temple flourished with it’s Joint Illustrious Potentate and Commandresses Ball held downtown at the Historic La Villita Assembly Hall where 300 to 400 guests would attend annually.

In December 1999, Noble Anthony L. Davis was elected Illustrious Potentate and served two years until 2001. He would later become the Imperial Advisor and is currently the Imperial Deputy of the Oasis. Additionally, he has served 16 years as the Desert Treasurer for the Desert of Texas and is a Past Secretary of the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation. During his tenure, he revitalized the Temple Motor Patrol Department by ensuring regular maintenance and proper storage of the six go-carts allowing the Temple to participate in the following annual parades: 60+ Mardi Gras Parade, Juneteenth Parade, and the Martin Luther King Jr. March. On May 8, 2021, P.P. Davis, along with others throughout the Imperial Domain, received his Honorary Past Imperial Potentate Degree during the Imperial Council’s first Honorary Past Imperial Potentate Exaltation conducted virtually via Zoom Video Conference administered by the Imperial Council Education and Development (I.C.E.D.) Department. H.P.I.P. Davis was followed by Noble Michael W. Belcher who served one year until December 2002.

In April 2002, Moussa Temple and Moussa Court hosted the Desert of Texas Conference & Gala Day at the San Antonio Marriott Northwest Hotel.


Following P.P. Belcher was Noble John J. Brewington who served as Illustrious Potentate from December 2002 until his death in September 2003. Chief Rabban Burnell White, Jr., led the Temple until he was elected Illustrious Potentate the following December and served until December 2005. He served the Desert of Texas as Assistant and Chief Rabban receiving the appointment of the Imperial Deputy of the Oasis

Name: Jobe C. Ricks
Past Imperial Advisor
Wife: Vera Ricks (Deceased)
Past Commandress
Moussa Court No. 119
Star Tom Lodge No. 100
Buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

William A. Haynes
Past Imperial Deputy of the Oasis/Imperial Organizer
Born Apr. 5, 1932 in Hinton, W.V., died Apr. 25, 2017
Retired Senior Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force (Vietnam)
Wife: Vera Haynes
John T. Maxey Lodge No. 74
Buried in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

William H. Craig
Born in Monongah, W.V. on Feb. 17, 1929, died May 14, 2013
Retired Sergeant, U.S. Army (1949 – 1971) (Korea/Vietnam)
Civil Service Worker at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Wife: Verial Craig (Deceased)
Beacon Light Lodge No. 50
Buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
in 2007 and was appointed as the Imperial Deputy of the Desert of Texas by Imperial Potentate Homer L. Buchanan in 2014. Additionally, P.P. White received the Honorary Past Imperial Potentate Degree during the 125th Annual Imperial Council Session held in the Oasis of New Orleans, Desert of Louisiana in August 2018. He is also the Founder/President of the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation and was elected President of the Deep South Shriners in July 2020.

Following H.P.I.P. White was Noble Dr. Charles E. Russell, Jr., who served one year until December 2006. A life member of Moussa Temple, he would serve as an Imperial Advisor and Imperial Deputy Group Supervision.

During the 113th Imperial Session held in the Oasis of New Orleans, Desert of Louisiana in August 2006, Moussa Temple was awarded 3rd Place, Third Division for Temple Charity.

In December 2006, Noble Kenneth Bankston, son of P.P. C.W. Bankston, was elected Illustrious Potentate and served until December 2008. During his tenure, Moussa Temple was awarded 3rd Place at the Imperial Council Session for Temple Charity. He has served the Temple as Treasurer for 10 years. P.P. Bankston was followed by Noble Martin Conner, III, who served one year until December 2009. He is currently the Imperial Deputy Youth Medical Advisor.

Following P.P. Conner was Noble James Pearson (Temple life member) who served from December 2009 to December 2011. Prior to his election, P.P. Pearson had served as Recorder and Treasurer for more than 10 years.

In May 2010, the Oasis of San Antonio hosted the Desert of Texas Conference & Gala Day at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel. A major beneficiary of the conference was the Eastside Branch Boys and Girls Club which received a new industrial stove, a commercial refrigerator, and $1,000 donation from the Shriners and Daughters. Additionally, two $1,000 scholarships were awarded to two local high school seniors. During Gala Day, Nobles and Daughters visited a local nursing home and provided clothing and care products to more than 100 residents. Additionally, the Daughters donated $400 for the home’s recreational activities. The guest speaker was Assistant Chief Earl Crayton, III, of the San Antonio Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division, whose theme was Education and Communication. Led by Imperial Deputy of the Desert, P.P. Timothy Boone of Medji Temple No. 45, special guests included Imperial Potentate Oliver Washington and Imperial Commandress Charlesena Smith.

In April 2011, during the Desert of Texas Conference & Gala Day held at the Shiloh Inns & Suites in the Oasis of Killeen, Moussa Temple was recognized as Temple of the Year, an honor shared with Medji Temple No. 45.

On May 21, 2011, Moussa Temple sponsored and

During the 118th Imperial Council Session held in the Oasis of Cincinnati, Desert of Ohio in August 2011, Moussa Temple was awarded 1st place in the Imperial Scrapbook Competition.

In December 2011, Noble Edward S. Jones was elected as the 50th Illustrious Potentate serving for one year. He currently serves as the Desert of Texas’s NDI Director. During his tenure, Moussa Temple began having its Illustrious Potentate Ball at hotels beginning with the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel.

From 2010 - 2012, H.P.I.P. Davis campaigned for the Office of Imperial Outer Guard with endorsements from the Desert of Texas and the Deep South Shriners. The election was won by P.P. Gary Sylvester of Golconda Temple No. 24 during the 119th Imperial Council Session held in the Oasis of New Orleans, Desert of Louisiana.

Following P.P. Jones was Noble Clary E. Glover, Jr., who served from December 2012 to December 2014. He later would be appointed as an Imperial Deputy with the Imperial Council’s Information Technology Department. He’s now a member of Cheops Temple No. 200. During P.P. Glover’s tenure, Moussa Temple supported Project POWER, a free faith-based program sponsored by the American Diabetes Association. It was developed to provide churches with a foundation that would assist them with integrating diabetes awareness messages and life application principles into the life of the church. Additionally, Noble Willie Foster, Sr., was awarded life membership in Moussa Temple.

In January 2014, the Oasis of San Antonio hosted the Desert of Texas Workshop at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel. The agenda consisted of subject matters to include but not limited to making a change in 2014, NDI, protocol and dress, Veteran Affairs, Imperial Council units and parades, and the up-coming Desert Conference & Gala Day in the Oasis of El Paso.

On January 19, 2014, newly appointed Imperial Deputy of the Desert P.P. White, and Imperial Deputy for the Desert Honorary Past Imperial Commandress Anna Harris-Howell, along with other Nobles presented a wreath and gave greetings on behalf of the Imperial Council and Court during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Wreath-laying Ceremony held at M.L.K. Plaza on corner of East Houston St. and New...
Braunfels Ave. The event was attended by approximately 200 guests to include City Councilwoman Ivy Taylor (first Black Mayor of San Antonio) and M.L.K. Commission Chairman Bishop David Copeland of New Creation Baptist Church.

On March 29, 2014, Moussa Temple and Moussa Court participated in the American Diabetes Association Expo. They were joined by Nobles and Daughters from the Oasis of Austin, Medji Court No. 38, and Siwah Temple No. 216, Oasis of Alamogordo, Desert of New Mexico. Additionally, on May 10, 2014, Moussa Temple volunteered at the American Diabetes Association’s Tour de Cure held at Retama Park in Selma, Texas. The Tour de Cure is the only cycling event held in Texas dedicated to finding a cure for diabetes.

During the 121st Imperial Session held in the Oasis of Tampa, Desert of Florida in August 2014, Moussa Temple was awarded 3rd place in the Imperial Scrapbook Competition.

In December 2014, Noble Stacy E. Foushee, the current Desert Outer Guard, was elected Illustrious Potentate and served for one year. During his tenure, Moussa Temple was awarded 2nd place for Temple Charity at the 122nd Imperial Council Session held in the Oasis of Cincinnati, Desert of Ohio. Additionally, P.P. White was recognized as the Imperial Deputy of the Desert of the Year during the session.

P.P. Foushee was followed by Noble Burrell D. Parmer who served for one year from December 2015 until December 2016. P.P. Parmer has served the Temple as its Public Relations Director for more than 10 years and is currently the Public Relations Director for the Desert of Texas and Editor of the Texas Desert Traveler since 2012. Additionally, he is the president of the Claude W. Black Center Advisory Board, president the Board of Directors of World LOLEI Incorporation (501(c) 3), and in September 2020 was appointed as the Associate Editor of Pyramid Magazine by the 44th Imperial Potentate, Noble John T. Chapman.

On June 9, 2016, Moussa Temple and Moussa Court visited Methodist Children’s Hospital to bring joy to children through the Desert of Texas’s Project Pillow Pet in partnership with the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation. I.P. Parmer and I.C. Bridgette Gentry were joined by members of their Temple/Court Divan to include the Imperial Deputy of the Oasis P.P. Davis, Imperial Deputy for the Oasis P.C. Cynthia Lemley, and Imperial Deputy of the Desert P.P. White. During I.P. Parmer’s tenure, the Temple approved the following Nobles for life membership: Past Potentates Woods, Haynes, Tennessee, Russell, Pearson, Nobles Graddie Robinson, Roscoe Wright, and Coston Clifton.

During the 123rd Annual Imperial Council
Session held in the Oasis of Tampa, Desert of Florida, in August 2016, Moussa Temple was awarded top honors in dispensing charity (Category B). With less than 100 members, Moussa Temple distributed $158,509.00 in cash and in-kind donations to the community in Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016. Additionally, Moussa Temple placed second in Voter Registration from more than 230 Shrine Temples located across the United States and abroad for registering 117 voters within Bexar County.

Noble Dennis J. Thompson was elected Illustrious Potentate in December 2016 and served for one year. In December 2017, the Temple re-elected P.P. Parmer as Illustrious Potentate.

In April 2017, Moussa Temple and Moussa Court hosted the Desert of Texas Conference & Gala Day at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel. Dignitaries included Deputy Imperial Potentate Charles Davenport, Imp. Chief Rabban John Chapman. Imp. 1st Lt. Commandress Josephine Stokes-Wheat, Imp. 2nd Lt. Commandress, Dt. Jacqueline Brown McWhite and 1st Ceremonial Daughter Karen Wright-Chisolm. During the Public Program, two $1,100 scholarships were awarded to two local high school seniors by the Desert of Texas and Moussa Temple awarded two $500 student aid checks through the Past Potentate C.W. Bankston Memorial Student Aid Program. Additionally, the Desert of Texas provided monetary and in-kind donations to the Eastside Branch Boys & Girls Club, Sam Houston High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, the Fisher House, and to W.O.W. (Women of Worship). The guest speaker for the event was Renee Watson, director of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Department for Bexar County who centered her remarks regarding Faith. During the conference, Moussa Temple was recognized as the Desert of Texas Temple of the Year shared with Nubia Temple No. 191.

On April 8, 2018, to commemorate 100 years of fighting for social justice and equality, Moussa Temple, and members of the NAACP, along with numerous others, gathered at St. Paul United Methodist Church to attend the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP Founder’s Day. During the observance, Moussa Temple presented Branch President Oliver W. Hill with a plaque recognizing the Branch for its 100 years of service.

During the 2018 Desert of Texas Conference & Gala Day held in the Oasis of Dallas, Moussa Temple earned sole honors as Temple of the Year.

On May 16, 2018, Moussa Temple began sponsoring “A Night in Your Honor” hosted by Our Community Salutes San Antonio. The event was created to recognize and honor local graduating high school seniors who plan to enlist in the military after high school graduation. During the event, Moussa Temple hosted a Voter Registration & Education Drive.
than 250 future service members attend along with their parents, community supporters, members of the military, and government officials, totaling 700 guests.

During the 125th Annual Imperial Session held in the Oasis of New Orleans, Desert of Louisiana in August 2018, Moussa Temple donated more than 200 neckties for the youth in support of the 126th Imperial Session held in the Oasis of Baltimore, Desert of Maryland in August 2019. During the session, Moussa Temple was recognized by the Imperial Council for its outstanding and generous Voter Registration efforts for registering 49 Bexar County citizens (4th place).

In November 2018, Moussa Temple started volunteering as registrars for the annual Spirit of America Dinner, the signature event of Celebrate America’s Military Week, hosted by the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. The event is attended by over 500 guests to include military personnel from all branches of service, as well as business and civic leaders from across Military City USA.

In December 2018, Noble Derek Scott was elected Illustrious Potentate and served until December 2020. During his tenure, he appointed P.P. Burrell Parmer as the Temple’s Centennial Chairman who was instrumental in preparing the Temple to celebrate 100 years of Shrinedom. Additionally, Noble Grady Peavy, Jr., received his Honorary Past Potentate Degree at the 126th Imperial Council Session held in the Oasis of Baltimore, Desert of Maryland in August 2019. On Sept. 10, 2019, Bexar County Commissioners Court read and presented a proclamation recognizing Moussa Temple for their works and deeds, extending the court’s sincere best wishes for a rewarding and memorial Centennial Celebration.

On Dec. 13, 2018, Noble Grady Peavy, Jr., was awarded life membership in Moussa Temple for his meritorious and long service as a past Chief Rabban, Recorder, and N.D.I. Director. Additionally, Moussa Temple awarded honorary memberships to Imperial Ambassador-at-Large P.P. Marcus W. Smith, Sr., of Siwah Temple No. 216, Oasis of Alamogordo, Desert of New Mexico and H.P.P. Larry Mack of Stolkin Temple No. 22, Oasis of Augusta, Desert of Georgia.

From March 2020 to July 2021, under direction from the Imperial Council, all in-person Shrine Temples and Courts meetings were suspended due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Additionally, in 2020, fundraisers, Shrine Burial Tributes, National Diabetes Initiative Walks, and other Temple activities were suspended to support social distancing in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

On April 9, 2020, the Black Camel entered the Oasis of San Antonio and carried away
Moussa Temple’s eldest member, Noble Willie E. Foster, Sr. A life member of the Temple and a past Assistant Rabban, Noble Foster served as a Captain of the Temple’s Motor Patrol Department and was a founding member of the Temple’s Alamo Gas House Gang Clown Unit. Respectfully, he served in the U.S. Army during WWII.

On June 7, 2020, in support of the Desert of Texas, members of Moussa Temple’s Divan performed the Jubilee Day Service via Zoom video conference/Facebook at the Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828.

On Aug. 7, 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Moussa Temple was a sponsor of the 15th Annual Claude W. Black Back-to-School Jamboree. Hosted by the Claude W. Black Center Advisory Board, the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation, and District 2 City Council Office, the event provided approximately 500 supply-filled backpacks to school-aged children. For the safety of all involved, distribution of backpacks was conducted by drive-thru with volunteers wearing their personal protective equipment.

On Nov. 21, 2020, Moussa Temple participated in a virtual discussion: “The Impact of African American Fraternal Organizations, From Slavery to Civil Rights,” which was hosted by the San Antonio African American Community Archives & Museum. The public was able to learn about the organization of the first Prince Hall Lodge in Texas (San Antonio Lodge No. 1), the establishment of Moussa Temple to include the importance of the 1929 Supreme Court Decision, the Divine 9 Greek organizations, and how they changed the face of the African-American community in San Antonio.

With physical meetings being suspended by the Imperial Council, Moussa Temple begin holding monthly Regular Temple Meetings via Zoom video conferencing beginning Sept. 10, 2020. Nominations of Elected Temple Officers would also be conducted via Zoom with elections being processed through ElectionRunner computer-automated software.

On Nov. 21, 2020, Moussa Temple sponsored World LOLEI Incorporation’s 5th Annual Youth Empowerment Thanksgiving Dinner. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to reduce the spread of the virus, dinners were delivered to the homes of families. Twenty-eight turkey dinners with all the fixings were delivered to deserving families in all areas of the city while four families benefited in Houston.

To show its support for active-duty and reserve military personnel during Celebrate America’s Military in Military City USA, Moussa Temple was a Silver Sponsor of the Inaugural Junior Non-commissioned Officers Reception held at the Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 on Nov. 11, 2020. P.P. Parmer, the Post’s 1st Vice Commander,
created the event to augment the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce’s Senior Non-commissioned Officers Reception and served as its chairperson. It was the only physically attended event held during the 50th Anniversary of Celebrate America’s Military. All other events were held virtually.

On Dec. 10, 2020, Moussa Temple met via Zoom video conference announcing the results of the elections held through ElectionRunner duly electing Noble Justin W. Shaw as the 57th Illustrious Potentate. Other elected and appointed officers included: Chief Rabban Larry Smith; Assistant Rabban John Janice, Jr.; High Priest & Prophet Kenneth Carnes; Oriental Guide James Houston Sr.; Treasurer P.P. Kenneth Bankston; Recorder Darrin Prude; 1st Ceremonial Master Luis Baez; 2nd Ceremonial Master Kaurian Butler-Edwards; Marshal Robert Bonner, Jr.; Captain of the Guard Andre Gholson; and Outer Guard Phillip Rowland.

On Dec. 12, 2020, Moussa Temple hosted a Public Installations Ceremony at the Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828. The ceremony kicked off the Temple’s Centennial Celebration with H-E-B as the Presenting Sponsor. Additionally, District 2 City Councilwoman Jada Andrews-Sullivan delivered a proclamation on behalf of Mayor Ron Nirenberg declaring the day, “Moussa Temple No. 106 Centennial Celebration Kick-off Day”.

On Jan. 9, 2021, the Imperial Council made history by hosting its first Virtual Creation Ceremony via Zoom Video Conference. Moussa Novices Cmdr. Michael Files, commanding officer of Navy Talent Acquisition Group San Antonio and Angello Gordon, owner of Jamacia Jamacia Cuisine became the first two Nobles created during Moussa Temple’s Centennial Celebration.

On Feb. 20, 2021, P.P. Scott, along with others throughout the Imperial Domain, received his Past Potentate Degree during the Imperial Council’s first ever Virtual Past Potentate Exaltation conducted via Zoom Video Conference.

Through support of the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation and numerous sponsors to include H-E-B, Moussa Temple donated school supplies, hand sanitizer, face masks, and other items to Bella Cameron and Dorie Miller Elementary Schools on the city’s East Side in support of their Shriners as Mentors Program on March 4, 2021.

On April 10, 2021, the Imperial Council conducted its second Virtual Creation Ceremony via Zoom Video Conference. Moussa Novices Cliff Massey, Michael Coats, and Lyle Foster were created as part of the Class of Past Potentate Roosevelt Tennessee. P.P. Tennessee, the 35th Illustrious Potentate of Moussa Temple was carried away by the Black Camel on March 27, 2021.
To increase its support of the NAACP’s mission, Moussa Temple became a Gold Life Member of the San Antonio Branch in May and continues to maintain a strong relationship.

On June 5, 2021, Moussa Temple continued its support of Military City USA by being a sponsor of “A Night in Your Honor” hosted by Our Community Salutes-San Antonio.

The following day, Moussa Temple held a Fezzing Ceremony to welcome the Class of Past Potentate Roosevelt Tennessee into the Nobility at the Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828. Additionally, Nobles and their families viewed the Virtual National Jubilee Day Service.

Due to the generous support of H-E-B, Moussa Temple awarded five local high school seniors with $1,000 student aid grants via the Past Potentate CW Bankston Memorial Scholarship Program held at the Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 on July 24, 2021.

Closely monitoring the COVID-19 environment, Nobles of Moussa Temple journey to the Oasis of Philadelphia, Desert of Pennsylvania to attend the 128th Imperial Session. Immediately after returning from Imperial Session, the Nobles, joined by Daughters of Moussa Court, sponsored and volunteered at the 16th Annual Back-to-School Jamboree held at the Claude W. Black Community Center, on Aug. 21, 2021.

On Sept. 18, 2021, the Temple held its annual Fish Fry Fundraiser at the Gardendale Community Center. To ensure the safety of all participants and guests, meals were distributed via pick-up/drive thru.

To culminate its Centennial Celebration, Moussa Temple held its Centennial Gala at the Hilton San Antonio Airport Hotel on Oct. 16, 2021. Nobles, Daughters, sponsors, and guests from throughout Texas and abroad attended the gala affair.

For Moussa Temple, one of its goals was to increase its visibility in the Oasis of San Antonio by using a brand strategy in support of its Centennial Celebration.

Several items were created to assist in the strategy to include the creation of a Temple website, Temple brochures, bus shelter advertisements, and fence-line banners. Additionally, the Temple’s Facebook pages were consistently populated with activities of the Temple and shared to serval city-wide Facebook groups.

To further support the brand strategy, the Temple’s activities, to include external organizations in which the Temple sponsors and supports, were regularly published in the San Antonio Observer, the city’s only African-American newspaper and the largest in South
Texas.

In support of Black History Month, Moussa Temple partnered with the San Antonio African American Community Archives & Museum to feature a 14-minute video in honor of Moussa Temple’s Illustrious Potentates (https://youtu.be/FO1vLocT1Ko).

The San Antonio Observer, which is a Gold Sponsor of the Centennial, published advertisements of the Temple’s public events throughout the year.

To further increase its brand, Moussa Temple continues to lead the Desert of Texas in storytelling by publishing 16 articles in the Texas Desert Traveler in 2020 – 2021 along with numerous articles published quarterly in Pyramid Magazine.

Moussa has made a commitment to strengthening the community’s trust in them by maintaining its positive and philanthropic presence. Members feel if more businesses and organizations become more familiar with Moussa Temple through their work, relationships will become beneficial to all parties.

Throughout its history, Moussa Temple has contributed to the Prince Hall Medical Research Grant and the United Negro College Fund. The Temple has provided scholarship grants and hosted scholarship beauty pageants for young ladies between the ages of 17 – 24. Additionally, the Temple provided financial assistance to programs that assist youth in fighting against drugs, crimes, and delinquency. Knowing the importance of voting, the Temple conducted Voter Education and Registration Drives and supported youth groups such as Drum and Bugle Corps and Marching Units.

In additional to hosting annual Kids Day Out events, Moussa Temple provides quarterly monetary donations to the Eastside Branch Boys & Girls Club. The Temple also provides mentorship to the youth to include volunteering to serve meals during the club’s annual Thanksgiving Dinner where more than 500 children, parents, and the elderly are served.

As part of its Shriners as Mentors Program in 2016, Moussa Temple began providing all the turkeys for the annual Youth Empowerment Thanksgiving Dinner held at Devonshire Place hosted by World LOLEI, Raising Stars SA, and the Prince Hall Masonic Affiliates. The event services more than 250 children, family members and the elderly from throughout the city.

Continuing to give back to the community, Moussa Temple, along with Prince Hall Masonic Affiliates, annually supports WORLD LOLEI Incorporation’s Annual Community Junior Chef Competitions held in July. This grassroots community event featured teams of local youth who demonstrate their culinary skills.
In support of the city’s youth, Moussa Temple, in partnership with Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation and the Claude W. Black Center Advisory Board, sponsors the annual Back-to-School Jamboree and Christmas Holiday Gift Giveaway held at the Claude W. Black Community Center. Additionally, the Temple holds a Voter Registration/Education Drive at each event. A staple on the city’s East Side, the Claude W. Black Community Center provides services to San Antonio and surrounding areas which include daily healthy meals for seniors, emergency utility assistance, and family services.

For more than 10 years, Moussa Temple with assistance from the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation has provided $11,000 in school supplies to the students of Bella Cameron and Dorie Miller Elementary Schools. Bella Cameron Elementary was opened in 1967 to accommodate those students who were living in the newly erected Willow Wood Homes. It was named after Bella Holley Cameron who was the first Black woman principal in San Antonio. Dorie Miller Elementary was originally opened as W.W. White School No. 2 in 1947 to serve the African-American children who lived in the Lincolnshire community. It was named after Doris (Dorie) Miller, a U.S. Navy sailor who on Dec. 7, 1941, while serving aboard USS West Virginia (BB-48), distinguished himself by courageous conduct and devotion to duty during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions on this occasion.

Through the Shriners as Mentors Program, Moussa Temple began presenting Awards of Excellence to Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Cadets during Sam Houston High School's annual JROTC Awards Ceremony held at the school. The “Mighty Hurricane Battalion” awards program is for any JROTC cadet who excels not only for high levels of performance but for excellence and achievement as well.

Since 2015, Moussa Temple has been participating in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Wreath-laying Ceremony held in honor of Dr. King at M.L.K. Plaza on the corner of New Braunfels and East Houston Streets. In support of its Centennial Celebration, Moussa Temple was featured at the VIA Bus shelters across from M.L.K. Plaza for January and February 2021.

Moussa Temple’s membership has ebbed and flowed over its 100-year history. According to Temple Annual Returns to the Imperial Council, Moussa Temple had its largest number of active members (147) in 1977. Its smallest number was 15 as reported in the 1933 Annual Returns. The Temple first reached 100 members in 1954. In January 2015, 58 Nobles were reported active, and in 2018 Moussa Temple’s membership reached 102 Nobles. As of August 2021, current active membership is 91.

To raise funds for charitable activities and operations of the Temple, Moussa Temple conducts an annual Fish Fry Fundraiser and solicits ads in its annual Illustrious Potentate Ball Souvenir Journal. In support of its Centennial Celebration, the Centennial Committee raised more than $32,000 in sponsorships and donations to increase the Temple’s charitable giving in 2021.

The success of the many charitable endeavors by Moussa Temple were due to the outstanding support received from many community supporters, companies, and organizations. Most importantly, without the support of the Nobility (the Lifeblood), Moussa Temple could not be the well-respected organization it is today.

For more information about Moussa Temple No. 106, visit www.moussashriners-pha.com and follow us on Facebook: Moussa Temple No. 106.
Standing L-R: P.P. Derek Scott, P.P. Dennis Thompson, P.P. Burrell D. Parmer, and P.P. Stacy Foushee

Illustrious Potenmate John Brownington