



Esteemed Founders

Gladys C. Nunery, Julia A. Barnes, (Mother Founder) Gladys M. Ross, Florence S. Hunt, Ella W. Butler, Marguerite Gross, Mildred M. Williams

Not Shown- Edna McConnell

*All are in Omega Chapter

Purpose

- To stimulate professional growth among teachers.
- To foster a true spirit of true sisterhood.
- To promote the highest ideals of the teaching profession.
- To encourage the development of the potential of our youth.

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From Winter-to-Spring-to-Summer

Happy Easter, Sorors! I cannot believe that we have moved into this wonderful season of Spring; a time of renewal. And with that in mind, let us renew our commitment to the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. Alpha Chapter: To stimulate professional growth among teachers, To foster true sisterhood, and To promote the highest ideals of the teaching profession. As we confirm our commitments, we are in the process of hopefully formulating another Krinon Club this sororal year which will increase our membership and professional growth for 2016-17.

Another goal of the sorority is: To encourage the development of the potential of our youth, as was demonstrated at the Annual Youth Leadership Conference held at the Park Ridge Marriott Hotel in Park Ridge, New Jersey, March 11-13, 2016. Our youth groups were quite awesome; not just in stepping, but in scholarship and academics. We salute the following winners: Scholar of the Year- Cerra McClendon, Daniel Jenkins, 1st place for Talent, Alexis Amo-Karh, 3rd In the Oratorical, Kudos

placed 2nd for their Activity Scrapbook and Step, Mia Serrano placed third for her Art Project, and Brandy Davis placed for Science. Congratulations to our Xinos/Kudos for their hard work and preparation. Thank you to all of the Advisors for their many hours of guidance.

We congratulate our Scholarship winners for their hard work, diligence, and community service this sororal year: 1st.place Paulette Alexander, \$1000 annually for four years, 2nd. Place Ashley Coates, \$1500 and 3rd. place. Ronald Cerene Washington, \$1000.

The Marie Bagby Scholarship Luncheon on March 19, was very successful. Thank you to our visiting chapters, Beta Omicron, Pi, Beta Epsilon, and Delta Pi for their support, our families and friends for continuous patronage, and Theresa Ferguson for a fabulous fashion Show.

During this sororal year, Alpha chapter has committed to a food

initiative from Christ Episcopal Church in Teaneck, NJ to promote "BEFORE YOU GO HOME" food bags for children attending one of the public schools. It's a wonderful idea to assist the church and help children in a Bergen County Elementary school have nutritious food for the weekend during the months of May and June.

As we celebrate the achievements of our youth, camaraderie among our sorors in planning chapter events, and our commitment to community service, let us continue with everyone's support of our YES Program.

Thank you Sorors.



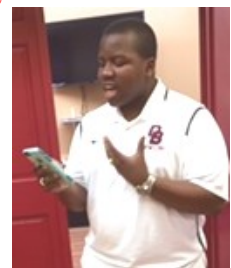
Gwendolyn Jackson, Basileus

Celebrating the Past-Venturing Into the Future

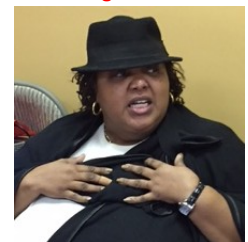
On Saturday, February 13, 2016 we celebrated African American history Month with a beautiful program by the chapter's African-American History Multicultural Activities Committee. The theme, 'Celebrating the Past - Venturing Into the Future' was depicted in music, poetry, dramatizations, and a book review. The program opened with the singing of Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing. Soror Mary Ennon offered information on the history of Black History Month and provided copies of Black inventors to the attendees. Soror Audra Fields-Chisolm presented James W. Johnson's "The Creation." Soror Anna Burch read a poem titled "Too Black" and Soror Mary Webb-Miller provided a detailed review of the book, *Just Mercy*

after which Soror Frances Harold gave information on Black Postage Stamps and recited an original poem written by Soror Mildred English.

Kudos president Jeremiah Sheppert dramatized the poem, *Knock, Knock* by Daniel Beatty and Soror Diana Ondande did a dramatization called "Guess Who" as she acted out several famous persons for the audience to identify. Soror Leisa Brown provided her rendition of the Negro Mother and provided the music for the entire program. At the conclusion of the program with "We Shall Overcome" Sorors were able to enjoy lunch and view a video on Black Aviators provided by Soror Bernadette Robinson.



Jeremiah Sheppert presenting Knock, Knock and Soror Leisa Brown dramatizing The Negro Mother



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NSPDK, INC.

Alpha Chapter Officers
Basileus Gwendolyn Jackson
1st Anti-Basileus Rhonda Baskerville
2nd Anti-Basileus Mary Ennon
3rd Anti-Basileus Stacey Abdul-Qawi
Grammateus Gail Andrew
Epistoleus
Francenia Britton-Sheppert
Tamiouchos Diana Ondande
Tamias Shawnte Williams
Custodian of Properties
 Doreen Bryant
Executive Advisor Sandra Webster
Parliamentarian Verna Sims

Chapter Office
 155 Martin Luther King Drive
 Jersey City, NJ 07305



Alpha News

Editor : Soror Mary E. Ennon

Contributors:

Basileus Gwendolyn Jackson
Sorors Rhonda Baskerville, Aretha Harris, Sandra Webster



Soror Adrienne Lofton
Amenities Chair

Eastern Region Executive Planning Meeting

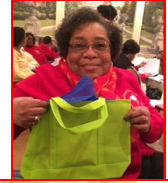
On the weekend of February 19-21, 2016 several Alpha sorors attended the Eastern Region Executive Board and YES Committee Planning meeting at the Hilton Christiana Hotel in Newark, DE. Opening thoughts given by Soror Drusilla Kinzonzi, Executive Advisor, concluded with, "Forward in faith, Not in Fear."

Regional Director Little conducted the meeting with professionalism, poise and confidence. The events included presentations by Xinos and Kudos chairpersons as well as presentations from the various committees which included Sorors from Delta Nu and Rho Chapters in preparation for the

Youth leadership Conference and the Eastern Regional Conference.. The YES and Administrative Committees conducted a rewarding collaborative planning session to share event plans.

Extensive reporting was given by our Regional Financial Officers, the E.R.F.R.S. and the Perpetual Scholarship Foundation.

A report on the Eastern Regional Retreat was presented and a date of October 7-9, 2016 was given. The venue for the retreat is the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center. Poconos Mountain, PA.



Soror Ennon was overjoyed at winning during the Ice-breaker activity and the 50/50 drawing on Sunday morning.



Sorors Read Across America

March 2, 2016 was the celebration of the birthday of Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known to teachers and students in this country as Dr. Seuss. The celebration comes in the form of an initiative called **Read Across America**.

Several of the chapter's retired sorors visited schools in the local area and read to the students in several classes. Sorors Hazel Williams, Anna Burch, Mary Webb-Miller and Sandra Webster visited PS# 22 and read to several classes.

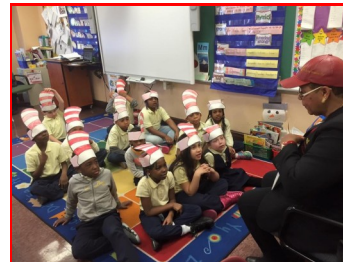
Throughout his career the cartoonist and writer published over 60 books. The Cat in the Hat and Green Eggs and Ham were some of his most famous works.



Soror Williams enjoys the experience



Soror Burch reads to a Second Grade class



Soror Webster reads to Soror Ondande's class



Soror Webb-Miller poses with students

Gifts and Good Will

Send Birthday Shout-Outs to the following Alpha Sorors: Apryl Sneed-April 18, Mary Webb-Miller-April 18, Monica Johnson-April 23.

Send messages of comfort and condolences to Soror Tara Edmonds, Delta Nu Chapter, on

the passing of her father; Soror Dawn Brooks, Alpha Mu Chapter on the passing of her mother; Supreme Basileus Charlotte M. Williams and the Sorors of Gamma Chapter on the passing of Soror Lila Makle, the mother of Soror Williams who was a member of Gamma Chapter;

members of Xi Chapter on the passing of their most senior soror M. Gertrude Thomas; Alpha Chapter Soror Monique Phelps on the passing of her grandmother. Soror Florence King, Theta Chapter is recuperating from Pneumonia.

Annual Scholarship Luncheon



**Scholarship recipients
Ronald C. Washington, 3rd
Place winner and Ashley
Coates 2nd Place with par-
ents and chair, Soror Mary
Webb-Miller**

The annual Marie A. Bagby Scholarship Citation Luncheon and Dance was held on March 19, 2016 at the Casino-in-the-Park in Jersey City, NJ with more than 300 people in attendance. The theme was "Building relationships By Bridging School and Community Service."

Citations were awarded to Ms. Pamela Gardner, Hudson County Register of Deeds and Mortgages since 2011, Mr. Franklin Walker, Associate Superintendent of Jersey City Public Schools, and Dr. Elnardo Webster,

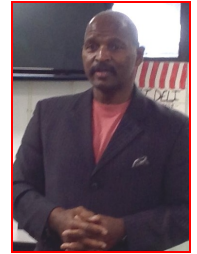
Director of the Department of expanded learning at St. Peter's University, Jersey City.

The 1st Place scholarship winner, Paulette Alexander Ethridge who received a continuing award of \$1000 for four years was not able to attend. 2nd Place winner Ashley Coates received \$1,500 and 3rd Place winner Ronald Cerene Washington was awarded \$1,000. Each of the recipients who was in attendance with their mother, extended their gratitude to the sorority for their awards.

A "Swing Into Spring fashion show by Dressed to a "T" was another highlight of the afternoon along with the giving away of several beautiful gift baskets and a flat screen television to several lucky winners.



Ms . Pamela Gardner



Mr. Franklin Walker



Dr. Elnardo Webster

2016 Youth Leadership Conference

The Youth Leadership Conference which is held annually for the Xinos and Kudos convened at the Park Ridge Marriott Hotel, Park Ridge, NJ on the weekend of March 11-13, 2016. The conference theme, "Paving the Way, Brick by Brick: Upholding the legacy of Integrity, Greatness, and Perseverance was prevalent from the beginning. The participating chapters represented the theme well with their Stepping, Oratorical Presentations and Talent.

There was a special workshop for the Xinos and Kudos presidents and vice presidents as well as additional workshops for the youth, Hub Parents and advisors.

The chapter's involvement in the competitions was remarkable. Both groups participated in the Step competitions with the Kudos winning 3rd place. The Oratorical representative for the Xinos was Alexis Amo-Krah who is a sophomore and was a first time competitor. She came in 3rd place. In the talent competition, Xinos Makaylah Abraham performed a vocal by Nina Simone which won her 3rd place and Kudos Daniel Jenkins Tapped-Danced his way to 1st place.

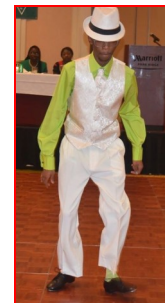
Both groups submitted scrapbooks and the Kudos placed 2nd. Xinos Zi'Mia Serrano's art piece won 3rd place and Xinos Brandi Davis won 2nd place for her Science display. Xinos Cierra McClendon won Scholar of the Year for the Xinos and received \$1000 for her efforts.

Xinos and Kudos both participated in the Non Competitive activity, "Clapping if You Recall." Additionally, Kudos Jeremiah Sheppert supported

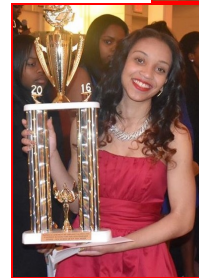
his classmate who is a member of Epsilon Chi Chapter in singing a duet. Unity Step Participants included Xinos Erin Salmon and Kudos Brandon Williamson. Both groups took part in the Sunday morning Chorus and Liturgical Dance.



Winners!!!



Winners!!!



Alpha's Dynamic Kudos



Alpha's Beautiful Xinos



**Alpha's Extremely
Supportive
Hub Parents**



A Bit of HISTORY

Henrietta Lacks (1920 – 1951)

Best known as the source of cells that form the HeLa line used extensively in medical research since the 1950s.

Henrietta Lacks was born Loretta Pleasant on August 1, 1920, in Roanoke, Virginia. At some point she changed her name to Henrietta. After the death of her mother in 1924, Henrietta was sent to live with her grandfather in a log cabin that had been the slave quarters of a white ancestor's plantation. Henrietta shared a room with her first cousin, David "Day" Lacks. Henrietta had a son by David at the age of 14 and a daughter four years later.

They married in 1941 and moved to Maryland where they had three more children which included a daughter who was developmentally disabled. She was placed in the Hospital for the Negro Insane.

On January 29, 1951 Henrietta went to Johns Hopkins Hospital to diagnose abnormal pain and bleeding in her abdomen. Physician Howard Jones quickly diagnosed her with cervical cancer. During her subsequent radiation treatments, doctors removed two cervical samples from Lacks without her knowledge. She died October 4, 1951, at the age of 31.

The cells from Lack's tumor made their way to the laboratory of researcher Dr. George Otto Gey. He noticed an unusual quality in the cells. Unlike most cells that survived only a few days, Lack's cells were far more durable. Gey isolated and multiplied a specific cell, creating a cell line. He named the resulting sample HeLa, derived from the name

Henrietta Lacks.

The HeLa strain revolutionized medical research. Jonas Salk used the HeLa strain to develop the polio vaccine. Scientists cloned the cells in 1955, as demand grew. Since that time over ten thousand patents involving HeLa cells have been registered. Researchers have used the cells to study disease and to test human sensitivity to new products and substances.

The Lacks family learned about the HeLa cells in the 1970s when a scientist contacted family members seeking blood samples and other genetic materials. Inquiries from the family regarding the use of HeLa cells and publications that included their own genetic information, were largely ignored. The case gained new visibility in 1998 when BBC screened an award-winning documentary on Lacks and HeLa. Rebecca Skloot later wrote a popular book on the subject called *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. Oprah Winfrey announced plans to develop a film on Skloot's 2010 book.

Organizations that have profited from HeLa have since recognized Henrietta Lack's contributions to research. The Lacks family has been honored at the Smithsonian Institution and the National Foundation for Cancer Research. Morgan State University granted Lacks a posthumous honorary degree. The HeLa case has raised questions about the legality of using genetic materials without permission. Neither lacks nor her family granted permission to harvest her cells which were then cloned and sold. The California Supreme Court upheld the right to commercialize discarded tissue in the 1980 case *Moore v. regents of the University of California*. In 2013, German researchers published the genome of a strain of HeLa cells without permission from the Lacks family who has limited access in gaining control of the HeLa strain.

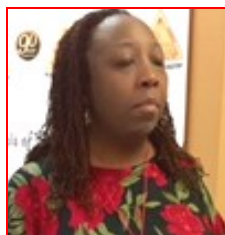
Celebrating the Past con't



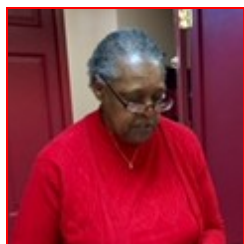
Soror Harold speaking on the Black Postage Stamps



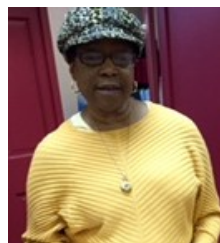
Soror Robinson presented film on black aviators



Soror Fields-Chisolm performs 'The Creation'



Soror Webb-Miller presenting a review on Just Mercy



Soror Burch executes the poem 'Too Black'

Visiting Our Sister Chapter

On Saturday, March 5, 2016, Basileus Gwendolyn Jackson and Soror Mary Ennon attended Rho Chapter's 15th Annual Scholarship & Awards Luncheon in Newark, DE. Their theme was "Enriching the lives of our youth and community."

Following the Posting of the Colors and the opening ceremony, awards were presented to Xinos Myia Palmer, Xinos of the Year and Clarence "Tre" Armstrong, Kudos of the Year. After luncheon was served, the chapter's Xinos stepped. The Rho Ensemble performed followed by a very inspiring speech by our Regional Director, Noreen Little.

Additional awards were given to Rho Honorees; Educator of the Year, Anthros of the Year, Rho Soror of the Year, and Hub Parent of the Year.



Sorors Jackson and Ennon, after enjoying the festivities at Rho Chapter's luncheon, pause for a photo opt with Regional Director Little



African-American History Multicultural Activities Committee

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Mary Ennon – Chair | Anna Burch |
| Apryl Sneed – Co-Chair | Mary Webb-Miller |
| Leisa Brown | Frances Harold |
| Diana Ondande | LaShonda Mahaley |
| Bernadette Robinson | Audra Fields-Chisolm |