



## Purpose

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

**Basileus** Gwendolyn L. Jackson  
**1st Anti-Basileus** Perry L. Jackson  
**2nd Anti-Basileus** Mary E. Ennon  
**3rd Anti-Basileus** Stacey Abdul-Qawi  
**Grammateus** Gail Andrew  
**Epistoleus** Francenia Britton-Sheppert  
**Tamiouchos** Diana Ondande  
**Tamias** Shawnte Williams  
**Properties** Doreen Bryant  
**Executive Advisor** Sandra Webster  
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Happy New Year Sorors! I hope 2017 brings you prosperity and a healthy sororal year of continuous commitment and active chapter participation by everyone. We are very busy completing chapter reports and working toward carrying out the chapter events for the sororal year.

In the month of January we will fulfill the third **National Initiative, "READ ACROSS NSPDK."** Last year we were awarded first place winners for this at our Eastern Regional Conference. What a wonderful time to be recognized by the Region for a job well done. Let's see if we can attain this recognition again.

Alpha Chapter is industriously preparing for the Executive Board and YES Committee Planning Meeting to be held in February, and two regional conferences we are looking forward to: the Xinos/Kudos Youth Leadership Conference **March 17-19, 2017** in Virginia Beach, VA. and the Eastern Regional Conference scheduled for **April 20-23, 2017** in Princeton, NJ.

At the **January Chapter Meeting,**

the committee for Health, Nutrition, and Hypertension will present a Speaker from the Susan G. Komen Cancer Foundation. In **February** the African American History/ Multicultural Committee will present a program with committee members and our Xinos and Kudos participating. Our Scholarship Luncheon will be held in **March** at the Graycliff in Moonachie, N J, and on **May 21, 2017** we will have our annual Founder's Day celebration and the election of Chapter Officers. In June we will present our scholarship winners, recognize youth group seniors, present Hub parent awards and conduct installation of chapter officers at our meeting. Yes, Sorors, we are a busy chapter; and we need each and every soror to be one of those **busy bees** to make our YES Program activities successful.

Let's not forget the **CONCLAVE** which will convene in Little Rock, Arkansas, **July 15-20, 2017** where we will vote for a new Supreme Basileus. At that time, Alpha Chapter Sorors will join our sisters from the five regions in a salute of

gratitude to our Out -Going Supreme Basileus from the East who has dedicated her time and devotion these past four years.

As we progressively move into this new year with our numerous responsibilities, let us work together for the good of the chapter, increase our membership, participate in all chapter events and meetings, and continue to foster a spirit of true sisterhood.

Also, we must remember to follow the three R's from our Eastern Regional Director: **Recommit** to Sororal Purposes, **Reclaim** the Sisterhood, **Renew** the Spirit of NSPDK, Inc.

Best Wishes for a Wonderful Year.



Sisterly,  
Gwendolyn L. Jackson, Basileus

## Xinos Thanksgiving Activity



The Xinos of Alpha Chapter prepared three Thanksgiving baskets for families of students at the Julia A. Barnes School (#12) in Jersey City, NJ. The school is named for one of our distinguished founders and has been adopted by the chapter.

Each of the basket s was prepared

with a turkey and all of the items of trimmings for the families to have a delicious Thanksgiving dinner. The parents were very grateful to receive these gifts that were so generously presented by the Xinos Club who visited the school accompanied by their advisors.



**Alpha Chapter Xinos Show pride in providing a Thanksgiving meal for three families.**

## Welcome Back Sorors

Alpha Chapter was excited and delighted to welcome back two sorors who were reinstated this sororal year. Sorors Lavetta Scott-Ross, PhD and Rachel Gasque returned in October and quickly proceeded to become active participants by selecting several committees on which they will work. They are happy to be back and we are delighted they have been reinstated .





**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

**Regional/National Important Dates**

**Y.E.S. Planning Meeting**, February 17-19, 2017, Christiana Hilton Hotel, Newark, DE

**Youth Leadership Conference**, March 17-19, 2017, Holiday Inn Hotel, Virginia Beach, VA. Alpha Lambda Chapter hosting

**Eastern Regional Conference**, April 20-23, 2017, Westin Hotel, Princeton, NJ, Pi Chapter hosting

**94th Anniversary Founders' Day**, May 21, 2017,

**94th Anniversary Conclave**, July 15-20, 2017, Little Rock, AR



**Alpha Chapter Wishes You A Happy Healthy New Year!!**

**Alpha News**

**Editor: Soror Mary E. Ennon**

**Contributors: Sorors Adrienne Lofton, Helen Brooks, Francenia Britton-Sheppert,**

**Doreen Bryant, Monique Phelps, Cynthia Jones, Rhonda Baskerville**

**Alpha's 2016-2017 Krinon Club**



The 2016 Krinon Club consisting of three lovely, energetic young ladies, "The Ninja Squad,"

conducted an educational activity titled Blind Group Draw at the November meeting. The objective was to build communication skills. Soror became students and were divided into groups of five. Blind-folded, each team member hand to hand on a large piece of poster board, what the leader directed. Teammates could not touch the drawer; only give verbal directions. The sorors had fun and learned the importance of giving clear directions and listening intently.

On December 4, the young ladies were initiated into the organization and became a part of our



**Good job, Sorors.**



**How do you like our work?**



**Krinon Members, T. Pollins, E. Murphy-Richardson D. Scott-Motley**



**Dean of Pledges admires her gift from the Krinon Club**

sisterhood. Following their induction ceremony, they presented gifts to the Dean of Pledges, Soror Stacey Abdul-Qawi and Basileus Gwendolyn Jackson and served a delicious repast.



**Newly initiated sorors present gift to Basileus Jackson**



**We did our best**



**Chapter members share a pose with new sorors**



**Good try!**



**Sorors Tamika Pollins, Donna Scott-Motley, Erin Murphy-Richardson**

**Gifts and Good Will** Soror Adrienne Lofton



The following sorors are celebrating birthdays in January: June Day, 1/1; Monique Phelps, 1/15; Helen Brooks, 1/20; Shawnte Williams. 1/22; Lavetta Scott-

Ross 1/31  
Condolences are extended to the following: Soror Francenia Sheppert on the passing of her sister-in-law, Soror Adrienne Lofton on the passing of her sister, Soror Donna Scott-Motley on the passing of her nephew and

Zeta Chapter and Anthopos James Coleman on the passing of Soror Mariette Coleman.  
Send get well wishes to Soror Apryl Sneed.

**We pray for Love, Peace, Joy and Good Health for all in the New Year**

### Children and Adult Benefits Soror Helen Brooks

The Children and Adult Benefits of Alpha Chapter visited Belmont Runyon Academy in Newark, New Jersey after dismissal on the afternoon of December 21, 2016. The group presented three families with Christmas gifts. The families had been selected by the Social Service person of the school prior to the group's visit.

Each present was beautifully wrapped and labeled for each child and adult. In addition to gifts, each family was given Shop Rite gift cards to purchase their Christmas dinner.

Alpha Chapter's Children and Adults Benefits Committee teamed up with the "Help A Family" given by an interfaith organization call MEND who also services Food Pantries in Essex County.

Sorors in attendance were Gail Andrew, Leisa Brown, Perry Jackson, Sandra Webster and Helen Brooks, committee chairperson.



**Sorors Perry Jackson, Helen Brooks, Sandra Webster, Leisa Brown and Gail Andrew, representatives of Children and Adult Benefits**



**Soror Gail Andrew with children who received Christmas gifts.**



**Soror Brooks presenting gifts to parents.**

### Kudos Donate Thanksgiving Baskets



**Kudos prepared baskets for delivery**

Kudos Jeremiah, Christian and Trevon delivered Thanksgiving baskets the Kudos provided to Newark Boys Chorus School Letcher in Newark, NJ. Jeremiah, Christian and Rayshawn are Alums of the school.

The Newark Boys Chorus School is a private middle school in Newark with a current enrollment of approximately 78 students identified primarily as Black,



**Students were grateful for the baskets**

non-Hispanic; Hispanic; and Native American or Native Alaskan. The principal of Newark Boys Chorus School is Lawrence R. Emery. The school's mission is to create a challenging academic and musical environment in the city of Newark for young males from fourth through eighth grades. The school ultimately seeks to provide the community with young men who value a love for learning, a

quest for excellence, and an compassion for humanity.

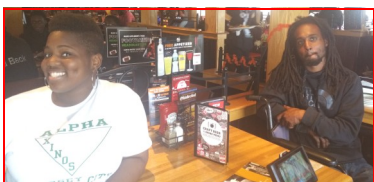
The Newark Boys Chorus School accepts some students who show the desire for learning and the academic program the school offers whose parents or guardians are unable to pay the \$3000 tuition.

The alums always go back to the school to volunteer and to take part in certain concerts.



**The Newark Boys Chorus**

### A First-Hand Experience Soror F. Sheppert



This young man was outside of Applebee's asking for money to buy food. I invited him in to eat with us. He enjoyed himself with the Xinos and Kudos. The Kids experienced first-hand, a young person who doesn't have food or money to buy it. Good lessons all around the entire day.

### Celebrating Kwanzaa



Soror Donna Scott-Motley lit the first candle, Umoja, (Unity), representing the first principle of Kwanzaa at the December 10, 2016 meeting. This celebration was the African American History contribution for the month. Other newly initiated or returning sorors and Basileus Jackson lit the remaining candles: Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), Imani (Faith)

### It's A Family Affair



Soror Mary Ennon is all smiles as she poses for a photo with her Soror Donna Scott-Motley who was just initiated in December and Dr. Lavetta Scott-Ross who was reinstated in September. Soror Donna is a teacher of Special Needs Students in the Jersey City Public School District and Soror Lavetta is a vice principal in the Freehold Regional High School District

On December 25 Soror Monique Phelps and a group of young ladies celebrated the true meaning of the season by providing ten well deserving young ladies between the ages of 13-18 a day of glam and empowerment. The event took place from 9:30am–3:00pm at Get Incognito Hair Salon in Rahway NJ with Shakeemah Suber, owner and volunteers who were her customers and Soror Phelps. The theme for the occasion was “Our Girls Matter: Empowering Our Daughters.”

The event, supported by sorors of Alpha Chapter made it possible for each participant to received a gift bag with hair care products, hygiene supplies and journals.

Soror Phelps, chair of the chapter’s Local Projects, selected the participants based on need and provided transportation to the Salon. In addition, she raised funding and assisted with the activities. The young ladies were able to develop new relationships with each other and meet adults who would be possible mentors to them. In some cases these adults would perform mother roles for those young ladies who have lost their mothers or who did not have relationships with their paternal mothers. Thus, the event was a huge success.

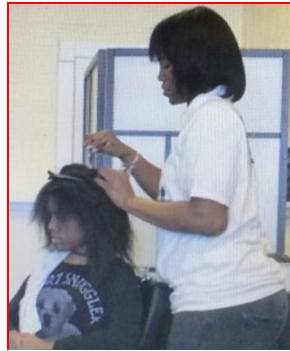
Later in the afternoon Soror Phelps brought 75 bags of homemade holiday cookies to the residents at the Harborview Assistant Living Facility in Jersey City, NJ.



**Ms. Suber providing service to a young lady**



**Young ladies show the finished product**



**Soror Phelps is making it happen**



**Volunteers, are Ms. Suber's customers**



**Young lady poses after her glam' session.**



**Cookies for the Senior Citizens**

## History of A Christmas Tradition Soror Doreen Bryant



**Sorors S. Abdul-Qawi, H. Williams, J. Wilkerson, F. Harold, P. Jackson and T Harris are all smiling winners**

Congratulations to Sorors S. Abdul-Qawi, H. Williams, J. Wilkerson, F. Harold, P. Jackson and T Harris who won the December meeting table

center pieces which were poinsettias.

There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas come together. It goes like this:

There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Service. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up. “Pepita,” he said, “I’m sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy.”

Pepita didn’t know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give

this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better as she knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the ‘Flores de Noche Buena’, or ‘Flowers of the Holy Night’.

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

**PARRC—A Vital Current Issue** Soror Cynthia Jones



Soror Cynthia Jones, chair of Vital Current Issues presented information from an article on the NJEA PAC endorsed candidate for the June 2017 Democratic gubernatorial primary election, Ambassador Phil Murphy. He had visited the NJEA Convention in

November and spoke at the Affiliate Presidents Dinner. He gave direct answers to a series of questions which included his feelings about the PARRC or the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career..

While fielding questions on school funding, standardized testing, the role of unions, privatization and other matters, Murphy said, "This has the

feeling of a high stakes test, and I'm and anti-PARRC guy."

On PARRC, Murphy was blunt. He said he would scrap that test on Day 1. He would scrap PARRC as a high school graduation requirement and eliminate it as an element of teacher evaluation. He said that he values educators in big education positions. He mentioned that we currently have in this state a bunch of people who think they know what they're doing, but actually have no idea what they're doing. He pointed out that classroom experience matters a lot.

Murphy also believes in diversity. He wants the team in the field to look like the community they're serving

He said privatization does not work because it refers to a firm that does not view teaching as

a calling. "you lose control. You have quality control issues," he said. He stated that the entity education had been outsourced to has a different motive which is usually to make money, not to save the children.

Murphy, when discussing the state's control of Camden, Paterson, Jersey City, and Newark districts, said he was not a fan of state takeovers and asked the people in the room who worked in those districts what had been accomplished as a result of the takeovers because he had not seen any benefit from them.

Source: *New Jersey Education Association Review*, an education and advocacy resource, December 2016.

**Youth Kwanzaa Celebration—A Pictorial Review** Soror Rhonda Baskerville



Youth explain each of the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa



A candle representing each principle was lit



A Xinos and Kudos teamed up to do a beautiful tap dance routine



Remarks of praise for an exemplary program were given by Basileus Gwendolyn Jackson



ER Kudos chair, Marilyn Jones made remarks



Sorors enjoyed attending and supporting the youth



Hub parents were in attendance and enjoyed the performance

**Inventions of African Americans**

African Americans made tremendous contributions that have led to the great life-styles people enjoy today. Let's begin with the winter weather. Did you know that the **boot or shoe** was invented by Wilson Burrell and the patent date was November 28, 1899? He was a resident of Summit, NJ. How about the brakes on your car; the **(electro-mechanical) brake** was invented by Granville T. Woods and patented August 16, 1887 and he **invented (electro**

**magnetic) brake** apparatus and it was patented on October 18, 1887. How about this! The **clothes dryer** was invented by George T. Sampson who received a patent for it June 7, 1892. Can you imagine tall those buildings without automatic **elevators doors**? Well, we can thank Alexander Miles for this invention, which he received a patent for on October 11, 1887. The elevators we ride today still feature automatic doors similar to the

invention Miles patented in 1887. Much of our fire apparatus was invented by African Americans; the **(portable) fire escape** was invented by Daniel McCree and patented November 11, 1890, the **fire escape ladder** was invented by Joseph R. Winters, patented April 8, 1879, and the **fire extinguisher** was invented by Thomas J. Marshall who received a patent May 26, 1872.

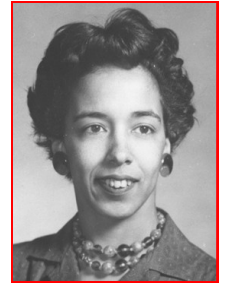
I just thought you might like to know and share. There's more to come!



# A Bit of African American History

## Engineering

Engineering is a field that women are just now becoming more active in. **Yvonne Clark** is a woman who has opened the doors for other women: she has alleviated some of the pressures that women have to go through. Yvonne Clark was the first Black woman engineer in Nashville, Tennessee. She was also the first female to major in mechanical engineering at Howard University, a field that is not always encouraging to Black women. Clark has become involved in an area where she needed to overcome the obstacle of being a woman. The Tennessee Valley Authority employed her as a part of its engineering project; she was the first female engineer. At the present time, Clark is an active participant in many organizations.



Yvonne Clark

**Irene W. Sharpe** is an electrical engineer whose professional career has been mainly with the military and the Federal Government. Sharpe has worked with many departments within the government that have utilized her electrical engineering skills. She has been continuously recognized for her contributions as an engineer, such as being awarded the title of Notable American of the Bicentennial Era.



Irene W. Sharpe

**Zella Jackson Underhill** is a senior associate systems analyst for the **General Project Division of IBM Corporation** in California. She is responsible for the development and engineering of techniques that control inventory. Underhill is a frequent speaker at career conferences, high schools, and universities. Young Black women see her initiative, and they tend to get interested and involved. Underhill is a role model for young Black women.

Black women have proven that they can succeed in science and technology as shown by these few women. As Abdullah et al. say, referring to African American Engineers, "They have met society's great needs, turned wishes into reality, and shaped the world itself with their contributions" ("African American Engineers"). It is a good thing that more and more Black women are becoming involved in the technical fields: the more women involved, the more recognition women get. Hopefully, people will realize that Black women do have knowledge and talent. Then Black women will no longer be underrepresented and unrecognized.

Not shown  
Zella Jackson Underhill

## In-Home Care Providers

There's no place like home. That's why most people want to stay there. But as people age, that can be an overwhelming challenge. Sometimes families often need to hire outsiders to help a loved one remain comfortable and independent.

If you're in that situation, the first step is to figure out exactly what kind of help you need. You can do this on your own, or ask a doctor, geriatric care manager, social worker or hospital discharge planner for advice.

These are the types of in-home caregivers you will likely consider:

**Medical Professionals:** Depending on the care needed, you can arrange for a nurse, physical therapist and possibly even a doctor to visit your

loved one. These people generally provide only skilled care and medical services.

**Home Health Aides:** These are people who have received formal training and have passed a competency test. They may be certified nursing assistants (CNAs) or personal care aides. They generally work for Medicare-certified home health or hospice agencies that are regulated by state and federal laws and receive reimbursements from Medicare and/or Medicaid. Typically, home health aides are supervised by a nurse or other medical professional, and the agency that employs them assumes full liability for care. Aides may provide basic health services such as checking a patient's pulse and

temperature, administering medications, changing wound dressings or helping with prescribed exercises. Experienced home health aides may assist with medical equipment.

**Home Care Aides:** If someone doesn't require in-home health care but could use assistance with household chores and personal care, you may need a home care aide, also called a homemaker or a personal care aide. There is no certification required for this position, but many home care aides are employed by agencies and are supervised by a licensed nurse or social worker. Others are employed directly by an older adult or family member.

(Information from AARP)