



National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated

Volume 8 Issue II

February 2021

Alpha News

In Jersey City, NJ ... Where It All Began

Editor: Mary E. Ennon

Time Has Passed and We Move Forward

The election is over, and we have our 46th president and first ever female and woman of color vice president. Yes, time has passed, and we note that more than 500,000 people are no longer with us. The pandemic is still here, and we've endured the changes that had to be made for the safety and progression of education.

Schools have been closed to protect students and educators from the spread of the COVID 19 because many older buildings needed to update their ventilation systems. We have let the science direct us to stay safe by wearing our masks, social distancing and washing our hands. The vaccinations are being distributed in communities and we hope everyone will be vaccinated.

It is now February and school districts are beginning to open with modified schedules to enable children to enter the buildings for face-to-face learning. There is cause for a time to inspire our educators.

Our Black History/Multicultural Committee provided an inspirational and informative program about women of color. Eight video clips entitled "Hey Soror," were prepared and performed to inspire our sisters. They were quite overwhelmed with the delivery so much that it was

placed on social media and later shared at our Eastern Regional Planning Meeting as part of its opening. I also, viewed a performance on Facebook by some children in the second grade using sign language to the song, "Rise Up." What a performance! They were moving and smiling with such energy. Their teacher had to be proud seeing them perform to a song that had so much meaning.

Since March 2020, children have had to endure a difference in their learning, and we coined it a "new normal". I ask you, is it normal for children to sit in front of a computer to learn for an entire school day? The use of computers was introduced as an enhancement to education, not as the primary way to educate. We're unable to change the decisions made, but as educators, we can help the children on the other side of the screen understand that we are there for them, that we care, and that this change in their way of learning is temporary.

Our methodology as educators continues to be tested, and we show our knowledge by wisely utilizing a variety of resources

including the NSPDK, Inc. E-Learning Academy resources and sharing our approaches and techniques to improve learning.

Alpha Chapter, like many of our sister chapters, has conducted many meetings and made decisions regarding our scholarship program which usually occurs in March, virtually. We are planning a Premium Item Raffle along with a Sisterhood event instead of the luncheon. We are also in the beginning stages of planning for our 100th anniversary celebration. Yes, we are moving forward.

An anonymous quote states my feeling exactly, "At the end of the day all you need is hope and strength. Hope that it will get better, and strength to hold on until it does."



Soror Perry L. Jackson
Basileus



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

Inside this Issue:

Sorors in the Spotlight	2
Gifts and Good Will	2
Xinos Celebrate	3
Sorors in Pearls	4
Black History	5
Search Your Heart	6
ER Executive Board Meets	6
Online Summit	7
Moving Forward with Love	7
ER Executive Board Meets	7

Family Promise Soror Perry Jackson

The Family Promise core program is a way for communities to address the challenge of family homelessness by using existing resources. Their mission is to help homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. One of the community programs is to assist families that are transitioning to new housing.

Sorors of Alpha Chapter care deeply about people who are in need and provide services through its Local Projects Committee. Soror Brenda Calloway made the sorors aware of Family Promise in Jersey City and the need of items to help families transition to independence at the December chapter meeting. Many of the the sorors donated bedding and other household items and delivered them to Soror Perry's home.

On December 18, Sorors Jackson and Calloway delivered items for three rooms to the Old Bergen Presbyterian Church in Jersey City along with cleaning supplies. This contribution will assist in giving some family a good start especially during the Christmas season.

Many thanks to all who made contributions to impact the new beginning for a family.



Sorors in the Spotlight!



Soror Tynetta Harris has been a 9th and 10th-grade English teacher at Henry Snyder High School in Jersey City, New Jersey, for ten years. Within that time, she received her Masters Degree in Urban Educational Leadership and Supervision from New Jersey City University.

She has been the coordinator of the English department for five years, conducted live discussions, Ed-Ventures, and written articles on the benefit of skill-based learning, culturally relevant teaching, and the impact of mentorship.

Soror Harris is a Minister at Mt. Zion FBH Church, a proud member of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. Alpha Chapter, and the Founder and Senior Consultant for BelovED Consulting, LLC.

Congratulations to Soror Harris on her recent appointment as **English Language Arts Supervisor** for the Jersey City Public Schools. As an exemplary educator, she demonstrates her passion to empower students inside the classroom to become active agents of change in their community.



Dr. Lavetta Scott Ross began her career as a high school English teacher and cheerleader coach in Rockdale County, Georgia. She returned to New Jersey, and continued teaching English and soon advanced to become Supervisor of Language Arts and Social Studies in the Perth Amboy, NJ Public School District.

Soror Lavetta became an assistant principal in the Freehold Regional High School District at Manalapan High School in 2011. She is to be **Congratulated** on her recent appointment as **Principal** of the Freehold, NJ High School .

Dr. Ross is an active member of Alpha Chapter, serving as Grammateus and Eastern Regional Professional Development chair. She enjoys research, writing, and providing professional development in education. Her published works include "The Influence of the Student Mobility Rate on the Graduation Rate in the State of New Jersey" and "Equitably Responsive Teaching: Interventions Needed for Equitable Inclusion of Technology in the Classroom."

Dr. Ross earned a B.A. in English from the University of Maryland, College Park, an MAT at Emory University, Atlanta, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, Management, and Policy from Seton Hall University.



Soror Jawharah Muhammad, the younger of three children is a native of Jersey City, NJ. She graduated from Fred W. Martin PS #41 and was a proud 4-year student and graduate of the Dr. Ronald E. McNair Academic High School at the age of 16. She went on to obtain a B.S. in Mathematics from Ramapo College of NJ in 2008.

Soror Jawharah said she and her siblings were introduced to community service and giving back to the community at a very young age. Her parents had them conduct feedings on Thanksgiving outside of Masjid Muhammad on Martin L. King Drive and Grant Avenue in Jersey City. As part of her block association, Soror Muhammad would participate in cleaning the neighboring streets.

Since her childhood, Soror Jawharah had a desire to continue helping those in need. That among other reasons is why she became an educator in her hometown of Jersey City after working in corporate America. She started her teaching career in the same school from which she graduated, PS #41 and continues to teach there after 11 years. She is a proud member of Alpha Chapter and has "hit the ground running" ever since she was initiated June 2020.

Congratulations to Soror Muhammad on being honored by the Nu Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. where she received the Achievement Award - **Citizen of the Year** on February 20, 2021. Several Alpha Chapter sorors were on hand to view the virtual program and to hear Soror Muhammad's beautiful acceptance speech.

Gifts and Goodwill Soror Adrienne Lofton

Birthdays celebrated in February

Soror Mary E. Ennon -2/9
Soror Jessie Wilkerson-- 2/11
Soror Perry Jackson-2/11
Soror JoAnn Alston --2/12

Soror Audra Fields-Chisolm-- 2/12
Soror Mildred Dorsey-- 2/21

Birthdays to be celebrated in March

Soror Alexis Allen-Penn-3/31

Birthdays to be celebrated in April

Soror Mary Webb-Miller-4/18

Soror Monica Johnson --4/23

Soror Jamila Bass-- 4/29

Birthdays to be celebrated in May

Soror Doreen Bryant--5/28



Alpha Chapter extends love and heartfelt condolences to Sorors and Chapters who have lost members, family members and love-ones.

Our continuous prayers encompasses our Red and Gold Sorors June Day, Dordia Berry, Mildred Dorsey, and Sorors Cynthia Jones. We also pray for sorors and chapters through-out the five regions who are recovering from illness, or severe storm devastation.

"If you get, give.
If you learn, teach."

— Maya Angelou



Alpha Chapter celebrates **Soror Cynthia Jones**. Soror Jones was a teacher at Jersey City PS #5 for several years before becoming an Affirmative Actions Officer for the Jersey City School District. She was also a Staff Developer who conducted workshops for new teachers and staff members teaching grades K-8.

She retired from the Jersey City Public Schools District in 2008.

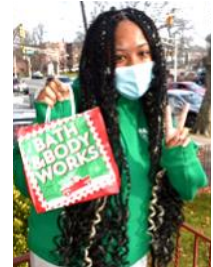
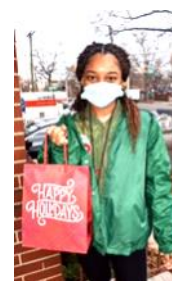
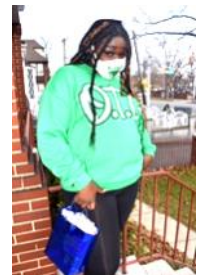
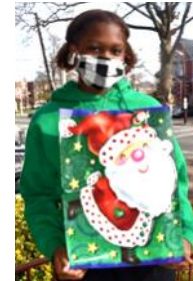
Soror Jones has been an active member of Alpha Chapter for 38 years, has served on numerous committees and as 2nd Anti-Basileus. Even though, Soror Cynthia has been dealing with health challenges the last few years, she continues to support the chapter's events.

Xinos Celebrate! Soror Rhonda Baskerville

This has definitely been a year for our youth, but Alpha Chapter's Xinos still wanted to have a sisterly activity before the end of 2020. They exchanged names with the help of their advisor, Soror Rhonda Baskerville and provided hints for gifts they desired.

They safely dropped off and picked up gifts on Sunday, December 18, 2020. The young women engaged in a Zoom meeting three hours later to open their gifts and reveal themselves to each other. It was a wonderful sisterly gesture that help to brighten up the Christmas season.

The young ladies surprised Soror Baskerville with a gift, also!



Sorors in Pearls

America is officially under new leadership after the historic inauguration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr. as the 46th president of the United States, and Kamala Harris, the first-ever Black and woman vice president on January 20, 2021. This event took place in the same area of the US Capitol that was stormed by domestic terrorists on January 6th.

Each member of our new leadership was joined by their respective families as well as past presidents — except for Donald Trump, who left D.C. on Wednesday as a sore loser who refused to accept the results of the election. However, his absence did not distract from those who were actually in attendance, including Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton and their wives, Michelle Obama, Laura Bush and Hillary Clinton, respectively.

Lady Gaga, Jennifer Lopez and others carried out outstanding performances, but the most a profound part of the entertainment was a poem performed by National Youth Poet Laureate, 22 year old Amanda Gorman titled, **the Hill We Must Climb**.

Pearls representing solidarity between the sisters are worn proudly by thousands of ladies, many who are members of the Divine 9 or some other organized group.

Sorors of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated also wear pearls that have symbolic meaning. So, Alpha Chapter sorors proudly joined in wearing our pearls and “Chucks” in recognition of our First Female and First African/Asian American Vice President as we set forth the ideals represented of our organization’s founders.



46th President of the USA
Joseph R. Biden, Jr.



Vice President Kamala Harris



National Youth Poet Laureate
Amanda Gorman



Black History Soror Audra Fields-Chisolm



Alpha Chapter's African American/Multicultural Committee presented a Black History program titled **Women of Color: Virtually Strong** at the February 13, 2021 meeting. The program began with the song, Everything Must Change by Randy Crawford followed by greetings and welcome by the committee chair, Soror Audra Fields-Chisolm. The Black Nation Anthem, Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing set the stage for "Hey Queen" a virtual motivational presentation by several famous women of color.

Xinos Kayla Brown-Robinson, a freshmen at County Prep, Jersey City and a first year Xinos did an exceptional presentation of the poem, "Dear Black Girl" followed by Kudos Elijah Chisolm, a junior at Inion Catholic Regional High in Scotch Plains, who did an outstanding performance of "You Are So Beautiful." Committee members each provided a prerecorded presentation of a woman of color who has made noted contributions to society and their presentation of "Hey Soror" which has been shown on Face Book.



Henrietta Lacks— an American woman whose cancer cells are the source of the HeLa cell line, the first immortalized human cell line that reproduces indefinitely under specific conditions. Her cancer cells were taken from her body without her knowledge and have been used to advance cancer research, HPV, AIDS, and space physiology.



Melody Hobson- an American businesswoman who is the chairwoman of Starbucks Corporation. She was the president and co-CEO of Ariel Investments. She is the former chairwoman of DreamWorks Animation, having stepped down after negotiating the acquisition of DreamWorks Animation SKG, Inc., by NBCUniversal in August, 2016.



Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm was the first African American woman in Congress (1968) and the first woman and African American to seek the nomination for president of the United States from one of the two major political parties.



Nikki Giovanni-One of the world's most well-known African-American poets whose work includes poetry anthologies, poetry recordings, and nonfiction essays, and covers topics ranging from race and social issues to children's literature.



Gwendolyn Ifill- American journalist, television news-caster, and author who became the first African-American woman to host a nationally televised U.S. public affairs program with Washington Week in Review- a political analyst and moderated the 2004 and 2008 vice-presidential debates.



Misty Danielle Copeland - an American ballet dancer for the American Ballet Theatre (ABT) one of the three leading classical ballet companies in the United States. On June 30, 2015, Copeland became the first African American woman to be promoted to principal dancer in ABT's 75-year history.



Stacey Yvonne Abrams—an American politician, lawyer, voting rights activist, and author who served in the Georgia House of Representatives, serving as minority leader. A member of the Democratic Party, Abrams founded Fair Fight Action, an organization to address voter suppression, in 2018. Her efforts have been widely credited with boosting voter turnout in Georgia, including in the 2020 presidential election, where Joe Biden won the state, and in Georgia's 2020–21 U.S. Senate election and special election, which gave Democrats control over the Senate. In 2021, Abrams was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.



Xinos Presenter
Kayla Brown-Robinson

Dr. Gladys B. West - an American mathematician known for her contributions to the mathematical modeling of the shape of the Earth, and her work on the development of the satellite geodesy models that were eventually incorporated into the Global Positioning System (GPS).



Kudos Presenter
Elijah Chisolm



African American/Multicultural Committee

- Francenia Britton-Sheppert— Henrietta Lacks
- Lauren Brown — Melody Hobson
- Leisa Brown — Nikki Giovanni
- Audra Fields-Chisolm — Shirley Chisolm
- Mary E. Ennon — Gwendolyn Ifill
- Jasmine McTague — Misty Danielle Copeland
- Jwaharah Muhammad — Dr. Gladys B. West
- Diana Ondande — Stacey Yvonne Abrams

“Search Your Heart” Sorors Frances Harold & Mildred English



Soror Frances Harold, chair of Health, Hypertension and Nutrition Committee and Soror Mildred English presented information on Heart Health at the February meeting.

Soror Harold spoke of the many activities that take place in February; Black History Month, Dental Month, Cherry Month, Valentine's Day, the Super Bowl and the beginning of Lent which leads to Easter. She emphasized another important occurrence in February which is Heart Health. We were informed that the American Heart Association tells us to Search our Heart and in doing so, each soror should take action by creating a list of four obtainable lifestyle changes they wish to achieve in 2021.

1. Walk 30 minutes most days.
2. Make an appointment with the physician for a check-up. If one is on Medicare, sign up for the free yearly wellness check-up.
3. Get to know numbers: weight, B.M.I. (Body Mass Index), cholesterol, blood pressure and diabetics-A1C.
4. Plan heart healthy meals for the week.

Everyone needs to make a commitment to help reduce the risk of disability and death from heart disease and stroke.

Some Supplements to possibly help reduce the risk of COVID 19 included Vitamin D—daily, 2000 to 4000 IUS, Vitamin C—500 to 100 mg Zinc—30 to 50 mg.



Soror English told sorors to do the following: Keep Your Numbers in Check: Get Physical! No time to exercise? That's OK. Don't think exercise—think action. Increase physical activity to at least 30 minutes daily, even if it is done in 10 minute intervals.

1. Use the stairs, up and down instead of the elevator.
2. Sweep the floor, wash windows or vacuum the carpet briskly.
3. Take the children to the park and play with them.
4. Take a walk after dinner instead of watching TV.
5. Park a few blocks from the office or store and walk the remainder of the way.
6. Take an activity break. Get up, stretch and walk around.
7. Hide the remote and get up to change the TV channel.
8. Need more motivation? Call the American heart Association at 1(800) AHA USA1 to obtain information about free women's programs.

How to Love Your Heart:

1. Celebrate with a checkup.
2. Get off the couch.
3. Quit smoking in four steps.
4. Drop a pound or two.
5. Become a salt/sodium detective.

ER Executive Board Meeting

Fourteen Alpha Chapter sorors attended the NSPDK, Incorporated, Eastern Region Executive Board Planning Meeting on Friday and Saturday, February 19-20 virtually. Approximately 236 sorors were in attendance.

The meeting was chaired by the Eastern Regional Director, Dr. Patsy O. Squire and began with the Ritualistic Opening Friday evening. During the welcome and introduction by Alpha Soror Anona Huntley, Member-At-Large, Alpha Chapter's video which included the Sorority Hymn was shown along with the “Hey Soror” video. The Regional Director's opening message centered around using what we have to reach our goals, even during a pandemic. Her message was followed by the “Work What YOU Got” Video.

The sessions which were carried out in a timely manner with very few technological glitches, included some fun events, and a 11 year old DJ who played music during the wellness breaks and at a Day Party.

Chapter growth in the region is one goal of the regional director. Soror Huntley reported that there were three areas where chapter formation is scheduled to take place. They are Monmouth County, New Jersey, Westchester, New York and New Rochelle, New York. Additionally, the state-wide interest meeting in Virginia yielded 25 ladies who will join chapters

in their local areas. There are also, plans underway to reinstate Epsilon Upsilon Chapter in Greensboro, NC.

A review of the National and Regional Recommendations was given by Soror Suzanne Gibbs, Chair. There was discussion and suggested revisions for some of the regional recommendations. The Eastern Region Call to Action led by Drs. Carolyn Gibson and Princess Towe centered around supporting teachers and students as attempts are being made to open schools.

A report on the Eastern Region and Chapter Bylaws by Soror Towe was given and the evening concluded with a report from Soror Bettie McClairen who gave the Nominations report.

Saturday morning many sorors wore red and gold and African headwraps as opening thought were give by Soror Anona Huntley followed by the “Glory” video.

The Roll call was given by Soror Donyele Wilkerson followed by Soror Kelli Armwood Bryant's workbook and Chapter Activity update. Dr. Carolyn Gibson reviewed the financial report and Dr. Cassandra Holcomb provided the treasurer's report.

The sorors of Xi Chapter provided entertainment and a lesson to live by through their “Tator Sisters” Video which was a great



Can't Page 7

Online Summit Dr. Tamika Pollins

On February 20, 2021, Dr. Tamika Pollins served as a panelist for an invigorating conversation for K-12 educators and school leaders who wish to advance their diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives within their classrooms and schools. This was an informative and empowering dialogue to help Diversity, Equity and Inclusion practitioners in the following areas:

- To build community and capacity about diversity, equity, and inclusion in a meaningful way
- To identify elements to take into consideration for curriculum/instructional practices, strategic planning, school accountability policies, and leadership development
- To consider the roles, voices, and positionality with parents, families, and communities
- To examine one's beliefs, values, and mindsets around equity

The moderator was Dr. Karla Manning, President of the Equity Group and Dr. Stephen V. Peters was also a panelist.

Join Us for an Online Summit...
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Saturday, February 20, 2021 @ 12 Noon

How to Be a Transformative DEI Leader in K-12 Schools

PRESENTING OUR GUEST SPEAKERS...



Dr. Tamika A. Pollins
Panel Guest
CEO of Pollins & Associates,
Education Specialists

Dr. Karla Manning
Moderator
President, The Equity
Leadership Group

Dr. Stephen V. Peters
Panel Guest
Leadership Coach &
Researcher

Moving Forward By Leading with Love Dr. Tamika Pollins

Dr. Tamika Pollins was an invited guest speaker during T-mobile's nationwide "All Hands" meeting. The topic of her speech was: Moving Forward by Leading with Love as we navigate through racial injustice in society and inequities in the workplace. She inspired participants to activate change in an effective, healthy, and sustainable way to make conversations about race and identity more common. Dr. Pollins encouraged staff to keep love on board when making decisions to enter the space of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion so that everyone feels that they belong.



ER Executive Board Meeting con't

prelude to Dr. Lavetta Scott-Ross' amazing Leadership Workshop — "Tator Salad." Several additional workshops took place in different breakout rooms. Xinos and Kudos advisors conducted a Youth Advisor workshop. The financial officers facilitated a Financial workshop which included working with a Log Book. Soror Ironda Lynce conducted a session on Designing Communications Docs (Flyers, Brochures). Soror Jocelyn Steel's workshop was centered around Enhancing Google Docs Forms (Collecting Documents). Soror Angela Ringgold executed a Membership Workshop which included information in the Krinon and the Dean of Pledges Handbooks.

Lunch time featured a Day Party with Zoom entertainment by our 11 year old DJ Hyper. "Spin the Wheel" was done at intervals throughout the meeting with winners receiving \$10 gift cards. The other fun event was the Photo Booth which was opened until late Saturday. An additional fun game was the Kahoot Challenge.

Following the lunchtime events the session resumed with Eastern Regional Chairs providing reports. The Eastern Regional Director reported that there were Several committees that needed a chairperson. They are: the Anthropos, Emergency Aid, and Standards

and Accountability Committees. She invited any soror who was interested in chairing either of the committees to contact her.

Conference reports included the 2020 80th Eastern Regional Conference, the 80th Eastern Regional Conference Evaluation report, and the 2021 73rd Eastern Region Youth Conference which will take place April 23-24, 2021 and will be hosted by Zeta and Gamma Mu Chapters. The 2021 Eastern Region Conference Invitation was given by Soror Gwynne Burt, Basileus of Delta NU Chapter and will take place on June 19, 2021 which is Juneteenth, The Virtual 98th Anniversary Conclave will also be held July 17-20, 2021. Soror Sandra Webster provided an update on 2023 100th Anniversary Conclave.

Following a wellness break that included Spin the Wheel and the Photo Booth, Administrative Reports were given by committee chairs followed by the Youth, Education and Service reports which included the International and National Projects Reports.

Closing Thoughts were given along with the Ritualistic Closing. A lively Campaign Party event that took place later in the evening with the candidates for Member-At-Large and Grammateus giving rousing speeches on their qualifications to be elected.

