

Brooklyn *Pearl*



June 2018

ΔΡΩ

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From The Desk of the Basileus

Hello Sorors!

Welcome to the June 2018 Edition of the *Brooklyn Pearl*!



Delta Rho Omega has been very busy over the past month! Several program activities were conducted and the Beautillion was held on June 7 at Antun's catering facility. Congratulations to Soror Susan Hobson-Ransom and the Rites of Passage and Beautillion committees for an excellent workshop series, Rites of Passage program and Beautillion. The participants were poised, polished, and prepared to pursue their passions and future endeavors.

Sorors, WE MADE IT! The chapter will be on hiatus from formal activities and chapter operations until September! I hope that you enjoy your summer with your family, friends, and loved ones and that you use the time to rest and recharge.

I hope to see many of you at the 68th Boule in Houston, Texas that will take place from July 6, 2018 – July 12, 2018. Conference highlights include: Pre-Conference certifications, Experience Houston Boule Kick-Off; Take ACTION Now Forum; Undergraduate Luncheon featuring Jessie Williams as the guest speaker; North-Atlantic Region Reception, Hospitality Suite and Luncheon; Receptions for candidates; and the closing gala. Please save July 9, 2018 on your 'boule calendar' for a chapter event at a local restaurant/lounge. More information will be provided shortly. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any assistance. Sorors, I will be staying at the Hyatt Regency from July 5, 2018 – July 12, 2018.

The chapter will vote on proposed sorority constitution/bylaw amendments, proposed chapter bylaw/standing rule amendments, candidates for international offices, and for a MIP in 2019. Sorors, please review your documents in preparation for the chapter meeting and be prepared to ask questions or voice your concerns. Each candidate's credentials are located on www.aka1908.com (click on forms & documents, click on nominations newsletter and click on promotional materials).

Sorors, as you know, our beloved Soror Jeanette Walrond became an Ivy Beyond the Wall and her memorial service was recently held on May 18, 2018. We will always cherish Soror Jeanette for her wit and excellent financial bookkeeping! Thank you to the Protocol Committee for executing a beautiful IBTW ceremony. Please keep Soror Jeanette's family in prayer during their time of bereavement.

Don't forget that the attire for the June meeting is dress down. Please come dressed in your best AKA attire as best dressed awards will be presented at the end of the meeting. Thank you Sorors for all of your hard work as we continue to impact the Brooklyn community with Power, Purpose, and Passion!

Sisterly,

Soror Victoria W. Thomas

“There is virtue in work and there is virtue in rest. Use both and overlook neither.”
— Alan Cohen

First Anti-Basileus' Message



Greetings Sorors,

Happy Summer Solstice (in advance).

On behalf of the Program Committee of the Delta Rho Omega Chapter, I am extending a hearty 'THANK YOU' to all who worked diligently to execute impactful LNDs programs during the first half of the year.

Congratulations to our 1908 Playground committee for their awesome work during the 4 years of LDNS. On June 2nd, they lead about 10 Sorors and 20 volunteers (including (2) Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and (1) Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc, Alpha Kappa Chapter) in the restoring the exterior railings and garden at CNR.

Please note that we will continue to do the Launching New Dimensions of Service programs through December 2018. There will be no soft launches happening under this new administration (if that changes, we will share it).

The updated PROGRAM PROPOSAL FORMS are available. You should've received it via email on the connection. The application covers the four areas that the International Presidents tend to support: EDUCATION, HEALTH, COMMUNITY (family), ENVIRONMENT, and GLOBAL initiatives.

We are asking you to submit proposals that speaks to the topics listed above for 2019 Program Slate. The Committee will review it with regard to the new initiatives as well as the Chapter's desire to implement new Legacy programs. All proposed programs MUST have a chairperson.

PROPOSALS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 4. *Programs will be voted on in September in order for the Finance Committee to have enough to review and fund programs as requested.*

Cheers,

Soror Karen St. Hilaire

Program Chair

June 2018 Hostess Comittee

Soror Sharon Fortune-Bowden, Captain

Soror Aisha Alleyne

Soror Erica Anderson

Soror Kimberly Becco

Soror Imani Benoit

Soror Nia Braithwaite

Soror Melissa Cisco

Soror Dena Douglas

Soror Natasha Elie-Louissaint

Soror Dawnasia Freeman

Soror Nicole Goolsby

Soror Abimbola Kai-Lewis

Soror Azuree Montoute-Lewis

Soror Tytiana Reeves-Payne

Soror Elaine Rene

Soror Yolanda Rodney-Holmes

Soror Janice Taylor

Soror Whitney Toussaint

Soror Kayona Walker-Wall

Soror Tameka L.

Wharwood-Motayne



Greetings from the Hodegoi

The first six months of 2018 have been quite busy for Delta Rho Omega and the rest of the year promises to be just as full. Over our summer break, remember to practice self-care as we reenergize our minds and purpose for the impactful work ahead. See you in September, rested, renewed and recharged for the work of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and Delta Rho Omega!

Soror Christina and Soror Deena

*“Work is not always required. There is such a thing as sacred idleness..”
– George MacDonald*

Happy Birthday Sorors!



6/1	Soror Melinda Alexis-Hayes	7/18	Soror Elizabeth Renaud-Esantsi
6/2	Soror Ayana McPherson	7/24	Soror Claudia Smith
6/3	Soror Azuree Montoute-Lewis	7/26	Soror Gina Chavez-Moore
6/7	Soror Phillipa Pearson	7/28	Soror Karmia Berry
6/7	Soror Nitiya Walker	7/28	Soror Celeste Lewis
6/8	Soror Tracey Mina	7/28	Soror Jodia Vanel
6/9	Soror Lu-Shawn Thompson	7/31	Soror Leandra Flores
6/14	Soror Judea Brown	7/31	Soror Marlene Linen
6/17	Soror Mosezetta Overby		
6/21	Soror Kimberley Bugg		
6/23	Soror Nicole Collins	8/3	Soror Landrina Theus
6/23	Soror Regina Davis	8/4	Soror Mary Jemison-Head
6/25	Soror Ambrosia Johnson	8/4	Soror Racheal Ojo
6/27	Soror Shanelle Gabriel	8/5	Soror Roxie McKoy
		8/10	Soror Loretta Easley-Gipson
7/1	Soror Jovanna King	8/11	Soror Serena Castellano
7/2	Soror Carole Brinkley	8/11	Soror Tiffany Chang
7/3	Soror Deborah Cuffey Jackson	8/11	Soror Carol-Ann Huggins
7/9	Soror Verneda White	8/11	Soror Yardise Jones
7/10	Soror Nicole Chavis-Jackson	8/12	Soror Bernarda Villalona
7/10	Soror Shonté Harrell	8/15	Soror Tanya Stewart
7/10	Soror Yvette Mack	8/20	Soror Natalie Clunis
7/13	Soror Joanne Joyner-Wells	8/26	Soror Tracyavon Ford
7/15	Soror Aisha Alleyne	8/28	Soror Valarie Taveras
7/17	Soror Mecca Hawkins	8/29	Soror Deena Sellers

Thinking of you Soror...

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

- Soror Janel Gross in the passing of her mother, Soror Carolyn Gross.

Congrats to:

- Congratulations to Soror Tracyavon Ford on her recent appointment by the Regents of The University of the State of New York to the State Board for Social Work.

Sisterly Relations – June 2018

Run the World Run/Jog/Walk group hosted by our own Soror Phillipa on May 20th in Prospect Park.



Hip Hop Yoga On Saturday, May 19th, Sorors attended Hot Hip Hop Yoga at the Y7 Studio in Williamsburg.



For all of those who wanted to attend but had conflicting schedules, we're offering you another chance to take a **FREE HOT Hip Hop Yoga Class!!!!** I needed to add **HOT** in there this time because even I overlooked that part! On behalf of the Sisterly Relations and Membership committee we would like to invite you to join us **Saturday, June 16th at 12:30PM** - The 60 minute class will be held at: Y7 Studio – Williamsburg 170 S. 1ST

No experience is required however, email confirmation is required as space is limited. Capacity is 15 students.

See class blurb below:

We give you 60 minutes of intensity combined with heat and strength complemented by deep breathing and a calming of the mind. We ask you to step outside the chaos and embrace the fire inside. You'll flow along to the latest beats. There are no mirrors in the candle-lit studios. The darkness, the sounds, and the heat will take you to a place you've never before been. Join us for the best hour of your day. Leave here feeling strong, clear and ready to take on whatever the city has in store for you. Take a class and never look back.

Please email me directly with your name and email to reserve your space. I look forward to stretching with you! **NAMASTE!**

~Soror Phillipa

Bonus walk: **BIRTHDAY WALK!!** Join me Thursday, June 14 for an evening walk in Midtown at the Highline. We'll start at the 34/36th street entrance and the Westside highway and walk down to 14th St. and cap it off with some drinks! We'll probably meet around 5:30-6PM. Additional details to follow.

July – Sisterly Regional Recognitions

Valuing the contribution of others is a key component of our great sisterhood. Alpha Kappa Alpha values the importance of recognizing sorors at Boule and Leadership Seminar. These events are filled with beautiful traditions of rituals and social affairs for its members, presentations for the general public and opportunities to meet new sorors from around the world. During the month of July, let's recognize sorors for the unique talents they bring to the sorority. What can we do?

- ☐ Send a congratulatory note to a soror in recognition of a personal or professional achievement.
- ☐ Have a reunion with sorors you were initiated with and members from your initiating chapter.
- ☐ Recognize sorors who have reached new milestones
- ☐ Decorate the hotel door of a soror during Boule
- ☐ Have lunch or dinner with a soror
- ☐ Reconnect with co-initiates or undergraduate chapter sorors in the presence of graduate advisor.

*If you have pictures of any of the activities listed above, please email them to Soror Zena Mine at zemine@aol.com or text to 917-592-6947

SISTERLY CONNECTIONS

Boule 2018 – Houston, Texas

If you are attending boule in Houston this summer, in addition to emailing Soror Celeste, please email Soror Zena Mine as well at zemine@aol.com or call/text to 917-592-6947.

September 2018

We will be celebrating our school spirit at the returning chapter meeting in September 2018. I am asking each soror in Delta Rho Omega to wear paraphernalia identifying the college(s) they attending. It can be your undergraduate, graduate or post graduate studies. If you are like and your college sweatshirt is too small, you have all summer to research and replenish. The Sisterly Relations committee will send you reminders during the summer. If you know of a Soror who may not be able to order or purchase something, I ask that “we help each other”.

For our September outing, I am proposing a Saturday or Sunday Brunch in Brooklyn. More information will be provided throughout the summer. This not an obligatory event, but it’s an opportunity for Sorors to fellowship with each other. If you are interested in attending and/or planning, please contact Soror Zena Mine directly.

Soror Spotlight: Jennaydra Jordan



By: Soror Abimbola Kai-Lewis

Soror Jennaydra Jordan was recently crowned Mrs. Brooklyn in the Mrs. New York America (MNYA) pageant. She will participate in the 2019 competition, which celebrates the achievements of mothers. The winner will have the opportunity to create a platform for a community service endeavor. In this Soror Spotlight, Soror Jordan describes the different phases of her involvement in MNYA. She also considers the greater role of the competition in acknowledging the work of women across New York and the rest of the United States who are committed to service. Her responses to the interview questions appear below.

Q: When were you initiated?
.....

A: I was initiated into the Lambda Gamma Chapter at the University of Delaware in the fall of 1997.

Q: What attracted you to Delta Rho Omega?
.....

A: In the early 2000s, I began visiting Delta Rho Omega while I was in law school because one of my dear friends, Audra Polk. She was very active in this chapter and was then Chair of the Pink and Green Ball. I immediately became involved helping Audra with the Ball, which is one of the reasons why it is so dear to me. I really enjoyed working with the amazing Sorors in Delta Rho Omega. They were so sisterly and admirable! To this day, I feel like I am with family whenever I am with my dear Delta Rho Omega Sorors.

Q: What motivated you to become a contestant in the Mrs. New York America (MNYA) pageant?
.....

A: I was encouraging a friend as she prepared for her state's pageant and was inspired to reenter the pageant world. It was important for me to compete in the MNYA system because it reflects me at a definitive stage of my life being a working wife and mom. I am grateful for this pageant system because it supports and uplifts married women.

Q: You are currently Mrs. Brooklyn. What does it mean to represent the borough in MNYA?
.....

A: I am so proud to be from Brooklyn! I am particularly proud to represent Brooklyn because I am a product of its incredible public school system. As a native, I really understand our culture and what makes Brooklynites great. So I am excited to spread that love and affection to others through MNYA.

Q: This pageant celebrates the achievements of married women. How does MNYA reflect your various personal and professional accomplishments?
.....

A: MNYA is an iconic pageant system which showcases married women who are striving to improve our community. I think it is important for us to celebrate women who want to take an active role in bettering our world. As a wife, attorney, and a mom, it feels like I already have three full-time jobs. However, I believe in encouraging those women who want to take on another role by working in the community to support and encourage those in need. As Alpha Kappa Alpha women, we do it without second thought because it is our nature. But it really is a serious matter because we all can make the world a better place by volunteering.

Q: How are you preparing for the upcoming competition in 2019?

A:
It really takes a village to prepare for a pageant of this magnitude. I am fortunate that I have Sorors who have competed before and are providing me with insight and encouragement. I am also focused on being the best physically and mentally fit me that I can be. So, if anyone sees me grabbing a piece of cake or carbs at chapter meeting, don't hesitate to knock it out of my hand...unless my coach Soror Tamesha says it's ok.

Q: The competition provides exposure to a charitable cause. Which cause have you selected and how will you use the competition to promote awareness about it?

A:
I am waiting to announce my cause until after Boule. I want to showcase one of our new International Initiatives. When I last competed in a pageant, my platform was Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS). This allowed me to show the work of Alpha Kappa Alpha, and to highlight how Delta Rho Omega was directly impacting the community. MNYA will allow me to expose our work to more people and generate further support.

Q: If you are crowned Mrs. New York America, how will you use your platform?
.....

A: Being Mrs. New York America will allow me to reach women across America and beyond. Not only will it give me the opportunity to compete in the Mrs. America pageant, but it will enable me to continue to motivate other women to pursue their dreams and goals at any age. I want women to realize that the only limitations we have are the ones that we place on ourselves. No matter what your dream is in life, live it because true happiness comes from within.

DRO Highlights

Rights Of Passage



Rights of Passage Beaus, left to right – Davonte Fremont, William Boyland, Kareem Wilkins, Xavier Smith, Julio Felix, Alijah Mincey, Demarrè Dunton, Dawan Vann, Christian Archer, Tyrone Taylor, Dylan Jackson, and Alexander Jackson.



Rights of Passage escorts: 1st row - Rebecca Reinbach, Jasmine Neal, Sasha Lawrence, Kayla Steele. 2nd row - Shenice Mobley, Imani Moore, Karina Aker, Catherine Martin. 3rd row - Heaven Okumakpeyi, Michaela Abrams, Marissa Bodden. Not pictured: Cheyenne Nicaise

1908 Playground Project



Delta Rho Omega members and community friends pose for a photo at the 2018 1908 Playground Project at CNR.

Alpha Mu Graduates

Congratulations Class of 2018! Pretty girls with 20 Pearls and a Degree! We are so proud of Alpha Mu's five graduating Sorors: Misrach Tessema, Abby Johnson, Ifeoma Emeh, Felesha Harris and Manisha Mignon.



HealthFirstNY



Soror Nitiya Walker received the Educational Leadership Award from HealthFirstNY and Senator Kevin Parker's office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Celebrate Summer

WITH

DRO!

FOLLOWING CHAPTER MEETING ON

June 9, 2018



4:30 P.M.
Rustik Tavern
471 Dekalb Ave,
Brooklyn, NY 11205

Sorors come out for food, drinks, games and
to learn the chapter stroll!

June CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TIME
6/9/18	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
6/21/18	Longest Day Event			
6/23/18	DRO Shredding Day w/ AARP and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Beta Sigma chapter		Siloam Presbyterian Church 260 Jefferson Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11216	10:00 am - 12:00 pm

July CALENDAR

Mental Health Awareness Day

August CALENDAR

8/1/18	Glow w/ DRO		Taj Lounge 48 W. 21st Street New York, NY 10010	6:00 pm - 12:00 am
8/30/18	Executive Board Meeting		LIU Brooklyn Campus Jonas Board Room Metcalf Bldg, 2nd Fl	6:00 pm - 12:00 am

September CALENDAR

9/4/18	Chapter Reports Due			
9/8/18	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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

BASILEUS OFFICE HOURS

Calls and emails will be responded to within 24 hours.

Email: DROBasileus@gmail.com

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