



National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated

Volume 6 Issue 3

June 2020

Alpha News

Alpha Chapter said Y.E.S. but COVID-19 said NOOOO!

Working together is the Alpha Chapter way. Each committee provides support to **Youth, Education and Service**. Sorors work diligently towards completing the goals of the sororal year. Let us look at the **Y** component of our program, Youth.

The **Youth** were given the charge of preparing for their Leadership Conference which was to occur **March 20-22**. They had to complete scrapbooks, chronicle activities, prepare science and art projects, and practice with the Oratorical participant. Most importantly, one Xinos and one Kudos had to be identified to compete for the scholar of the year. My resolve is that it was a busy time for the advisors and our youth as they were preparing culminating experiences for display. The Chapter was in the business of showing the growth that had taken place with our youth during the year.

The **E** in our program initiative shows what educational presentations are ongoing in our chapter. We share Current Academic and legal issues occurring in New Jersey and nationally at our meetings. Guest speakers keep our members informed and engaged on Health, Nutrition and Hypertension and keeping healthy. Literacy presentations keep our members aware of learning engagement.

The **S** stands for **Service** that is provided when and where the need arises and is ongoing, especially during the holidays. Our sponsorship of the Lily Pearl Foundation shines with the Nutrition Education Program that feeds children in various

afterschool programs in the Jersey City community.

We were well into the beginning of spring when our **Y.E.S.** became **NO... NO... NO!** Everything changed quite abruptly. The pandemic altered the lives of everyone. Our understanding of the corona virus (COVID-19 had a huge affect on our knowledge as educators and the modifications that were rapidly taking place. The need to shelter in place or Quarantine, and social distancing became the new norm as all institutions of learning closed suddenly. Health issues are still paramount and learning how to educate the whole child using different methods, devices, and platforms (Video Conferencing, and Zoom) had to be learned rapidly. The retired educators volunteered wherever needed for remote learning to succeed in the homes. Parents were home with their families do to numerous shut-downS of businesses. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) provided new vocabulary for everyone to understand protocols and statistics to assist people in remaining healthy and safe. However, many Lives were lost during this rapid beginning.

New Jersey Governor, Phil Murphy selected Judith Persichilli as the State's Health Commissioner. In an article published in the May, 2020, **NJ Monthly Magazine**, she presented a plan to control this virus the governor addressed daily on the media. This care-

fully thought-out procedure has gotten the state on the road to recovery. It included **Working Together in the Health Departments** with getting equipment, protecting themselves and the patients at various health care facilities, and **Potential Patient** identification, and testing. Lastly, five areas to consider with **At Home Care** were identified. They include: what patients can do to mitigate symptoms; what the worst symptoms are; how one knows when to escalate to the ER, what to do if one family member tests positive; and if being affected once is sufficient to build resistance.

Numerous questions continue to arise and some answers are being supplied. One thing is evident, Change is happening and as educators, Alpha Chapter Sorors are modifying its program to meet those changes and continue to investigate resources for our Youth, Education and Service.



Changing and Moving Forward
Your Sister,
Perry



Esteemed Founders

- Gladys C. Nunery,
 - Julia A. Barnes,
 - Gladys M. Ross,
 - Florence S. Hunt,
 - Ella W. Butler,
 - Marguerite Gross,
 - Mildred M. Williams
- Not Shown- Edna McConnell
*All are in Omega Chapter

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Remembering Hub Parent Sandra Tune Soror Rhonda Baskerville



Words truly cannot describe the loss Alpha Chapter, Hub Parents, youth groups, and Anthropos feel at the passing of Hub Parent Sandra Tune from covid19 complications.

Ms. Tune joined the Alpha Chapter Hub Parent Family about 9 years ago when her oldest daughter, Serria became a Xinos. Ms. Tune and her husband, Ferris, permitted each of their four children, Serria, Ferris Jr, Justin, and Saniya, to be a part of the Alpha Xinos and Kudos.

Sandra was the epitome of an exemplary Hub Parent. She supported the events of the chapter and each of her children with her presence. She also made contributions to the other Xinos and Kudos and supported the advisors, wholeheartedly.

Ms. Tune loved her family and we are blessed that she loved Alpha Chapter and the Xinos and Kudos as well. She and her husband were scheduled to be honored by the chapter before the pandemic occurred. Sandra was a gem that will truly be missed by all. May her beautiful soul Rest In God's Peace.



Soror Honored Soror M. English

On February 26, 2020, Soror Mildred English was honored by her home town of Hillside, NJ along with Sorors Gwendolyn Watts and Hattie Solomon of Delta Pi Chapter. The event was titled "Honoring Our Hillside Community Servants," and was chaired and presented by the mayor of the city, Dahlia O. Vertreese. The program was held in recognition of Black History Month at the Hillside Municipal Building with a full house in attendance.

Soror English shared the story of how she as a member of Alpha Chapter, Gwendolyn Watts and Gloria Banks met in her home to plan for the chartering of what is now Delta Pi Chapter of Hillside, NJ

Awards were presented to the honorees along with certificates from the New Jersey Senate and the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Union County.

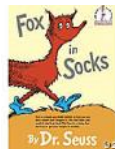


Celebrating Literacy Soror JoAnn Alston

In celebration of the birthday of Dr. Seuss with Read Across America, Sorors Anona Huntley, Francene Britton-Sheppert and Marilyn Jones joined several sorors of Delta Pi Chapter to read to students at Mount Vernon School in Newark, NJ. They were invited by Soror Sandra Washington Gayles. Each soror read books to two classes ranging from Kindergarten-Grade 4. The readers each were given a token of gratitude and a certificate of appreciation.

Soror JoAnn Alston read *Journey to New Orleans*, a book she purchased from NSPDK with her great-granddaughters. In addition, she read to a Kindergarten class at PS 17 in Jersey City. Soror Mary Webb-Miller and Basileus Perry Jackson also read to classes at the school.

Soror Alston's brother, Mr. Cleven McKinney, Mr. Kim Greene, Soror Sandy Webster's brother and Anthropos Kenneth Bryant participated in the Eastern Region's "Dad Lights the Way With NSPDK" Reading initiative and represented the chapter. Anthropos Bryant read to his granddaughter, Mr. Greene read to his grands and Mr. McKinney read to his great grand nieces and was one of the Region's video presentations.



Gifts and Good Will Soror Adrienne Lofton

Birthday Celebrations: April- Sorors Mary Webb-Miller, 4/18; Monica Johnson, 4/23:

May- Sorors Cynthia Jones, 5/1; Doreen Bryant, 5/28; June- None

July- Sorors Tynetta Harris, 7/3; Cartayah Hawkins-Reid, 7/5; Diana Ondande, 7/7; Dr. Tamika Pollins, 7/15; Francenia Britton-Sheppert, 7/15

August- Sorors Anna Burch, 8/3; Rhonda Baskerville, 8/10; Bernadette Robinson, 8/31

September- Sorors Frances Harold, 9/10; Verna Sims, 9/14; Brenda Calloway, 9/14; Mildred English, 9/19; Leisa Brown, 9/16; Adrienne Lofton, 9/26; Hazel Williams, 9/30



During the last few months a deadly virus erupted and created a pandemic which affected millions of people around the world. This country alone has experienced the deaths of more than 120,000. Since March 2020 we've been staying in.

Several members of our beloved sorority have suffered loss of family members, sorors, and friends to this dreadful COVID 19. Sorors of Alpha Chapter have experienced several losses, also.

We all need a time to grieve and reflect on memories and come to grips with what has happened as we attempt to adjust to a "New" normal which includes wearing masks, handwashing and distancing.

Alpha Chapter extends Sincere Condolences to all who have experienced loss. We are Praying that God's Peace and Comfort will remain with all of us during this time of grief, sorrow and challenge.

A Virtual Founders' Day Soror Helen Brooks

Alpha Chapter joined sorors across the Eastern Region to attend and celebrate our organization's 97th Anniversary Founders' Day by way of Zoom. Each of the five regions celebrated this historical event. The observance for the Eastern Region took place at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 23, 2020. This was our first Virtual Founders' Day Celebration.

Because of the Covid19 Pandemic, chapters were unable to gather in person as groups. The Eastern Region hosted 280 sorors adorned in white with flashlights and rituals. The ceremony was conducted by Supreme Basileus, Dr. Etta Carter and Eastern Regional Director Dr. Patsy Squire.

Following the ceremony the Eastern Regional Founders' Day Committee Chaired by Soror Susan Richards (Beta Omicron) conducted a lovely Founders' Day Program with sorors across the region taking part. The program concluded with a beautiful poem written by Soror Richards.



Alpha Bingo: A Virtual Sisterly Activity Soror Stacey Abdul Qawi

On the afternoon of Founder's Day May 23, 2020, Alpha Chapter celebrated our sisterhood by hosting a virtual Bingo game. Alpha Bingo packs complete with bingo cards and directions were sent to all Alpha members, Sorors Shelia Evans of Gamma Chapter, Soror P. West of Delta Nu Chapter and the 2020 Krinon Club members. After logging in to our video chat room, Soror Stacey (Sisterly Activities Committee member) greeted the participants, briefly reviewed the rules, and was caller for the game.

The game cards were customized with the names of Alpha Chapter members, so it was exciting to hear each member's name as they were randomly called. We were instructed to have our refreshments handy as we played and chatted.

When the afternoon ended there were 10 winners: Soror Gail Andrew, Soror Adrienne Lofton, Soror Marilynn Jones, Soror Verna Sims, Soror Doreen Bryant, Soror Mary Ennon (twice), Soror Bernadette Robinson, Krinon Jamila Bass, and Krinon Jawharah Muhammad. Everyone is excitedly waiting for our next virtual game night this summer.



Soror Gail Andrew



Soror Adrienne Lofton



Soror Marilynn Jones



Soror Mary Ennon



Soror Bernadette Robinson



Soror Verna Sims



Soror Doreen Bryant



Krinon Jamila Bass



Krinon Jawharah Muhammad

Xinos of the Year Soror R. Baskerville



Za'Niya McMillan was selected by Xinos Advisors, Sorors Rhonda Baskerville and Shawnte Williams, as the 2020 Alpha Chapter "Xinos of the Year."

She was chosen for this honor because she has been a committed and valued member of the Chapter's Xinos group for the last two years. During that time, she participated in most meetings, community service activities, and events. She has been a committed, enthusiastic leader in her own right; which has proven to be an asset to the club.

Za'Niya attended her first Eastern Regional Youth Leadership Conference last year and participated in the Science competition. Since becoming an Alpha Xinos, Za'Niya is greatly admired because she does not let her Sick Cell Disease get in the way of remaining faithful. She has communicated with her advisors when hospitalized for days or even weeks, and upon her return, she has always been stronger and better. Her advisors are proud to have had the opportunity to know and love her and only wish the best for her in all of her future endeavors.

Kudos of the Year Soror A. Huntley



Isaiah Moses "69-13" is an 18 years old Senior at Synder High school in Jersey City, NJ where he lives with his parents and brothers and sisters. He was selected Kudos of the Year by the chapter's Kudos Advisors, Sorors Francene Britton-Sheppert and Anona Huntley.

Isaiah has grown into an excellent role-model for other Kudos in the club. His commitment, dedication and dependability has proven to endear him to his Kodos brothers and Advisors.

Isaiah has attended three Youth Leadership Conferences and would have attended the 2019-2020 conference as part of the Kudos Step Team. He has participated in all community service activities and events. He committed himself to do these efforts, in addition to responsibilities to his younger siblings. Isaiah plans to attend Bloomfield College, Bloomfield, NJ in the fall.

Scholarship Recipients 2020 Soror Mary Webb-Miller



Adrianna LaFrance Green First Place recipient, Year three of four; **\$1000** is currently enrolled at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, NJ. She is pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education.



Racquel Petit-Frere—2nd Place **\$1500** is Graduating from Donald M. Payne Technical High School, Newark, NJ. She is pursuing a degree in Music Therapy at William Paterson University



Kenya Latrice Woodson—3rd Place **\$1000** is graduating from Hudson County Schools of Technology/County Prep in Jersey City. She is pursuing a degree in Special Education with a concentration in Mathematics at St. Peter's University.



Za'Niya McMillan Ella Wells Butler Book Scholarship recipient **\$500** will be graduating from Henry Snyder High School in Jersey City and attending Hudson County Community College.

Anthropos Give Scholarships Soror Bernadette Robinson

Liberty State Park, June 27, 2020, the setting for celebrating the Alpha Chapter Kudos Scholarship Recipients. Alpha's Anthropos, "The Men in Our Life," recognized two deserving young men for their academic achievements. Senior year can be stressful; meeting grades, senior activities, applying to colleges or trade schools and the social events that finalizes the closing of the year with friends. Covid 19 changed that for many students and the natural order of senior year activities.

Our Anthropos were faced with similar challenges. Traditionally they would have held several fundraisers throughout the year, to ensure a gift of support be given toward continued education of Senior Kudos. Our Alpha men never wavered when Coronavirus arrived. They awarded scholarship recipient Kudos Isaiah H.S. Moses \$400 as he prepares to attend Hudson Community College to study, Criminal Justice. Kudos Tah'Shaun Townes was given \$300 as he prepares to attend Devry University to study Graphic Designing.

This was a special day, as the Kudos stood handsomely on the broad walk of Liberty State Park attired in their blue/black tuxedos. One could see the pride on their faces while the back-drop of the New York skyline was the scene utilized as they were viewed by proud family and friends; a perfect picture. These two young men may not have taken the traditional walk across the stage, but this was a good substitute. Anthropos President Richard Jackson Jr. and Public Relations Chair Cornell Robinson presented them with certificates of recognition for a job well done and offered well wishes toward their higher education. Best of Luck young men!



Anthropos chair, Soror Bernadette Robinson, Anthropos Cornell Robinson and Richard Jackson present scholarships to Senior Kudos.

NSPDK eLearning Academy



Etta F. Carter, Ph.D.
Supreme Basileus

The NATIONAL SORORITY OF PHI DELTA KAPPA, INC. (NSPDK Inc.) announced the launching of **NSPDK eLearning Academy**, its newest program May 22, 2020. By using the following link, www.NSPDKAcademy.org viewers will be able to access one of the most comprehensive and recent teaching resource tools for distance learning available to teachers, parents, and students. This site was created by experienced education professionals from across the country, including New York, California, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Texas, Indiana, West Virginia, and Florida. These individuals have listed the most frequently used websites and placed them into one user-friendly site, by grade and subject, from Pre-School through College levels.

The **NSPDK eLearning Academy** was created as a result of the immediate need to locate resources designed to teach at-home learners after the shut-down of schools caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a professional organization of women in the field of education, the members answered the mandate expressed by education communities across the country. There was a strongly expressed need to fill the void of readily available resources in a single location; to train teachers and parents on how to use the media platforms required by school districts often without proper training; and to demonstrate the integration of these platforms into daily lessons.

There are three parts that will be presented. **Phase I-Resources** was included in the initial launch. The website held its premier opening at 12:01 am to 11:59 pm on Friday, May 22, 2020 and will remain open throughout the year, offering frequent daily and monthly updates. You are invited to visit this new media resource and discover the magic of having hundreds of teacher resources organized for easy learning in just one site. **Phase II-How to Use** media platforms for distance learning is projected to be available in July 2020; and **Phase III-Demonstration Lessons** which incorporate various media platforms is expected to launch by September 2020.

The eLearning Academy Creators

Etta F. Carter, Ph.D. Supreme Basileus

Gamma Nu Chapter, Little Rock, AR; Southwest Region
Soror Noreen E. Little, M.ED; 1st Supreme Anti-Basileus
 Beta Omicron Chapter, Jamaica, NY; Eastern Region
Soror Nora A. Robbs, MPA; Tamiouchos
 Beta Mu Chapter, Midwest Region

Soror Carla F. Carter, Ph.D; Basileus

Gamma Nu Chapter, Little Rock AR, Southwest Region
Soror Sharrie R. Dean-Collins, Ph.D; 1st Anti-Basileus
 Gamma Omicron Chapter, Miami, FL and South East Region
Soror Jarian R. Graham, M.ED; National I Public Relations Chair
 Eta Chapter Camden, NJ; Eastern Region

Leona S. Fowler, MST Grammateus,

Beta Omicron Chapter Queens, NY; Eastern Region,

Monica M. Newell, ED.D

Beta Lambda, Winston-Salem, NC; Eastern Region,

Anita C. Totty, MAT, ME

Chi Chapter, Midwest Region, Detroit, MI; Midwest Region

Princess B. Towe, ED.D

Delta Pi Chapter, Hillside, NJ; Eastern Region

Anita J. Turner, Ph.D; Grammateus

Delta Kappa, Chapter, Inglewood, CA; Far West Region,



Alpha Chapter Soror is representing Alpha Chapter and the Eastern Region on the NSPDK eLearning Academy National Committee

Lavetta S. Ross, ED.D is the Grammateus of Alpha Chapter and is the Eastern Region Professional Development Chair

She has been an educator for 32 years; currently an Assistant Principal in the Freehold Regional High School District located in Englishtown, N J and Adjunct Professor at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, N J where she teaches Quantitative Research and Organization Leadership and Theory.

Soror Ross has worked as a District Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction for Language Arts and Social Studies in the Perth Amboy School District, Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

She has Certification in English and Administrative Certifications in the following areas: Supervisor, Principal, and Chief School Administrator. Dr. Ross's areas of expertise include professional development and research.

Diversity and Inclusion Dr. Tamika Pollins



"The death of Mr. George Floyd is a tragedy that is all too familiar. We are all navigating our way through the unrest that communities of color are feeling and facing across our nation. I am sad, I am frustrated, I am in pain and my soul continues to cry out for change. I will continue to act and mobilize for positive change as we must continue to push forward. We must continue to take the breaths that Mr. Floyd and everyone who has died before him can no longer take and channel our energy into tackling the issues that try to stifle us. Here is a glaring light on the sweeping systematic changes that need to immediately take place to combat social injustices and racism in America.

As educators, we must strengthen our efforts, use our voices collectively and as individuals to amplify work needed to dismantle racism and eradicate injustice. Diversity and Inclusion Education must permeate throughout our school systems and must be a vehicle to foster a sense of understanding, advocacy and awareness that is vital to forcing change. This work is primary and not ancillary.

I will continue to work in partnership with the Diversity Council on Global Education and Citizenship of Kean University. Together, we must be the "bridge over troubled waters" as we make our way to the other side of what I hope to be peace, understanding and change."

Dr. Tamika A. Pollins, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 Hoboken Public School, Diversity Council Member

6 Virtue-al Queens Diana Ondande



Jamila Bass was born in Jersey City, but raised in Georgia, so don't be alarmed if you catch some of that Southern Comfort. Currently, she is working in Newark as a Middle School Math teacher. Within her 7 years of teaching, she has taught in Newark and Orange, New Jersey. When she gets a chance to get away, she loves traveling, helping others (especially the youth) and keeping active and artistic.



Jasmine McTague lives in Bayonne NJ, but spends most of her time in Jersey City. She teaches Kindergarten at PS#37 in Jersey City. She has worked her way from being a per-diem para, to full time para, and now teacher. She enjoys being creative, dancing, creating TikTok, and Genealogy. She loves being involved with the youth and community service.



Jawharah Muhammad is a Jersey City native, but has lived in Linden, NJ for 9 years. She has been teaching middle school math in Jersey City for 11 years and is currently teaching at PS # 17. She enjoys traveling, community service, neo-soul music, promoting black businesses, learning about new technology resources for education, relaxing outdoors, and spending time with loved ones.



Natasha M. Stone lives in Newark, New Jersey, and has been a resident her entire life. She counsels high school students in preparation for life after high school and will be entering her 10th year in education. She has a Master's in Higher Education with a concentration in Student Success. She enjoys ice skating, traveling, reading, uplifting and improving the black community and working on her business, Furniture By Her, LLC.



Gussie Bowman Dudley is from from East Orange, NJ and currently reside in Springfield, N.J. She is a Graduate of Norfolk State University and has a Masters in Educational Leadership and is working on a doctorate in Ed. Leadership. She has been a school Administrator for 7 years. She is a wife and mother of 3; and an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha incorporated. She enjoys traveling and anywhere there is water.



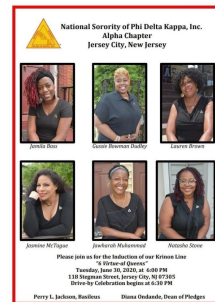
Lauren Brown was born and bred in Jersey City. She teaches the First Grade at the very school where she graduated from; James F. Murray School P.S. #38. She enjoys bowling, crafts, traveling, binge watching *The Haves and Have Nots*, serving in her church, and spending time with her daughter.

Welcome New Sorors Diana Ondande

June 30, 2020 was a special day for NSPDK, Inc. The Krinon line known as the 6 Virtue-al Queens became sorors of Alpha Chapter after completing eight weeks of virtual pledging. These dedicated, diligent, energetic educators met the requirements for membership with flying colors. They were inducted at the home of Soror Verna Sims in the yard utilizing the Bible once owned by Founder Florence Steele Hunt. The ceremony occurred at 6pm in the evening and our new sorors were welcomed by attending sorors and a drive-by of their family and friends who were given Red Velvet treats made by Dean of Pledges Soror Diana Ondande.

The chapter is truly blessed to have these women join our sisterhood and we are looking forward to the amazing contributions they will bring to us in Alpha Chapter, the Eastern Region, and on the National level.

Sincere thanks to Soror Diana Ondande, Dean of Pledges who did a phenomenal job.



3 Krinon took part in Gamma's Paint Party



The 6 Virtue-al Queens pose with their wonderful Dean of Pledges



Each new soror was given a personalized red jackets



Basileus Perry Jackson holding Founder Hunt's Bible, welcomes new members



Soror Diana Ondande, Dean of Pledges made red velvet cupcakes for the drive-by guests and attending sorors.



New sorors loving their jackets

Youth Recognition 2020 Soror Rhonda Baskerville

The Alpha Chapter Xinos and Kudos may not have attended the annual Youth Leadership Conference, but they certainly brought the Awards Banquet to the New York City skyline. It was so great to see our youth in person, again! They looked fabulous in their royal blue and black, and we honored them in great fashion because of our love for them.

Thank you God for keeping the rain away from 12:30-2:00pm so our Xinos, Kudos, Hub Parents, Anthros and Sorors could spend quality time celebrating the amazing accomplishments of our youth this year.



Xinos Scholar of the Year
Kenya Woodson



Science Project
Nevaeh Mustipher



Art Project
Roseberly Pierre



Gifts for Senior Xinos



Activity Book Queens
Khyah, Nevaeh, Za'Nea, Roseberly, Shauna



2020 Award Recipients



Anthros Presentation to Kudos



Gift for activity book queens



Class of 2020
Za'Niya McMillan, Kenya Woodson



4-year Members of Xinos and Kudos



Gifts for Senior Kudos



Xinos of the Year / Kudos of the Year



Basileus Perry Jackson, Xinos advisor
Rhonda Baskerville, Kudos advisor, ER
Member-at-Large Anona Huntley