

THE ODYSSEY

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

NOVEMBER 2021

Vol. 3

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Presidential Press

Sorors, this November I want you to fully embrace the third Jewel in the Sigma - Dedication. We know dedication "to a noble cause is one of humanity's highest callings and an act of consecration." Thus, "to find ourselves, we must lose ourselves in living fervently for worthwhile purposes."

Ultimately, your dedication is about your work and your efforts toward the noble cause of our illustrious sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Sorors, I pray you do not mind my candidness for this has truly been on my heart - but dedication to our illustrious sorority is not about the Ooo-Oop! Dedication to our illustrious sorority is not about the picture with our three Greek letters on your chest and holding your 'mids up high. My sweet, sweet sorors, this is *not* dedication.

Dedication is about you, your work, and your efforts.

If you are finding yourself involved in AAC's committee planning - you are embodying dedication. Sorors, if you find yourself showing up for an AAC monthly meeting, program, activity, or event that our Chapter has voted for and placed on our calendar - you are embodying dedication. Dedication is seen and not told. Sorors, in this month of Thanksgiving is there any better way to show our steadfast dedication - where we find

ourselves by losing ourselves in living fervently for the worthwhile purposes of our sisterhood by giving of ourselves to others?

Happy Thanksgiving!

Soror Robin Blackmon



Chaplain's Message

by Soror Barbara G. Evans, Chaplains Council

Good News When There Is Bad News! The Battle is Not Yours

John 16:33b – In this world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

In the broadway musical The Wiz, the wicked witch of the west, Evillene tells the motorcycle monkeys and the workers in her factory – "Don't nobody bring me no bad news". The last verse of the song she sang says "If you're gonna bring me something, bring me something I can use - but don't you bring me no bad news."

"Shooting the Messenger" is a metaphoric phrase used to describe the act of blaming the bearer of bad news. In war, if the messenger brought bad news, the receiver would blame the messenger and take their anger out on them. No one wants to be the recipient or messenger of bad news. We turn on the television and we hear the current COVID numbers – bad news. We answer our phones and receive word that someone is sick, or has been called home to be with the Lord, - bad news. As believers we know that there will be days when we receive bad news. 1 Peter 2:21 reminds us that God called us to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for us. We know our days won't always be sunny, but the word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ provides us with sustaining GOOD news to press forward.

Don't be afraid and never lose hope. Remember God stands ready to save us and is always with us. The WORD is full of responses to bad news.

- Josha 1:9 Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.
- Psalms 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and our staff, they comfort me.
- 1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you
- Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus

In this life, there will be hard days but God is with us every step of the way ready to keep us and sustain us. We are not alone. That is the GOOD news when there is bad news.

Prayer Corner

Sorors, please continue to lift the following in fervent prayer:

- Soror Mary Jackson and her Husband
- Soror Dedurie Kirk
- Soror Darlene Lewis and Family
- Soror Gloria Williams and Family
- Soror Florence Smythe-Macaulay
- Soror Demitra Alexander and Family



AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS



- All new members are invited to attend the upcoming New Member Experience which will be held on Saturday, November 13 from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. This will be a virtual orientation and the Zoom link will be forwaded to each new member. Come and have fun while you learn! If you have questions, please contact Soror Pamela Sherman at 512.745.1529.
- Sorors, please remember to update your phone numbers, email, and mailing addresses with headquarters as the chapter's roster is developed from this information - thank you!
 Tap https://members.dstonline.org to access the Sisters Only portal.

Deltas Vote!

AAC members on Election Day, ensuring our voices are heard!
As our Social Action Committee often shares,
"when we all work together, we are unstoppable!"

















VOTE

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

A Special Message from the Protocol and Traditions Committee

ARE YOU READY FOR THE 55TH NATIONAL CONVENTION?

CONVENTION ATTIRE (Part 1)

Grand Chapter Formal Opening

- All white suits, dresses and skirts and blouses
- Pants and hats of any kind are inappropriate and will not be allowed. Head coverings due to medical and religious reasons are permitted for all convention sessions and activities
- Avoid wearing colorful accessories, Kente cloth, or excessively large jewelry.
- The Sorority Pin and Sorority Flower, a purple violet corsage, are part of the traditional attire.
- Wraps or shawls must be all white. (All white does not refer to shoes or buttons on dresses and jackets.)
- Buttons and narrow, limited trim may be solid color (silver or gold). No print, stripes, polka dots or other multicolor designs will be allowed.
- Head coverings due to medical and religious reason are permitted.

Plenary Sessions

- Business attire is required. This includes suits, dresses, skirts and blouses and pant suites.
- Denim and khaki clothing, shorts, skirts, capris, halters and strapless tops are not considered business attire and will not be allowed.
- Bring a wrap or shawl to sessions as the air levels vary in the halls and meeting rooms.
- Paraphernalia jackets (line jackets) and sweaters are not considered business attire and should not be worn.
- Comfortable walking shoes, sandals, open-toe, and sling back shoes are appropriate and may be worn to all sessions. Rubber sole shoes, commonly referred to as flip flops, shower shoes and beach shoes are inappropriate and will not be allowed in any ceremony, plenary sessions, luncheons and banquets.

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

A Special Message from the Protocol and Traditions Committee CONVENTION ATTIRE (Part 2)

Memorial Observance

- Attire is red, black or white suits dresses and shirts and blouses.
 No combination of these colors, multicolor prints or designs will be allowed.
- Pants and hats are inappropriate and will not be allowed.
- Remember to have your penlight.

Grand Sisterhood Soiree'

• Attire is formal or after-five dresses. Extremely short or excessively revealing outfits should not be worn.



Crimson & Cream by Visual Artist Synthia Saint James

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

NOTICE FROM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES IN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES/RULES OF ORDER

Sorors, below is the timeline for review, submission, and approval of the recommendations for changes.

TIMELINE FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGES IN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES/RULES OF ORDER

SEPTEMBER

Policies and Procedures Committee convenes to review current Rules of Order Form,
 Policies and Procedures, and any policy changes from Grand Chapter.

OCTOBER

 October 1, 2021: Members are invited to submit proposed changes to the Policies and Procedures Committee via email (dstatxpolicies@gmail.com) using the Recommendation for Change Form found on page 41 of the Policies and Procedures manual. Our Policies and Procedures manual can be found on the "Members Only" section of www.dstatx.org.

DECEMBER

 <u>December 31, 2021</u>: The period to submit recommendations for changes in the Chapter's Policies and Procedures/Rules of Order using the appropriate <u>Recommendation for Change Form</u> ends.

JANUARY

 Policies and Procedures Committee meets to review and vet all proposed recommendations.

FEBRUARY

 <u>February 15, 2022</u>: Policies and Procedures Committee provides committee's decision on proposed recommendations at the Executive Board Meeting.

MARCH

 March 5, 2022: Policies and Procedures Committee provides committee's decision on proposed recommendations at the chapter meeting.

APRIL

• <u>April 2, 2022</u>: Austin Alumnae members vote on the proposed recommendations at the chapter meeting.

JUNE

 June 30, 2022: Due date for President and/or Policies and Procedures Committee to submit the Rules of Order Form; and Due date for President and/or Policies and Procedures Committee to submit Policies and Procedures, if changed.

Questions may be sent to the P&P committee at dstaxpolicies@gmail.com.



AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

The Charitable Partners and Physical and Mental Health Committees would like to invite Sorors to donate to the following:

I. Thanksgiving Food Drive - drop off donations at Circle of Hope-2900 W Pecan St, Pflugerville, TX 78660; Sat. Nov. 13 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

WE NEED EVERY SOROR TO DONATE A MINIMUM OF 4 FOOD ITEMS

Please visit the SignUp Genius link for a list of the most requested food items and to track the chapter's donations:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C45A5AB2EA4FD0-dstatx

II. Coats for Kids (Junior League of Austin) The coat drop-off competition window is November 15 – Dec 2.



WITH OVER 300 ACTIVE SORORS, WE HAVE SET A HIGH GOAL OF 200 COATS DONATED BY DST ATX! WE CAN DO IT, SORORS!!!!

Three ways to participate in Coats for Kids:

- 1. Drop off coats at any Jack Brown Cleaner location. Please request a receipt from Jack Brown Cleaner detailing the number of coats donated. Receipts must be emailed to the Coat Drive Coordinators (cfkcoatdrive@jlaustin.org) by the last day of the competition (Dec. 2nd). New or gently used coats.
- 2. Make an online \$ donation at www.jlaustin.org Only \$20 buys a new coat. Please put "Austin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc." in the designated line so the chapter will receive credit.
- 3. Drop off coats at the ADF House on either: Nov 6th from 1:00- 3:00 PM or November 30th (4-6pm).



AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

III. Toy Drive Contactless Drop Off Dates for the Sickle Cell Association of Texas Marc Thomas Foundation



OUR TOY COLLECTION GOAL IS TO COLLECT 100 TOYS.

Three ways to participate:

1. Donate via the Amazon-Sickle Cell Holiday Toy Drive Wish List at: https://a.co/1NWqzzo



(Be sure to list Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. or DST under "group" at the time of purchase so they can track our chapter's donations).

- 2. Drop off toys at the ADF House on either: Nov 6 from (1- 3 PM) or November 30 (4 6 p.m.).
- 3. Drop off toys at the Sickle Cell Association of Texas Marc Thomas Foundation located at 314 E Highland Mall Blvd, Austin, TX 78752 (Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. 3 p.m. or Fridays 9 12:30 p.m. or 2-3:30 p.m.) Please let them know you are donating on behalf of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. or DST.



November 8, 2021.

Membership Services Presents White Christmas!



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

As a chapter, we're setting aside some time during the Christmas season to show some sisterly love to our Sick and Shut-in Sorors during our White Christmas event. We are making plans to spread the Christmas joy with a special visit and holiday gifts.

We're making our list of sorors to visit and checking it twice. If you know a Soror that would welcome a visit from our White Christmas carolers, and they reside in the Austin area(including Pflugerville, Round Rock, Buda), please send names and contact information to members of the White Christmas sub-committee, Sorors Tanya Rippenkroeger at tanya.rippenkroeger@hotmail.com and Melody Southall at melynn95@hotmail.com by

Please stay tuned for more information if you're interested in volunteering for this event.

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Events, Courtesy of The Arts and Letter Committee...!

Jazz at St. James' - November 12-14

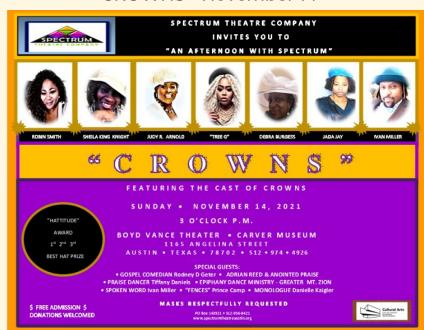


The Arts and Letters Committee invites you to attend (virtually or in person, if desired) the Jazz at St. James' Concert Series on Friday, November 12, 2021. Concerts feature Andre Hayward, Elias Haslanger, Dr. James Polk, Mitch Watkins, Masumi Jones, and special guests.

This year's tribute pays homage to two Austin jazz greats, Scott Laningham and Rich Harney.

6:00 p.m. Outdoor Social Hour in the Grove at St. James'
6:30 p.m. Doors open for in-person guests.
Pre-purchased tickets and masks are required
7:00 p.m. The Concert Begins in-person and online
Ticket Prices: \$30.00 in-person; \$15.00 Online Donations are Accepted
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jazz-at-st-james-2021-tickets-191985954157

CROWNS - November 14



AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

Events, Courtesy of The Arts and Letter Committee, continued...!

Book Club: The Vanishing Half - Monday, November 15, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



Sorors, please register in advance for all future Saturday Book Club meetings held via zoom at 1:00 p.m. We meet every third Saturday at 1pm.

This month's Book Club Meeting will be held on 11/15 due to our upcoming 55th National Convention.

<u>The Vanishing Half</u> is our next book to be discussed on November 15.

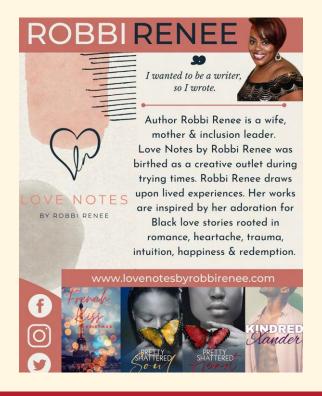
Here is the link for the sorority year:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvcqrqTgtGNXf_su4Xum0md0r5gZwG82

Let's Celebrate Author and Soror Stacey Cleveland!

Soror Cleveland (who writes under the pseudonym Robbi Renee) is an Author, A&L Co-chair, and Invitee to our upcoming Delta Author Event slated for March 2022.

She was initiated in St. Louis Alumnae Chapter, Spring 2002. She is a member of AAC, since 2019.



NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

Delta Red Carpet Movies

"King Richard" and "A Journal for Jordan"

The National Arts and Letters Commission is proud to announce two movies as our Delta Red Carpet films for the fall. The first is "King Richard". Venus and Serena Williams came from an unlikely background to dominate the world of tennis. This film takes a look at these tennis superstars and how they became who they are after the coaching from their father Richard Williams.

The second featured Red Carpet Movie is "A Journal for Jordan." This project, is based on Dana Canedy's essay, which describes a 200-page journal penned by her fiancé, 1st Sgt. Charles Monroe King, for their son. The 48-year-old soldier was killed in Baghdad in October, one month shy of finishing his tour of duty. He had left for the Middle East before his son was born. This movie will premiere in theaters on December 25.







New Orleans Alumnae Chapter Invites You to Virtual 2021 Artie Award Presentation - November 14

You are cordially invited to join the New Orleans Alumnae Chapter for the virtual 2021 Artie Award Presentation. This cultural event will honor outstanding recipients in the categories of Music, Dance, Drama/Theatre, Visual Arts, Roses and Revolutions, the Rising Star, and the Public Service Award recipient. The chapter continues to exemplify our commitment to the arts in the New Orleans African American community. Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_byzlyJp_Rey8khbToodknw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

LOCAL, IN OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Winter Storm Preparedness from Our Emergency Response Team Committee

When the "Shelter-In-Place" declaration was made or when Texas was hit by the "Snowpocalypse", few of us were fully prepared for the days and weeks of challenges that followed. With a little preparation you don't need to find yourself in the midst of another nonsensical toilet paper, paper towel or water shortage.

Take a little time now to think about your personal needs and your family's needs to prepare for and survive an unexpected crisis situation. Keep in mind there may be a need to have different plans based on where you are – your home, your job or your car. There are various checklists that you may find helpful to organize the plan that will be right for you and your family. Here are links to a few sites to consider:

www.ready.gov: Good over all check list for your family

<u>www.familyhandyman.com/list/things-you-need-in-your-winter-car-survival-kit/</u>: Everything you need to prepare if you are in your car

<u>www.austintexas.gov/resident/emergency-preparedness</u>: Various checklists, local emergency contact information

<u>https://www.butlermachinery.com/pdf/Winter_Storm_Preparedness_Checklist.pdf</u>: A very good comprehensive winter storm check list

A little planning now will save you a lot of heartache later. We know better...let's do better.

Austin Alumnae Chapter, Thank you from Austin Delta Foundation!



Thank you Austin Alumnae for your extraordinary support of Austin Delta Foundation's 4 day Popcorn Fundraiser. You helped us raise \$14,129 and we keep over \$7000 of that to go towards scholarships and community programs. We also had donations made through our website and checks mailed to the ADF House in the amount of \$375.44.

We love you and thank all of you who participated with us by purchasing popcorn, making donations through our website, and mailing checks to the ADF house. Stay tuned for future scholarship fundraising opportunities, including Giving Tuesday which is coming up on November 30.

LOCAL, IN OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Austin Delta Foundation House Closed for Maintenance, Effective Wednesday, October 27



We must immediately complete some badly needed maintenance and deep cleaning at the ADF house that will require us to close it for approximately two months starting October 27. We do apologize for any inconvenience this may cause the membership, but we want to make sure all of our guests have a pleasant experience when they visit the house.

We will keep you informed of our progress, and please contact us at austindeltafoundation@gmail.com if you have any questions.



On November 10, the LBJ Women's Campaign School will have an Open House about its program. The LBJ Women's Campaign School (LBJWCS) is a bold new bipartisan program at UT that prepares women to run for elected office or become campaign managers. Tap the enclosed registration link to attend, https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lbj-womens-campaign-school-austin-meet-and-greet-tickets-193985213997

LOCAL, IN OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Doctoral Student Seeking Women to Share Their High-Risk Pregnancy Experiences

SEEKING WOMEN TO SHARE THEIR HIGH-RISK PREGNANCY EXPERIENCES



Image by Thiago Borges

I am conducting a research study about the experiences of Black women during high-risk pregnancy and am seeking participants willing to share their story with me.

- If you are eligible, you will be asked to participate in an interview that will last up to 70-75 minutes
- Participation is completely voluntary
- If you think you are eligible and are interested in participating in this research study, please email me at lmurphy9@twu.edu or call me at (512) 366-0495

You may be eligible to participate if you:

- Identify as a Black woman
- Are 18 years of age or older
- Experienced a high-risk pregnancy and delivery 1-3 years ago
 High-risk pregnancies include pregnancies with conditions such as having blood pressure problems or diabetes in pregnancy; heart, lung, liver or kidney problems in pregnancy; having had a history of premature labor and/or birth in previous pregnancies; having multiple babies during the pregnancy; problems with the placenta (placenta previa, accrete or percreta); mental health concerns; being obese in the pregnancy; or being a teenager or age 35 or older during the pregnancy; smoking during pregnancy; drinking alcohol or using drugs during pregnancy; having poorly controlled asthma in pregnancy; or having autoimmune or coagulation disorders in pregnancy.
- Did not experience the loss of the high-risk pregnancy or infant after the pregnancy



Please Contact:

Laura Murphy, MSN, RNC-OB; Doctoral Student at Texas Women's University (512) 366-0495 | lmurphy9@twu.edu

There is a potential risk of loss of confidentiality in all email, downloading, electronic meetings, and internet transactions.

Membership Spotlight Congratulations on Your Recognition, Sorors!

- Pamela Davis, Austin's Black Business Journal 2021 Most Influential Attorneys;
- Jacqueline Habersham, Austin's Black Business Journal 2021 Top 10 Central Texas Super Lawyers;
- Choquette Hamilton, Austin's Black Business Journal 2021 Most Influential Diversity Champions;
- Lora Livingston, Austin's Black Business Journal 2021 Top 10 Central Texas Super Lawyers;
- Lisa Newman, Selected to serve on the National Elections Committee for our upcoming 55th National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia;
- Courtney Robinson, Austin's Black Business Journal 2021 Most Influential Diversity Champions;
- Stephanie Shipp, Austin's Black Business Journal 2021 Top 10 Central Texas Blacks in Technology;
- Dominique Isaac Williams, Austin's Black Business Journal 2021 Top 10 Doctors; and
- Elizabeth Wilson, Austin's Black Business Journal 2021 Top 10 Central Texas Super Lawyers.



Happy Birthday, Sorors!

Happy Birthday to our November birthdays!

11/2: Johnnie Overton

11/3: Raquel Jones

11/4: Tiffany Holmes White

11/5: Bethany Bell

11/6: Terri Buggs & Yolanda Dumas-Faulkner

11/7: Kecia Rowan

11/8: Sandra McCrary-Marshall

11/10: Rickeal Lee & Veronica Pickett-Johnson

11/11: Karina Moore 11/12: Mandy Scott

11/15: Dante Clemons, Brenda Hanson & Melody Southall

11/16: Melanie Griffin-Hamlin

11/17: Pamela Dacus 11/18: Lavonna Floreal

11/21: LaShanda Crosby, Laronica Moise, Veronica Jones, &

Shirley Wilson

11/22: Kirby Glass & Elisa Washington

11/24: Sharon Whitfield

11/27: Autumn Caviness & Kelly Noble

11/28: Zacharia Washington

11/29: Stephanie Landry & Bre'Ana Stafford

11/30: Joi Harden, Zabrina Hoggard, &

Audrey Washington



Coming Your Way...!

The Odyssey & Weekly Digest Submission Deadlines

The Odyssey's Deadlines

- December's Odyssey: Submit all content by Thursday, November 25
- January's Odyssey: Submit all content by Thursday, December 23

The Weekly Digest's Deadlines

November 9 Weekly Digest:
 November 16 Weekly Digest:
 November 23 Weekly Digest:
 December 7 Weekly Digest:
 December 14 Weekly Digest:
 December 14 Weekly Digest:
 Submit all content by Thursday, November 18
 Submit all content by Thursday, December 2
 Submit all content by Thursday, December 9
 (December 14 is the Last Weekly Digest for 2021)

*Please note due to swift publication constraints, content not received by the stated deadline, may appear in a subsequent edition of the desired Odyssey or Weekly Digest publication. Questions? Email Soror Autumn Caviness (dstatx.journalist@gmail.com).



Sorors, your Journalism Team would like to thank you for your invaluable and positive feedback, regarding the new look and available formats for our Odyssey. Thank you!

Check Out What's New on the "Members Only" section of www.dstatx.org!

- President Executive Board Meeting Report October 2021
- October Committee Meeting Reports
- 2021-2022 Austin Alumnae Rules of Order Form
- 2021-2022 Austin Alumnae Approval Letter P&P and Rules of Order Form 2021
- 2021-2022 Austin Alumnae Policies & Procedures
 - AAC's Recommendation for Change Form can be found on page 41 of the Policies & Procedures manual
- Updated Austin Alumnae Chapter Roster 2021-2022
- Compliance Letter 2021-2022
- 2021-2022 Austin Alumnae Program Calendar





May you have a magical November, a November replete with dedication, love, and thanksgiving!

Also, please don't forget to register for our upcoming Chapter Meeting (Saturday, November 6 at 10 a.m.)!

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrd--qrjIuG9fOYBWawWymifnuWXLuHq1S

<u>Austin Alumnae Leadership Team</u>

Robin Blackmon, Soror President
Jacqueline Habersham, 1st Vice President
Kacey Hanson, 2nd Vice President
Demitra Alexander, Treasurer
Deborah Shaw-Boatner, Asst. Treasurer
Janet Marshall, Recording Secretary
Tiffany White, Corresponding Secretary
Anita Daniels, Financial Secretary
Tennile Thomas, Asst. Financial Secretary
Kendra Wesson, Sergeant at Arms
Autumn Caviness, Journalist
Lisa Newman, Immediate Past President



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