



THE STANDARD NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 7

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SEPTEMBER '22

WHERE EXCELLENCE IS THE STANDARD

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

VOLUME 7

The Standard

Eta Iota Sigma Chapter Newsletter



SOROR JOCELYN ROUTE

Centennial Basileus

Thank you to all of the Sorors that participated in the community service project in August, Operation Big Bag. A layout of this initiative will be included in this newsletter.

Reminder to purchase Roaring 20s Centennial Gala Tickets now as packages are selling out! Founders Day is fast approaching! Please purchase your tickets and get your best Roaring twenties attire ready!

EVENT INFORMATION:

Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022 | 8pm-12am | The Hotel @ the University of Maryland
Black Tie Affair| Open Bar| Dinner| Entertainment| Vendors

Get your fedora hats, flapper dresses and silk ties together! Join us for a night of dinner and dancing. Participants must be 21 & Older.

This event is open to the public.

Tickets start at \$230 for general admission / \$105 for undergraduates 21 and older.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit

<http://www.sgrho100dmv.org>.

Soror Jocelyn Route,
Centennial Basileus

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HAPPY *Birthday*

AUGUST

FRANCES LEWIS-STEINER
SHAUNEILLE PEOPLES

SEPTEMBER

LAKEESHA STERLING
DORIS BAKER-ORTIZ
PATRICIA JOHNSON
MELISSA BRAGG-LOCKETT
ASHLEY ROBERSON
GERTIE HURLEY



Happy birthday to all of the Sorors with August and September birthdays!

A DAY OF EMPOWERMENT, FREEDOM, AND A CELEBRATION OF TOGETHERNESS, SISTERHOOD.

Despite the current push to reduce black history, The Critical Race Theory, from the pages of history for all, Eta Iota Sigma Chapter finalized their activities devoted to Sisterhood during the month of June. The chapter gathered to honor Juneteenth Day. They learned about the historical significance of the event, and to celebrate the birthday of newly elected Madame Basileus, Soror Jocelyn Route. The gathering took place at Hook and Reel Restaurant and Bar in Wheaton, Maryland on Monday, June 20th.

Ten Sorors and our Rhoer, Nyah Johnson enjoyed eating various types of fish combination platters, conversing, and having fun. Our educational session, referring to the historical aspects of Juneteenth was presented in a question-and-answer game. In addition, the question-and-answer session included content related to black history, political science, and social justice. Sorors won traveling cups with Juneteenth slogans as prizes, and Soror Brewster-Johnson gave all who attended Juneteenth lapel pins.



The following questions were presented by Soror Jessica Brewster-Johnson:

- Who is the first African American Supreme Court Justice?
- The question arose what are the true colors and meaning of the Juneteenth Flag?

The Juneteenth holiday represents the “freedom” of all slaves who still endured the bonds of slavery in 1865 in the state of Texas. The proclamation of freedom was delivered by Union General Gordon Granger. The significance of this proclamation is that these slaves were still forced to remain working under the harsh conditions of slavery for three years after President Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation, on January 1, 1863.

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/19/politics/juneteenth-2022-open-closed/index.html>

We learned that the Juneteenth flag is blue and red with a white flower silhouette.

In addition, we were introduced to two black-owned businesses: showoffbyaslee.com, and Fia’s Fabulous Finds. Madame Basileus shared with us that her cousin’s website: showoffbyaslee.com displays makeup products for all women of color. The website did have special discounts related to the Juneteenth holiday.

Furthermore, Madame Basileus, described the second company, Fia’s Fabulous Finds as a company that “offers upscale, quality, brand-name ladies’ clothing, and accessories in new and nearly-new condition at prices significantly below department store levels.”

The Soror who owns the company provided us with her testimony on how she and her business survived the COVID-19 shutdown. She proudly suggests that all should “Visit us for an exciting and first-class shopping experience.”

This consignment shop has clothing for all ages and sizes. She specializes in women's clothing between the sizes of small to 4x. The Soror/owner mentioned that she could consider a section of the inventory to be devoted to Sigma Gamma Rho with the help of the Eta Iota Sigma chapter. The shop already has a section that is devoted to another sorority. The Soror's store information is below.

In summary, let this be one of many historical holidays that allows us as African Americans to gather as a cohesive unity, a family, and celebrate together by learning from each other, and ensuring that the next generation understands the true meaning of this quotation found and stated by sigma gent, Dr. John Joyner " If you know whence you came, there is really no limit to where you can go"- James Baldwin.

Fia's Fabulous Finds
806 Upshur Street
NW Washington, DC 20011

Monday: By Appointment
Tuesday-Saturday: 12PM-7PM
Sunday: 12PM-6PM



Rhoer
Makenzie Clarke

RHOER SPOTLIGHT

We would like to spotlight our Rhoer Makenzie Clarke as this past spring, she became one of the 209 students accepted to the upcoming freshman class of 2026 at McKinley Tech Senior High School!

She states that she has an interest in digital design, which makes Soror Sharon Clarke exceptionally proud because she was a graduate of McKinley as well, where she was an art major.

We hope that your school year started off as planned and that you have a successful year.

Congratulations again Makenzie!!



OPERATION BIG BOOKBAG RECAP

OPERATION BIGBOOKBAG is an annual Community Service project initiated by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. across the country and internationally. This community service project was developed and initiated in 1996 under the direction of 18 International Grand Basileus, Dr. LaRona J. Morris. The project was designed to supply resources and educational items for students who are in under-served communities that have limited academic resources.

This academic-based project can be held twice a year: August and January of the school year. Currently, this project has expanded its academic mission to include mentorship, tutoring, and events that focus on introducing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to the community.



Operation BigBook Bag truly demonstrates one of the Sorority's missions: Sisterhood, Scholarship, and Community Service. The members of Eta Iota Sigma Alumnae Chapter of Chevy Chase, Maryland began their centennial year of community service events by preparing for Operation Big BookBag. This community service event began on the humble steps of sorors' homes including the stacked boxes of Amazon Bulk school supplies and transitioned to the tents on the grounds of the Bladensburg Community Center in Bladensburg, Maryland.

The members of Eta Iota Sigma Chapter began their centennial sorority year with Sisterhood promoting Academic Excellence through Operation Big Book Bag by donating several school supplies, snacks, raffling six laptops, and providing the community of Bladensburg with approximately 1, 000 backpacks on Saturday, August 20, 2022. In addition, there was a diaper giveaway. Moreover, affiliates of the chapter: Rhoers (pictured below, Maya Lockett, and Nyla Johnson, present but not pictured) and Philo member, Clara Chapman were present to assist in the distribution of all items. The sponsors of the event presented the mission statements and purposes of their community-based organizations: Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. Eta Iota Sigma Chapter, No Opportunity Wasted Foundation (NOW), Exit Landmark Realtor Crystal Alexandria, and City of Bladensburg Council Member Jocelyn Route.



In addition to promoting items for educational enhancement, one of the sponsors provided 300 packs of diapers to the community. The event was well accepted by the community, and throughout the morning one could observe the community's excitement and appreciation. Special thank you and much appreciation to all sorors who donated items, and their time in community service. Lastly, Thank you to Madame Basileus for securing some of the photographs to share with the chapter, and Soror Jessica Brewster-Johnson for her assistance in providing the statistical clarification regarding the exact numbers of items distributed.



GOLDEN MIRROR

In the mirror, looking at blue and gold
Ice dripping, knowing that you're cold
Strong, dedicated and willing to sacrifice
Knowing what it means to live a Sigma life
Working hard day to day
Some don't understand why I live this way

Being where I need to be
With my sisters who needs me
Family is my mindset
As, I finish getting dressed

Serving the community is where we will be
My sisters and I is who you'll see
With those who have my back
Even though, at times we go neck to neck

There whether I need them or not
Always making sure I have spot
Many don't understand the bond
But after business is done, there is fun

Sigma Gamma Rho, Incorporated
There is no greater love than that
Being with sisters who always have your back.



“STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE TOGETHER” AT THE ETA IOTA SIGMA CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD RETREAT

The newly elected and appointed officers of Eta Iota Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho, Sorority, Inc. for the year 2022-2023 bonded in sisterhood for an executive board meeting and retreat. This business retreat focused on leadership training and mentorship. The retreat occurred on July 30, 2022, and was held at the renovated Zena Hotel in Washington, D. C. According to Madame Basileus, the meeting room and luncheon were made possible with the help of Soror Misty Johnson Oratokha, Esq. The retreat was conducted using a hybrid model. The executive board members discussed the qualifications and duties of each elected and appointed office. All members presented their individual thoughts and ideas with professional poise, and confidence to collectively develop a chapter's mission statement.

The content of the chapter's mission statement encompassed the concept of inclusion that addresses the multigenerational membership of the chapter. Soror Jocelyn Route (Madame Basileus) facilitated and lead the business retreat. The agenda focused on reviewing all elected and appointed officers' positions: **Basileus** (Soror Jocelyn Route), **1st Anti-Basileus** (Soror Jessica Brewster-Johnson, Esq.), **2nd Anti-Basileus** (Soror Alisha R. Brown, Mu Omega), **3rd Anti-Basileus** (Soror Dr. LaKeesha Easterling, Strayer University), **Anti-Grammateus** (Soror Melissa Bragg-Lockett), **Grammateus** (Soror Kimberly Blair), **Tamiochus** (Soror Raishawn Walston), and **Epistoleus** (Soror Venerable-Joyner). The following appointed positions were present to include **Chaplain** (Soror K. Ford), **Parliamentarian** (Soror Misty Johnson Oratokha, Esq.), and **Sargent-of-Arms** (Soror Sherri Grimes).

Additional discussions focused on providing names of candidates who would fill the vacant committee chairpersons and other appointed positions such as the Member representative of the Montgomery County National Panhellenic Council (NPHC) Representative, Program Coordinator, and Rhoer Coordinator. The following position was acknowledged, The National Panhellenic Counsel President position which will be filled by Soror Tanna Crumbley-Hassan.



The retreat resulted in finalizing all annual sorority-related chapter activities such as Swim 2020, Operation Big Book Bag, Little Soles for Little Feet, and Women's Health Initiative for the year. Sorors further enjoyed their retreat with an excellent, tasty lunch. The lunch menu included: Roasted Tomato Bisque, Local Filed of Mixed Greens and Ranch or Balsamic Dressing, and Russian Fingerling Potato Salad (Alliums, Herbs De Provence/Stone Ground Mustard). The sandwiches included a selection of grilled chicken with oven-dried tomatoes, spinach, red onion, turkey bacon, mozzarella, and pesto aioli; roasted portabella with piquillo peppers, charred eggplant, alfalfa sprouts, and edamame hummus, and the third sandwich included, seafood salad, poached shrimp, celery, onions, dill, and lemon. The desserts included: ricotta and pistachio cake, fragoline strawberry tart, and red velvet cake.

The retreat displayed the process of individualization melding into a collective body for the greater development and growth of the chapter. The various qualities and styles of leadership were demonstrated throughout the meeting. These various styles of leadership and qualities are reflected in this poem that was written in the historical book of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority:

Leaders

Soror Christine J. Pollard
Gamma Mu Sigma

Some leaders lead too far ahead.
High-visioned, unafraid;
Yet, ages after they are dead.
We tread the paths they made.

Some leaders lead too far behind.
Nor seem to keep the track,
Yet they bring on the deaf and blind.
Who else would hold us back.

And some seem not to lead at all,
Slow moving on the way,
Yet help the weary feet and small
Of those who else would stray.

Lead on, O Leaders of the race!
Your work is long and wide;
We need your help in every way
Before we reach the tide.

Reference: BEHIND this DOORS-
A LEGACY. The History of Sigma
Gamma Rho Sorority; p. 241.
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority,
Chicago, Illinois 1974



In this officer's opinion, leaders, and the processes of leading can be represented using various styles of leadership, as the poem demonstrates. However, to effectively lead, one must consider all the thoughts and ideas of each and every elected officer and chapter member. Careful planning, problem-solving, and thoughtful implementation of every single idea from the collective body is a recipe for future progress and success. Sorors, welcome to the beginning of a very special and exciting new Sorority year using the theme of "Collective Excellence." This is the year of our, CENTENNIAL!

Video of the Luncheon and photograph of the elected officers that are provided by Madame Basileus can be viewed from the following:

<https://www.facebook.com/etaiotasigma/videos/366532065654927>



SOROR SPOTTING

Soror George is the Secretary of the DNC Midwestern Region Caucus, and Soror Kelly is a Midwestern Region Caucus Representative to the DNC Executive Committee. Soror George also serves on the DNC Credentials Committee.



Sorors George and Kelly at the Democratic National Committee (DNC) Meeting at the National Harbor 9/10/22.

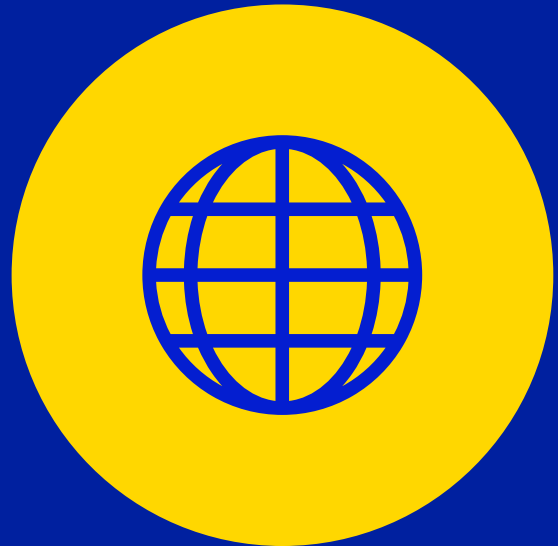
Soror George and Soror Congresswoman Barbara Lee.





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