

THE ODYSSEY

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

NOVEMBER 2022

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Presidential Press

Vol. 3

Sorors, in 1984 Tina Turner released her number 1 single, selling over 1.5 billion copies, What's Love Got to Do with It? The lyrics start with "You must understand how the touch of your hand makes my pulse react...." Then the chorus says...."What's love got to do, got to do with it? What's love but a second hand emotion? What's love got to do, got to do with it? Who needs a heart when a heart can be broken?"

Sorors, today I tell LOVE has everything to do with it! Our Southwest Regional Director has adopted LOVE as her theme for the region. She continues to say "Believe Delta, and Love Deltas." Sorors in everything we do, we must do it in LOVE. How we engage, enlighten and execute we must do it in LOVE with focus on the work of Delta. Our LOVE shined as we collaborated with our sisters and brothers in the community to "Caravan to the Polls." November 8, is around the corner and we still must continue to encourage our networks and beyond to VOTE, VOTE, and VOTE.

This month, Educational Development will host its EMBODI symposium. If you have a young man in your home, sign him up and bring him out to this promising program themed "We Gon Be Alright." The GEMs will be serving at the H.E.B. Feast of Sharing. We will walk the Delta Red Carpet again as we support the long awaited Wakanda Forever. And let's join in with the Jazz at St. James event. And the Physical and Mental Health committee has helped us heal from the aftermath.

Sorors there's no better season than this season of thankfulness to focus our hearts and minds on LOVE. The LOVE that we have for one another and the love that we have for the community we serve. Thus, faith, and hope, and love last on, these three: but in Delta Sigma Theta, the greatest of these is love.

Yours in Service.

Soror Robin Blackmon

Chaplain's Message

by Soror Dedurie V. Kirk, Chaplain

This Is How We Do It!

Before we became members, something about Delta Sigma Theta captured our attention. Maybe a relative, friend, or teacher was a member. Maybe we were involved in one of Delta's youth programs. Perhaps we saw Delta's community work and were drawn in.

But when accepted for membership, we truly began to learn what makes Delta, Delta. Since Delta is a living organization, it continues to develop and grow. We go to conferences, conventions, state clusters, and local meetings to keep up with the latest policies and procedures. There is but one way---the Delta way. And that is how we do it.

Likewise, before we became members of the body of Christ, something about the Lord attracted us. Was it the stories we heard grandparents tell about what the Lord had done in their lives, bringing them through dangers seen and unseen? Was it a parent who trained us in the ways of God and along the way we found out the Word of God stands true? Could it be a Sunday School teacher that made God's words leap off the page and come alive in our hearts? Or maybe, just maybe, we had a direct encounter with the Lord, and our lives have not been the same.

When we accepted Jesus as the leader of our lives, we truly began to learn what makes Jesus, Jesus. We discover more about ourselves, having been made in God's image. We learn by following Jesus and doing what Jesus does.

But how do we know what Jesus does, since Jesus is not here in the flesh right now? We read the Word.

When we read the Word, we learn how to live. When we read the Word, we are equipped to love.

When we read the Word and follow the Word, we're ready and willing to serve.

When we follow Jesus we follow the Way.

Since Delta Sigma Theta was founded on Christian principles, it follows that doing the things of Christ will lend itself to doing the things of Delta through love. And that is how we do it.



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

- Soror Nishah Charania and family;
- Soror Inette Brown and family for the loss of her Sister (Nancy Sue Hutching Sims).
 Funeral information can be found here, https://www.owwileymortuary.com/obituary/nancy-hutching;
- Soror Tanisa Jeffers' Mother for complete healing and recovery from her double bypass open heart surgery;
- Soror Sandra Williams Willis for health and healing;
- Soror Florence Smythe Macauley as her Son recovers from surgery;
- Soror Kerri Lang for health and healing; and
- Soror Sandra "FeFe" McCrary-Marshall for health and healing.

To submit your prayer requests and bereavement notices please click here, https://dstatx.org/contact-page/pb-request-form/



Soror Gina Harris through Soror Kimily Johnson

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Nominating Committee!

AAC, Who Has Next?!?!

The Call for Nominations opened on October 1, 2022. The Nominating Committee invites you to step up and step out. Select an office or position where you want to serve. You can be nominated by an active member or you may self-nominate by completing this form, 2023-2025 Chapter Officer Nominations.

Nominations close Saturday, December 31, 2022 at 11:59PM CT.

Refer to the Call for Nominations email sent on 10/11 for the full list of positions and current Austin Alumnae Chapter Policies and Procedures for complete eligibility requirements for each elected office and position.

Please email nominating.aacdst@gmail.com with any questions you might have.



AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from Risk Management!



Risk Management
Volunteer Training is
required for ALL volunteers
intending to work with
Delta Academy, GEMS,
EMBODI, or Early Childhood
Literacy. Join us for this
upcoming virtual training
session.

Wednesday, November 9, 2022
6PM

Register now

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0oduCuqj0rG9XVFO8V7Liiy4J3t5XDEGSX

Sorors, you are invited to the last Risk Management Volunteer Training for 2022-2023. This meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, Nov 9, 2022 at 6PM CT.

Please this link to register in advance for this meeting, https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0oduCuqj0rG9XVFO8v7Liiy4J3t5XDEGSx

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

AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Social Action Committee!

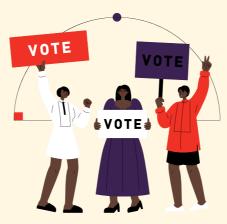
Sorors, our Caravan to the Polls was a resounding success!

From our Soror President sharing this wonderful event on Spectrum News to members of the Divine Nine caravanning to the polls in Greek Unity!

Sorors, CONGRATULATIONS on a job beyond well done!













AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Social Action Committee!













AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

News from our Social Action Committee!

Sorors, THANK YOU for a successful donation drive.

Our combined efforts went to support the Hutto Resource Center for a total donation of 11+ boxes; and a total donation of 16+ boxes and a financial donation of \$250 to the Central Texas Food Bank. Our efforts truly will make a difference in our community!





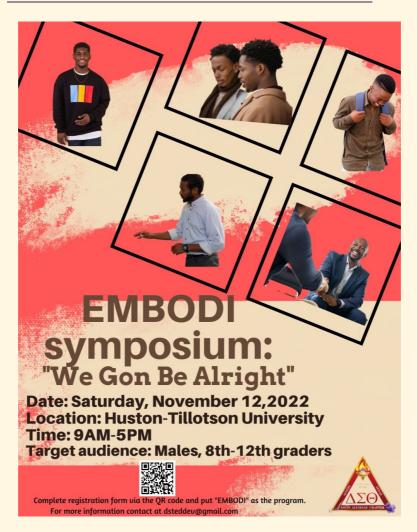
Upcoming Activity, Courtesy of Our International Awareness and Involvement Committee

Sorors, our International Awareness Committee in partnership with the Austin Area HIV Planning Council invites you to Reflection, Celebration, Rejuvenation: A World AIDS Day event.

Event's details:
December 1, 2022
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Permitting and Development Center
6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive, Event Drive
Austin, TX 78752

Sorors, we will have information, food and critical conversations. For more information email: dstatx.iai@gmail.com

NEWS FROM OUR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



Attention 8th - 12th grade males!

Register today for the 2022 EMBODI Symposium, titled 'We Gon' Be Alright.' This year's event will be held on Saturday November 12, 2022, from 9 AM - 5 PM.

Please join in on a fun-filled day of learning about a variety of things from how to be politically active, manage your finances, to hearing about college life from college students. There will even be hands -on technology sessions just to name a few. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Register by completing our Youth Application at https://form.jotform.com/212928825703157

NEWS FROM OUR ARTS & LETTERS COMMITTEE

IMPORTANT!

What's Happening in Our Community, Courtesy of Our Arts & Letters Committee!



NEWS FROM OUR ARTS & LETTERS COMMITTEE



What's Happening in Our Community, Courtesy of Our Arts & Letters Committee!





Sorors, it's Red Carpet Time Again!

It's Red Carpet time again. Arts and Letters has set a date and one location for us to fellowship and enjoy Wakanda Forever. The link below is for pre-sale tickets. Hope you are able to join us. Please purchase ASAP if you can and wear a white Delta shirt if you can in order to honor Chadwick Boseman!

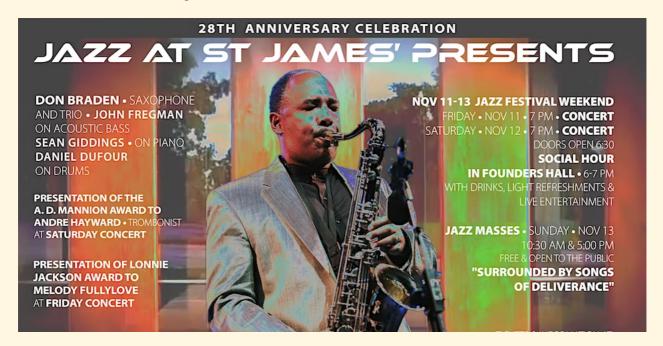
Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Pflugerville- Saturday, November 19th at 11:00 am

Use this **UPDATED** link to purchase tickets:

https://www.cinemark.com/TicketSeatMap/?
TheaterId=1058&ShowtimeId=156006&CinemarkMovieId=87855&Showtime=2022-11-19T11:00:00&LinkedShowtimeId=0

NEWS FROM OUR ARTS & LETTERS COMMITTEE

What's Happening in Our Community, Courtesy of Our Arts & Letters Committee!



https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jazz-at-st-james-2022-tickets-414972573137?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=escb



NEWS FROM OUR ARTS & LETTERS COMMITTEE

What's Happening in Our Community, Courtesy of Our Arts & Letters Committee!



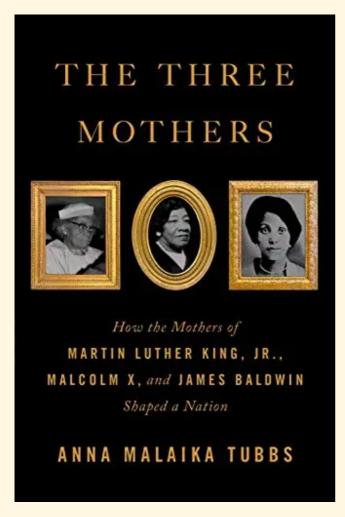
Monday, November 7, 2022 at 10am and 12pm. Step Afrika! is the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping, touring to more than 60 countries across the globe, and ranking as one of the top 10 African American dance companies in the United States. They promote stepping as an educational tool for young people, focusing on teamwork, academic achievement and cross-cultural understanding.

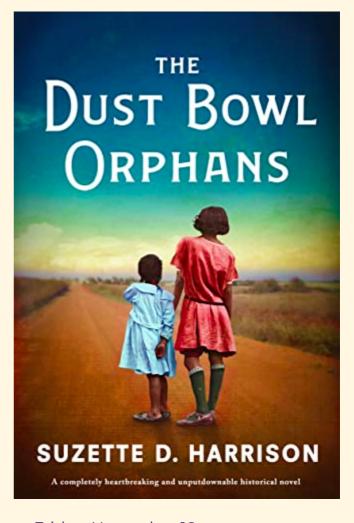
https://www.austintheatre.org/2022-2023-student-matinee-in-person-reservation/



NEWS FROM OUR ARTS & LETTERS COMMITTEE

What's Happening in Our Community, Courtesy of Our Arts & Letters Committee!





Folktales Book Club Selection - Friday, November 18

<u>The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of MLK, Malcolm X and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation</u> by Anna Malaika Tubbs

Sorors, please Email Peggy Terry at folktaleslitsociety@hotmail.com to receive the zoom link.

DSTATX Book Club - Saturday, January 21
The Dust Bowl Orphans by Suzette D. Harrison
Sorors, please save the date!
Zoom link for registration is forthcoming.



NEWS FROM OUR ARTS & LETTERS COMMITTEE

What's Happening in Our Community, Courtesy of Our Arts & Letters Committee!

Congratulations, Arts & Letters on a phenomenal event!

Sorors, in October at Krab Kingz in Pflugerville, A&L hosted
"Celebrating African American Cookbook Authors" featuring
Austin's own cookbook author, Angela Shelf Medearis! This event was well
attended, highly engaging, and incredibly informative! Job well done, sorors.









AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

On November 2, AAC in conjunction with the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center and the Austin HBCU Alumni Chapters from Grambling State University, Jackson State University, and Southern University A&M hosted a "Welcome Reception" for our soror, HT President Melva K. Williams!

Welcome to Austin, Soror Williams!









AUSTIN ALUMNAE CHAPTER NEWS

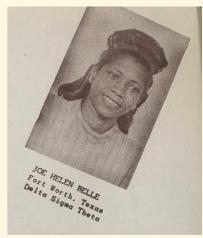
A Request from Our Historian and Heritage Archive Committee!

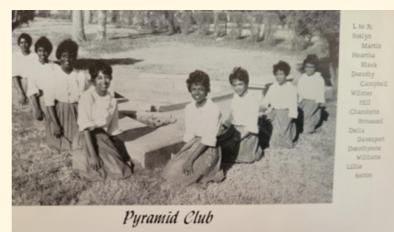
Heritage Archive Committee Collection Efforts

It is a National Initiative for chapters to preserve their history. We have been working at the Foundation House going through containers, closets and boxes looking for items to preserve our history. Our goal is to identify, categorize, label and preserve our history in one location, in a climate/controlled facility.

We need from Past Presidents.....

- Certificates
- Awards
- Trophies
- Plaques the chapter received during your tenure
- Chapter Rules of Order
- Policy and Procedures
- Constitution and By Laws during your tenure
- We need from chapter members.....
- Pictures of Charter Members
- Pictures of Past Presidents
- Founders Day programs
- Jabberwock programs
- May Day programs
- Brochures
- Newspaper clippings
- Journals
- Programs





Pictures of various events identifying the people in the picture and the name of the event. We need your help Sorors. Start looking in your closets, old photo albums, souvenir bags for the items we need. Please contact us by email at dstatx.ha@gmail.com or by cell phone Soror Nancy Thompson, Chair 512-565-1855; Soror Tashia Coleman, Co-Chair 512-897-9971 to arrange how we will pick up the items.

COMMUNITY AND LOCAL NEWS

Up to \$10K in Grants Available! Apply Now!

NABJ is offering grant funding to support freelance reporters and producers at Black-owned print, broadcast, and digital outlets through the "Black Press Grant Program."

The program is supported by a grant from the <u>Chan</u> <u>Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI)</u>.

The grants aim to help ensure Black-owned media outlets are resourced with original and innovative coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic and its intersections within the nation's K-12 education system.



Journalists and those within Black-owned media are invited to submit original proposals for investigative, feature, and enterprise for a single or series of original stories published/broadcasted in Black-owned media.

Fast grants to freelancers and Black-owned media will be up to \$10,000. NABJ will also distribute content produced from the grant through BlackNewsandViews.com, its newly launched news platform.

Program term ends December 2022.

Eligibility

The grant is open to journalists working at a Black-owned media organization within the United States or serving as a freelance journalist to a U.S. Black-owned news organization. NABJ membership is not required for funding support, but is helpful.

APPLY NOW!

Sorors, tap here to apply, https://thenabj.wufoo.com/forms/p1x8q5w00se7af3/

IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTIN DELTA FOUNDATION

The holiday season is upon us! As you gather with family, put up your favorite decorations, and finish your holiday shopping, Austin Delta Foundation invites you to join us in 2 easy ways to support the foundation this season:





November 29th

#GivingTuesday is a global day of generosity that takes place on **Tuesday November 29, 2022**

- 1. Follow ADF on Social Media to make an online donation.
- Donate through the ADF website at https://www.austindeltafoundation.org/
- 3. Check with your employer to understand how to make a donations so that it can be matched!







IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTIN DELTA FOUNDATION



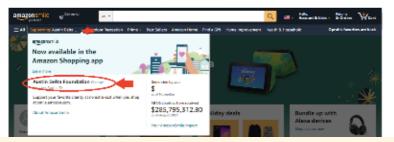
Make your shopping dollars count this holiday by placing orders at smile.amazon.com in support of Austin Delta Foundation

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support ADF every time you shop on Amazon at no cost to you.

Login to your Amazon account at smile.amazon.com

When you shop, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Austin Delta Foundation.

On your first visit to **smile.amazon.com** or AmazonSmile on the Amazon Shopping app, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Search for Austin Delta Foundation. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation.





Membership Spotlight Congratulations, Soror Makita Shelton!

Membership Spotlight



SOROR NAKITA SHELTON New Member Spotlight



Sorors, allow us to introduce you to one of our newest members to Austin Alumnae.

Soror Nakita Shelton is originally from New Orleans and moved to Austin in 2005 because of Hurricane Katrina. Soror Shelton recently graduated Magna Cum Laude from Huston-Tillotson University in December 2021. She became a member of the sorority through the Alpha Kappa Chapter in the Spring 2021 on HT's campus. She was the "Deuce of the line, "InDSTructible VI," and her line name was "Survivor". The proud mother of 3 beautiful children, Soror Shelton is currently employed by the Manor Independent School District. She enjoys singing, dancing, shopping, traveling, spending time with family and friends and meeting new people.

Welcome to Austin Alumnae Soror Shelton!!





White Christmas Outreach

It's time to spread some holiday cheer!!!

On Saturday, December 17, 2022, the Austin Alumnae carolers will be spreading some cheer to our sick and shut-in sorors with holiday songs and a special gift.

If you know a soror that would welcome a visit from our carolers, please complete a short form by November 18, 2022. Please see link to form below.

White Christmas Visitation Form

Please contact sorors Tanya Rippenkroeger at tanya.rippenkreoger@hotmail.com and Melody Southall at melvnn95@hotmail.com if you have questions about this outreach.

Please stay tuned for more information if you want to volunteer for this event.

Thank you in advance

Membership Services Committee



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Membership Spotlight 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

11/15: 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: Elisa Washington

11/24: Sharon Whitfield

11/27: Autumn Caviness, Kelly Noble, &

Beverly Piper

11/28: Zacharia Washington

11/29: Stephanie Landry & Bre'Ana Stafford

11/30: Joi Harden, Zabrina Hoggard, &

Audrey Washington

Coming Your Way...!

MIDpoint Message and The Odyssey Submission Deadlines

- November MIDpoint Message -- Submit all content by Tuesday, November 8th
- December Odyssey -- Submit all content by Tuesday, November 22nd
- December MIDpoint Message -- Submit all content by Tuesday, December 8th

*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 MIDpoint Message publication. Questions?

Please email Soror Autumn Caviness (dstatx.journalist@gmail.com).



Austin Alumnae Leadership Team

2022-2023 Committee Chairs

Economic Development

Sylnovia Holt-Rabb & Avis Gipson

Educational Development

Tiffany Tillis-Lewis & Bethany Bell

International Awareness & Involvement

Dena Bryant & Akeshia Johnson Smothers

Physical and Mental Health

Courtney Nolan & April Brisco

Political Awareness and Involvement/

Social Action

Celeste Williams & Veronica Johnson

Arts and Letters

Jonna LaGrone-Haynes & Stacey Cleveland

Risk Management Coordinator

Dewi Smith

Internal Audit

Julie Dixon-Cartwright

Rituals and Ceremonies

Michelle Scruggs

Technology

Kathryn Foster & Khaison Reed

Emergency Response

Suzanne Piper & Tonja Walls-Davis

Founders Day

Sheldy Starkes & Donna Jackson

National Pan Hellenic Representative(s)

Kim Whitlock, Bre' Stafford, & Darralyn Johnson

Nominating Committee

Tamela Saldana

Parliamentarian/Chair of Policies and Procedures

Patricia Shorter

Charitable Partners

Sonya Harry & LaTasha Dennis

Protocol and Traditions

Cedel Evans & Sandra Marshall

Records Management and Retention

Vacant

Ways and Means

Alnita Foote

Communications and Public Relations

Autumn Caviness

Heritage and Archives

Nancy Thompson, Historian & Tashia Coleman

Chaplain

Dedurie Kirk

Strategic Planning

Courtney Robinson

<u>Officers</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



Please don't forget to attend our upcoming November Chapter Meeting, Saturday, November 5 at 10 a.m., held virtually,

https://zoom.us/j/91997857121?pwd=aXpvNWF5YWF1cFVqMXl0YmZUUVdldz09

As well as our Executive Board Meeting, Tuesday, November 15 at 6 p.m., held virtually,

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMoceiuqDIiHdDTXMGNM3bJRpI2NBrWoRM6?_x_zm_rtaid=2_FCw-W1THyiRwrH7OvVwQ.1663463872348.b2a9091d511a6fd168bf64d6a78cd6c9&_x_zm_rhtaid=820



Austin Alumnae for meeting Corporate Compliance!

The Corporate Compliance Letter will be available on the Member Only portal.



Austin Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
P.O. BOX 143381
Austin, Texas 78714