Brooklyn Pearl

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.
DELTA RHO OMEGA CHAPTER
BROOKLYN, NY
EST. 1947

December 2017

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#PowerPurposePassion

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From The Desk of the Basileus

Hello Sorors!

Welcome to the December, 2017 edition of The Brooklyn Pearl!

Sorors, December is here and 2017 is rapidly coming to a close. Thank you to the outgoing officers, for your time, work and sacrifice made on behalf of Delta Rho Omega. To the current officers, incoming officers and committee chairs thank you for your willingness to serve!

Delta Rho Omega was very busy this year! We began the year with a viewing of the movie Hidden Figures. Impactful programs and activities were conducted such as ASCEND, Mental Health First Aid Training, Zumba for Heart Health, the mentorship program launch and Get Out the Vote Day. The DRO strategic plan was presented and implemented and the DRO Risk Management committee was created and has been working to implement the chapter's risk management plan. New Golden Sorors and Silver Stars were introduced and we celebrated the 70th Anniversary of our beloved chapter.

2018 at a glance will include activities to raise funds for EAF, a leadership training series, the implementation of the electronic check-in system, and the conduction of the webinar "Getting to Know Your Corporate and Chapter Documents" just to name a few.

Sorors, I hope you have a wonderful Holiday season and New Year with your family and loved ones! I'll see you in 2018 ready to continue our work with Power, Purpose and Passion!

Sisterly,

Soror Victoria W. Thomas

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter the words, but to live by them.."

- John F Kennedy

First Anti-Basileus' Message

Happy Holidays Sorors!!

Thank you for being great supporters of Delta Rho Omega Chapter programs. Thank you to all Target/Program Chairs, committee members and consultants. Thank you to the most awesome program committee for stepping in when I needed you most. Moreover Sorors, thank you to your families for sharing you with us.

Sorors, you voted for 16 programs for the 2018 calendar year and they are listed below. I will have a committee sign-up book at the next chapter meeting.

TARGET 1	TARGET 3
THINK HBCU: Fundraisers	CHILDHOOD HUNGER
THINK HBCU: College Tour	Prom Project
1 Million Backpack	Toy Drive
ASCEND	FISCAL FITNESS: Money Is Power
JMJ Scholarship Program	
TARGET 2	**TARGET 4**
Mental Health: First aid Training	Acts of Green
GO RED- Heart Health/Stroke	1908 Playground
Circle of Love*/Longest Day	
Mammography Outreach	**TARGET 5**
	USA/UNA

I am wishing each of you a very happy season.

Soror Karen St. Hilaire

Second Anti-Basileus' Message

Greetings Sorors,

Merry Christmas to you and your families, Sorors!

In this season of holiday cheer and hopeful planning for 2018, I pray that the Lord blesses each of you with your heart's desires. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm, plans to give you a hope and a future." No desire is too big for God so dream big, sorors!

Last month, the Membership Committee checked in with newly reactivated and transferred sorors. We are pleased to share that the majority of sorors feel they have had a smooth transition into the chapter and are looking forward to continuing on with us. If you reactivated or transferred into DRO this year and did not receive a call or email from Membership, please contact me directly at tiffanieaka@gmail.com.

This month, Membership and the December Hostess Committees invite you to celebrate the holidays with us at DRO's Holiday Social Hour prior to the December chapter meeting (December 9th) at 12:45pm. We look forward to fellowshipping with you as we reflect on this year and all that is to come in the new year. Please bring a seasonal wrap with you as we continue to be in service to all mankind by donating coats and other warm items to the residents of the YWCA.

Enjoy the Holidays, Sorors!

Soror Tiffanie Young

December 2017 Hostess Comittee

Soror Jacqueline Cole, Captain

Soror Doris Alexis
Soror Simone Belgrave
Soror Nia Braithwaite
Soror Denise Bruce
Soror Patricia Burt
Soror Regina Davis
Soror Tamika Goodridge
Soror Peggy Griffiths
Soror Nakia Haskins
Soror Denyce Holgate-Wilkins
Soror Carol-Ann Huggins
Soror Nadya LaBorde
Soror Michele McPhun
Soror Tamesha Mills
Soror Phillipa Pearson
Soror N'keya Peters-Camille
Soror Lisa Quarles
Soror Cherri Sinclair
Soror Claudia Smith
Soror Seneca Smith
Soror Raisa Turner

Thinking of you Soror...

Please continue to keep our Sorors in your thoughts and prayers:

Soror Carol-Ann Huggins in the passing of her uncle, Mr. Frankie Joseph
Soror Beryl Miles in the passing of her sister, Mrs. Mary B. Grimes
Soror Deena Sellers in the passing of her grandfather, Mr. Joseph Rudolph Sanders
Soror Yolanda Holmes in the passing of her godmother, Ms. Frances West
Soror Emma St. Bernard and Soror Kim St. Bernard in the passing of their sister and aunt, Soror Elizabeth Queenie Raymond

Greetings from Hodegoi

As we prepare for the busiest season of the year full of last minute shopping, holiday parties and fun, let us not forget that one of the greatest gifts we can give and receive is our sisterly love. We encourage you to share this beautiful gift of sisterhood with your sorors not just during holiday season but throughout the year. Merry Christmas, Sorors!

Soror Nicole and Soror Christina

"A sister is a gift to the heart, a friend to the spirit, a golden thread to the meaning of life."
– Isadora James

Happy Birthday Sorors!

12/3: Soror Antonia Hope
12/5: Soror Natasha Elie-Louissaint
12/7: Soror Shenelle Laborde
12/8: Soror Monique Okumakpeyi
12/11: Soror Evelina René
12/13: Soror Christine Rudisel
12/16: Soror Dawn Watt-StewartSoror
12/20: Soror Ebony Jackson
12/24: Soror Michelle Sprott

12/26: Soror Christine Richards
12/26: Soror Karen H. St. Hilaire
12/26 Soror Victoria Thomas
12/29: Soror Christina Hodges
12/29: Soror Janice Taylor
12/31: Soror Elaine René

Thinking of you Soror...

Congratulations to Soror Tracyavon Ford on her recognition by Tau Nu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated at their recent Pearls of Elegance awards ceremony.
Congratulations to Soror Jessica Martin Knight on her nuptials to Honey-Do Richard Knight. Congratulations to Soror Janice Taylor, proud mom.

CIRCLE OF SISTERS

The Circle of Love Committee Celebrated Veteran's Day with approximately forty-five veterans at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation on Monday, November 13, 2017.

The program included a presentation by Soror Patricia Weston -McNabb in Tribute to her father, Tuskegee Airmen, Corporal Eric Hilton Weston, Sect. B2143AAF.BU. Cpl.Weston joined the United States Military in 1942, and served until 1946.

The committee presented the veterans with a certificate in recognition of their valuable contribution to the United States of America. They were also presented with American flags , caps, leis and Our Daily Bread books. They thanked us and expressed appreciation and joy. The event was indeed a success and enjoyed by all attendees.

DRO SHERO

Soror Dorothy Coleman Spaulding is seated in the first row. She is the ninth from the left.

Soror Dorothy Coleman Spaulding was one of fourteen charter members of Delta Rho Omega Chapter and served as our basileus from September 1949 through June 1951. Her talents were recognized and respected by many members of the sorority, which was demonstrated when the chapters composing the Metropolitan Basilei Conference of New York chose Soror Spaulding as their candidate for North Atlantic Regional Director.

Devoted to the aims of Alpha Kappa Alpha and an active member of Delta Rho Omega, Soror Spaulding also blazed new trails in New York State. After receiving her Bachelor of Law degree from Brooklyn Law School, Soror Spaulding worked in New York City's Department of Welfare and, later, held the positions of senior unemployment manager and unemployment insurance superintendent for the New York State Department of Labor. She was the first woman and the first African American to hold the position of senior unemployment manager.

Soror Spaulding's accomplishments were presented and celebrated in the New York Age on October 15, 1955:

> In this column we call your attention to those who seem to us to have proven themselves leaders. Mrs. Dorothy Coleman Spaulding is one of these. She is a serious-minded young woman whose contribution to humanity has long merited recognition. . . . She is a product of Brooklyn's public schools, an honor graduate of Hunter College and has a MA degree in personnel and vocational guidance from Columbia's Teachers College. Mrs. Spaulding is a lawyer, a graduate of Brooklyn Law School. . . .
> In presenting this outstanding citizen to you, we have presented a leader who quietly goes her way accomplishing a great deal, not forgetting her God nor her responsibility to humanity. The Borough of Brooklyn has much for which to be proud. Dorothy Coleman Spaulding, a native of Brooklyn and a product of its public schools, is a citizen we should salute for her preparedness, her achievements, and her community mindedness. We offer her leadership to you, hoping that you will seek her competence. (21)

— *The History Committee and the Archives Committee*

Soror Spotlight: Karen St. Hilaire

By: Soror Abimbola Kai-Lewis

Soror Karen St. Hilaire discusses her passion for chapter programming in this month's Soror Spotlight. She recalls the moment that she knew she wanted to become First Anti-Basileus. Soror St. Hilaire considers strategies for building capacity within the chapter, cultivating leadership skills, and increasing engagement in chapter programs. She also describes the motivation behind her first book, The Divine Butterfly: Inspiration for the Journey to Your Purpose, and upcoming projects that she is working on. Excerpts from our conversation are featured below.

Q: When were you initiated?

A: I was initiated in 2005 in Delta Rho Omega.

Q: You have shared that when you were initiated into Delta Rho Omega Chapter one of your goals was to become an Anti-Basileus. What attracted you to the position?

A: Soror Yolanda Holmes was presenting programs during my MIP and I thought, "This is what I'm about. I can do that." Programs are what make the chapter and the sorority great. They attract people to the chapter for membership, partnerships, and more. I wanted to make the chapter great and I felt that I could do so through programs.

Q: What is your favorite AKA memory?

A: I was chairing a program on mental health at a high school. I think that it was one of the first programs that I fully chaired by myself. Some young girls shared that they were in abusive relationships. The environment was so safe and they felt that they were able to share their concerns and get help on the spot and they did. That experience was significant in my AKA life and career. Delta Rho Omega Chapter strives to create programs that will impact in the community in a positive way. I've led various programs, but that one changed how I view programming and its outcomes.

Q: After working as First Anti-Basileus, what are some of your proudest moments? What are some of the greatest challenges?

A: My proudest moments are seeing and receiving feedback that sorors have enjoyed working on programs. Soror Wanda Berry Joseph once said that one of the best things is how sorors can participate in a program as best she can without impeding on her home life or the program. I feel that being a parent/spouse/caregiver/ student or career person and trying to fully engage in programs can be tough, so giving sorors the opportunity to engage as best she can makes for awesome programing and sisterly satisfaction.

The challenge is keeping sorors in the chapter engaged in doing the work of the sorority. And that goes for me as well. Things will happen that may cause you to stop and ask yourself: 'Self, why am I doing this?" It's at those times that you have to go back to the reasons for seeking and accepting the invitation of joining the sisterhood and remembering the oath that you took. Let this be our mark; Let this be part of our legacy. If the greater good is what you're about, programs of service is what reminds you of it. We do stellar programs and impact a lot of people in a lot of communities. I don't want us to lose that fire.

Q: What has surprised you about serving as First Anti-Basileus?

A: I don't think that anything has surprised me. I was just so ready for it. I think I studied the role and watched the individuals who served before me, so I didn't come in jaded. Also, I came into the role under great leadership. Soror Octavia gave me the bandwidth to learn and make mistakes. She guided me and gave me enough room to think and be creative about how I wanted programs to look. If something didn't work, I was able to call her and tell her and get feedback. She allowed me be a First Anti and program chair and that was super cool.

Q: Delta Rho Omega Chapter is currently promoting leadership through workshops offered to members. What advice can you give Sorors seeking to hold leadership positions within the chapter?

A: My advice is to make sure that you study the role that you would want to acquire. Then, make sure that you have the time and resources that you can tap into when the time comes. Don't just study the role in Delta Rho Omega Chapter or Cluster III, but on a national level. I have pom-poms because I'm the cheerleader championing programs. That's why I am always cheering when I get up to present. Part of that is from watching our current International Program Chair's style of presenting programs. I won't necessarily come with a marching band (but you know I will if ya'll let me) but I will come with pompoms and music. Now, that's not for everyone, but it works and until someone complains- I will keep cheering.

Q: You recently released your book. What prompted you to undertake this project?

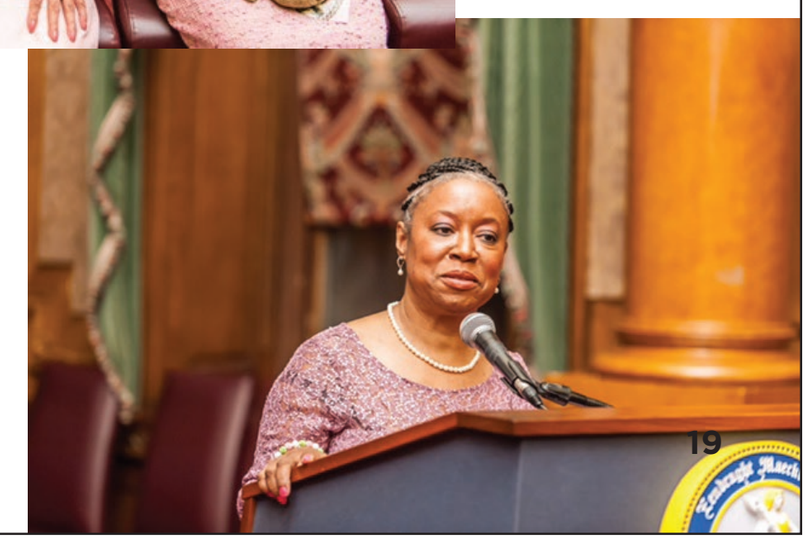
A: Yes, The Divine Butterfly: Inspiration for the Journey to Your Purpose was purposed for me. At the time that I started writing, I felt like it was a divine intervention of time and access. It was about me being obedient to what was placed in my Spirit. Everything fell into place while I was in Cuba. Everyone says that when God has a plan for you, everything falls into place and that's gospel.

Q: Do you plan to continue publishing motivational books?

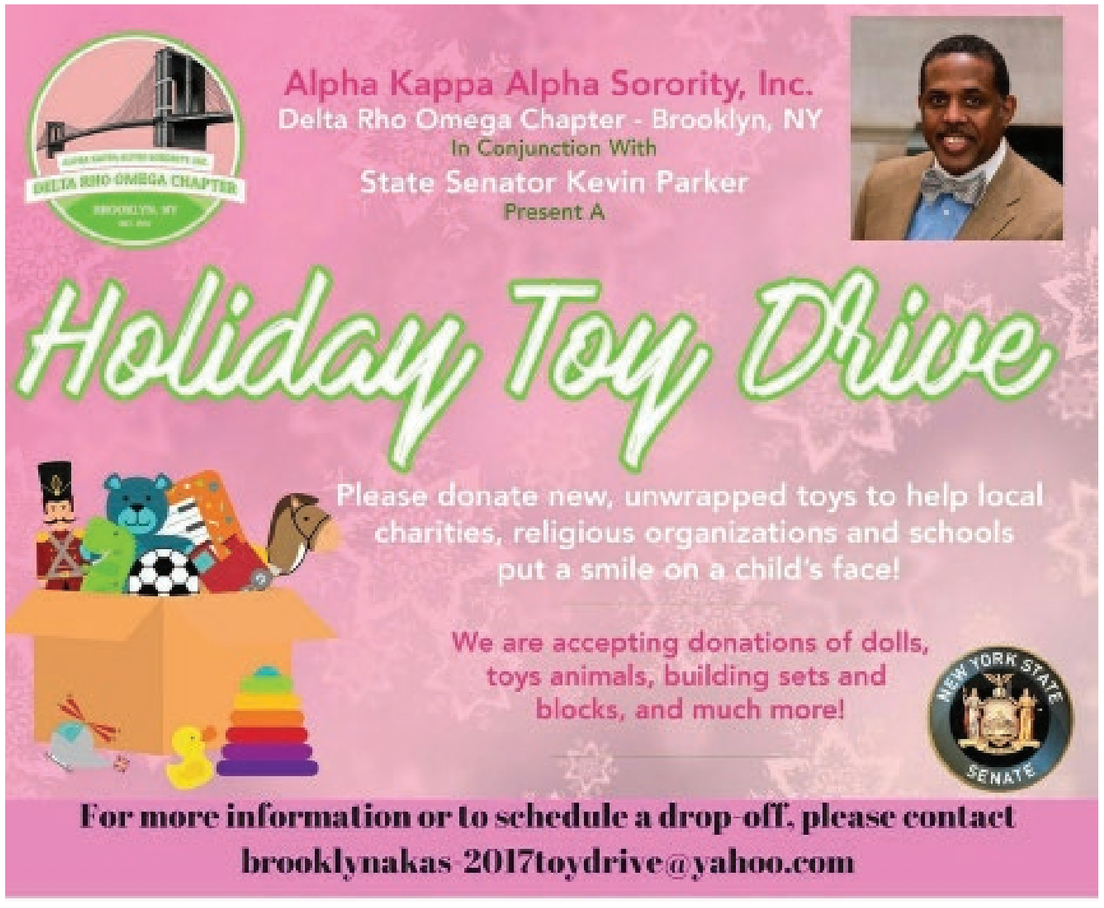
A: First, let me thank every soror that has supported my book, I am truly grateful. And the answer to your question is: Yes! I am in the process of outlining book two. I'm very happy with the opportunities that have been made available to me as a result of this project. In the New Year, I will be implementing some inspirational 'things' around the book and the brand. It's going to make me super busy, but if it's divine, it's going to come with order and won't interrupt things. I'm a work in progress. I'm excited to see what the New Year has for us!

DRO Highlights

70th Anniversary Reception

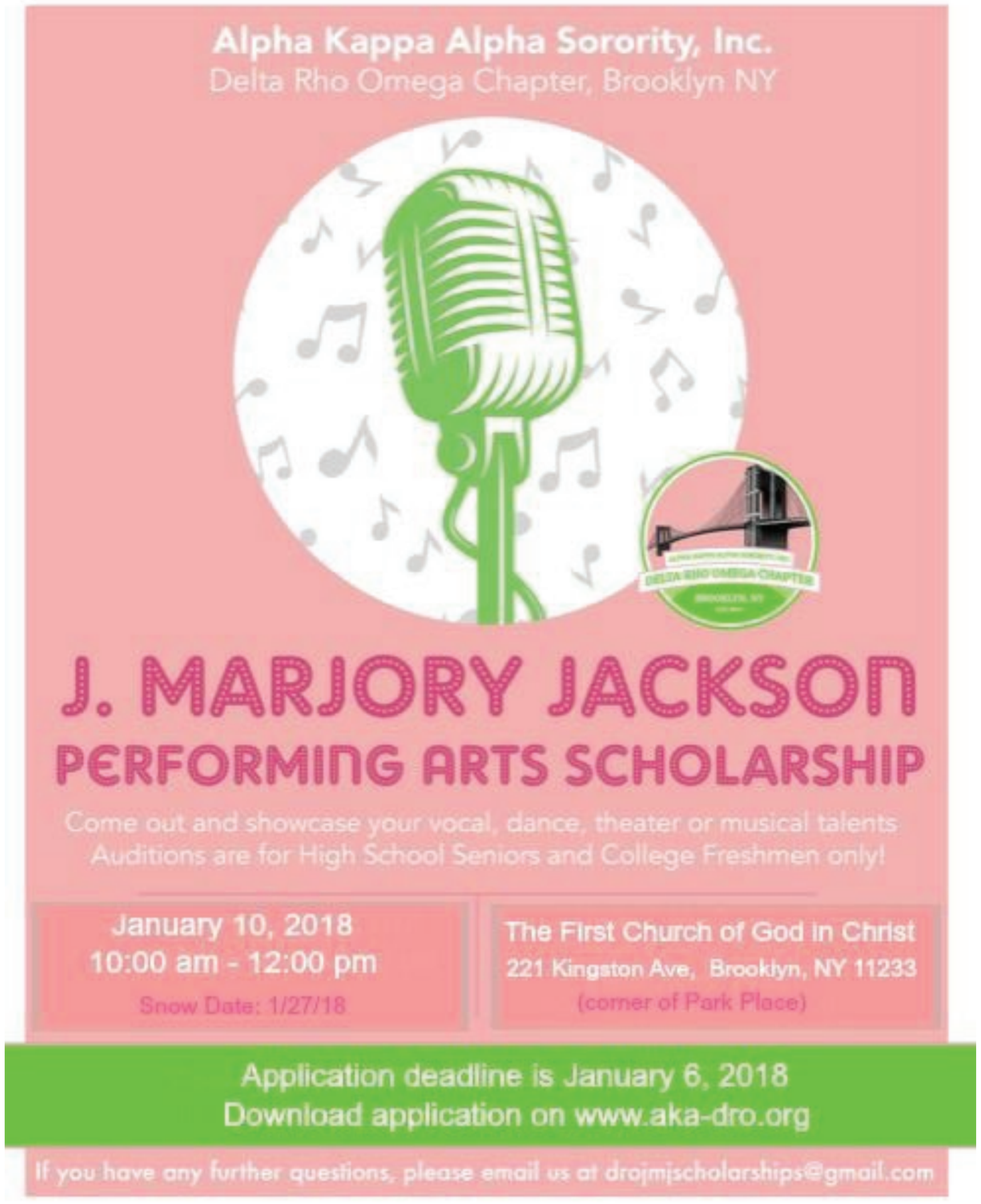


UPCOMING EVENTS



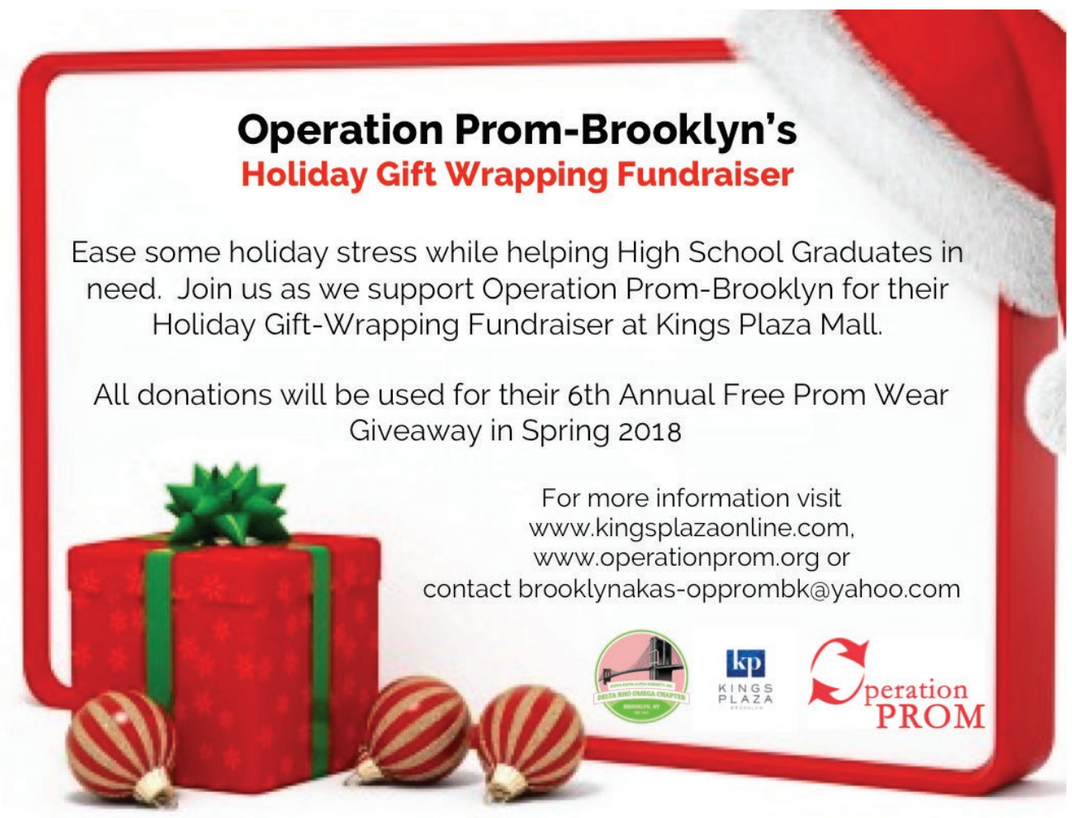
Delta Rho Omega
Holiday Social Hour
December 9, 2017
YWCA
30 Third Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11217
12:45 pm - 2:00 pm
Please bring seasonal wraps that will be donated to tenants at the YWCA.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Delta Rho Omega Chapter
and the
Ivy Rose Foundation, Inc.
Present the
IVY ROSE
UGLY SWEATER
HOLIDAY MIXER & TOY DRIVE
Thursday December 14, 2017
6:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Rustik Tavern
471 Dekalb Ave, Brooklyn, New York 11205
Admission:
With Toy $15 | Without Toy $25
Contact Josie Hernandez for info: (917) 312-6468
Visit www.aka-dro.org for tickets



DECEMBER CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DECRIPTION	LOCATION	TIME
12/9/17	Social Hour/ Chapter Meeting	Monthly business meeting	YWCA 30 Third Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11217	**Social Hour** 12:30 - 1:15 pm **Chapter Mtg.** 2:00 - 5:00 pm
12/14/17	Ugly Sweater Holiday Mixer	Holiday Party & Toy Drive	471 Dekalb Avenue, Brooklyn, NY	6:00 - 11:00
12/15/17 - 12/23/17	Holiday Gift Wrapping	Gift wrapping fundraiser	Kings Plaza Mall 5200 Kings Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11234	Time Varies. Contact Soror Carol-Ann Huggins for more info.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

BASILEUS OFFICE HOURS

Calls and emails will be responded to within 24 hours.

Email: DROBasileus@gmail.com

Phone: (917) 941-4113

MEREDITH L. HENDERSON

North Atlantic Regional Director

19 Dexter Lane

Guilderland, NY 12203

Phone: (518) 596-6112

Fax: (518) 677-1099

Email: MeredithAKA@gmail.com

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