

MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE

Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons
State of New York

M.W. Gregory Robeson Smith, Jr., Grand Master

October 1, 2023

To: Worshipful Masters, Wardens and Brothers, Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons and Members

Greetings:

The **2024 Annual Vincent E. Best Mid-Year Assembly** will be held on Friday, January 26, 2024, through Sunday, January 28, 2024, at the Hilton Albany, located at 40 Lodge Street, Albany, NY 12207.

Mid-Year Assembly **Registration** and Grand Masters **Ball Ticket Purchases** will be made **ONLINE**, payable by credit/debit card. Please go to <https://midyear.princehallny.org/> and follow the instructions. **Purchases can be made as of October 4, 2023, at 9:00a.m.** Registration and Ticket Purchases are Non-Refundable.

Note: EVERYONE attending either or both of these events must agree to and accept the **COVID Waiver** when making their purchases.

**** ONLY Lodges and Chapters may choose the option to Pay by Check when Registering/Purchasing Tickets for their members ****
Make checks payable to: MWPHGL and Mail to: PGWM Lisa D. Horton, P.O. Box 2038, Ossining, NY 10562. Checks must clear before tickets will be released. Personal Checks will NOT be accepted, and **NO Checks will be accepted after January 12, 2024.**

The MWPGHL will host a **"Meet and Greet"** on Friday, January 27, 2024, from 8:00pm -11:00pm. The event is free of charge. There will be Music by DJ, light refreshments and a cash bar will be available.

The Assembly Meeting will convene on Saturday morning, January 27, 2024, with Worship Service beginning at 7:30am and Roll Call commencing at 8:30am. **ALL Brothers**, the **Dress Code** for the day is **Business Attire**. Sisters, you will govern yourselves accordingly and follow the directions of the Grand Worthy Matron. **Wearing of Face Masks during the Assembly Meeting is strongly recommended.** *The Prince Hall Medical Foundation will continue to monitor the state and federal recommendations and may give an update on any additional precautions that should be taken.*

Everyone attending the Mid-Year Assembly **MUST** Register (Brothers and Sisters).

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| Registration Fee for the Brothers: | 10/4/23 – 12/22/23: \$25 | 12/23/23 – 1/12/24: \$35 | 1/13/24 – 1/27/24: \$50 |
| Registration Fee for the Sisters: | 10/4/23 – 12/22/23: \$10 | 12/23/23 – 1/12/24: \$15 | 1/13/24 – 1/27/24: \$25 |

For **Vendor Space**, please contact R.W. Henry Rowlett at (914) 523-4489 or R.W. Gavin Maxwell at (646) 526-5491.

The Grand Masters Ball will take place Saturday evening, January 27, 2024, 8:00pm to 1:00am. **Tickets are \$110.00 each. The Deadline to purchase Ball Tickets is Friday, January 12, 2024.** The Ballroom doors will open at 7:30pm. The Grand Master will host a Champagne Toast and Photo Session with the Worshipful Masters and Worthy Matrons at 5:30pm, in the Hudson Ballroom. **Brothers**, your **DRESS CODE** for the evening is **Tuxedo or Dark Suit ONLY **NO EXCEPTIONS****. Sisters, your attire is **Formal**, you will govern yourselves accordingly and follow the directions of the Grand Worthy Matron.

Hotel Room Reservations can be made as of October 4, 2023, at 9:00a.m.

The Host Hotel is **The Hilton Albany, located at 40 Lodge Street, Albany, NY 12207. The Hotel Room Rate per night is \$142.00 plus 14% tax. TAKE DUE NOTICE: At the time of booking, your Credit Card will be charged *One Night Deposit (room rate +tax).**

** We have been alerted by the hotel that sleeping rooms are being booked with invalid credit cards or cards with minimal funds to cover no-show charges, early check-out fees or incidental charges that were incurred while at the hotel. Some have even departed the hotel with a balance owed to the hotel and doing so knowing that the card on file with the hotel will not cover their balance. These bad transactions have resulted in us losing a courtesy that was extended to us in good faith.*

The cut-off date for the room rate is January 4, 2024, or when the room block sells out, whichever comes first. Hotel Suites are \$1,000.00 (Covers 2 nights and includes applicable taxes). Note: A limited number of Suites are available and are on a "first come first served basis". **The Parking Rate is \$7p/day.** Please note that this discounted parking rate is for registered guests of the Hilton Albany only.

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454 West 155th Street - New York, New York - 10032

It is **IMPORTANT** that you follow the directions of the Housing Committee for Room/Suite Reservations:

- 2024 Worshipful Masters: Contact R.W. Nigel J. Cudjoe at (347) 451-6800
- 2024 Worthy Matrons: Contact PGWM Lisa D. Horton at (914) 373-9370
- To Reserve a Suite: Contact W.B. Parker Burton at (347) 513-0196

Note to all Worshipful Masters and Worthy Matrons, the DEADLINE to book your room through the Committee is January 4, 2024.

All others, to make your reservations, **see the following information for the Hilton Albany**. Reservations can be made as of October 4, 2023, at 9:00a.m. The Hotel Room Rate per night is \$142.00 plus 14% tax. **TAKE DUE NOTICE: At the time of booking, your Credit Card will be charged *One Night Deposit (room rate +tax).**

Hilton Albany:

Call for reservations at (518) 462-6611. Use code: **4PHF** or ask for the **Prince Hall Foundation group rate**. Reservations can also be made on-line at: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/prince-hall-foundation-2024/>. The cut-off date for the room rate is January 4, 2024, or when the block sells out, whichever comes first. The **Parking Rate is \$7per day**. Please note that this discounted parking rate is for registered guests of the Hotel only.

For your convenience, listed below are additional hotels in the area. **These hotels ARE NOT CONTRACTED**. The Hotel Rate will be quoted as what is available at the time of booking.

Fairfield Inn and Suites Downtown Albany

74 State Street - Albany, NY
(518) 434-7410

Renaissance Albany Hotel

144 State Street – Albany, NY
(518) 992-2500

Hampton Inn & Suites Albany Downtown

25 Chapel Street – Albany, NY
(518) 432-7000

Holiday Inn Express Albany Downtown

300 Broadway - Albany, NY
(518) 434-4111

We thank you for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you.

Fraternally,

W.B. Parker Burton, III

Chairman

cc: M.W. Gregory Robeson Smith, Jr., Grand Master