

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

# **SWORD & SPEAR**

PUBLICATION OF GROOVE PHI GROOVE SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP INCORPORATED®

**THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE 1972 HAMPTON PIRATES**

**HOW GROOVE NAVIGATES  
A WORLD IN CRISIS**

**WHY ARE 90% OF ALL MURDERERS MEN?**

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# SWORD & SPEAR

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# SWORD & SPEAR

2423 MARYLAND AVE. BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21218

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## ART DIRECTION & LAYOUT

F. Lennis Brantley



# EDITORIAL BOARD MESSAGE

**W**e welcome you to the Spring/Summer 2022 Edition of the Sword & Spear Publication. The editorial board is committed to compiling socially relevant content that is of interest to our readers and the community at large and to provide you with highlights of our activities as well as articles written by our members.

For this issue we chose the cover title "How Groove Navigates a World in Crisis." As we reflect on the past, we are reminded that navigating any and all crisis has become a reality that we must endure in order to survive and thrive in the world we live in. Each of us has been faced with a number of difficult and trying circumstances, which could be described as a crisis. To that end we found what we believe is an appropriate definition of a crisis. It states, "a crisis is a difficult or dangerous time in which a solution is needed." The reality of crisis situations will never end. The most important thing that we must come to grips with is how we navigate and manage the crisis situations that we are faced with. Our fellowship of brothers remains committed to its purpose which includes serving our community as well as developing intelligent and effective leadership.

For the last sixty years of our organization's existence, we have faced many crises which include but are not limited to poverty, food insecurity, the effects of a deadly worldwide pandemic, senseless gun violence, inadequate public education, racism, sexism, police brutality, war, homelessness, never ending political discord, terrorism, assassinations, destruction of the ozone resulting in climate change, just to name a few. We must continue to navigate each challenge and work to address each issue with effective results-oriented solutions. Our positive contributions will demonstrate our ability to fulfill our organization's purpose. "We've Come This Far by Faith."

Peace & Blessings to all,

Sword & Spear Editorial Board



**International President**  
**FL. AHMAD McDOUGLE**  
**Groove Phi Groove**  
**Social Fellowship, Inc.®**



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**W**e are excited to present the Spring/Summer 2022 Edition of the Sword and Spear entitled "How Groove Navigates a World in Crisis."

As people of color, we have navigated through a constant state of perpetual crisis for centuries; together, we have endured, preserved, and subsequently thrived despite our collective struggle. Historically, our people throughout the diaspora have demonstrated the fortitude, dedication, and sheer will, to create a better future for the generations that have followed. Due to their sacrifices, we find ourselves well-positioned to meet our challenges with robust, comprehensive, and collective solutions. Our ancestors are surely proud of what we have accomplished and the progress made on the path that they prepared for us.

Times of crisis reveal and identify leaders and heroes; this is the time when people find out who can be depended on. The men of Groove have been proven to be dependable throughout our illustrious history, but even more so in times of crisis and uncertainty. We are indeed navigating challenging times amid an unresolved and metamorphosing global pandemic, systemic inequality, institutional injustice, and historical inequity. Nevertheless, our fellowship remains poised in the face of calamity as we affirm our steadfast and resolute oath to fulfill the divine mission and purpose bestowed on us by our founders, past and present leaders.

Our mission becomes even more apparent as we go through the process of developing a leadership structure tasked with studying and alleviating the many significant challenges that impact our communities. Service and sustainable solutions to our existing generational problems is the hill that we stand and fall on. Let us continue to fight for our families, friends, and future. Let us fight for what is right, just, and equitable. Our work towards progress is perpetual, just as our challenges are, and our solutions must be sought inward within our networks, communities, partners, and institutions. In that vein, we should remember a quote by Buddha, who stated, "No one saves us but ourselves. No one can, and no one may. Therefore, we ourselves must walk the path."

In Fellowship and Power,

Ahmad S. McDougle  
 12th International President

# GROOVE GRADUATES • CLASS OF 2022



Fl. Idrissa Samake  
May 7, 2022



Fl. Gerald Davis  
May 14, 2022



Fl. Fabrice Felix  
May 16, 2022



Fl. Oba Williams-Cantine  
May 31, 2022



Fl. Leon Henry  
May 14, 2022



Fl. Isaiah Caldwell  
May 12, 2022



Fl. Theodore Dieujuste  
May 17, 2022



Fl. Yaw Boadu  
May 14, 2022



Fl. Shannor Huff  
May 21, 2022

Graduate Without Picture: Fl. Marvin Romero • May 20, 2022

# NAVIGATING A WORLD IN CRISIS



**Fl. Khary Atif, Sword & Spear Contributor**

**T**he world around is in crisis. Certainly, an argument can be made for things being disordered and chaotic. You may wonder if this is simply a matter of perception, a sort of relativism? Concomitantly, how does one navigate apparent chaos or crisis.

Let us begin by examining what is meant by navigation, is it akin to the use of the North Star whether we be on land or sea? I have always understood, at a base level, navigate to mean the planning and directing of a ship or other forms of transportation. How does one go from point A to B? The north star represented a constant whereby the traveler could orient themselves.

Our mode of transportation across the sea of time is an institution called Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship, Inc.® I deliberately use here the word institution in contradistinction to the word organization. I have said in the past, and will continue to do so, that institutions are how knowledge is transmitted across time or across generations. For me, the notion of the “Everlasting Existence of Groove Phi Groove®” speaks to knowledge transmission across generations.

As I have watched our “History Committee” distill our collective story, chapter by chapter, connecting the dots across multiple generations of Groove, I feel enhanced - as they sift through our collective narrative. Consequently, in this article dealing with navigation, I begin by stressing the importance of narrative. It can be simply defined as an account of connected events. As a psychotherapist/clinical social worker and social scientist, I have learned that the data, so essential in the work of science, lies in the narrative, the connected facts, the history as self-reported. I want us to keep in mind that scientist recognizes that there are

individual as well as collective histories.

During your younger years, can you recall being asked to tell what had happened? Even today, in speaking with your own child about something that has transpired, how often do you find yourself saying them: “tell me what happened? “Now, events standing alone can seem nonsensical. When viewed from the outside, even a collection of events can seem to be devoid of meaning. However, empathy – the process whereby one attempts to place the self into the shoes of “the other”- is the key or starting point for grasping meaning. It’s through this process of the individual importing meaning to events in their life (i.e., their narrative) and sharing that process with us, that we can begin to approach a level of understanding.

There is a concomitant part to this process of empathy, however, which most find frightening; and that is the search for an analogous situation in our own lives as a point of departure. Finding analogy within our own experience helps with the empathetic grasping of another’s attribution of meaning to the events of their life. As Groovers, we are taught to keep alive within the graduate an interest in college life; but more specifically, an interest in the progressive movement emanating therefrom. I recall at one of my commencements the speaker said that “the purpose of the college was for us to come to some level of understanding by seeing things in their relationships and contexts.” This is the challenge of reasoning for it is much easier to not think about things in their inherent complexity.

It seems that so many maddening events are happening in our world. We watch the

*(Continued next page)*

nightly news and believe that we are being given deep history. We turn to social media and assume we are garnering accurate depictions. Is such really the case? It is difficult intellectual work to gaze across the horizon of history and search for the patterns in the evolution of human society. Seeing things in their complex relations and contexts is arduous work. In the arduous work of science chaos takes shape, crisis becomes understandable. We find our mental and spiritual north star and we begin to find our way. We believe ourselves to be right, while acknowledging that we could be wrong - should more data render our conclusions untenable.

It is a challenge to suspend judgment and have those from another time or era speak to us. A researcher allows the data to speak to them, this is a narrative. The artifact of each time speaks about the meanings that have been attributed to events. We must be cognizant of the tendency for modern depictions of "the collective self" whereby through demographic labeling of generations, while highlighting distinguishing period qualifiers, often misses the universality of human experience across time. The span of the historical gaze allows us to see the patterns in what appears as chaotic events.

We are asking history to speak to us. We are asking those of another era to "tell us what happened." For example, in our consumer-oriented society there is an imperative, from a marketing perspective, to create, sell and entrench difference. The millennial is different than the boomer, as distinct from generation x or what have you. Nevertheless, there is a core to the human experience that finds its expression in productions of each generation (particularly in the various forms of art).

A perusal of history reveals how economic institutional arrangements in a society can require alterations in both the processes of socialization and in the very settings in which that socialization takes place. While the experience can feel chaotic, producing individual and collective crisis, there are patterns present. Primary socialization focuses on interactions between people; while secondary socialization

focuses upon the place that individuals will assume in the larger society. The very "individualistic" notion of "a self" has meant different things across time. The self of 150 years ago in America is not the self of today. Have we not seen dramatic changes in family structure, changes that fit existing economic realities? Are we not witnesses to historical global migration patterns as mega cities have appeared everywhere?

History is replete with individuals and collectives that have a vision. They work to make that vision a reality. The history of Groove Phi Groove® is one rooted in the masses of people. It highlights the creation of a vanguard that works on behalf of the people and not to exploit the people. What are our processes of socialization? It's the production of an initiated Fellowman with a responsible research mentality, exploring the human experience and guided by sound ethics. The historical gaze allows us to see and understand the work of institutions in shaping both individual and collective life.

Currently, we are amid societal discussions focused upon HBCUs. There is recognition of funding inequalities and disparities in the endowments of respective educational institutions. We are witnessing predominately white institutions "reportedly" coming to terms with their historical connections to slavery. Are these not part of the institutional fabric of society?

We want to be quick, sharp, and smooth in our ability to assess the various courses of action and choose those interventions that benefit the people. Those actions cannot be sustained across time absent a sound institutional footing. We are not "parrot Grooves;" rather, we understand that within our membership responsibilities lies profound knowledge that will assist us in navigating the waters of crisis.

We are no "pseudo-fraternal organization;" may the next 60 years prove, even more so, that we have grasped and extended the vision of our Founders; for if we are loyal and if we have integrity, we can produce our own greatness. This is our story, our narrative, it is the everlasting existence of Groove Phi Groove®.



# FEATURED FELLOWMAN

*Fl. Thomas L. Hasty, III*

**T**homas L. Hasty, III known to our fellowship and friends as “Bop City”, was born in Baltimore, Maryland where he attended the city’s public schools. He matriculated as a freshman at Hampton Institute, now known as Hampton University, in 1973. He was initiated as a member of the Pirate Chapter of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship, Inc.® in the fall of 1974, “Wild Magnolias” line. “Bop City” was #13 of the fifteen members on his line. He continues to actively participate as a Lifetime Member of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship Inc.® and has held a number of positions at the national, regional, and local chapter level.

Our brother was part of the founding management team at TowneBank in 1999. The bank has now grown to be the largest bank headquartered in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. TowneBank has offices in Virginia, nearby outer banks of North Carolina, Charlotte, and the Triangle area of North Carolina. The bank now has assets greater than \$16 billion dollars. The bank offers a full range of financial services through controlled divisions and subsidiaries that include investments, insurance brokerage, benefits brokerage, commercial real estate brokerage, residential real estate brokerage and mortgage services. Fl. Hasty serves on the bank’s Executive Leadership Team, Audit Committee, Asset Protection Committee, Regulatory Compliance Committee, and Credit Policy Committee.

Tom is responsible for implementation and management of regulatory risk objectives,

the Regulatory Compliance Division, Examination Management, Insurance Review and Purchase, and participates in the analysis and monitoring of the ALLL.

Prior to TowneBank, Tom served as Senior Vice President and Senior Credit Officer at BB&T of Virginia and immediately prior to leaving as Senior Vice President and Corporate Banker (1995 to 1998). Tom also served as Senior Vice President and Senior Credit Officer at Commerce Bank in Virginia (1987 to 1995) and prior to that served in various capacities with the FDIC culminating as a Review Examiner/Failing Bank Specialist in Dallas, Texas (1976 to 1987). Tom joined the FDIC after being a student intern while attending Hampton in Hampton, VA. Tom also attended the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at the University of Delaware and holds the Certified Risk Professional designation. Our brother was recently awarded Hampton University’s Outstanding Alumnus Award at this year’s commencement ceremonies.

Our brother is married to Lori (also a Hampton graduate). They have four children and five grandchildren. He is active in his local church and serves on various boards, including the Urban League of Hampton Roads (serving as Chair), Chesapeake Bay Academy, Hampton Nation Advisory Board, the Hampton University Boosters Club, the United Way of South Hampton Roads (serving as Treasurer) and Co-Chair of the African American Leadership Society and the Wesley Westminster Foundation at Norfolk State University. Tom has also been appointed by several Governors to the Virginia Resources Authority and currently serves as its chair.





Fl. Dennis Thomas, Sword & Spear

**O**n Friday April 29, 2022, the fellowmen of the Quaker Chapter at the University of Pennsylvania celebrated their chapter's 50th anniversary at McCormick & Schmick's restaurant in Philadelphia. The chapter was chartered on March 24, 1972. Past National President Fl. Victor Henderson (U of Penn alumni) served as the master of ceremonies. The keynote speaker was Fl. Dr. Donald Ford who chartered the chapter while attending Penn's Veterinary School in 1972.

The highlight of the evening was the introduction of the new members of "The Rise of the New Dawn" who became members of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship, Inc.® the night before the event. The two brothers gave a very spirited step show that all in attendance enjoyed. The Quaker Chapter is back on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. Congratulations! Members of the charter line were in attendance as were members of each of the following lines:

- |      |                         |      |                          |
|------|-------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| 1972 | Avalanche Thirteen      | 1992 | One Man Gang             |
| 1972 | The Surviving Three     | 1993 | All Four One             |
| 1973 | All by Myself           | 1993 | The Killer B's           |
| 1974 | The Freak Four          | 1993 | The Five Deadly Venoms   |
| 1975 | The Lonely One          | 1994 | The Rising S.U.N.        |
| 1976 | Cold Grits              | 1994 | Souls of Mischief        |
| 1979 | Renaissance Five        | 1994 | The Lonely Star          |
| 1980 | A Force of One          | 1994 | Solar Eclipse            |
| 1982 | The Unbroken Five       | 1995 | The Tin Man              |
| 1983 | Two the Hard Way        | 1995 | Constant Elevation       |
| 1984 | The Eight Ball          | 1997 | Center of Attention      |
| 1986 | Capricious Nine         | 1998 | One and Done             |
| 1988 | The Three Amigos        | 1999 | The Terrible Two         |
| 1989 | And Then There Were Two | 2000 | The Last One             |
| 1991 | The Soul Survivor       | 2022 | The Rise of the New Dawn |

# 10 The Untold Story of the 1972 Hampton Pirates CIIA Championship Baseball Team

by Fl. Dennis Thomas, *Sword & Spear*



L to R ; Top Row: (1) Fl. Charles Turner (4) Fl. Larry Glover (6) Fl. Tai Thompson  
2nd Row: (3) Fl. Herbert Breeden (4) Fl. Quinton Smith (5) Fl. Michael Stewart  
(6) Fl. Vaugh Walker  
Kneeling: (1) Fl. Richard Turner (5) Fl. Douglas Palmer (Missing Fl. J.C. Crews)

discontinuing the baseball program at the end of 1972 season, despite the Pirates 10 wins and 2 losses in CIIA conference play. The administration announced that the school could not afford to pay for the baseball team to travel to participate in the NAIA championship tournament. The players were convinced that if they won the CIIA championship, the administration would be forced to rescind their decision. Unfortunately, the administration did not support the team's ability to travel to the NAIA tournament. This decision was devastating to the players, coaches, and students at Hampton Institute. Unable to travel to the NAIA tournament, the CIIA was represented by Virginia State. These decisions were the beginning of the untold story of the Hampton Pirates 1972 CIIA Championship Baseball Team.



It took nearly 50 years for Hampton University and the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIIA) to confirm that the Pirates were indeed the conference champions after defeating Virginia State in the 1972 conference championship game. Unfortunately, the record books had indicated that VSU won the league, possibly due to the fact that VSU represented the conference in post-season play at the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) Tournament. This unfortunate turn of events began with Hampton administration's earlier announcement that it was

Finally on May 7, 2022, Hampton University's Athletic Department and President Dr. William Harvey honored the 1972 CIIA Baseball Championship team during their Alumni Weekend. This long overdue ceremony went a long way in correcting the record books and honoring the achievement of the 19 members of the 1972 CIIA Championship Baseball team.

Each team member was presented with their championship ring. It is important to note that 10 of the 19 players on the team were members of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship, Inc.®

# 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser for Morgan State University Endowment Fund Baltimore-Columbia Graduate Chapter



Fl. John Walters, Sword & Spear Contributor

In the year 2022, Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship Incorporated® celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In sixty years, we chartered chapters at over 100 colleges & universities. Globally, we maintain chapters in several countries across three continents.

Our Founders actions, intent, and organized commitment to brotherhood captured the attention of campus administrators, stirred interest among the student body and made an impactful social statement in a historical time period (1960s). Over time, we transformed ourselves into a recognized and forward-thinking organization for the uplift of a community. This year we celebrate sixty years by looking forward in support of our future leaders.

To commemorate our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the fellowmen of the Baltimore/Columbia Graduate Chapter invite you to help us raise \$60,000 to create an endowment at Morgan State University where it all started. Ninety percent of students that attend HBCUs need some type of financial assistance. As fellowmen, we understand that education is the key to empowerment, self-reliance, and the need to nurture future leaders for community service by way of scholarship opportunities.

Monies raised will be placed into an endowment fund managed by the university. Scholarships will be provided annually in the name of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship, Inc.® to qualified students. We ask that

each member donate \$1,000 to this endeavor. We also ask that you send all donations to The Groove Fund by August 31, 2022. Meeting this deadline for donations allows us to properly prepare the donation to the Morgan State University Foundation at the annual homecoming football game.

On behalf of the international office, and members of Baltimore-Columbia Graduate Chapter, we thank you in advance for your support.

The Groove Fund Incorporated is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contributions are tax deductible. A letter acknowledging and confirming your donation will be sent to your address for 2022 tax purposes.

Mail a Donation via a check made payable to The Groove Fund to:

The Groove Fund  
PO Box 7713  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

On the memo line please write: **MSU 60<sup>th</sup>**

Make an Online donation via the Groove Fund website at:

<http://www.groovefund.org>.

Click on the Donate button (near bottom of header page) and follow prompts to donate via PayPal. In the PayPal screen enter a donation amount and designate **MSU 60<sup>th</sup>** in the Add Special Instructions area.

# AROUND THE NATION

Quaker Chapter 50th Anniversary • April 29, 2022

McCormick & Schmick's Restaurant • Philadelphia, PA



Undergraduate Recruitment • Cheney State University • April 30, 2022



# AROUND THE NATION

Tri-County Grad Fish Fry • Penn Relays WeekEnd 2022



# AROUND THE NATION

Wolf Chapter Cabaret • Penn Relays WeekEnd 2022



Adopt A Highway Program Clean Up • April 23, 2022

Northern Virginia Graduate Chapter



Philadelphia Graduate Chapter • May 22, 2022

Clothing donated to a Social Justice Non-Profit to eliminate clothing insecurity



Easter Donation at Great Missions Orphanage Home

Gold Coast Chapter • Ghana, Africa



# WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 5TH

VENDORS ROOM

9 AM - 9 PM

REGISTRATION

9 AM - 9 PM

JOINT EXECUTIVE BOARD/  
DIRECTORATE MEETING

5:30 PM

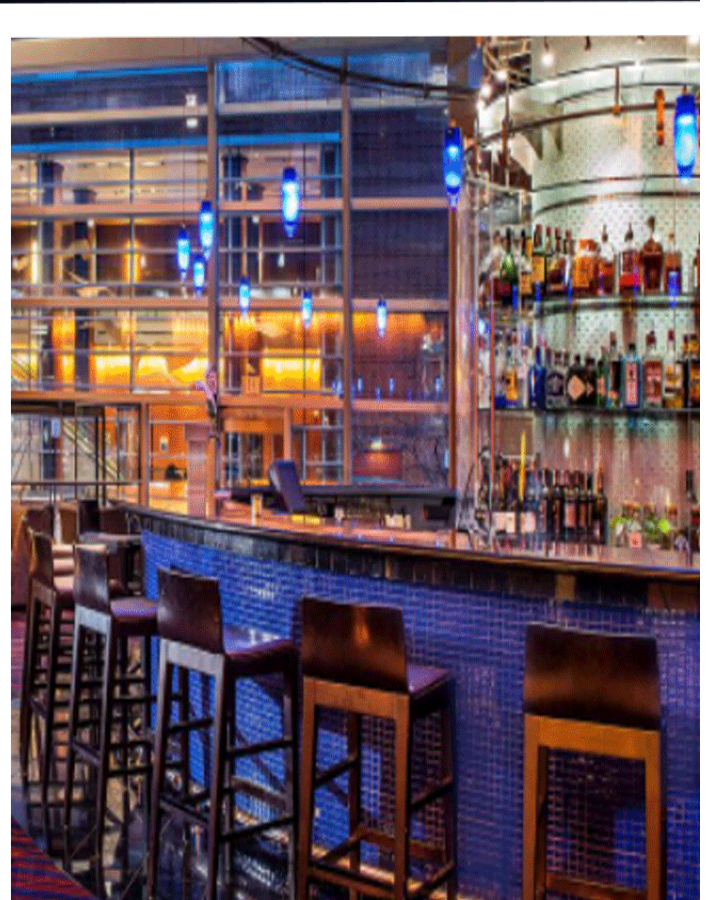
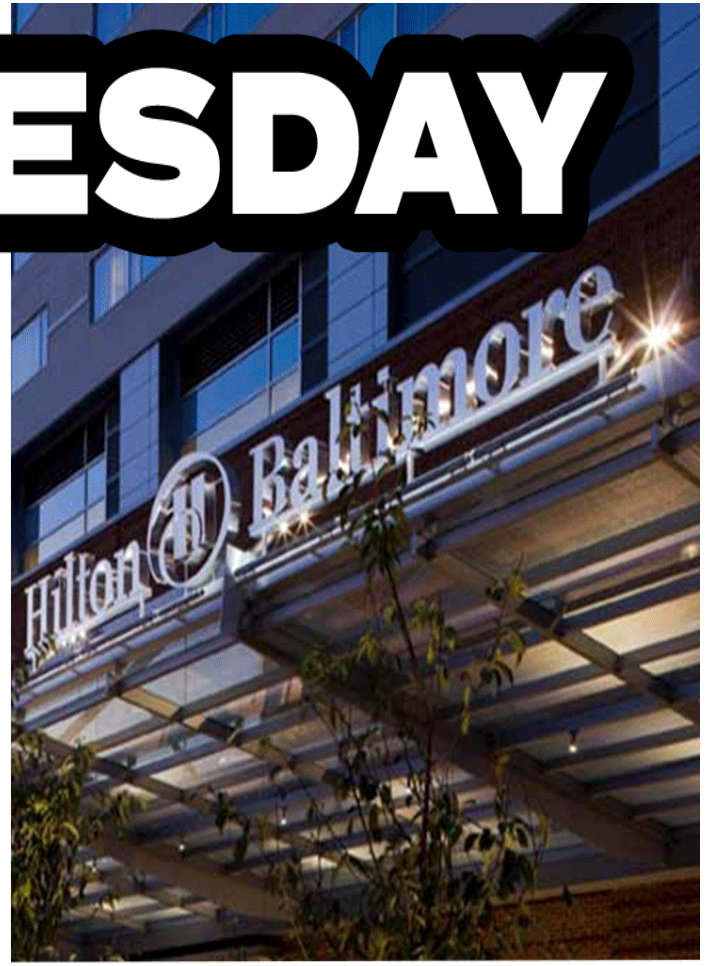
WELCOME RECEPTION  
CIGARS UNDER THE STARS

8:00 PM

THE 60TH INTERNATIONAL CONCLAVE

# BALTIMORE

GROOVE PHI GROOVE S.F.I.





# THURSDAY

OCTOBER 6TH



GOLF TOURNAMENT

8AM-1:30PM

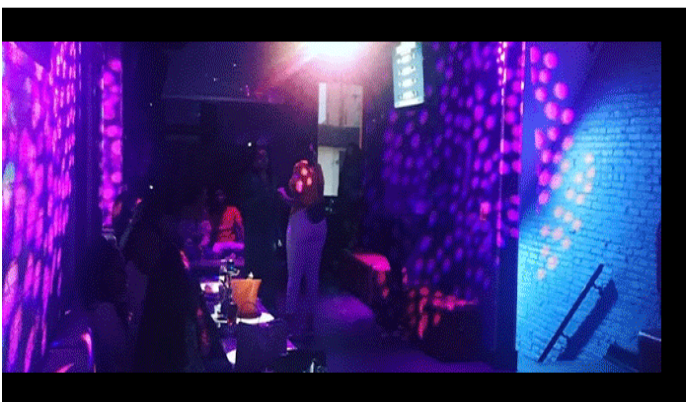


UNDERGRAD STEP/STROLL WORKSHOP

11 AM- 3PM

DELEGATES MEETING

3PM-6PM



CHARM CITY CRAB FEAST

6PM-10PM

1100 CROMWELL BRIDGE RD,  
TOWSON, MD.

DE'JA'VU GRADUATE PARTY

10PM-2AM

THE ANNEX  
1818 MARYLAND AVE.  
BALTIMORE, MD.

UNDERGRAD PARTY

10PM-2AM

CLUB BELLISSIMO  
1001 PRATT ST.  
BALT MD



THE 60TH INTERNATIONAL CONCLAVE

**BALTIMORE**



GROOVE PHI GROOVE S.F.I.

# FRIDAY

OCTOBER 7TH

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT  
SUMMIT

9AM-1PM

BLOCK PARTY

1PM-5PM

LIFETIME  
RECEPTION

8PM-10PM

PURE WHITE  
ALUMNI PARTY

10PM-2AM

DOWNTOWN  
CULTURAL ARTS  
CENTER

401 HOWARD ST.,  
BALTIMORE MD

UNDERGRAD  
PARTY

10PM-2AM

THE GARAGE

6 LAFAYETTE ST.,  
BALTIMORE, MD

THE 60TH INTERNATIONAL CONCLAVE

**BALTIMORE**  
GROOVE PHI GROOVE S.F.I.



# SATURDAY

OCTOBER 8TH



HOMECOMING PARADE  
8AM-10:30AM

HOMECOMING TAILGATE-  
FOOTBALL GAME

12PM-5PM

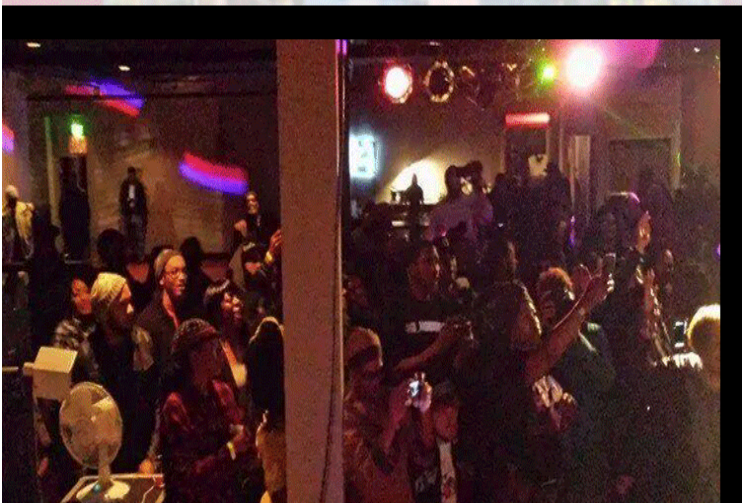


BLACK EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS GALA  
8PM-12AM

UNDERGRAD  
PARTY

10PM-2AM

CLUB BAMBOU  
229 N. FRANKLINTOWN RD.  
BALTIMORE, MD



THE 60TH INTERNATIONAL CONCLAVE

**BALTIMORE**  
GROOVE PHI GROOVE S.F.I.





# NAVIGATING IN A WORLD OF CRISIS

Fl. Rev. Dr. Stephen Webb, International Chaplain

**W**e live in a time when our lives are impacted by complex global crises in both immediate and subtle ways. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to shape the way we live, learn, and work together. Climate crises—from flooding to wildfires are occurring with increasing frequency and intensity. Social and political crises from rolling back Roe Vs. Wade or attacking voting rights, we are in a time of crisis. Economic and climate crises are pushing people to cross borders. The pandemic, political polarity and tyranny, climate change, global migrations, and international wars are all examples of current, real-time crises.

Some would say that during times of crisis are the best training camps for character building, practicing patience, and learning endurance. There is no better character builder than a good crisis. Times of crisis are nothing new to the human race. At every time of history there has been one type of crisis or another.

But even in all that is going on in the world, there are some positive lessons that can be learned in a world of crisis. A world in crisis presents us with an opportunity to consider our connections to others, the common good, and how even seemingly small actions can make a difference. There are great lessons to be learned in the times of crisis. In the Old Testament book of Isaiah, we find an example of navigating in a world of crisis

In this text, Isaiah - Chapter 38; Verses 1 - 8, King Hezekiah finds himself in a crisis. A crisis is any event or period that will lead, or may lead, to an unstable and dangerous situation affecting an individual, group, or all of society. Crises are negative changes in human or environmental affairs, especially when they occur abruptly, with little or no warning. Hezekiah finds himself sick unto death, now that's a crisis. Hezekiah was a good ruler and a Godly king but found himself in a crisis. Some believe godly living, great faith and positive think-

ing will exempt them from trials. This is the furthest thing from the truth. Jesus said, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

So how do you respond when you are living your best, walking by faith, serving God and the bottom falls out? We respond in Faith!

In our text, Hezekiah, a godly king of Judah and Jerusalem finds himself in a dilemma. The prophet Isaiah for many years had approached the kings of Judah with the word of God, proclaiming God's call to repentance. The nation was encouraged to seek God's forgiveness so that the nation might be spared. Isaiah's pleas were rejected, now the prophet received a new message for the nation. Isaiah comes with the judicial sentence, dooming the nation to exile and the land to desolation. While this was righteous retribution, it was a measure of mercy as well. Although Isaiah pronounced judgment, he knew that holy love, devoted zeal and sincere repentance would restore God's mercy and blessing.

In response to the prophet, King Hezekiah and his people turned to God with repentance, and uprightness. God intervened; the nation of Assyria was not allowed to invade Judah. When the nation of Judah seemed without hope, Isaiah became their intercessor as the prophet Moses of old, and God granted deliverance to Judah and Jerusalem. Hezekiah was a great and good king, who followed in the way of great-grandfather King Uzziah. Hezekiah abolished idolatry, and even destroyed the brazen serpent which Moses had built. He brought about a great reformation during his reign of Judah. Even though Hezekiah did all this to restore Judah to a righteous nation, he became very ill.

In his weakened condition, Hezekiah received this

*(Continued next page)*

unsettling message from God's prophet, Isaiah. Isa 38:1 "In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, thus saith the LORD, set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live." Now that's a crisis.

Although Hezekiah was highly favored by God, he was not exempt from sickness and disease. Hezekiah finds himself sick unto death when he is middle age. His father died at 38 and he is only 40 years old. Death is the common lot of all, regardless of age but when we come face to face with death, that is considered a crisis. Isaiah brought a pertinent message, "set your house in order." This text reminds us that it is our duty to prepare for death, before it approaches, to provide for it, by settling all our worldly affairs, and more especially by dying daily to the flesh, the world, and to sin. The day of our departure will come, and it may be soon. The story of Hezekiah's sickness gives us some lessons as believers on how to navigate in a world of crisis.

**1. Believers Can Be Confident That Crisis in Life Will Come to All.** Do not be surprised by Crisis. Crisis come to all! It is not a lack of faith or because of sin, we live in a fallen world. A man that was born of a woman has a few days and they are full of trouble. Job said, "in the midst of life, we are in death." Trouble comes to all. Crises are used by God and Satan. Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy; Satan uses crisis to discourage us. God uses trials to perfect us. God allows crises because we need them to grow.

Reference Book of James, Chapter 1:2 - 4 (KJV)

**2. Believers Can Be Confident That God Does Not Abandon His Children in Crisis.** You can expect God to send His word even in a Crisis. Crisis should cause us to appreciate God's word. Isaiah had often been God's messenger of good news. Yet, in this case God sends Hezekiah a heads up concerning his death. It is wonderful to find Isaiah speaking clearly for God and only what God has said. I am amazed at how Hezekiah received it. His only word to the prophet was thank you! We should not expect to receive anything from the prophet other than what the prophet has received from the Lord. We must welcome God's word whether it be pleasing or not. God will not abandon his people in a crisis. He sends his word.

**3. Believers Can Be Confident That God Will Hear Prayer in Crisis.** Hard trials provide rich opportunities for prayer. We should never stop praying! In every situation, sickness, affliction, or even temptation, prayer is a great relief. Prayer is the heart's ease as we pour out ourselves to God. Prayer will bring comfort in every crisis, and joy in the hour of death. Prayer is our soul's sincere desire, either uttered or unexpressed. We have an assurance that God will hear our prayer. Not only that, God sees every tear which falls from the eye of his children and at the appointed hour will wipe every tear from their eyes. Prayer guarantees us "Divine Intervention!"

**4. Believers Can Be Confident that Faithful Endurance will be Rewarded.**

Reference Book of Isiah, Chapter 38:4-8

God knows how to make you perfect and complete, wanting nothing. Hezekiah is praying that God would spare his life, Yet God sends prosperity to Zion. God did more than Hezekiah asked. Hezekiah received the restoration of his health, deliverance for his city, and peace for his people. Finally, God gave him a miracle to serve as confirmation for Hezekiah's faith, God gave him an additional fifteen years. God will add years to life and life to your years.

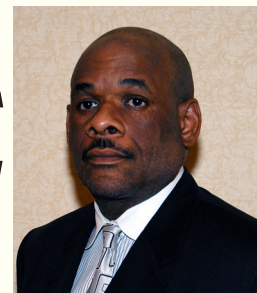
During this relentless pandemic, countless storms, wars and rumors of wars, believers are called to assemble together and support one another. Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of us together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

As Believers we can navigate in a world of crisis with great confidence. We must not allow ourselves to be overcome with fear and despair:

1. Believers Can Be Confident That Crisis in Life Will Come to All. Do not be surprised by Crisis. Crisis comes to all!
2. Believers Can Be Confident That God Does Not Abandon His Children in Crisis. You can expect God to Send His word even in a Crisis.
3. Believers Can Be Confident That God Will Hear Prayer in Crisis. Hard trials provide rich opportunities for prayer. We should never stop praying!
4. Believers Can Be Confident that Faithful Endurance will be Rewarded. Amen!



# GROOVE MEN GIVE



Fl. Vic Henderson, Sword & Spear Contributor

In the late 1990s, the Groove Fund was founded as the first charitable arm of Groove Phi Groove®. The purpose of the Groove Fund is to award scholarships to anyone who is going to college. The Fund has a heightened focus on young men of color, because their collegiate numbers are so low, and their financial need is so high. With tuition costs soaring, the students of today need even more financial assistance. No matter whether you can give \$500, \$50, or \$5, please go to [www.groovefund.org](http://www.groovefund.org).

## GROOVE FUND CONTRIBUTORS\*

### The Ultimate Step (\$100,000 & Above)

--- No Contributors To Date ---

### The Faith Circle (\$50,000 to \$74,999)

--- No Contributors To Date ---

### Mother Bear Den (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

--- **Victor Henderson** ---

### Fourteen Pearls Plaza (\$75,000 to \$99,000)

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### The '62 Society (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

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\* Contributions as of December 31, 2021. Dated: April 8, 2022

# City of Baltimore Gives \$10,000 To Groove Phi Groove®

**Fl. Gary Lockett, Sword & Spear Contributor**

The Baltimore-Columbia Graduate Chapter of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship, Inc.® was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) through their partnership with Civic Works. Civic Works Inc. is a nonprofit organization that is headquartered in Baltimore's Clifton Park Mansion section of the city. It specializes in strengthening Baltimore's communities through education, skills development. As part of the City of Baltimore's COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy, their primary task is to target value communities; to educate/mobilize neighborhoods and communities to get the vaccine, when it becomes available to them. To aid in this effort, Civic Works provides smaller nonprofits with a one-time grant opportunity, to assist in this citywide effort. The \$10K grant award was approved on October 19, 2021.



The International Office of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship, Inc.®

urges all fellowmen to get vaccinated and booster shots for the COVID-19 virus.

Please urge all of your family members and friends to get the vaccine/booster when it becomes available.

This action will go a long way in reducing the spread of this devastating virus.

Please continue to wear your masks as well as practicing social distancing measures when recommended.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the more than 1,000,000 (ONE MILLION) Americans who have died as a result of COVID-19.

We equally offer prayers of comfort to the families of millions of individuals worldwide who have succumbed to this virus.

May God have mercy on the souls of all of those who have died as a result of the COVID-19 virus.



# Why Are 90% Of All Murderers Men?

Fl. Dr. Robert Brown, *Sword & Spear*

**E**ach semester in my college composition course, when we get to the point in the class where we discuss gender roles and expectations, I provide students with some eye-opening statistics. We look at data showing that 90% of all murderers in the United States are men, and almost 99% of all rapists are men. In the U.S., men also account for almost 82% of all vandalism, 83% of all arson, and 80% of all general violent crime.

During this class session, I ask a simple question: Why? Why are so many crimes of violence committed by men rather than women?

The students usually have a variety of guesses, and they are generally what most would expect to hear. Their reasons primarily fall into two broad groups: physiology (men are bigger and have more testosterone), and culture (our world socializes people into gendered roles and expectations through pop culture, family upbringing, educational settings, and other societal institutions.)

What do the experts say? Cultural messaging is all around us. Experts have shown that, by the time we enter kindergarten, we already have the notion that girls are supposed to play with dolls while boys are supposed to play with trucks, and we have a sense that “pink is for girls while blue is for boys.” By the time we graduate high school, almost all of our traditional gender roles and expectations are set, and we have a pretty good idea of what gendered behavior is “supposed” to look like.

In our society, we have also established the idea that violence is the domain of men. Very little of this message is told to us directly. Instead, we absorb this idea through all kinds of cultural messaging from conversations, from our

entertainment, from our advertising, and from paying attention to our friends and families.

But violence is a complex problem, and the relationship between masculinity and violence is a complex relationship with many inextricably linked factors. (Most of what you see below has been adapted from research presented by the American Psychological Association as well as a report from the World Health Organization.)

- **EXPRESSION OF ANGER.** The experts believe that the most prominent factor in male violence has to do with many men not really knowing what to do when they feel anger or frustration. This is a part of what sociologists call strain theory. The idea is that life throws difficult situations our way, and when we feel the strain of these difficulties, we respond to the stress in different ways. Most women have been socialized to either talk out their anger and frustration, or internalize the anger. On the other hand, many men are more likely to react violently to life's strains because men are not really encouraged or socialized to practice other strategies.

- **GENDER IDENTITY PRESSURE.** Our world is a male-dominated world, and has been so throughout history. For this reason, many men feel more pressure to acquire and maintain power and status in this male-dominated hierarchy. It's almost like seeing oneself move up or down in some imaginary masculinity ranking. Imagine a boy's reaction to being called a “sissy” or being told he “throws like a girl.” Most boys see those comments as attacks on their identity. Additionally, it is still more acceptable, for example, for a woman to wear

*(Continued next page)*



a three-piece suit, necktie, and top hat than it is for a man to wear a dress or evening gown. Research shows that men are more likely than women to feel threatened when their gender identity is being challenged.

- **THE EMOTIONLESS MAN.** In our society, we have a tendency to encourage and support a superficial type of stoicism in men, but a sense of empathy in women. We socialize boys to push their emotions down, while we encourage and provide spaces for girls to express their feelings. This socialization of boys leads to a society of men who lack the strategies of properly managing their emotions in healthy ways. The vast majority of men are not violent, but those who are violent usually lack strategies for dealing with their emotions.

- **RISKY BEHAVIORS.** Picture this true story. Twenty-one years ago, I began teaching high school in a private school in North Hollywood. One day after school, as students were exiting the student parking lot, I saw a group of students car surfing. One person drove the car quickly over the speed bumps in the parking lot, while another student stood on the car's roof trying not to fall off. So my question to you now, dear reader, is this: do you think the car surfing students were boys or girls? Here's the answer: most definitely, these were boys. How did you know? Why do we know these were boys car surfing on top of the car? The reason is that we have made it more socially-acceptable for boys than girls to engage in these risky behaviors. Boys are more likely than girls to stick their tongues to frozen light poles in winter. Boys are more likely than girls to jump off the garage roof. Boys are more likely than girls to wrestle alligators. Boys are more likely than girls to use their bodies to solve problems. Likewise, boys are more likely than girls to engage in the risky behavior of fistfights to resolve arguments.

- **OVEREXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE.** As stated earlier, almost all violent crime is committed by men. The other startling statistic is that approximately 78% of the victims of non-sexual violence are also men. (Women are more likely to be the victim of sexual crimes and domestic

violence. Men are more likely to be the victim of non-sexual violent crimes.) Men are more exposed to violence in film, men are more exposed to violent language in music, and men are more exposed to violence in peer groups. This all means that men are teaching other men that violence is a viable solution to their problems.

So what do we do about it? On an individual level, the very first thing we can do is to be more effective bystanders. One of the things I tell my men friends is that there is no "bro code" to sexual assault, and I will drive them to the police station myself. We need to be more vigilant when we see our friends talking or acting in troublesome ways with women (and other men) BEFORE situations become violent.

On a systematic level, we need to establish more programs that teach boys and young men exactly what healthy masculinity should look like. These could be in the form of structured mentor programs, or curricular pieces in the classroom (like I have in my college courses). We need men to ask themselves the following questions:

- Was your childhood spent in a violent environment or one of safety?
- When were you at your angriest? What things generally make you angry today?
- How do you typically deal with your anger?
- Do you consider your anger management strategies healthy or unhealthy?
- Have you been on the receiving end of violent behavior? Have you been on the giving end of violent behavior?
- Have you done a basic internet search on the relationship between masculinity and violence? Do you educate yourself when it comes to healthy emotional management?

Violence (especially violence against women) is a true epidemic, but talking with women is not the solution (or at least, not the only solution). We need to address the men. We need those men to heal themselves, and then we need those men to start mentoring younger men toward a healthier masculinity.

# GROOVE PHI GROOVE SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP, INC.® GOLD COAST CHAPTER

CELEBRATES

**10**  
YEARS IN  
OCTOBER  
**2023**



Join Us Sept 29 - Oct 7, 2023 - Ghana, West Africa

More Details To Follow  
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# IN MEMORIAM

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|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Steve Barkley       | April 17, 2021    |
| Clarence Richardson | December 15, 2021 |
| Gregory Sanders     | December 20, 2021 |
| London Dismuke      | January 11, 2022  |
| Tracey Hunter Hayes | January 19, 2022  |
| Roddy Mitchell      | January 29, 2022  |
| Willie Smart        | March 11, 2022    |
| Willie Ragsdale     | March 23, 2022    |
| Willie Ingram       | March 31, 2022    |
| Jeffrey Lane Carmon | April 4, 2022     |
| Thomas Dixon        | May 17, 2022      |
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# CELEBRATE FREEDOM



# JUNETEETH

America's Newest Federal Holiday

Commemorates Freedom Of  
Enslaved African Americans