

The National Pleiad
Delta Theta Chi Sorority

Volume 38 Number 3

Christmas/Winter 2024

HOLD HIGH THE TORCH!



Merry Christmas



National President Connie Cripe Indiana Gamma

Season's Greetings, Sisters

I see that Christmas is well underway, everywhere we look. I think that we are all eager for the Holidays this year, and why not, it's a time of Reflection, Joy, and Hope. As I reflect on my years through sorority and the traditions that IN Gamma has of celebrating the Christmas Season, I can't help but feel warm and nostalgic. Every year, IN Gamma Sisters meet in a sister's home and we have the "Cookies and Goodies Exchange". We all bring our favorite homemade cookies or a goodie bag ready for the sisters to go around the table., one by one, and pick out their favorites to gather and take home to enjoy or share for the Holidays (I have to admit that at times, life has gotten in the way, and the local bakery has made and decorated cookies for me to share, but they were "homemade"). I know that we all look forward to spending this evening exchanging gifts, sharing our Christmas plans and going home with goodies made by one another.

This time with my sisters holds an even greater meaning to me as we often celebrate this evening in my home and it's titled, "Christmas at the Farm". I lovingly go about planning for my sisters to come and share the Holiday with Dean and I in our home. I get out all the decorations that I've collected throughout the years and plan for this special evening the first Thursday of December, You see, if I didn't have the Sorority Christmas Meeting, I'm not sure I'd even decorate my home, at least not to the extent that I do! Yes, you read that right, you see if my sisters weren't coming for Christmas, there would most likely be no Christmas be no Christmas Celebrations at the Cripe Farm.

With one daughter living overseas and the other daughter living in D.C., we are usually not home on Christmas. We travel to one of our daughter's home so that their children can wake up on Christmas in their home. I, as a mother, understand that, because I too always wanted our daughters, when they were little, to wake up on Christmas morning at home. Oh, the memories of seeing the joy and excitement as they came down the stairs to see what "Santa" had left for them.

You see, having my sisters at the farm for Christmas is like having my family home for Christmas. Knowing that they are coming, helps to get excited and to prepare for the holiday, *instead of me focusing on who isn't coming home for the holiday*. They help to give me purpose and all of the preparations bring me joy, and they help to remind me that the Reason for the Season is our Saviors Birth. *We so often can focus on what we don't have and MISS the Blessings that we do have*. You my Sisters are a Blessing to me and I truly believe that we all feel that way about our Sisters, and our Sisterhood. So may your Christmas Season be Blessed with Love, Laughter, Families, Sisters, Cookies and Goodies, and the many Blessings you will see. Look around you, they are there, you just need to open your eyes to see!

Connie Cripe

**National Vice President Linda Colton
California Eta**

Dear Sisters,

Hard to believe that the winter months are upon us, and with that comes lots of family celebrations, good food and drink, and fun times. As I look back on my many (51) years with Eta chapter of DTC, I can *try* to reminisce on some of our Christmas celebrations. But since I have been living in southern Oregon for the past twenty years (really?? It's been 20 years??) I have to reach way back in my brain to recall some of those times...

I know ETA chapter has always had some type of a Christmas party, usually at someone's home, where we exchanged secret sister gifts, ate wonderful food, sometimes sang Christmas carols, And played games. I know *all* of them were special. Why? Simply because we were sharing friendship, love, good memories, stories of old times, and our special bond that we all enjoy being members of this wonderful sorority.

There's a quote I like that says: "Time and good friends are two things that become more valuable the older you get." (unknown author) This is so true. These past few months I have been blessed to be able to travel to three of our province's conventions: my own Alcyone convention in Kalispell, Montana; Electra's conclave in Kansas City, Missouri; and just recently, Taygeta's convention in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. What I witnessed at all three was true sisterhood...friends helping friends, no matter what the situation. When your National President announces that she has lost her cell phone, and swears she looked for it three times in her room and couldn't find it, all it took was a friend (me) saying "let's go look again...two sets of eyes are better than one." And did I find it? Yep, right in an obvious spot! So, friends *do* become more valuable the older we get! Right Connie??

I will leave you with this message: Have a wonderful Holiday Season however you celebrate and make it a special time with your family, friends and sorority sisters. Give hugs, tell people you love them, and hold them dear...they are *so* valuable, each and every one.

In Sisterly love,



Linda M. Colton
National Vice President

National Trustees

Alcyone Province Trustee - Cheryl Zarins, WA Alpha

As the Trustee of Alcyone Province for the last One and one half years, it has been a busy, fun, taxing, fun, frustrating, fun time. With 90% of Alcyone Province chapters being in California and myself living in Oregon, it is difficult to get around to see individual chapters and /or to attend their functions. Each year I love seeing the pictures they all take and post on Facebook of their chapter get together at Christmas time. Most of the chapters at least have a small dinner and gift exchange and provide Christmas food and gifts for children's organizations in their area. But since I am in Oregon, I can mostly speak of things that WA Alpha does. Every year our chapter tries to get together in December to celebrate our Founders Day/Christmas holidays. Usually as one event. We go to a restaurant for dinner and small gift exchange. Last year 4 of us met in Oregon for an "Old Fashion Small Town Christmas". We went to Dufur, Oregon for the day. We did wine tasting, learned to make wreaths, how to dip fruit and vegetables in chocolate, and took part in a cheese and wine pairing event. After dark they had a tractor parade with all the tractors covered in lights. Later we went back to town and had dinner together and spent the night in a hotel. During this event we met up with ladies we talked to about joining our Sorority. In the last couple of years WA Alpha has become very spread out with members moving to other states, even as far as Florida. Luckily most of these members remain as part of WA Alpha. Our members stretch from Washington to Oregon to Nevada to Montana to Florida. You can see it is difficult to have an in person get together. I am really looking forward to this year, 2024, though as WA Alpha is making plans to have a Christmas get together in the Portland, OR area. It will be our first "away" Christmas /Founders Day event. My favorite memory from this upcoming event will be that my sisters are so eager and willing to be physically in one place to celebrate Christmas, together. Even though it means travelling and lots of planning at a very busy time of year. This is what being "Sisters" is all about.



Sisterly yours,
Cheryl Zarins
Alcyone Province Trustee

Celaeno Province Trustee - Becky Bowman, IN Kappa

To all, a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday, or Happy Hanukkah

My absolute favorite Christmas celebration with my IN Kappa sisters was many, many years ago. It began with Kathy Adair serving a delightful dinner then showing us her choir bells and teaching us to play a song from one of her Church programs. Not sure we got it right, but it was a lot of fun and laughter trying.

Gifts for our secret sisters were exchanged and new names for the next year were drawn.

Then we finished the evening with a giant cookie exchange. Everybody brought 2 dozen cookies and everyone of us took home a huge cookie plate to share with our families, We only did this the one time and I've missed it every Christmas since then.

I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and I hope that you all have a bounty of cookies to share with friends and your loved ones.

God's Peace and Blessing to all in the Glorious Season.



Becky Bowman

Celaeno Province Trustee



Electra Province Trustee - Cathie Barber, KS Beta

WOW!! Hard to believe it's time to write another article and that this one is to be about my favorite Christmas with Sisters.

I had to go back and look at pictures from the history books from our chapter (actually I looked at my digital pictures) to figure out which one was my favorite. But I knew it as soon as I saw it. A number of years ago when the Kansas Theta Chapter (Topeka, KS) was still around, they used to do an annual caroling in December. With my mother being a vocal music teacher, I took her with me one year and we had a blast! Bess Brown was the hostess the two years I attended and the members of Kansas Theta Chapter always provided a feast once the caroling was finished. We would visit several care homes and even went one year to Susie and Cy Sidesinger's house to carol for them! Oh, The fond memories.

Happy Holidays to EVERYONE!!



Cathie Barber
Electra Province Trustee

Sterope Province Trustee - Karen Kammer, OH Mu

I would like to wish all my sisters a Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

In keeping with the theme of the Pleiad "What has been your favorite Christmas Celebration with your Sister's. There are so many beautiful memories of Christmas with my sisters it is hard to pick a favorite. Each one was special in it's own way. As many of you know I was born into Delta Theta Chi meaning that my mother was a member before I was born. When I was a young girl Ohio Mu had three members that lived in the cul-de-sac that my family lived in. Each year they would have a Progressive Christmas Party. They would start at one house for appetizers and drinks, then would come to our house for dinner and then the third house for dessert and secret sister gifts. My Dad and I were the servers and the clean up committee! We had so much fun doing this and memories were certainly made. Over the years we have done several different Christmas ideas but the best part was spending time with each other.

I hope you enjoy your holidays with your sisters, family and friends,



In Sisterly Love,
Karen Kammer
Sterope Province Trustee



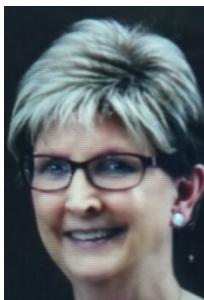
Taygeta Province Trustee - Becky Cooper, OK Epsilon

Dear Sisters,

Here we are heading into fall season which is my favorite season. With the changing of leaves, and cool mornings.

In December, Oklahome Epsilon celebrates their Founders Day on December 3. We usually have a dinner, then reveal our secret sisters. There was one meeting that we sat around and tried to sing the "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and we had one member who could not carry a note. She tried her best and we were all laughing with her.

Happy Holidays to all



In Sisterly Love,

Becky Cooper
Taygeta Province Trustee



National Executive Secretary Treasurer - N.E.S.T. - Cindi Cook, KS Beta

FROM THE N.E.S.T.

Happy Holidays to all of my Sisters!!!

Christmas time holds so many memories for each and every one of us. From the childhood times of gifts under the tree, to the first Christmas with a special someone in our lives, to the many holidays spent celebrating with our Delta Theta Chi Sisters. One of my favorite memories of a holiday celebration with my chapter is gathering around the beautiful roaring fireplace in Mary Miller's (my big sister) home and the husband of one of newer sisters coming in to surprise us all dressed up as Santa Claus. There are many other memories, some funny ones and some very touching ones when I remember sisters who are no longer with us here on earth.

I hope and pray your holiday season is merry and bright and filled with much love!

Please remember that our website address has changed. It is now

www.deltathetachi.com

Please do not hesitate to let me know if there is anything I can do for you my dear sisters



In Sisterly Love
Cindi Cook
NEST

Province Chapter News

Alcyone Province President Melody James, CA Eta

California Alpha

Chapter is "Under Construction". Watch for news in the Spring 2025 Edition.

California Epsilon

We are struggling. However Kathy is traveling. Should you follow her and her husband, Christmas loving Larry, you may find them in Mexico, Oregon, and/or places they may not want us to follow. I love reading and living through them vicariously though. Debbie has received her degree!! We are so proud of her. I've received mine in are chair recovery! I love all the pictures of conventions and conclaves. Especially when the pictures are identified.

Love you all

Carolann Moyes, Reporter

California Eta

CA Eta Chapter's Christmas holiday party is always a highlight of our sorority year...very festive and so much fun. Our holiday get-together last December featured tasty food, some hilarious games (has your chapter played basketball with cotton-balls...at the dining table?), and an educational program (do you know the history of "Mrs. Santa Claus...The Woman behind the Man"? We are blessed with the gift of sisterhood.

In the spirit of gift-giving, Eta sisters donated children's books, which were collected at our December get-together, for delivery to the residents of "Elizabeth House," our chapter's designated philanthropy.

CA Eta extends a "Happy Holiday" greeting to all of our Delta Theta Chi sisters.

Pat Jover, Reporter

California Iota

In Oct. California Iota got together at the Cheesecake factory in Brea, Calif and had a very nice lunch. We also made plans to get together in Dec. for a Christmas party get together.

Thank you,

Lana Duckett

California Iota Pres.

California Omicron

What has been your favorite Christmas celebration with your sisters?

California Omicron has 50 years of annual Christmas parties. How shall we choose? Parties with sisters, family, and friends at homes, restaurants, clubhouses, all manner of lovely venues. What our universal favorites are the traditions of great food and fellowship, gift exchanges with big, little, and secret sisters, and with significant others, cookie exchanges, choosing a secret sister for the coming year, and wishes to all for a wonderful new year. Each Christmas we choose a philanthropic project to share the holiday spirit. In recent years we have provided gifts for people sheltered from trafficking by the Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition, and this year we will support Humble Design, an organization that designs and fully furnishes home interiors for individuals, families and veterans emerging from homelessness. We wish for all our Delta Theta Chi sisters a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year

Picture

– 2022 Christmas Party at the home of Nadine Daleo



Left to right: Martha Duran, Barbara Magdlen, Dee Laine Treadwell, Susie Powell, Cathy Tutrow, Ginny Gerber, Mary Beth Marple, Leila Wopshall

Picture – 2022 Christmas Party at the home of Nadine Daleo

California Sigma

Chapter is "Under Construction". Watch for news in the Spring 2025 Edition

WA Alpha

One of my favorite Christmas memories with WA Alpha is the year we did the wreath making and kitten shower events. We began at a small tasting room in Woodinville, WA where we learned to make a Christmas

wreath out of pine tree branches and lots of decorations. We also learned how to tie a ribbon on the top of the wreath for hanging. My abilities and expertise on this project were very limited but with the help of my fellow sisters, I was able to leave with a fully decorated, beautiful wreath which I hung on my front door at home until after Valentines Day. Along with wreath making we enjoyed a glass of the wine made by the tasting room. Upon completing our wreaths, we went next door and had a sit-down lunch. Then we headed down the road a couple miles to attend a Kitten Shower being hosted by the local No-Kill Pet Shelter. We had each brought a gift for kittens, toys/food/formula, blankets, etc. We were provided with refreshments of cake/cupcakes, juice, and coffee. The staff of the shelter gave a small talk on their program for rescuing animals, and how many kittens they get each year, over 1,000 per year. That was a shocking statistic since this is a small shelter, and when you consider how many shelters there are in the state. We were allowed to walk around the room and see many of the kittens playing and how they are cared for and fed. Since I volunteered for the shelter, we were allowed to hold some of the kittens. One of our sisters had brought her 2 young boys to the event with us, so they thoroughly enjoyed holding the kittens. This was a great day for our chapter filled with sisterhood, learning, fun, kids, and, of course, good wine.

Sisterly yours,

Cheryl Zarins, WA Alpha, Alcyone Province

Celaeno Province
President Deb Hood, Indiana Gamma

Indiana Alpha

Christmas with IN Alpha Sisters:

Our Christmas in IN Alpha Chapter is a lot of fun. For many years we would have a theme and the decorations would match the theme. Hostesses would always have a delicious meal planned and the place would be decorated. There are lots and lots of gifts around the tree. After the meal, we would sit around the tree and reveal our secret sister. The last few years, we have been meeting at a 100 year old barn, which is furnished and made into a nice place where to entertain. We would always have a lot of fun and fellowship together

Respectfully submitted: **Rosie Miller**
Indiana Alpha President

Indiana Gamma

“What has been your favorite Christmas celebration with your sisters?”

Indiana Gamma has found a wonderful celebration that works for us. Each December we meet at a sister’s home and have a cookie exchange where we bring a cookie and recipe to share. The plate of cookies are placed on the dining room table and we take our empty plates and walk around the table picking up each type of cookie for our stash on our plates. We continue until the plates on the dining room table are empty. This gives us all a wonderful variety of cookies to share with family at Christmas. We also exchange gifts with big and little sisters. Then we sit around and open them one at a time to see what wonders we all receive.

Deb Hood, IN Gamma Pleiad representative

Indiana Eta

I have been in sorority for a good many years and I fondly look back on Christmas celebrations of the past when our chapter had nearly 40 members and we had our Christmas parties at a local restaurant or hotel and reserved a private room for free! Dress was always formal and that was the time that secret sisters were revealed and big and little sisters exchanged gifts. The gifts would be piled HIGH around the Christmas tree! Since IN Eta Chapter was founded in the month of December we also had a Founder's Day program along with the gift exchange and selection of secret sisters for the coming year. Nowadays our chapter, like many others has dwindled to just a handful of us and we no longer have a gift exchange or secret sisters. For the past few years we have had a catered dinner at the home of Jane Sickman, who boasts a Christmas tree in every room. These are still very special times.

Susan Yoder, Reporter

Indiana Kappa

My first Christmas celebration with my Kappa sisters sticks out in my mind as one of my favorites.

Our Christmas dinner was at the home of Mary Ellen Turner's on a Sunday afternoon.

All sisters on the social committee were ask to decorate a table for four sisters, with a giveaway. At that time, we had a larger group of women and the tables were through out three rooms. Every table was very unique and festive.

I was on this committee and decided to decorate my table in a Patriot/Christmas theme. My decorations were done in a Red, White & Blue. Each place setting had a Patriot Christmas Ornament and a poem written by my father.

At the time, I remember thinking "How fun that was", I'm going to enjoy being in sorority!

Now, twenty years later, I've enjoyed many fun things celebrating Christmas with my sisters that I've come to love. We have had dinners in many different homes, restaurants and enjoyed a few plays. We've also played games, made crafts and learned some decorating tips.

I'm looking forward to making new memories with my Kappa sisters.

Laura Albright

President, IN Kappa

Indiana Sigma

Chapter is "Under Construction". Watch for news in the Spring 2025 Edition

Electra Province

President Cheryl Neeley, MO Delta

Kansas Alpha



Season Greetings dear Sisters,

Below is the Christmas Exchange I participated in during the officers' meeting at Taygeta Convention in OK. The game had every participant pass a gift to the left or right. Once every participant had the opportunity to pass a gift the game ended. Thereafter we opened and shared the present and who it was from. - Janelle Clark



L to R: KS Alpha Janelle Clark, CA Eta Melody James, CA Eta Kathy Palmer

Below is one of the merrier Christmas parties KS Alpha celebrated. It was a potluck celebration where we exchanged gifts between Big & Little Sisters as well as enjoying our wonderful foods. By Janelle Clark



Back Row: L to R- Jean Tooley, Kay Kimball, Karen Marsh, Karen Swogger, Janelle Clark
Front row: L to R - Elaine Powell, Dorothy Jones, Kay Grant, (guest) A. Rose Winterscheidt

the 'coveted' chocolate cream pie

By Karen Swogger

My favorite Christmas with my DTC Alpha sisters were the first one that I had with them. It was 2017 and we held it at Brewster Place. It was a potluck and to bring something for the people at the Rescue Mission. We enjoyed our meal and exchanged gifts. We also sang Christmas Carols. But

the best part was just being with women that I knew would become my friends and whose company I would always enjoy and cherish.



L to R: Elaine Powell, Karen Marsh, Cheryl McLain, Kay Foster, Cyndy Hunt, Karen Swogger, Jean Tooley, Kay Grant, Kay Kimball

By Patricia 'Pat' Glidewell

One of my favorite memories was when we had a Christmas celebration at the Presbyterian Manor where member Peggy Heald resided. We had a Big Sister/Little Sister gift exchange along with a traditional gift exchange. As usual we had wonderful food to share, stories to share, songs to sing and a lot laughter.

By Janelle Clark

Another memory I would like to share is the Christmas party when we decorated a Christmas tree. Each sister received a wrapped gift which contained a Christmas tree ornament with a message to read. The message was the meaning of that ornament (i.e. candy cane – red for the blood that Jesus shed, white for my Savior who's sinless and pure, "J" is for Jesus my Lord, turn it around and a staff you will see, Jesus my shepherd was born for me, a pickle- the first person to find the pickle on the tree would receive an extra present from Santa Claus or would be said to have a year of good fortune). All sisters enjoyed sharing the message and hanging the ornament on the tree. We then donated our lovingly decorated tree to Brewster Place, the retirement facility where we held our celebration.

MERRY CHRISTMAS from ELECTRA PROVINCE, KS ALPHA CHAPTER



When asked about their favorite Christmas memory or celebration as sisters, everyone paused, took a deep breath, closed their eyes, and tried to choose the one that was the most special to them. Here are a few of those cherished memories.

“One of my favorite memories is the year (back in the early 1990's) that Cindi Cook and I tried to make a cake that looked like wrapped packages. We saw the cake in a magazine and thought - unwisely - that we could duplicate it. This is before either of us had ever heard of fondant, or the fact that when you stack the cakes, they needed a support system inside. Who knew??? When we presented our "cake" to the chapter at our Christmas party and shared with the chapter the inspirational picture, our dear National Past President, Syble Cocannouer, said " Well, you tired!" Every year after that she always told us, "No need to make your cake!" Now, our attempt would be called a 'Pinterest fail'." Teresa Carter

“I don't remember the year but, my favorite was when we bought gifts for the teenage girls at the Wichita Children's home. Since the 'gifts' needed to be unwrapped before delivering them, it was decided that as part of our Christmas gift exchange, we would bring them already wrapped. As we opened them, we had to figure out what that sister was thinking about when they bought that gift. It was a lot of fun guessing and knew that the girls would enjoy the gifts. They were delivered unwrapped to the Wichita Children's home.” --Leslie Beers *Children Gifts*



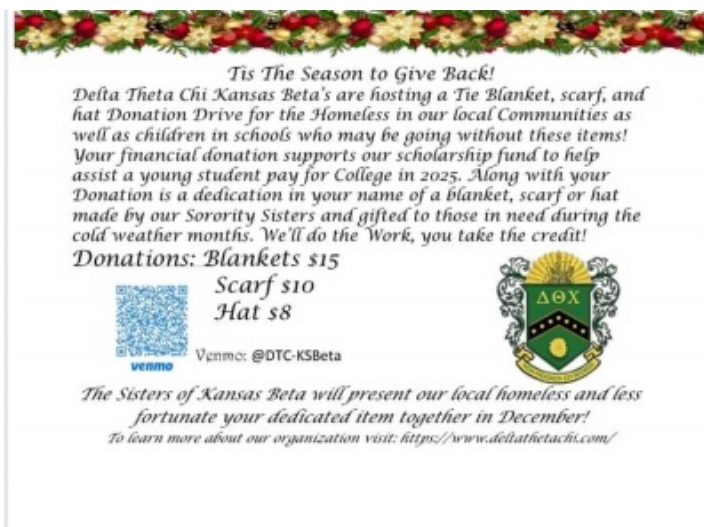
“My favorite Christmas celebration was last year. We all attended a murder mystery at Prairie Pines Dinner Theatre. Why was it my favorite, you may ask? This show is famous for getting the audience incredibly involved. Well, this time around they dragged my son, Michael, up on stage and put a wig on him and then made him do silly stuff. It was hilarious! But the best part came later. My son goes to work on Monday and his boss comes over and says, 'Hey, I heard you make a great contestant!' and then proceeded to tell Michael all about the silly stuff that went on! As it turns out, the boss's wife was in the audience as well. So, it made it even funnier!” -- Trish Schmidt

“There are many Christmas memories that have been shared with my sisters over the years, but there are two that come to mind. The first being the year that Jan Ingham hosted the party in her home and served homemade English bread pudding, holiday scones and tea, while sharing with us a bit of English history. As the night ended, we sang Christmas carols, closing with Silent Night. The second memory was of Rita Kamen who shared her traditions of the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah, a couple Jewish treats and gave us a tour of the synagogue.” -- Tammy Cocannouer

“My favorite Christmas memory is caroling with the Kansas Theta Chapter in Topeka in 2011.” -- Cathie Barber



This one truly sums up what all our sisters have said. “I don't really have one favorite Christmas celebration with my sisters, as I enjoy all of them. Just spending time with my sisters each year, where everyone remembers how blessed we are to have each other is enough for me!” -- Brenda Thompson



Kansas Kappa

Chapter is “Under Construction” Watch for news in the Spring 2025 edition..

Missouri Delta

The MO Delta Chapter has had many lovely activities to celebrate Christmas. They have included progressive dinners, potluck dinners, lunches and dinners in restaurants (let someone else do all the cooking and dish washing). After discussing our adventures, it was unanimously agreed that a recent outing remains a favorite.

It was a lovely December Sunday in 2018. We all gathered for lunch at the Webster House in Kansas City, Missouri. The Webster House is a historical building built in 1875 as a school, with classrooms on the main level and upstairs. In 2001 the building was rescued from demolition and turned into a fine dining restaurant upstairs and antique shop on the main level. The building was always a destination for gifts and accessories, and excellent food and service. But December was the best time to go for each room was beautifully decorated and many unusual ornaments were for sale.

After lunch we went across the street to the Kaufmann Center for the Performing Arts and attended a performance of the Nutcracker. No matter how many times you see this ballet, it is always different. The Kaufmann is the home to the Kansas City Symphony and Opera. Many other groups perform at the Kaufmann, so it is a busy venue for music and the arts.

As popular as the Webster House was, it (with others) closed for covid March of 2020 and never reopened. The building is now the headquarters for the Kansas City Symphony. But the MO Delta Sisters will always remember our last trip to the Webster House.

Chris Durbin for our Chapter



Nebraska Zeta

Chapter is “Under Construction”. Watch for news in the Spring 2025 edition.

Nebraska Eta

Chapter is “Under Construction”. Watch for news in the Spring 2025 edition.

Sterope Province President Sharon Osterberger, OH Mu

Maryland Alpha

Happy Holidays my sisters!

As our membership is at a low point we chose to focus on the positive – our ability to serve. Over the past few months, we have been very busy supporting our community! We donated time and solicited donations for a local animal rescue. We purchased and donated 10 bookbags, we donated 2 cases of Gatorade to the local football team, and we hosted 2 free cooking classes. One major highlight of the year was supporting a family that was critically homeless. We partnered with a larger organization and we fed the homeless. At that time, we noticed that it was a family of 10 – mom, dad, and 8 kids that were having issues with housing. The kids were 17, 14, twins 9 years, 3 yr old boy, twins – 1,5 and a new born a few days old. There were no shelters in the state that were willing to take them due to the family size. We took the list of shelters across the state and we ended up with the same negative shelter results. The boys were too old (7th grade & 12th grade) dad can't come or it was just “no”. We took on the stress and made a lot of calls. We started on the local levels, then moved on to county and then to state level. By the time that this reached the state level, Termia had to reach out to

the governor liaison because things were not looking good at all. The state of Maryland is experiencing a housing crisis. We helped the family pay for a hotel and food for three days. The kids also needed car seats, booster seats, cribs, shoes, toiletries, and the babies needed pampers and wipes. None of the smaller kids had beds and they were often moved around. This was an overwhelming responsibilities and it was a very expensive project in our 12 year history.

COMING UP:

November – Kids cooking class. Adopt A-Highway

December – We will be adopting family to support for Christmas

I am inspired by Keri Garon’s message to push forward. I was so exhausted and willing to throw in the towel. When I stopped to take a look at (all) of the year’s accomplishments, I realized that it was a very productive year.

Termia Jones, report

Ohio Mu

Ohio Mu Chapter celebrated our 89th Founders Day in July 2024. Wow, 89 years. The theme of the Pleiad is “What has been your favorite Christmas Celebration with your Sisters”. Ohio Mu always had secret sisters each year. You would draw your new name at the Christmas Party and keep that secret sister all year doing various things for them throughout the year then you would reveal who you were at the party. That was always so much fun.

My favorite part of Christmas with my sisters is when we would help a family or two at Christmas with food and gifts and a visit from Santa to help us make our deliveries. That was such a special time that all of our sisters participated in. What a great feeling when we had finished our day!

These are memories to hold near and dear to our hearts.

As the holidays draw near, enjoy your sisters and the friendships you have. We are all blessed to call each other sisters.



In Sisterly Love,
Karen Kammer
President Ohio Mu

Taygeta Province President Giedra Brittigan, Texas Zeta

“OK Delta, OK Kappa & TX Beta

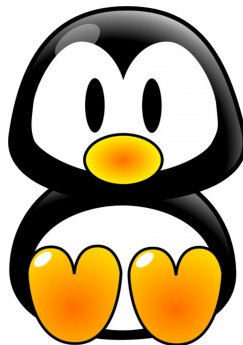
Look for us next issue.

OK Epsilon

Christmas time is always special for OK Epsilon we meet together and share gifts, whether it is Secret just gifts, share wonderful foods and celebrate our Founders' Day. A few years ago, the Christmas seemed very special to me. We had several more sisters in our Chapter and it was held at Effie Ray's lovely home. She went all out and used her best china and all the trimmings. She had a big beautiful tree and it was loaded with gifts for her family and sorority sisters. We all wore our sparkly holiday attire. It just seemed like a scene from "It's A Wonderful Life" to me. I will always remember it. Unfortunately, we have lost too many of our sisters the last years and are in the rebuilding stage of our Chapter. We will be having our Christmas celebration at the beautiful home of Carmel Garvin this year and I am looking forward to the celebration. Merry Christmas to all of our sorority Sisters!



when
Sister or
dinner



Christmas/Winter Taygeta National Pleiad
Article submitted by Carol Hanson of Oklahoma Beta Chapter

We all know Christmastime is very special, but especially so if you get to celebrate with your Sisters! We do this every year at Lou Ella Berry's home, which is delightfully decorated from top to bottom and beautiful tablescapes. She is the Hostess with the Mostest! Not only is her food delicious, but she treats us with a cute little gift placed at each seat at the table. We play Dirty Santa with re-purposed White Elephant gifts, and there is an actual White Elephant that keeps popping up to join in the fun! "Who will get it this year?"; is the question asked by all.

Besides gifting each other, we donate new pajamas and books to Citizens Caring for Children. These are then delivered by our Civic and Literacy Committee members. What a blessing for us and them! It's hard to pick which Christmas celebration is our favorite, however, these pictures are from Christmas 2023. Merry Christmas from OK Beta Chapter to yours!!



Barbara Blouin, Cindy Hunt, Kimberly Lair, Dionna Barker, Jackie Henderson, Sandi Futrell, Faye Lee Dingler, (Other members there but not pictured are: Lou Ella Berry, Phyllis Henderson, Tracy Campbell, Linda Shoemake, Amy Seerey and Leah Stotts)



Janie VanDeGrift, Carol Hanson, and Wilm Cabaniss





The Christmases of Oklahoma Alpha

by Susan Yeilding

There is no way I could pick just one! Our Christmases always contain four elements: food, varieties of Naughty Santa, Gifts for the needy (Lisa Bain Ministries, Clarehouse, Day Center for the Homeless), and..... beautiful sisters, the best gift of all.



THE GIFTS OF DELTA THETA CHI

Sisters abundant,
Projects to complete,
Scholarships given
To happy receipt.

Meetings and socials,
Programs and such,
Together we gather
For business and much.

Friendship and laughter,
Support when it's tough,
Listening, learning
Hugs and good stuff.

Sooooo.....Let's celebrate Christmas

Together we'll be,
The 14th of December,
And under the tree.....

Bring a gift for the homeless,
Or Clarehouse. You pick.
A pair of socks filled with trinkets
To exchange "Naughty Nick".

Bring a finger food,
Tempting, tasty and delicious,
Come to Susan's at SIX,
For a Sister's Merry Christmas

So hope you can join us, Charlene!



OKLAHOMA ALPHA SISTERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

WHERE: 8820 S LAKEWOOD COURT
WHEN: 9:00 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

BRING A "FINGER FOOD" TO SHARE, A NAUGHTY SANTA GIFT (\$30 LIMIT) TO EXCHANGE, AND AN ITEM OF CLOTHING FOR DAY CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS

WE'LL HAVE A VERY MERRY TIME



YOU ARE INVITED TO OKLAHOMA ALPHA'S

REINDEER GAMES PARTY

December 20th at Marlene Penn's house

Bring a "finger food", a gift for the DayCenter for the Homeless, and a wrapped gift worth \$5 for Reindeer Games

Please RSVP to Marlene (918) 406-8175



YOU ARE INVITED



The Grinch down in Tville, wishes YOU to invite.
Bring a gift for exchange to cause a sisterly fight.
Bring a treat from your kitchen to share on the table.
Bring some cash for Clarehouse, if you are able.



Tuesday, December 17th
6:00 p.m.
at the home of Susan Stewart
8820 S Lakewood Ct, Tulsa OK

The Grinch is awaiting,
He's feeling neglected.
Sisters in Tville,
You all are expected.



WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION WITH YOUR SISTERS-



December 2023

This past December 2023, the Texas Nu Chapter hosted a memorable and heartwarming Christmas social at the Junior League building, where 15 sisters and 12 guests gathered for a festive evening full of laughter and fellowship. The event featured a delightful catered meal that offered a selection of steak, chicken, and a variety of delicious sides, ensuring a dining experience that everyone enjoyed.

Several members led the décor efforts, transforming the space with beautifully arranged Christmas-themed decorations. They also provided fun and festive props for photo opportunities, adding a lively touch to the evening. In a thoughtful gesture, Joyce Stewart arranged for a professional photographer to capture special moments throughout the event, contributing to



the lasting memories made that night.

Entertainment was provided by the talented Lubbock High School Chamber Orchestra, whose Christmas concert set a perfect holiday tone. Their exceptional performance was enjoyed by all, with attendees commenting that it felt like a private symphony. The beautiful music brought everyone into the Christmas spirit.

TX Nu continued

As the evening concluded, the chapter members and guests left feeling uplifted and full of holiday cheer, humming familiar Christmas tunes like “Jingle Bells” and “White Christmas” as they departed. It was truly a special night of fellowship, music, and celebration, exemplifying the spirit of the season and the sisterhood of Texas Nu.

Melissa Arney



Texas Nu Chapter
Pleiad Reporter



TX Zeta

Texas Zeta Chapter knows how to party, whether is a formal gathering or casual. When I asked our chapter which Christmas Social stood out in their minds most, the answer was a resounding “last year’s Christmas Social at Giedra’s”.

Of course, if you know Giedra at all, you know she goes over the top whether it’s her beautiful holiday-theme decorated home, coordinating the bountiful amount of delicious food and drinks, or just being an attentive hostess. She, with her DTC Guy, John always makes all feel welcome.

Texas Zeta has for the past few years have enjoyed singing Christmas carols, accompanied by Dennis, (Patti’s husband) on the accordion. Not all of us may sing in tune, but we sing with heart.

Another tradition and fun time is our Left, Right, Center game. Competitive spirits and lots of laughs and don’t forget the big bucks winnings.

Anytime the Texas Zetas get together, is meaningful and fills each of our hearts with sisterhood.

TAYGETA PROVINCE, OKLAHOMA ZETA CHAPTER FAVORITE SORORITY CHRISTMAS

OK Zeta

Oklahoma Zeta sisters were polled about their favorite sorority Christmas party. It was unanimous! ALL OF THEM! There were so many unique memories attached to each and every Christmas sorority celebration. There was always such a festive environment with delicious food, decorations, cheer and genuine happiness among the sisters. One year we went around the room and asked what we were thankful for and what we considered our blessings during the year. It was a very meaningful, happy and sometimes melancholy, moment for all who shared in it. We have always enjoyed secret sister reveals and thoughtful gift exchanges at each Christmas party. We also played Dirty Santa too. In the past when we were younger, Dirty Santa was the Battle of Bunker Hill (see a hill; seize a hill). No gift was sacred, there was no longer any sisterly love, all bets were off, there was screaming and gnashing of teeth, and it was War! Gifts were yanked right out of a sister’s arms without shame or remorse. Now that we are older, we quietly limp over to the coveted gift sitting on a sister’s lap unwrapped and exposed and quietly limp back to our chair while leaving a devastated sister begging to return the gift. Yet we still suffer no guilt.

However, I will have to say that last Christmas 2023 at Jeanne Reid's house was the most memorable. Perhaps because it was the most recent Christmas, and the memory is fresher. For the first time, we decided to have a Drunken Santa exchange of wines or liquor instead of our usual Dirty Santa. It was more civil; after all, stealing a sister's bottle was a new low.

The highlight of our Christmas gathering was that sister Becky Kueffer was there. She was recovering from an extremely serious health issue, but she managed to attend the party. Moreover, sister Teresa announced the good news that she was moving back to Oklahoma from Colorado. It was a great ending to a beautiful, sunny day that December afternoon.



This is my first official message as the newly elected President of Taygeta Province and I would like to express how honored and humbled I am by the confidence and trust that has been placed in me to serve in this capacity. I will strive to execute my duties to the best of my ability. My goodness! It's hard to believe how quickly this year has flown by. While 2024 has certainly given all of us plenty to complain and fret about, on a variety of issues, I realized that when it comes to the things that truly matter, the important stuff, my family and friends, I am blessed. We had no deaths. No catastrophic illnesses. No traumatic injuries. The same holds true with my Texas Zeta sisters for the most part. We do have a couple who are dealing with some fairly serious medical issues, but mostly we have survived this year intact. As we rushed headlong into the holiday season, I found myself reflecting on my favorite Christmas memories with my sorority sisters. I have decided that my favorite sorority memory was of this past Christmas. I hosted our Christmas social at my house. We had a near perfect attendance with several husbands/significant others joining in the festivities. We enjoyed the usual delicious food, refreshing libations, a cutthroat game of Left-Center-Right and lots of laughter. My Big Sister, Patti Hetzendorfer's husband Dennis showed up with a couple of jugs of his homemade egg nogg and an accordion! Now, the egg nogg was no surprise. He brings it every year. He has some super-secret recipe that requires months of preparation, melding of flavors and aging. And sampling. Lots and lots of samplings. It is oh so tasty, but certainly not for the faint of heart. The accordion, however, was a different matter. In all our years of knowing Patti and Dennis, none of us could recall either one of them mentioning that Dennis played the accordion. He decided to surprise us by rehearsing four Christmas carols for several weeks and arrived with lyric sheets and the announcement that we were going to have a sing along. It created a buzz of excitement and when it was showtime, everyone threw themselves into the singing with gusto. Dennis was a surprisingly accomplished accordionist. As for our singing, well, Dennis was a surprisingly accomplished accordionist. But despite our caterwauling, everybody had a blast.

The only universal complaint voiced was that Dennis had only prepared four songs. We decided that the accordion sing along was our new Christmas tradition, and that Dennis must show up with a full repertoire of Christmas favorites this year. Merry Christmas to all my sorority sisters and have a happy, blessed 2025. I cherish all of your friendship, love and fellowship. I would also like to give a shout out to my long-suffering husband, John, for his patience and understanding with my sorority activities. Whether it's helping me get the house ready to host business meetings and socials or delivering items we amass during our collection drives or helping assemble our annual yearbooks, he bears it all with minimal eye rolling and muttering under his breath. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Giedra Brittigan

President, Taygeta Province



NATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATES

As Chair of the National Educational Committee, we have been hard at work to get the National Outline ready for the 2025-2027 years. The theme has been selected and the committee has gathered some outstanding information for the outline. I think you will be pleased with the work your sisters have done.

Karen Kammer

Chair of the National Educational Committee



DTC ZOOM BOOK CLUB

Dear Book Club Sisters:

I hope you joined me in sharing one of your special holiday memories with our group. We will close with Christmas Carol and a toast to the New Year, so be sure to wear something festive and fun.

REMINDER: We will no longer be sending monthly email invitations. Instead, we are now using a link as provided in last month's email. If you need the link, please email me at: cheryl.neeley@yahoo.com
Looking forward to seeing you every month.

In Sisterly Love,
Cheryl Neeley



IN LOVING MEMORY

Pauline Robinson	Life Member, KS Alpha	March 3, 2024
Sundra Brooksher	Member, OK Epsilon	April 2, 2024
Lois Kanable	Member, IN Alpha	May 13, 2024
Dixie Stair	Life Member, OK Epsilon	June 9, 2024
Marie Beuchat	Life Member, KS Alpha	June 18, 2024
Marjorie Sines	Life Member, IN Gamma	July 13, 2024
Linda Miner	Member, OK Alpha	August 22, 2024

DONATIONS

NATIONAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

<u>DONATION GIVEN BY</u>	<u>IN HONOR OF</u>
Texas Beta Chapter	2023-2024 Taygeta Province Board
Texas Nu Chapter	June Butler, Taygeta Province President
Texas Nu Chapter	Jane Harrell, Chapter President 2023-2024
Indiana Eta Chapter	Deb Hood, Celeano Province President
Indiana Eta Chapter	Celaeno Province Board
Texas Zeta Chapter	National Scholarship Month
Ohio Mu Chapter	National Scholarship Month
Sandy Pixey	Betty Vaughn's 80 year in Delta Theta Chi
Connie Cripe	Taygeta Province Board
Jenne Duke	Melanie Cameron
Oklahoma Beta Chapter	June Butler, Taygeta Province President

NATIONAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

<u>DONATION GIVEN BY</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF</u>
Texas Nu Chapter	Texas Nu Sisters
Taygeta Province	Sundra Brooksher
Taygeta Province	Marge Washam
Taygeta Province	Veronyka Vance
Taygeta Province	Linda Miner
Taygeta Province	Dixie Stair
Indiana Alpha Chapter	Lois Kanable
OK Epsilon Chapter	Sundra Brooksher
OK Epsilon Chapter	Dixie Stair
Bettye Griggs	Veronyka Vance
June Butler	Kay Robertson
Lana Corcoran	Pat Smithwick
Phyllis Henderson	Marge Washam
Phyllis Henderson	Sundra Brooksher

MARIE MILLER GRAHAM SCHOLARSHIP FUND

<u>DONATION GIVEN BY</u>	<u>IN HONOR OF</u>
Attendees of Alcyone Province Convention	Alcyone Province/WA Alpha
Attendees of Electra Province Conclave	Electra Province/MO Delta
Connie Crow	Darlene Meineke
Giedra Brittigan	Taygeta Province

MARIE MILLER GRAHAM SCHOLARSHIP FUND

<u>DONATION GIVEN BY</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF</u>
California Eta Chapter	Candace Warden Goble
OK Epsilon Chapter	Sundra Brooksher
Texas Nu Chapter	Texas Nu Sisters

SUE DRELINGER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

DONATION GIVEN BY

Attendees of Alcyone Province Convention

IN HONOR OF

Alcyone Province/WA Alpha

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND

DONATION GIVEN BY

Becky Keuffer

Linda Colton

Attendees of Electra Province Conclave

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF

Rheta Jo and Ray McNary

Connie Cripe

Electra Province/MO Delta

Cindi Cook, N.E.S.T.



The poster features a green header, a yellow-green background with the text "National News Convention Pleiad", a central image of a yellow hard hat on a construction site with the text "UNDER CONSTRUCTION" in large yellow letters, and a green footer with the dates "June 20-22, 2025", location "Courtyard by Marriott", and "San Diego, California".

**National News
Convention
Pleiad**

**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**

**June 20-22, 2025
Courtyard by Marriott
San Diego, California**

START SAVING NOW FOR A FANTASTIC CONVENTION

More information will be forthcoming at www.deltathetachi.org

HAVE A



MERRY CHRISTMAS

2023-2025 National Pleiad Committee Representatives

Carla Schmidt, WA Alpha, Alcyone Province

Susan Yoder, IN Eta, Celaeno Province

Eileen Neeley, MO Delta, Electra Province

Karen Kammer, OH Mu, Sterope Province

Annette Myers, OK Epsilon, Taygeta Province

These ladies did an OUTSTANDING job of collecting the needed information, making this issue possible. I could not have done it without them. Give them a big THANK YOU when you see them.

Editor: **Becky Bowman**, Celaeno Province Trustee

bckrgems2@gmail.com

