



Basileus Remarks

Happy New Year Sorors,

I pray you are as excited about 2019 as I am! A new year brings new opportunities; opportunities to lead, opportunities to participate, opportunities to share your gifts. It is my hope that as we embark upon the Excellence Through Sustainable Service program and carry on the amazing work of Epsilon Xi Omega, you will dig deep and share a bit of yourself to help us reach greater heights.

If we all pick an area to serve, imagine what we can accomplish... as sisters, as sorors. Service is rewarding and sharing the experience with women who share a common goal is an additional bonus.

While we stand together, we need to move together to achieve greatness, step by step. As your Basileus, I am learning my new role, there may be mistakes, but I am prepared to work hard. I feel passionate about the differences we can make, the traditions we can continue and the new events we can plan, together.

I believe in working hard and playing hard so let's do both in 2019 and witness the successes we will have. Thank you sorors for taking this journey with me.

With much love and appreciation for all of you,

Soror Deborah

NEWS & Current Events

Sereni-Tea

by Soror Constance Logan

December's Sisterly Sereni-Tea Party was an event not to be missed, nor forgotten. The Sisterly Yours Committee, Sorors Moena, Yvonne, Breahna, Constance, Jessica, Cecilie, and Chairman Charlaine, worked to make the party relaxing and festive, as only fun was to be had that day.

The tea party took place on December 16, 2018 from 4-6pm. Sorors were invited to dress themselves in their most dainty, floral, and hatted decor. As they walked into the tea house, they were greeted by the committee, presented a china teacup and saucer gift, and directed to seating. Every table was decorated with lace, a 3-tiered tray of petite desserts, sandwiches, and scones. There was a variety of teas to choose from—the "House Blend," being particularly delicious. The servers, attired in old-



Sorors Latisa, Yvonne, and Constance engage in talk and laughter as the ladies begin to enter the tea house.

Enjoying a spot o' tea, sorors Pamela and Shlyn talk to other sorors who are general members and potentially interested in joining EXO.



fashioned aprons, made sure you were assisted at every moment, helping to ensure the atmos-

phere stayed sweet and calm.

Once the event was underway, you could walk through hearing pleasant laughter as well as invigorating conversations. The fashion show that took place later in the night displayed so many wonderful outfits and smiling faces that no one wanted to leave at the event's conclusion. The Sereni-Tea was a highlight to end the final moments of 2018 and start EXO on a brightened path to 2019.

One Book, One San Diego

by Soror Debbie Hedgren

Members of EXO participated in several events that centered around Target 4: The Arts! A

Congratulations to EXO's 2019 Officers

Soror Deborah Davis-Gillespie

Soror Dianne Joiner

Soror Emma Turner

Soror Helen V. Griffith

Soror Cassandra Clady

Soror Carmine Jones

Soror Breahna Gillespie

Soror Mary Castleberry

Soror Judy Long Pharaoh

Soror Annette Weathington

Soror Donna L. Cook

Soror Michelle Bryant

Soror Joyce Suber

Soror Irene Outlaw

Soror Ja'Nice Winston/

Soror Charlaine Carter

Soror Robyn Thomas/

Soror Prudence Williams

Basileus

First Anti-Basileus

Second Anti-Basileus

Grammateus

Anti-Grammateus

Pecunious Grammateus

Epistoleus

Graduate Advisor

Ivy Leaf Reporter

Tamiouchos

Parliamentarian

Philacter

Historian

Archivist

Chaplain

Hodegos

salute to the Harlem Renaissance and to the Black Arts Movement. The Harlem Renaissance was one of the most influential creative arts movement in the 20th US history which embraced literary, musical, performing, and visual arts.

First, November 19, 2018 at the San Diego Central Library, Sorors attended an intimate discussion with Kevin Brown, award-winning author, translator and relative of Harlem Renaissance poet, Countee Cullen. Second, December 8, 2018, Sorors joined KPBS and community at the Imperial Beach Public Library to hear literary and personal reflections of author, Savinder Naberhause, and San Diego's renowned artist and illustrator, Kadir Nelson. The focal point centered around the One Book One San Diego children's selection, *Blue Sky, White Stars* that explores themes of identity, citizenship, and patriotism. Sorors had time to meet, greet, and have their books signed. We appreciated both author and illustrator for providing ample opportunities for photos.

Third, January 16, 2019 at Valencia Park School, Soror T. Ford donated and presented the Leadership AKAdemy Scholars with a copy of *Ellington Was Not a Street*, beautifully illustrated by Kadir Nelson and written by the late poet, Ntozake Shange. Mr. Nelson signed each book. For a broader understanding of the book, Soror T. Ford shared pertinent information regarding the poet, Shange, and her experience with the characters in the book who were integral contributors to the Harlem Renais-



Sorors Elizabeth, Patricia, Deborah, "T", Mary, and Debbie (L to R) enjoyed listening to Kadir Nelson (C) talk about his children's book.

sance.

Sincere gratitude is expressed to Soror T. Ford for purchasing the books, and helping to provide these important opportunities to share with our community and youth.

Happy Founders' Day, Alpha Kappa Alpha!

by Soror Rhonda Adams

Founders' Day for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, January 15, 1908, led by Ethel Hedgeman Lyle will be recognized during Epsilon Xi Omega's January Chapter meeting.

We will start promptly at 9:30am. The protocol attire aligns to dress or skirt; NO PANTS;

We will have the opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves on our founding principles:

"To cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college life,

Protocol Procedure

by Soror Martha Logan

When reciting the Pledge after the Hymn, keep arms crossed (right over left) and hands clasped. Conclude with a gentle, inconspicuous hand squeeze before releasing hands.

and to be of 'Service to All Mankind'"

Building Your Economic Wealth Workshop

by Soror Charlaine Carter

On December 7, Sorors Charlaine, Latisa, Hollie and Angela educated attendees on:

- Creating spending and savings budgets to create wealth
- Creating wealth through owning a business
- Creating wealth through insurance and real estate

The workshop was filled with "A-ha!" moments and nods of agreement as soror attendees shared their financial questions, dreams of businesses that they now were ready to start, and the realization that they could have a legacy of wealth to pass on to future generations in their families.

A black-owned business directory was started with many of our sorors and the businesses that they frequent.

Thank you to Soror Hollie for the use of her State Farm office.

January Impact Days

by Soror Ethel Daniels

We have three Community Impact Days in January: Founders' Day, AKA Reactivation Day, and MLK, Jr. Inter-

national Day of Service.

We will observe Founders' Day and AKA Rededication Ritual at our January Chapter meeting. In observance of Founders' Day, we will pay tribute to the founding of our sisterhood and the Sorors who had the vision to create it. We will also conduct the Reactivation Ritual which gives us the opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to service to all mankind. In addition, on January 15, we are encouraged to reclaim lost pearls and encourage/assist them in reconnecting through reactivation and special activities.

The MLK, Jr. International Day of Service will be observed on Monday, January 21st (same day as the parade). We would like to recognize the senior citizens from St. Stephen's Retirement Center by showering them with personal beauty and comfort items such as scarfs, socks, candy, etc. We plan to bag these items on the 21st.

Please bring your donated items to Chapter meeting on the 19th. If you have any questions, please call me at (619)475-2296 or email me at Lucl23key@aol.com.

Mystery Woman

by Soror Dianne Joiner

This mysterious lady was

Help needed for video!

The Communication Committee needs your help! If you are interested in being featured in a video next month for "Pink goes Red", please bring the following to January chapter meeting:

- One set of pink clothing
- One set of red clothing
- Other pink items and red accessories
- Yourself

Thank you!

born and raised in the mighty metropolis of Houston, Texas. After living in six cities, my husband and I finally adopted San Diego as home in 1976.

After graduating from Howard University in Washington, DC, with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Arts in Teaching English, I taught English at Prairie View A & M University and at Houston Community College. I also attended the University of Cincinnati and the University of Houston, where I obtained a Mid-Management Certificate.

I am a former member of the Houston and San Diego chapters of Jack and Jill of America. Presently, I am a member of the Howard University Alumni Association; the Southeast Cluster Unit of Rady Children's Hospital Auxiliary; Southeastern San Diego Women, Incorporated; San Diego Chapter of The Links Incorporated; San Diego Chapter of the Girl Friends; and the American Society of Travel Agents.

By now, you have discerned that I am Soror Dianne Joiner, your new First Anti-Basileus. It is my hope that 2019 will be filled with fun activities, community service projects, and a strengthening of AKA sisterly bonds. I plan to be transparent, share any knowledge that I may possess, and diligently work to make this a successful transition from the past, to the present, which can only enhance the future.

From the Second's Pen

by Soror Emma Turner

Thank you for your vote of confidence in my ability to help lead our outstanding AKA chapter. I am excited about performing the duties of Second Anti-Basileus for Epsilon Xi Omega. I commend all our chapter leaders: present, past and future, for their volunteer service. You are following that tradition, so I appreciate your willingness to serve on various committees. Your dedication, flexibility and commitment are already showing through.

I sent my first all-committee email earlier this month and asked for an URGENT response for those reporting at the January business meeting. Although we were barely back from holiday vacation, most of you responded in a timely manner—thanks again. We are attempting to help our Basileus reduce the time for our meetings, so all Chairman and Co-Chairman have been asked to keep their report to no more than 3 minutes, with only one person per committee speaking. Thanks for complying and we hope that

these small changes will lead to an early dismissal. "...People will never forget the way you made them feel..." —Maya Angelou. So, Sorors I will always make you feel appreciated.

Sisterhood Together in Service,
Soror Emma Turner

Ritual Perspective

by Soror Yvonne Yelder-Logan

The Rituals Committee has been tasked with coordinating two very important ceremonies that will both be conducted on Saturday, January 19, 2019 and we are depending on the support and cooperation of all our sorors.

First, the January Chapter meeting will open with our AKA Rededication Ceremony. With all the transitions that a new year brings our Basileus recognizes the value of starting out by recommitting to our beloved Sisterhood. The Rededication Ceremony will begin right after the opening of the meeting and the Philacter will maintain a closed door to any late arrivals. It's very important that everyone in attendance be allowed to participate so please remember to



Soror Spotlight

by Soror Judy Long Pharaoh

Soror Latisa Carson received an award from the Central San Diego Black Chamber of Commerce for her outstanding contributions to our city. The award was in excellence in leadership in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Congratulations, Dr. Carson!

wear a black dress or skirt. Anyone wearing pants will be asked to leave the room for the duration of the ritual.

Immediately following the January Chapter Meeting, we will have the honor of celebrating the life of our late Soror Octavia Todd at her Ivy Beyond the



New Contact Info for Soror Staa

747 Lincoln Avenue,
Pasadena, CA 91103
GoldenGirlStaa@gmail.com
cell phone # (619) 857-6169
new home # (626) 696-3059

Upcoming Dates

Jan. 18, 6am-9am — The Jackie Robison YMCA breakfast, Town and Country Hotel in Mission Valley, \$45.00

Jan. 21, 10am-11am — MLK Day of Service, Solar Turbines, comfort items

Jan. 26, 9am-2pm — Southern California Cluster Founders' Day, Doubletree by Hilton Hotel San Diego-Mission Valley,

Feb. 2, 8am — Indivisible WATU, Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation

Feb. 2, 9am-4pm — EXO Chapter Leadership Training

Feb. 2, 4pm — Jasmine Johnson-Chestnut's Baby shower, the Village at NTC Clubhouse, 1895 Tattal Way, San Diego, CA 92106

Feb. 17, 2pm — The play: *Familiar*, The Old Globe Theater, \$50.50

during any of the "all-white ceremonies."

All sorors who are not appropriately attired will be asked to sit in place during the ceremony. Please plan to attend both ceremonies in support of our Sisterhood and our Soror.

Shining Bright at the Debutante Ball

by Soror Shirley Wilson

The Debutante Ball Committee is working very hard to make the 64th Annual Debutante Ball "Ebony Pearls,...Poised, Polished and Prepared" a night to remember. Soror Shirley Wilson, General Chairman, and Patricia Grooms-Jones, General Co-Chairman are working with creative and resourceful committee chairs, co-chairs, and committee members to plan an enjoyable and memorable evening. The Debutante Ball will be held March 16, 2019 at the Town and Country Hotel and Resort. Please joins us and send in your RSVP card.

Epsilon Xi Omega Chapter's AKA Youth Leadership AKAdemy is working with eleven exquisite, talented and beautiful young ladies who meet several times a month to learn from meaningful workshops and participate in activities. AKAdemy Chairmen Jennifer Porter and Debbie Hedgren along with Mentor Chairman Soror Helen Griffith have designed workshops and planned outings that prepare the young ladies for future success as cultured, highly intelligent young women. The mission of the Debutante Ball has expanded to encourage and cultivate high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among high school females and their escorts, to enhance the social skills of youth between the ages of sixteen and nineteen, to develop

leadership skills and to contribute monetary resources for maintaining an interest in college life.

The Debutante Ball was founded by Soror Barbara Anderson under the leadership of Anna Smith as President. Each Debutante Ball builds on the legacy of our visionary sisters. We look forward to all of our beautiful EXO sorors wearing their stunning gowns along with their guests celebrating the debut of the 2019 Debutantes to the San Diego Community.

Holiday Hair for Haitian Refugees

by Soror Judy Long Pharaoh

Soror Patricia Grooms-Jones and colleagues Tosha Cornell and Najae Runnells provided a "day of beauty" for nine Haitian refugee women who reside at Christ United Methodist Church in San Diego's Normal Heights neighborhood.

The day of beauty was spurred by an upcoming Christmas program at Christ United. Soror Patricia and her colleagues stepped in to help the ladies after Anita Glover and Dhalia Balmire, fellow Jack and Jill of America, Inc. mothers reached out to Soror Patricia to see if she was willing to donate her time and talent to style their hair. Soror Patricia said she was thrilled to help the ladies out.

The women and their families left Haiti in 2013 looking for a better life, and they have traveled—primarily on foot—to Brazil, Panama, Costa Rica and several other South American countries prior to settling in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico. Twenty-one families are living at Christ United Methodist Church and are receiving long-term housing options and job training.

EXO thanks Soror Patricia



Even during the holiday, sorors continue to work. Soror Patricia styles a Haitian woman's hair in preparation for holiday festivities.

for exemplifying "Service to all Mankind."

Women of Color ROAR

by Soror Cassandra Clady

On Saturday, February 2nd at 8am join Indivisible WATU for breakfast and a panel discussion on Women of Color: Running and Winning. Dynamic women leaders will reflect on 2018, a banner year for women of color running for office, share insights from their own campaigns and shed light on the required groundwork for the 2020 election. If you are not involved with our Leadership Development workshop for all committee chairmen, co-chairmen and officers scheduled at the same time this is an excellent opportunity to get connected.

Supporting a Black Artist

by Soror Beverly Chandler

Please join as we watch the play *Familiar* by actress Danai Gurira (*Black Panther*, *Walking Dead*). Synopsis: Donald and his wife Marvelous have been living the American Dream since emigrating from Zimbabwe nearly three decades ago. They have a

Wall ceremony. It will be held at her home church, Pilgrim Progressive Baptist Church, 4995 "A" St. San Diego, CA 92102. This is our most sacred of rituals and we must strictly follow the 2018 AKA Rituals guidelines so please arrive at the church by 1:30 so we can get lined up and commence promptly at 2:00 p.m. As always, only sorors who are appropriately attired will be allowed to participate.

Sorors participating in the ceremony, including family members, wear conservative, solid seasonal white dresses or skirted suits with sleeves (without adornment, embellishment, color trim or edges), flesh tone or white hosiery, and white shoes. Jewelry worn should be conservative, white pearls are recommended. A single strand of pearls is NOT MANDATORY, but colored pearls (ex. Pink and/or green) are not to be worn



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
 Epsilon Xi Omega Chapter
 San Diego, CA
 Chapter Meeting Agenda
 January 19, 2019



Communications
 Committee

- Soror Breahna Gillespie
- Soror Pamela Gray Payton
- Soror Charlaine Carter
- Soror Debbie Hedgren
- Soror Judy Long Pharaoh
- Soror Cecilie Nelson

Diego County High School Seniors. Young men are eligible for an award if they will attend an HBCU. The deadline to submit is April 3, 2019. High school seniors must graduate in spring 2019 and plan to attend an accredited four-year college in the fall 2019. For all awards, students must have a cumulative 3.0 or higher GPA. The fillable application is posted here and can be found on our Epsilon Xi Omega Chapter website, click [here](#).

Additionally, Sorors' children (stepchildren, legal wards, foster children) who reside in the Soror's home and who plan to attend a four-year or two-year college in the Fall can receive a \$500 Book Grant. If a Soror's child is awarded one of our EXO Scholarships, he/she will not also receive a Book Grant. Two of our Sorors have contacted us—please let us know ASAP if your child qualifies.

Agenda Item	Officer/Committee Chairman
Call to Order	Soror Deborah Davis-Gillespie, Basileus
Founders' Day Rededication Ritual/Recognition	Soror Rhonda Adams, Soror LaShawn Williams, Soror Dorothy Smith
Meditation/Prayer List	Soror Charlaine Carter, Chaplain
Adoption of the Agenda	All Sorors
Approval of the December 2018 Meeting Minutes	Soror Helen V. Griffith, Grammateus
Greetings	Soror Prudence Williams and Robyn Thomas, Co-Hodegos
Ways and Means Opportunity	Sorors Kim Geiger and Soror Shawanda McGuire, Co-Chairmen
Quorum Validation of 50 (If Needed)	Soror Cassandra Clady, Anti-Grammateus
Officers' Reports	
Basileus' Report - Soror Deborah Davis-Gillespie	
Basileus' Update	Soror Deborah Davis-Gillespie, Basileus
Nominating Committee – Community Awards/Regional Conference Delegates	Soror Patricia Grooms-Jones, Chairman
Communications Committee	Soror Breahna Gillespie, Chairman
Pecunious Grammateus and Tamiouchos Report - Soror Dianne Joiner and Soror Emma Turner	
Chapter Income	Soror Dianne Joiner, Fmr. Pecunious Grammateus
Chapter Expenditures/Budget Update	Soror Emma Turner, Fmr. Tamiouchos
1st Anti-Basileus' Programs Report - Soror Dianne Joiner	
Leadership AKAdemy/Debutante Ball	Soror Shirley Wilson, Debutante Ball General Chairman
Education Committee – Target 1	Soror Ethel Daniels, Chairman
Community Impact Days – International Day of Service	Soror Ethel Daniels
Health Committee – Target 2	Soror Jasmine Johnson-Chestnut, Co-Chairman
Connection Committee	Soror Nicole Jones, Co-Chairman
Sisterly Relations	Soror Angela Rickman, Chairman
Parades and Walks	Soror Teresa Vaughn, Chairman
2nd Anti-Basileus Operations Report - Soror Emma Turner	
Technology Committee	Soror Jasmine Johnson-Chestnut, Chairman
Standards and Leadership Development	Soror Charlaine Carter, Leadership Development Chairman
Scholarship Committee	Soror Shlyn Guarian, Co-Chairman
Hospitality Committee	Soror Prudence Williams, Chairman
Epistoleus' Correspondence Report - Soror Breahna Gillespie	
Correspondence and Announcements	Soror Breahna Gillespie, Epistoleus
Ways and Means Report	
Ways and Means Opportunity Results	Soror Kim Geiger and Soror Shawanda McGuire, Co-Chairmen
Alpha Kappa Alpha National Hymn – All Sorors	
ADJOURNMENT	

beautiful house and impressive careers, and now one of their daughters is getting married! But when the bride insists on a traditional African wedding ceremony, tensions start to rise. Throw in an eccentric aunt from the old country and a bewildered bridegroom, and soon it's not certain the couple will ever make it down the aisle. This is a

funny, warmhearted look at tradition, marriage, and what it means to be an American family. *(Contains strong language)* Sign up and pay for this performance at the January business meeting.

Payments (\$50.50) must be submitted to the Pecunious Grammateus, Soror Carmine Jones. Checks should be made payable to EXO.

Scholarships Available

by Soror Carol Patrick

The 2019 Scholarship Applications have been distributed. We still count on you to spread the word. Awards in the amount of \$1,000 and \$1,500 are available to female African American/African Diaspora San

Did you notice...

that the title is fairly basic, right? We need your help with finding a more fun title for the newsletter. Please come to chapter meeting with an idea for an official title. We will pass paper around for you to write your idea. Any help would be appreciated!