

2023

Women's History Month

CELEBRATING GREAT WOMEN



DELTA RHO OMEGA

#AKADROlegacy

Leadership Engagement Growth Activism Comunity-Focus You!

THE IVY TIMES | 1

MARCH 2023

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Soror Spotlight Diamond Soror Myra Briggs

Cover Art: Source, Canva

Inside Cover Photo: Dais guests at Delta Rho Omega's 50th Anniversary Luncheon (*I to r*): Soror Emma St. Bernard; Soror Ollie Dent; Soror Mildred Stuart, 23rd NARD; Soror Wilma Holmes-Tootle, 28th NARD; Soror Sonja Davis, and Soror Sybil Gowdy



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MONIQUE OKUMAKPEYI Basileus

SABRINA GATES First Anti-Basileus

ANGELA CAREY ADAMS Grammateus

TRACEY THOMPSON Anti-Grammateus

CHRISTINA HODGES Tamiouchos

YVETTE MACK Anti-Tamiouchos

ANNUNCIATE HOPKINS-POPE Pecunious Grammateus

> CHJAME JONES Epistoleus

BERNARDA VILLALONA Parliamentarian

GABBY CUDJOE WILKES Chaplain KIMBERLY VICK Ivy Leaf Reporter

SECOYA HOLMES Hodegos

> NEFIE WHITE Hodegos

CELESTE' LEWIS Graduate Advisor

DORCAS MILLER Philacter

DANA WILLIAMS-TINSLEY Philacter

> CAROLE JENKINS Historian

CHRISTINE RUDISEL Archivist

WANDA BERRY JOSEPH Second Anti-Basileus

> IRENE AJAGBE Business Manager

KATUISCA LAWRENCE Business Manager

> REGINA DAVIS Member-at-Large

PEGGY GRIFFITHS Member-at-Large

JOANNE JOYNER-WELLS Custodian

TANYA STEWART Panhellenic Representative

TIMELESS TREASURES

Carole Jenkins Sylvia Stovall Sonja Davis Patricia Ramseur

Carole Brinkley Tomasina Boone Yolanda Holmes Dawn M. Baskerville Octavia Hill Victoria Thomas Susan Hobson-Ransom From the desk of the

Greetings Sorors,

Alpha Kappa Alpha makes history once again! At the 92nd North Atlantic Regional Conference, we learned that the For Members Only Federal Credit Union has launched. It's official! We created the first Black woman-owned, sorority-based digital credit union in the nation.

During Women's History Month, you will have an opportunity to open a share account in this history-making financial institution with a minimum deposit of \$50. Additional financial products will continue to roll out through the remainder of the year. Let's make a conscious effort to circulate our dollars in the Black community.

Delta Rho Omega also left its mark on "The City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly AKAfection." We are the Best of the Best with membership, and our collaboration with the undergraduates of Alpha Mu chapter took top marks in the region. I thank you for all the ways you showed up in Philadelphia and let our sorors know that "Brooklyn's in the house!"

I hope that like me, you are reenergized by our time together and ready to SOAR to even greater heights of service and sisterhood. Please save the date, Thursday April 6 and join me at the Brooklyn Museum for a 75th Anniversary Program that will highlight the L.E.G.A.C.Y. of our beloved chapter. This is an event that you will not want to miss!

Sisterly,

Sovor Monique

Soror Monique Okumakpeyi Basileus

#AKADROlegacy

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First Anti-Basileus' Message

Greetings Sorors!

I extend warm greetings to you all and hope this letter finds you well. As members of Alpha Kappa Alpha, we have dedicated ourselves to being "Supreme in Service to all mankind" for over 115 years, bringing hope and change to the communities we serve. Delta Rho Omega Chapter has been steadfast in fulfilling its role in this mission through substantive and intentional programming. Our presence has made Brooklyn a better place.

As we embark on the next 75 years, I urge all of you to remember the ideals that drew you to Alpha Kappa Alpha. The world has faced significant challenges in recent years, and now more than ever, we need to work together to make our world a more just and livable place for everyone. Our sisterhood is a source of immeasurable strength, and I believe that together we can achieve anything we set our minds to.

If you attended our North Atlantic Regional Conference, you know that we have some ambitious goals ahead of us. From enhancing our environment to building our economic wealth, there is much to do as we move forward. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with our new initiatives if you haven't already done so, and to consider joining at least one program committee. If you're unsure, please stay tuned for our program fair next month, where you'll have the opportunity to learn about our program committees and their work.

In the coming months, we will be busy with many activities in our chapter, and we need your support. This month, our Supporting Women Entrepreneurs Committee celebrated Black founders, and if you are a business owner in the chapter, please submit your information for our directory before the month is over. Additionally, we invite you to join us on April 1st as we help with the Brooklyn Prom Project, which has been a partner of ours for over 10 years.

I am grateful for your sisterhood and for all of your service to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®. I am thrilled to see what we will continue to achieve together.

With Sisterly Love and Affection, Sabrina Gates First Anti-Basileus

Second Anti-Basileus' Message

Happy Women's History Month!

Greetings Sorors

Please come early and join us during March's chapter

meeting at 1:00 pm during social hour for some sisterly fun and to learn more about our Soror/Sister Squads. You can sign up on the spot and join the next squad's event. Also, sorors are encouraged to join more than one soror/sister squad.

Sisterly, Wanda Berry Joseph Second Anti-Basileus







#softlife Soror Squad



Meet us at the Fresh, Fly, and Fabulous: Fifty Years of Hip Hop Style on Sunday, March 26th at The Museum of FIT. Free Admission!

> Secoya Holmes #softlife Soror Squad Chair





mpo

Where Fitness Meets Sisterhood Host: ImpowHERful Fitness Company Instructors

Classes Include

- Zumba 🔶
- Hip-Hop Aerobics 🔸
 - Soca Aerobics 🔸
 - Step Aerobics 🔶
- High-Intensity Interval Training 🖡
 - Chair Aerobics (Low Impact) +
 - Kick Boxing & More! +

6:30pm-8:00pm **Saturdays** 8:45am-11:15am **\$15/M**

\$15/Month Unlimited Classes

Follow Us On Instagram For Schedule Of Classes

Classes on Wednesdays

@ ImpowHERfulFitness Or Contact Soror Kim G. At kimgustus@gmail.com

\$30 ONE TIME REGISTRATION FEE WITH T-SHIRT



Sister to Sister, Brother to Brother

On February 8, 2023, the Alpha Mu chapter partnered with Fordham University's ASILI and Counseling and Psychological Services for their Sister to Sister, Brother to Brother program where they fostered great discussion and provided helpful resources regarding police brutality and racial injustice in the Black community.







Meet the Greeks

On February 14, 2023, Brooklyn College's Meet the Greeks tabling event went into full effect.



Pretty Intentional Vision Boarding

On February 15, 2023, the Alpha Mu chapter held their Pretty Intentional Vision Board program, and believe it was Pretty Phenomenal. Sorors and participants were able to unwind, motivate and roll out S.M.A.R.T. goals for the future.



About the Author



Soror Celeste' Lewis

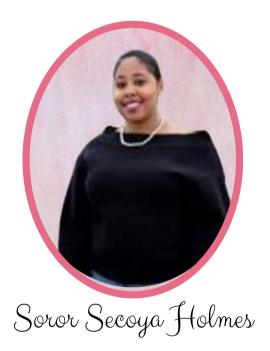
Alpha Mu Graduate Advisor 2023 Alpha Mu Spring '87

> Respectfully Submitted, Soror Celeste' Lewis Alpha Mu Graduate Advisor

Hodegos Connection

"There is no force equal to a Black woman determined to rise."

-W.E.B. DuBois





Greetings from the Hodegoi

March celebrates Women's History Month with the 2023 theme of "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories". This timely theme honors women in every community who have devoted their lives and talents to producing art, pursuing truth, and reflecting the human condition decade after decade. This Women's History Month, we shine a light on outstanding sorors, including Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, and YOU!

MARCH BIRTHDAY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wishing you a blessed birthday Sorors!

March 2 Soror Nia B. Brathwaite Soror Diana Duncan-Ramsden Soror Tiffanie Young-Lofton

March 3 Soror C. Joyce Julien

March 4 Soror Lorraine D. Mitchell

March 6 Soror Jacqueline Charity Soror Juanita Levell

March 9 Soror Jenise D. Wilkerson

March 10 Soror Doris Alexander

March 12 Soror Jasmine D. Williams

March 13 Soror Kinshasa Best

March 14 Soror Adero-Zaire Green-Kingston



March 16 Soror Randa Henry-Jenkins Soror Katuisca Lawrence

March 17 Soror Shanice Smith Branch

March 21 Soror Tracey Thompson

March 23 Soror Irene Ajagbe Soror Ariel Terry

March 25 Soror Linda DeHart

March 27 Soror KeKelly Rodriguez

March 28 Soror Tamika Goodridge

March 29 Soror Ann Marie Houslin

March 31 Soror Allyson Greene-Beard

March Birthday Expressions/Shout Outs

Our favorite song from Birthday Queen, Diana Duncan-Ramsden is "I'm Every Woman" by Chaka Khan and Whitney Houston.

Our favorite quote from Birthday Queen, Adero-Zaire Green-Kingston is, "Find the good and celebrate it," by Betty Shabazz.

Our favorite quote from Birthday Queen, Tracey Thompson is, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart," Psalm 37:4.

Our favorite quote from Birthday Queen, Irene Okumakpeyi-Ajagbe is, "It's all going to be fine in the end. If it is not yet fine, then it is not yet the end," by Oscar Wilde.

Our favorite quote from Birthday Queen, Tamika Goodridge is "Stay far from timid. Only make moves when your heart's in it. And live the phrase 'Sky's the Limit'," by Christopher Wallace.

Our favorite quote from Birthday Queen, Ann Marie Houslin is "Pour yourself a drink, put on some lipstick, and pull yourself together," by Elizabeth Taylor.

Congratulatory Remarks & Special Announcements

Congratulations to Soror Latifah Reed-Furby and husband, Brandon Furby who welcomed the birth of their daughter, Riley Ann Furby on March 7th.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers...

Please keep Soror Jennaydra Jordan and her family in prayer as she mourns the loss of her mother, Rosalind Dance-Clunis. Soror Jennaydra is a former first antibasileus of Delta Rho Omega chapter and a former president of the Ivy Rose Foundation. Your supportive messages, thoughts and prayers are welcome.

Please keep the family of Soror Loretta Patton-Greenidge in your thoughts and prayers. She experienced tremendous loss with the passing of her eldest brother and cousin.

Please keep Soror Nicole Chavis-Jackson in your thoughts and prayers as she mourns the loss of her father, Mr. Luke Chavis, Jr.

TIPS FOR T出E 出BCU TOUR ...news you can use from the Risk Management Hazing subcommittee...

- No bullying be respectful of each person's space.
- Don't pressure anyone to consume food, alcohol, or engage in risky behavior.
- Avoid any behavior that may cause risk to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated[®].

Sisterly, Soror Joan Tropnas Risk Management Committee Chair



Diamond Soror Myra Mundy Briggs GAMMA THETA - 1948

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Congratulations to Delta Rho Omega's Diamond Soror Myra! She was initiated into the Sorority in 1948, by way of Gamma Theta Chapter at Hampton Institute, now known as Hampton University. Please enjoy reading about this warm-hearted, churchgoing, mother and grandmother. Let's celebrate Soror Myra's monumental achievement of 75 years of service to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®.

Submitted by Soror Kimberly Vick

Q: To what are you most looking forward as a Diamond Soror?

A: Just being thankful that I am still able to enjoy being here, and able to socialize with my Sorors, family, and friends. I have many blessings. As I look back over my life, I'm grateful to God that I became an AKA.

Q: Looking back, do you have one memorable AKA moment that stands out the most?

A: If I had to pick one, I guess I would choose when I was initiated. I had been supported financially by my sister, who was two years older than I. By this time, she was working on her first job when the ladies of Gamma Theta chapter approached me and invited me to join Alpha Kappa Alpha. I didn't feel that my parents could afford the extra money, but my sister told me not to worry. When I was initiated, I thought, "Oh Goodness, my sister is wonderful. Now I'm going to have a whole lot of other sisters." I remember that thought because the sorors talked about sisterhood so much in those days.

Q: You were initiated at Gamma Theta Chapter in 1948, at Hampton Institute (University). Correct? A: The first group, they had invited Alberta, my sister to join. I was the second group that they invited. The sorority was mostly going by grades back then. You had to have high grades. My brother, sister, and I, we all had good grades. We were good students, active, and participated. But my sister had taken a loan from the school, and that disqualified her. She was gung ho and wanted to join AKA. She knew more about sororities than anyone. I don't know where she got that information from because we didn't have them (sororities)



On the Hampton Institute Library steps, 1948 – Myra Mundy with Alberta, her sister



Gamma Theta chapter probates at Hampton Institute, December 1948. Ivy Myra pictured right from front center.

at Hampton Institute before then. They were talking about it when I was a freshman, in 1946. I was the second line, but they had the first line in 1947. In 1948, I was a junior and my sister had graduated.

Q: How were you first introduced to Delta Rho Omega? And how has Delta Rho Omega impacted your life?

A: When I graduated from Hampton, I stayed in Atlantic City for the summer and then I came to Brooklyn, New York. I went Janes Methodist Church where I met Sorors Emma St. Bernard and Ruby Black. I didn't join right away. We had mutual friends, and for many years I was interested, and I supported the fundraisers often and went to the "big dance" they had each year. Also, I was a member of the Hampton Alumni Club. So Soror Sonja Davis was ringing my doorbell all the time because she was from Hampton Institute (University) and she kept me abreast of what was going on. And that's how I got interested in Delta Rho Omega.



On the Hampton Institute Library steps, 1948 - Myra Mundy

Q: If you had to do it again would you be more active in AKA, less active, or about the same?

A: I would've kept it about the same because I can't change the past. *But* ... If I *had* to choose between less or more, I would've chosen to do much more in AKA.

Q: Which committee or which position have you enjoyed the most in the sorority?

A: When Soror Sonja Davis was Basileus and I was parliamentarian, I learned a lot and performed many tasks. I remember that you were on the committee and used to come over to my house for meetings. At about 11p.m., I would have to start pushing you and the rest of our Sorors out.

Q: In the chapter's history book, you're quoted as saying "It is my hope...that with God's help, we can keep foremost in our thoughts the sisterly love and service emphases of our beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated." Can you expand on that?

A: What I think I'm trying to say is that many organizations get off track. We (DRO/AKA) are not a social club, and we have to demonstrate that to the general public. That it is a community service organization and that should come first. This should be apparent to the community we serve.

Q: Soror Myra, which Founder do you most admire?

A: When I was ten years old and living in Stanley Holmes Village Houses in Atlantic City, New Jersey, my mother sent me to Founder Beulah Elizabeth Burke's house for sewing lessons. I was the only child in this sewing group. Ms. Burke helped me sew my first dress. I was so proud of it, and when I wore it to school, my teacher said, "What a beautiful dress." She was amazed when I told her I'd sewn it myself. It wasn't until twenty years ago when I attended NARC in Atlantic City that I made the connection that my Ms. Burke was the same Beulah Elizabeth Burke who was one of the founders of my beloved sorority.



Thank you Diamond Soror Myra for sharing your story, for being a great example of an Alpha Kappa Alpha woman, for your contributions to Delta Rho Omega, and for paving the way for future sorors. Congratulations on 75 years of sisterhood and service in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®.

MEET THE

Thank you for your commitment to service!

Nominating Executive Finance Program **Membership Bylaws Standards Public Relations** Graduate Advisor's Lifelong Sisterhood **Connection and Social Action** Protocol **Risk Management** Ivy Rose Foundation FAF History Leadership Scholarship **Sisterly Relations** Technology **Minutes Review** Spiritual Oversight **Chapter Operations Manual** Tellers Auditing

Soror Octavia Hill Soror Monique Okumakpeyi Soror Christina Hodges Soror Sabrina Gates Soror Wanda Berry Joseph Soror Bernarda Villalona Soror Victoria Thomas Soror Kimberly Vick Soror Celeste' Lewis Soror Doris Alexander Soror Kathleen Daniel Soror Beryl Miles Soror Joan Tropnas Soror Yolanda Holmes Soror Simone Belgrave Soror Carole Jenkins Soror Zena Mine Soror Tracey Mina Soror Serena Castellano Soror Lauren Jenkins Soror Angela Carey Adams Soror Gabby Cudjoe Wilkes Soror Carole Brinkley Soror Adero-Zaire Green-Kingston Soror Tiffanie Young Lofton

of sisterhood...



On February 1, 2023, Delta Rho Omega observed World Hijab Day. We stand in sisterhood and solidarity with our very own Honorable Judge Carolyn Walker-Diallo, and we stand against prejudice faced by all Muslim women wearing the hijab.

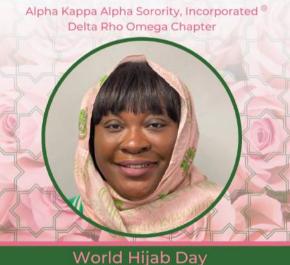
(Pictured after chapter meeting on January 21, 2023)

Comega Chapter

World Hijab Day February 1st, 2023 Social Media Day of Action #SolidarityInSisterhood



World Hijab Day February 1st, 2023 Social Media Day of Action #SolidarityInSisterhood



World Hijab Day February 1st, 2023 Social Media Day of Action #SolidarityInSisterhood

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World Hijab Day February 1st, 2023 Social Media Day of Action #SolidarityInSisterhood J.

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World Hijab Day February 1st, 2023 Social Media Day of Action #SolidarityInSisterhood



Delta Rho Omega Chapter



The Arts & Culture Soror Squad attended the Harlem Fine Arts Show. Soror Myrah Brown-Green (pictured left in green) was a featured artist.

Please contact Soror Brandi Bradshaw for information about the Arts & Culture Squad.

(Right) Soror Brandi Bradshaw, Soror Wanda Berry Joseph, and Soror Angela Carey Adams attend the Harlem Fine Arts Show.





The Soft Life Squad enjoyed an evening at Pink Pier, Watermark. Please contact Soror Secoya Holmes for information about the Soft Life Squad.



(Back row): Sorors Aziza Pope, Annunciate Hopkins-Pope, Sheena McCall, Brittney Sinclair (Front row): Sorors Nefie White, Shannon Bowers, Secoya Holmes



The Soror Spirit Squad enjoyed a Galentine's Day Supper at Therapy Wine Bar 2.0.

(I to r): Sorors Tamika Goodridge, Shavon Williams, Wanda Berry Joseph, and Felicia Thomas

Please contact Soror Tamika Goodridge for information about the Soror Spirit Squad.

(right) Soror Marvelie Tribie and Soror Dawn Miller-Salsberry share an embrace and a selfie at the Galentine's Day supper.







(above) Sorors Tracey Thompson, Brandi Greene, Ramona Massena, Beryl Miles, Nefie White, Jennifer Robinson, and Tesha Murphy enjoy travels in Costa Rica.

(left) Sorors Randa Henry-Jenkins, Mecca Hawkins, and Zena Mine celebrate Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

HOSTESS COMMITTEES

Erica D. Anderson Amandla Avila Karmia Berry Carole Brinkley Myrah Brown-Green Chandler Carter Serena Castellano G. Gina Chavez-Moore Lorna E. Davis-Robinson Helen Drew Imani J. Graves Adero-Zaire Green-Kingston

Soror Brandi Bradshaw, Captain Monique Holaman Kai Blake Lewis LaJwanne A. Louis Irene Okumakpeyi-Ajagbe Jennifer Robinson Mona Romain **Kimaria Seymour** Brittney P. Sinclair Marvelie Tribie Kimberly A. Vick Quintasia Welch Shavon M. Williams

Soror Beryl Miles, Captain

Dawn M. Baskerville Morgan Brown Faith C. Corbett Toni-Ann Craft Belkise E. Dallam D. Sandra D'Avilar Diana Duncan-Ramsden Lorretta Easley-Gipson Kerry A. Evans Shonte M. Harrell Octavia D. Hill Susan Hobson-Ransom

Mary Jemison-Head Yardise R. Jones Joanne Joyner-Wells Dorcas Miller Shari Oyefeso Lauren Roach Denise A. Robateau Christine Rudisel Sylvia Stovall Bernarda Villalona Patricia Weston-McNabb

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® DELTA RHO OMEGA CHAPTER

cordially invites you to celebrate



Thursday April 6, 2023 7pm-10pm

includes private viewing of "A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration"

> BROOKLYN MUSEUM 200 Eastern Parkway Brooklyn, New York

RSVP REQUIRED DROLEGACY.EVENTBRITE.COM

FREE



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Basileus Office Hours Calls and emails will be responded to within 24 hours.

> Email: DRO1947@gmail.com Phone: 917-501-2854 P.O. Box 175 Brooklyn, NY 11205

Sisterly Serving You F.I.R.S.T. SOROR ELICIA PEGUES SPEARMAN, ESQ. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® North Atlantic Regional Director akanarfirstrd@gmail.com P.O. Box 185213 Hamden, CT 06518-9997









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