



The
TORCH
BETA SIGMA PHI

December 2022 – January 2023 Volume 141 Issue 7



*Happy
New Year!*

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Beta Sigma Phi is an international women's friendship network. It also provides educational programs to its members and opportunities for service to others. We are women of all ages, interests, and educational and economic backgrounds, and are the largest organization of our kind in the world.



Dear Sisters,

In this issue we discover the giving nature of sisters throughout the organization. The generosity of sisters is unlimited, not just during the Christmas season, but all year round. We also take time to recognize sisters for their accomplishments. Giving of ourselves is important but it is equally important to recognize people for their generosity and achievements. It helps the soul to know that you are making a difference and that what you do

matters. As social creatures we seek acceptance from others because it validates our existence and gives us meaning and purpose.

Beta Sigma Phi is one of the most generous organizations. We give women a place to be themselves and to give of themselves. There is no greater gift than the one you give to someone else. Their is joy in giving, it makes us feel all warm and fuzzy inside. Of course, it is always great to receive gifts too, but the giving is where we often find the most joy. When you give a gift you give more than the object all wrapped with ribbons and bows, you give a part of yourself and show the other person that you care. You also give a sense of belonging and understanding. When you give a gift you just know your friend will love, it shows that you accept them and know them. All friends need acceptance and understanding which is why listening is such an important part of friendship. When you listen to your friends you learn about their lives, their personality, plus their likes and dislikes. Giving a gift that shows you know the person well is in itself, a gift.

A gift can bring so much joy, from purchasing the perfect gift, then wrapping it with pretty paper and tying those ribbons and bows, to finally giving the gift and watching the person light up when they open it and their reaction of joy when they see what's inside. But, not all gifts can be opened, some of the best gifts are ones you feel. The gifts of joy, hope and love are the most wonderful gifts of all and they come in all shapes and sizes, wearing a multitude of colors, adorned with the most precious of jewels. These are the amazing gifts we give when we invite someone to join the sisterhood, a feeling of love and understanding, a place to be true to themselves and the chance to give those same gifts to others.

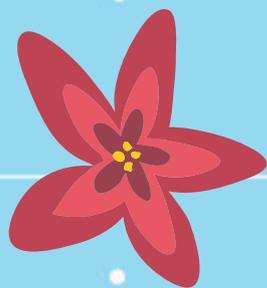
As we start a new year let us all be thankful and filled with joy that we belong to such an amazing organization of the most lovely, thoughtful and kind women. Let us spread that joy to others and give the gift of sisterhood to another. Join in our pledge to grow with pledges and bring in as many new pledges as you can for the future of our sisterhood.

Your Editor,

Betsy Thomas

Betsy Thomas

P.S. The International office hopes you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas season and that this new year will be filled with joy, hope and love. The Torch staff would also like to thank you for supporting the magazine and we hope that we can increase our subscriptions of the print edition in this new year. Please check out page 15 for details on where we are with subscriptions and where we need to be to keep the print edition.



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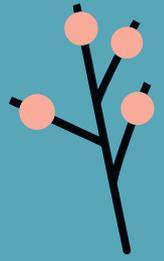
30 Gifts

Back Cover

A Theme Come True
(Uses, tips and more)



Conventions and New Chapters



2023 Conventions

Carolinas (Myrtle Beach, SC)	March 24-26
California (Visalia, CA)	April 21-23
Florida (Tampa)	June 2-4
Ontario (London)	June 2-4
Iowa (Bettendorf)	June 2-4
Oklahoma (Tulsa)	June 23-25
New York (Niagara Falls)	September 22-24
Wisconsin (Wauwatosa)	October 6-8
Missouri (Kansas City) MINK	October 13-15
Michigan (MaKinac Island) Grand Hotel	October 13-15

Welcome These New Chapters

Alberta Torchbearer Epsilon, St. Albert
British Columbia Laureate Delta Mu, Richmond
Florida Torchbearer Upsilon, Cocoa



Announcements



Upcoming Communications:

- **10% Discount Order Forms** were emailed in December, many of them had a link to the Discount Order Form and Founder's Day Gifts flyer rather than an attachment. The discount order form is on our website on the Announcements page under New or Updated. The discount is on all gift items from January until the end of February.
- **Circle Ritual Notifications** are emailed in January to chapters with eligible members (25, 50, 60 or 70 year rituals).
- **Certification Forms** are mailed in early January to chapter vice presidents (Australian Certification Forms are mailed to chapter recording secretaries.) The certification form is sent to inform you of any members eligible for a higher degree. Remember, Ritual/Progression pins are not gift items and therefore are not eligible for the gift discount. These pins must be purchased through the certification department so that the degree is certified and our records updated to reflect the change in degree.
- **Endowment Fund Ballots** will be emailed in February. The deadline to submit your chapter's vote on renewals and new proposals is May 1.
- **Founder's Day Kits** will be mailed in early February. The 2023-2024 theme art will be available to chapter presidents only, up until Founder's Day, April 30 and will then be made available to all members starting May 1.
- **Founder's Day Awards** will be mailed in mid February to chapters with eligible members. Members eligible for the award include: convention chairman and co-chairman; International Honorary Members; International Award of Distinction Members; 60, 65, 70 and 75 year members (active time only). The following honors are by chapter request: Members with 25 years or more perfect attendance and members who have shown distinguished service and leadership in Beta Sigma Phi. Contact your division chairman to request such an award.

Upcoming Dates:

- January 31** **Scholarship Applications are due.** All applications must be postmarked by this date, including transcripts and other materials that might be mailed separately. Old application forms will not be accepted, the revised date on the back should read 6/11/19.
- February 28** **10% Gift Discount Ends.** The discount is on all gift items. You may order online, by phone or by mail.

Notices & Reminders:

Annual Fee Billing. We have received feedback from members saying they are not receiving their bill. Remember that annual fees are billed by email one month prior to your anniversary month. If you're not sure when your bill is due, please check your membership card for the due date (month and year). Some of the emails may be going to Junk or Spam and others may not be delivering due to a number of possible reasons. To stop our emails from being marked Junk or Spam, please add do-not-reply@betasigmaphi.org to your contacts. Doing so will add us to your whitelist, allowing our emails to go directly to your inbox.

Remember to regularly check the Announcements page of our website, www.betasigmaphi.org, for continual updates and new information.

PLEDGING TO GROW WITH PLEDGES

Join in the fun and grow Beta Sigma Phi at the same time! Each issue we are featuring the latest top rushing chapters. Get your chapter's name in print as one of our TOP RUSHING CHAPTERS. As an added bonus, the chapter that brings in the most pledges from January 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023 will get a special prize! The prize is \$25 for your chapter's treasury, a \$25 certificate for the Gift Department and a certificate of achievement. Should there be a tie, a drawing will determine the winner and any runner-ups will still receive a certificate of achievement and a smaller gift certificate for the Gift Department, to be determined later.

Will you take the pledge for our future!

Alabama Theta Zeta, Mobile

ADDED 2 NEW PLEDGES

Indiana Laureate Gamma Eta, Terre Haute

ADDED 7 NEW PLEDGES



REMINDERS

- Update your records regularly, especially vice presidents (address, phone, email)
- Update your Legacies records regularly (address, phone, email)
- No cash payments, please make pledge payments and all other payments by check or credit card. It is not safe to mail cash.
- Contact prospective members right away!

LAUREATE GAMMA ETA ENJOYS SUCCESSFUL STRAWBERRY THEMED RUSH

Indiana Laureate Gamma Eta, Terre Haute recently completed the fall rush season with seven new members pledging.

On Beginning Day, current members were asked to list women they knew who would make good sisters for the chapter. Those women were invited to attend rush activities which included two identical rush parties and a model meeting over the course of a two month period.

The theme for rushing was "Strawberry Friends Forever" with strawberry decorations, refreshments and name tags. The name tags introduced sorority members and included the number of years they have been a "strawberry friend." A PowerPoint presentation welcomed attendees and provided information about the sorority including what they support, what they do, when they meet and financial obligations involved. Guests were provided a "strawberry" folder with additional information they could reference later. Various strawberry desserts were served on strawberry plates. The Membership Committee followed up with phone calls to thank them for attending, offering to answer questions they may have and encouraging attendance at the next activity.

Eight women attended at least one of the rush activities and they were very pleased that seven chose to join. The Pledge Ritual was held on November 17 and pledge training will begin in January.

For additional information, including a copy of the PowerPoint, contact chapter vice president, Mary Ann Clark at maclark081252@gmail.com.



Indiana Laureate Gamma Eta, Terre Haute enjoying time together at their Christmas Party on December 1, 2022. Nineteen of the 24 members were present with six out of their seven new members in attendance seated in the front row, from left, Martha Thiemann, Danni Esperson, Linda Sparger, Kathy Marchino, Terri Pippins and Judy Price. Schella Romanelly was absent.



Indiana Laureate Gamma Eta, Terre Haute held the Pledge Ritual for their newest members on November 17, 2022. Standing behind the ritual table, from left, Schella Romanelly, Kathy Marchino, Terri Pippins, Judy Price, Linda Sparger and Martha Thiemann. Danni Esperson was absent due to an illness, but Mary Ann Clark, Judy Harris, Cheryl Burgess and Chris Compton went to Danni's home the next day to give her the ritual.

Making Spirits Bright

This Christmas

Sisters celebrate the magic and wonder of Christmas.

A Christmas Parade

Arline Jackson recruited the members of **Arkansas Preceptor Psi, Little Rock** to participate in the annual North Little Rock Christmas Parade.

They also recruited their grandchildren, some of whom are Legacies, and their men, many of whom are Envoys, to participate by throwing candy to the crowd. It got everyone in the Christmas spirit!



Christmas Raffle

Florida Alpha Nu Master, Jacksonville raffled off a Christmas wreath with \$100 attached as a fundraiser. The members wore chambray and denim jackets with eyelet trim and the Beta Sigma Phi Greek letters on the left side above the pocket to match. Member Dotti Celso made the jackets and the members wear them to socials at local restaurants and other gatherings in the area to promote the organization.

Florida Alpha Nu Master, Jacksonville raffling off their Christmas wreath. Seated at the table is Tina Thorson. Standing from left, Joan Farmer, Becky Raines, Dotti Celso and Dottie Van DeLaar.





Ugly Sweater Contest



Baton Rouge City Council held an Ugly Sweater Contest and cookie/sweet exchange put on by then Council President Michele Roach, member of **Louisiana Xi Delta Chi, Baton Rouge** on November 30, 2021 at the UCT Hall on Florida Blvd. The city council, representing 10 chapters, used the event to get to know one another better and to bring prospective members to the occasion. Several husbands also attended. The attendees enjoyed popcorn and soft drinks while watching the original White Christmas movie starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen. Jean Leyda the president of Torchbearer Beta won first prize for the Ugliest Sweater, Charlene Ourso a member of Laureate Alpha Alpha was the second-place winner. Suzanne Ishler, of Torchbearer Beta and Sheila Melancon from Preceptor Alpha Eta shared third-place.

The members had a great time laughing at each others ugly sweaters and exchanging delicious cookies and sweets the sisters provided. It was truly a wonderful kick off for the Christmas holidays.

A Christmas Party Triumph *

Arkansas Preceptor Alpha Gamma, Horseshoe Bend had their annual Christmas party catered by Horseshoe Bend Calabama Restaurant in 2021. A wonderful dinner of chicken cordon bleu was served. The chapter had a wonderful time of fellowship in a very relaxed atmosphere. Twenty-five sisters, their husbands and care givers were in attendance. They had a silent auction of gifts and desserts. The money raised went to their local food bank—they raised \$180.



Everyone had a fabulous time shopping for Christmas trinkets and desserts.

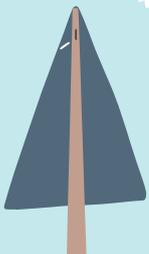
Preceptor Alpha Gamma also adopted a family for Christmas providing a Christmas dinner, games, clothing and winter coats. They received a real blessing from the experience. In addition, the chapter supported Tunnel to Towers, which is something they continue to support.

The sisters looked to the future with hope. Even though it was hard keeping everyone together due to Covid, then president, Kathy Duncan, did a great job and stood up to the challenge.



Sisters All Aglow

Wisconsin Sigma Master, Madison held a very Merry Christmas lunch in 2021. Each sister was given blinking lights to wear along with a note that read, "You light up your Secret Sister's life. Thanks for all you do for her!" The sisters were truly all aglow with joyful spirits and warm smiles!



Christmas Food Delivery

On November 20, 2021 at the Springfield Fellowship Church, **Ohio Gamma Alpha Master, Akron** transferred nine food baskets into then President Joyce Kopp's van.

Their chapter service project was for "The 25 Days of Christmas." Canned foods along with boxed goods were collected by nine chapter sisters following the guidelines of the Food Banks requirements for distribution. More than 225 products were in those baskets and gratefully received.

Service chairman Renee' Reese along with Joyce, delivered the baskets after Thanksgiving keeping the theme intact for Christmas delivery.

Then they began their meeting. Renee delivered the program "TV Commercials Trivia" in which the goal was to come up with the product that fit the commercial both old and new. It was a lot of fun!



Ohio Gamma Alpha Master, Akron delivers food baskets to a local food bank for "The 25 Days of Christmas." Standing here are five out of the nine participating members.



This picture was taken by Carol Klarr two hours after the Passion Play staff set up the 18 figures in front of the Jerusalem Chapel. When she returned that evening to see the display in lights she witnessed a young father taking a picture of his little girl standing in front of it, which made it all worth it!

Passion Play Nativity Donation

Located in a tiny town tucked away in the Ozark Mountains of Northwest Arkansas, Beta Sigma Phi chapter **Arkansas Xi Alpha Nu, Eureka Springs** made the decision in October 2021 to donate 18 life-sized nativity figures to The Great Passion Play Performing arts theater in Carroll County, Arkansas. Since 1950 Xi Alpha Nu displayed the nativity in the bandshell in Basin Park downtown during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season.

Due to increasing ages and health issues of the chapter members, it became apparent it was time to pass on the beautiful nativity. The sisters chose the Great Passion Play in the sure and certain knowledge it would continue to be cared for and shared with the community and the visitors who flock to the historic Victorian town each year for the special holiday season events. It was beautifully displayed on the Passion Play grounds for the Christmas season 2021 with the original Beta Sigma Phi sign beside it.

The decision was not an easy one and it was especially difficult for member Shirley Bird, the driving force behind the Nativity Project for many years. Sadly, Shirley passed away in May 2022. Her dedication to her chapter and the Nativity Project in particular were remarkable and left a lasting mark on her sisters and the community.

Remaining members of the chapter are, Carol Klarr, Jo Hall, Bonnie Willard, Mary Muller and Jeannette Haynes.



Shirley Bird, driving force behind the Nativity Project.





Wrapping for a Cause



Jennifer Meyer, and Terri Good (behind the sign) of **Kansas Xi Eta Sigma, Topeka** at the Topeka Youth Project gift wrapping booth.

The sisters of **Kansas Xi Eta Sigma, Topeka** have been gift wrapping for freewill donations, the last five years. In the past, they donated their gift wrapping proceeds to Operation Backpack, which is part of Topeka North Outreach, Inc., a humanitarian relief organization comprised of 19 local churches, area businesses and organizations. The Backpack Program receives donations and grants from the outreach organization which allows them to distribute weekend meals to approximately 900 children per week in the Oakland, Topeka and surrounding areas.

In December 2021, they found an opportunity to gift wrap as both a service and ways & means project, which then resulted in a second service project. They gift wrapped and sold raffle tickets at the Topeka Youth Project booth, located in The West Ridge Mall, on December 19 and 20 2021. Their shifts raised \$382 for the Topeka Youth Project and \$104 for the chapter. Topeka Youth Project empowers youth in Topeka and Shawnee County to become productive and responsible adults, by providing constructive opportunities to prevent high risk behaviors. Two of their programs are Jobs for Young Adults and Youth Court.

Xi Eta Sigma then pooled the money from their gift wrapping venture and a prior ways and means project to donate \$225 to the Topeka North Outreach's Operation Backpack. In addition to their monetary donation, seven members and two of their spouses assisted in sacking 4,100 weekend snack sacks on March 3, 2022.

The sisters truly wrapped up the Christmas season with love!



Terri Good of **Kansas Xi Eta Sigma, Topeka** was at the end of one assembly line, and was responsible for putting weekend meal sacks in totes/boxes.



Kansas Xi Eta Sigma, Topeka members, from left, Jennifer Meyer, Pat Dunavan, Judy Curtis, Topeka North Outreach volunteer (name unknown), Shannon Nichol, Janice Roth, Lori Carmichael and Terri Good.



Sisters Show They Care



“Never believe that a few caring people can’t change the world. For, indeed, that’s all who ever have.”

– Margaret Mead

Adopt a Senior or Two

In December 2020, **Iowa Xi Delta Omicron, Muscatine** adopted two seniors, Shirley and Dale, from Muscatine Senior Resources Commission on Aging. Though it was more difficult to visit with their seniors due to Covid-19, they did their best to let them know that they were being thought of throughout the year.

One of their seniors lives at home and the other lives in a care facility. They sent cards for Christmas, Valentines, and birthdays. They also gave Christmas presents, birthday gifts as well as a card shower, and an Easter Lily for the Easter season.

Shirley and Dale always seemed thankful for their efforts.





Two members of **Louisiana Xi Gamma Lambda, Slidell** are shown here presenting a framed star registry to a local mother to honor her son who was tragically murdered.



Together They Serve

Louisiana Xi Gamma Lambda, Slidell has grown to over 20 members this year and found it so uplifting to work together to give back to their community in small but meaningful ways.

A young man from their city went missing and was later found tragically murdered. The members of Xi Gamma Lambda wanted to do something for the mother of this young man. They decided to purchase a star in his memory and present it to her as a chapter. It is their hope that she will look up at his star and know that others honor his memory.

A lady in their community lost her husband just before Thanksgiving. The chapter delivered Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to her and her family. The chapter also took up a collection to purchase gift cards for this sweet lady and delivered them to her before Christmas. All attending the presentation of the gift cards were moved at her sweet emotional response of gratitude.



A star shines bright to honor this son and a mother's love.



The sisters of **Louisiana Xi Gamma Lambda, Slidell** give peace to a local woman who lost her husband prior to the holidays.



Louisiana Xi Gamma Lambda, Slidell sisters are grateful for their ability to give to their community.



Back the Blue with Ice Cream!

Arkansas Preceptor Alpha Gamma, Horseshoe Bend held an Ice Cream Social for all the EMT's, Volunteer Firemen and Sheriff Deputies of IZARD County. The weather was warm and sunny making it a perfect day. It was held at the Horseshoe Bend Fishermen's Park pavilion. They served cake, cookies and a variety of ice creams. The purpose for the social was to honor their EMT's, Volunteer Firemen and Deputies, and to again make people aware of their Back the Blue program. They sell "Back the Blue" tee shirts.

The proceeds from those sales are used to provide scholarships to the child of an Arkansas fallen police officer or a child of a fallen firefighter killed in the line of duty. Preceptor Alpha Gamma has worked this project for the last four years. Their most recent scholarship was given to the son of a Cave City Arkansas police officer killed in the line of duty. The "Back the Blue" tee shirts make an especially nice gift for active duty officers their family and friends, or anyone who wants to show support for our police or firemen.



Arkansas Preceptor Alpha Gamma, Horseshoe Bend sisters wearing their "Back the Blue" tee shirts.

Yoakum Volunteer Fire Department Gets Lit Up!

Thanks to the success of their December, 2021 Holiday Auction fundraiser, sisters of **Texas Xi Upsilon Psi, Yoakum** were able to donate \$1,000 towards the purchase of Guardian Angel Body Lights for the Yoakum Volunteer Fire Department. These lights, which have multiple settings of red or bright white, will help protect these Fire Rescue squad members during evening and nighttime performance of their hazardous duties. Chapter Treasurer Alice Manning coordinated the purchase with Yoakum Fire Chief Mark Hercheck.

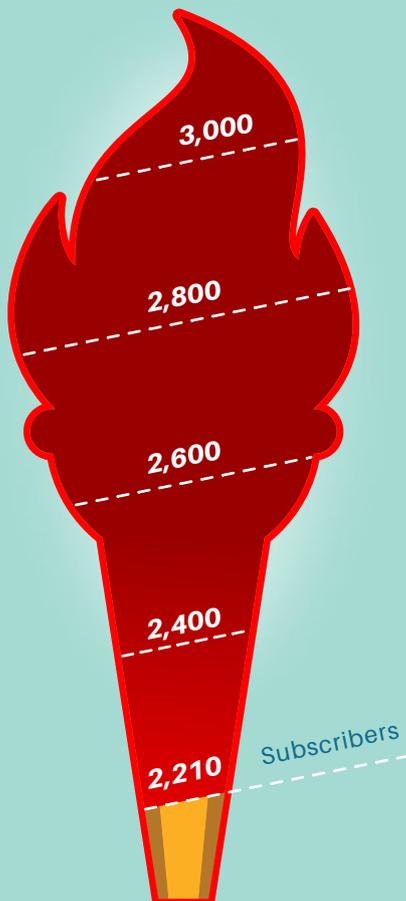


Texas Xi Upsilon Psi, Yoakum members are shown front row, left to right, Sandra Steinmann, Cathy Guettner, Linda Colman, Verlene Mikulenska, Mabel Hickey and Susana Hoelscher. Not pictured: Alice Manning and Kathy Morrow. A few of the Volunteer Fire Department members are shown on the back row displaying the lights. Yoakum Fire Chief Mark Hercheck is pictured far left, back row.

Torch

Subscription Drive

Help Keep The Torch Burning



We will track new subscribers throughout the year by revealing the torch graphic as we gain new support.

Subscriptions to The Torch have increased by only 10 subscribers this month compared to last month.

We are down by 18.04% this issue compared to the same issue last year.

From August 2022 to this issue, December-January 2022-2023, we are down by 19.37% compared to the same four issues last year.

Our goal is to reach 3,000 subscribers! If we don't make these numbers we may be forced to discontinue the printed Torch altogether.

We are currently not making enough money from the subscriptions to cover the total cost of printing and mailing each issue.

We are looking into cost saving options with our printers and mailers. We may be able to change paper weight to help with the cost and will consider other changes to help save on cost.

We have been notified that postage will be going up yet again in January 2023. For that reason our costs are only going to increase.

Please join in the Torch Subscription Drive to help us reach our goal!

If every chapter were to obtain one subscription to the printed magazine that would be more than 3000 subscribers.

The cost to subscribe is only \$14 for an entire year which is seven issues total.

It also makes a great secret sister gift!

PLEASE HELP US SAVE THE TORCH IN PRINT!



Answered Prayers— A Kidney for Christmas

A yellow rose; “I am thy sister”; “May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from the other” are symbols and words we learn as Beta Sigma Phi pledges. With the passage of time, they become truly meaningful. In the November 2020 issue of the Torch we wrote an article about a dear sister, Margaret Shortreed, with stage 4 kidney disease. Who would give such an extraordinary gift of life? “Who would transmute the road obscured in dust into stardust”? The answer brings us back full circle to Beta Sigma Phi and the indelible bonds of friendship formed through sisterhood.

Carol Trittin, a now deceased member of **Georgia Preceptor Beta Beta, Lawrenceville** and Margaret, currently of **Washington Laureate Gamma Phi, Vancouver**, for many years comprised the service committee of Preceptor Beta Beta. These two sisters worked closely together to continuously remind the chapter of the importance of service, giving and doing for others which created an indeli-



Margaret Shortreed and Carol Trittin.



ble bond between these two caring sisters. Carol, who suffered from heart disease, would eventually succumb to the disease and pass away. Margaret moved from Georgia to Washington State to be near her grandchildren, but her strong ties to her sisters in the Georgia chapter never waned. When Margaret discovered she had stage 4 kidney disease the Beta Sigma Phi Mizpah, “May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from the other” became the resounding prayer of sisters which spread throughout the United States and Canada.

Our prayers were answered; Margaret was given a magnificent gift just before Christmas 2021 when she received her kidney transplant. Years after her quest the donor was none other than Carol’s daughter, Andrea. Embodying her mother’s spirit of giving, she gave Margaret new life. The incredible gift of life, organ donation, is the ultimate in “shedding the light of our torch throughout the world!” If Carol, a lady of few words, was still with us she would simply say to Margaret, “I am thy sister.”

Although Andrea was not a medical match for Margaret, she agreed to participate in a paired exchange. Thanks to the coordination between The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) and the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) Margaret received a kidney from another living donor while Andrea’s kidney went to that donor’s original recipient.

In February 2019, the sisters of Preceptor Beta Beta went on a cruise (which was highlighted in the November 2020 issue of the Torch). It was later decided to have a reunion cruise when Margaret got her kidney. Thus, plans are in motion for an even greater celebration when Margaret is able to travel once more. It is our hope Andrea and her family will join us as well.

Once the ‘Kidney Gals’ were comfortably settled at home they each received a yellow rose. Margaret and Andrea both believe that Carol was with them on this journey right from the beginning. The gift of friendship blooms more beautifully more than ever before thanks to the sisterhood of Beta Sigma Phi.

A Golden Celebration— 50 Years as a Beta Sigma Phi

Joan Suders

Pennsylvania Laureate Epsilon Rho, Carlisle

50 years as a member

*'An honor and
a true joy'*



On May 19, 2021, Joan Suders celebrated her Golden Circle Ritual hosted by her chapter **Pennsylvania Laureate Epsilon Rho, Carlisle**. She was awarded a 50-year pin representing her time as a member, devoting her time and talents to the sorority.

“It is hard to believe that 50 years ago I stepped into my first Beta Sigma Phi meeting in Carlisle, PA,” Suders says. “My parents had recently moved to Carlisle. I had just finished college, landed a job in Carlisle, and started a new life. Being new to this area from Philadelphia, I had no friends.” So, when she was invited by the daughter of her mother’s friend to pledge Beta Sigma Phi, she eagerly accepted. “Little did I know that accepting that invitation would bring me the wonderful friends that I still have after 50 years.”

“As my life changed and I married and had children, it became harder to participate in the regular sorority events, but I stuck with it because it was the only time I really carved out for myself,” she says.

“With these ladies who became my good friends, I got to be just me for a few hours a month. Some of these amazing friends have moved or passed away, but with new members transferring to our chapter there is an ever-evolving close-knit group of ladies who have been my true friends and have been there for me through all the difficult and joyous times in my life.”

Joan expresses her experience best: “It has been an honor and a true joy being a member of Beta Sigma Phi’s chapter Laureate Epsilon Rho in Carlisle, PA for 50 years.”

A Diamond Celebration— 60 Years as a Beta Sigma Phi

After 60 years of membership in Beta Sigma Phi, Mary Anne Roadick received the Diamond Circle Ritual, earning her 60-year pin on May 13, 2021 at the home of Karen Newman, then president of **California Delta Xi Iota, Beaumont**. Founder's Day was also observed and sisters enjoyed a catered dinner with dessert. Special guests included Lois and Lei Pahia of **California Laureate Gamma Zeta, Rialto**; and Linda Rosen and Diane Beard of **California Laureate Iota Rho, Palm Desert**.

Mary Anne joined Beta Sigma Phi in May of 1961 at the age of 20 in Vero Beach, Florida. During her years of service she has and continues to be a shining example of the virtues of Beta Sigma Phi.

Born in Pennsylvania she moved to Florida with her family at the age of 12. After graduation, she worked as a bookkeeper for a CPA, then as Executive Director of the United Way of Indian River County, and lastly was an office manager for an orthopedic surgeons' group.

In 1985 she and her husband moved to California for her husband's job. She went back to work for another orthopedic surgeons' group and retired from there after 20 years.



California Delta Xi Iota, Beaumont members, l-r, are Marsha Becker, Mary Anne Roadick, Carol Ennis, Fran Bates, Terry Commearns, Ann Hasbargen, Karen Newman, Diana Mangan and Kathy Lockman.



Mary Anne Roadick with special guests.

Mary Anne is very close to her family. She has two sons, one daughter and is the proud grandmother of seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Sadly, her husband Mike passed away in 2012.

During her membership, Mary Anne progressed through each degree, held offices, chaired committees, co-chaired a convention and served in various capacities. She became a life member in 1985 and holds the highest degree in sorority, the Torchbearer degree. She was past president of city councils in both Florida and California and held numerous offices on council boards. She was also past president of MCC Area Council and held several offices on that board. In 2013, Mary Anne co-chaired the California State Convention, and was on the convention board for 1997, 2005 and 2020.

Always of service, Mary Anne is never too busy or too tired to chair brunches, rushing events, socials and fundraising events. She Friendly Ventured **California Delta Xi Iota, Beaumont** bringing in 15 pledges. Her philanthropic history includes United Way, March of Dimes where she served as president of IRC Board, board member of Council on Aging, Garden Club, Little League and Boy Scouts. At 27 she was named one of the Outstanding Young Women of America. Currently, she is a member of the Recreational Activities Advisory Committee (RAAC) where she chairs, helps with planning and coordinates parties and other activities for the community. She is also president of her chapter's bingo social club.

In recognition of her service she's received the Order of the Rose, the Silver, Golden and now Diamond Circle Awards. Most notably, Mary Anne was awarded the highest honor bestowed on a member, the International Award of Distinction. Her dedication and hard work has not gone unnoticed.

Mary Anne Roadick is an outstanding women of fine character. She truly demonstrates the virtues of the Beta Sigma Phi woman and richly deserves this recognition!



Mary Anne Roadick during her Diamond Circle Ritual.



Mary Anne Roadick receiving her 60 year pin.



A Platinum Celebration—

70 Years as a Beta Sigma Phi



‘Ledbetter awarded certificate for 70 years in the Beta Sigma Phi sorority’

Washington Times, Herald,
Washington, Indiana
by Joyce Bullington
August 30, 2021

Fay Ledbetter [of **Indiana Preceptor Gamma Tau, Washington**] was honored with a party at Emerald Place for her 97th birthday. One of the surprises was a very special award. Carol Gregory [of **Indiana Torchbearer Kappa, Washington**], representing the local Beta Sigma Phi chapters, awarded Fay with a special Platinum Commemorative Certificate for 70 years of distinguished service.

Fay was a young mother when she first joined 70 years ago, far away from family and friends in her home in Maine. In Beta [Sigma Phi] she found lifelong friendships, the chance for leadership opportunities and a life full of happy memories.

Fay reminisced about many of those memories during the ceremony.

- She served as the state chair when the Beta Sigma Phi [State] Convention was held at French Lick, Indiana.
- At the first [State] Convention she attended, she met the founder.
- She was elected Woman of the Year.
- She has taken part in several internationally sponsored cruises.
- Her local chapter has enjoyed socials that range from informal and educational gatherings to gala affairs that often included friends and family.
- She is very proud of the many charm bracelets documenting all of the Beta [Sigma Phi] activities she has participated in these many years.

Note. A special thank you to Joyce Bullington and the Washington Times for allowing us to re-print this article in part.



City Council Honors 70 Year Member

The Platinum Circle Award was bestowed upon a very special sister last year for her 70 years of membership in Beta Sigma Phi. Donna Klamm of **Florida Torchbearer Delta, Melbourne** was presented the Platinum Circle Certificate at Founder's Day which was hosted by **South Brevard City Council**. Donna is the first member of the city council to receive this honor.

“We are so proud of her and many congratulations were received for her,” writes Jewell Patton, vice president of city council.



Battling Cancer with a Positive



Carolyn Keese has been a loyal, faithful and tireless member of Beta Sigma Phi since 1972. She has held every office, some many times. She has contributed much to sorority such as organizing a new chapter made up of the daughters and daughters-in-law of her chapter, **South Carolina Xi Master, Seneca**. Also, she headed a Legacy program in which 12 of Xi Master daughters and granddaughters were inducted. Recently, she organized her sisters each month to pack 672 snack bags for the hungry in their local area. "We are proud to call her our sister," exclaims Xi Master.

Carolyn, a three-time breast cancer survivor, is an inspiration to all that know her and, also, read or hear about how she has dealt with cancer while helping others.

In a recent article of The Journal Newspaper, located in the Lifestyle Section, Carolyn shared her story and how she pushed forward through each diagnosis with the help of family and friends.

Her first diagnosis of breast cancer came in 1998. Carolyn an elementary school teacher in her 50s at the time, continued to teach as well as care for her mother who suffered from dementia and Alzheimer's. Seneca didn't have a cancer center at the time so Carolyn had to drive to Greenville for radiation. While the cancer hadn't affected her lymph nodes she had a lumpectomy followed by daily radiation treatments for five weeks. After the radiation she



Attitude

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Carolyn Keese was in her early 50s and teaching elementary school when she was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1998. "Your first thought is, 'Oh, my God, I'm going to die tomorrow,' or 'This is going to kill me immediately,'" Keese recalled. "But you find out that this is more of a chronic illness long term, and, for many people, it doesn't come back."

Keese continued to teach, care for her elderly mother who had dementia and Alzheimer's, and she would drive to Greenville for five weeks of daily radiation since there was no cancer center in Seneca at the time.

She had no lymph node involvement but underwent a lumpectomy, as well as radiation and started on a drug, tamoxifen, that could be used for 10 years.

"You have a choice — you can pull up the covers and cry and feel sorry for yourself, or you can push on and make the most of the time you've been given and live your life to the best of your ability," Keese said. "So that's what I've chosen to do."

MORE CHALLENGES

After getting through her first bout with cancer and two years after being taken off tamoxifen per medical protocol, Keese was diagnosed with breast cancer a second time in 2010.

Where the first diagnosis came from her right breast,



Pictured, from left, are Carolyn Keese and her granddaughters, Clara and Sophia Keese in the front, and Lacey and Emma Edwards.

this time it involved her left breast and had gotten into her lymph nodes. Keese underwent another lumpectomy — along with radiation and six rounds of chemotherapy.

"By my second diagnosis, I was able to have all my treatment in Seneca, and that made all the difference for me," Keese said. "Even though I had retired at that time, I didn't have to be on the road and do all the traveling that I had been doing."

Keese went another 11 years before being diagnosed for a third time in the summer of 2021.

"I found a lump in my side because now the (cancer) was metastatic and moved to another part of my body," she said. "I went to the doctor, and they started doing scans and discovered I had a tumor

in my left kidney and my right lung. I didn't have any symptoms other than I felt something and a lymph node had enlarged. It was actually a blessing, because it alerted us to what was actually going on."

Because doctors were unsure whether she was dealing with two types of cancer or if it was related to breast cancer, Keese underwent a lung biopsy, which determined the cancer in her lung was due to her breast cancer.

The doctors then put Keese on a new type of treatment involving a hormonal series of injections once a month and pills 21 days out of the month. While there is no complete cure when the cancer becomes metastatic, Keese added of the treatment, "You get extra time."

"It stops the growth of the cancer for some time and is different for different people," she said. "It can be years, it can be months. But my scans have been good, my tumors have shrunk a little bit and the main thing is they're not progressing, and they haven't found any others anywhere else. It is what it is, but it's certainly a better prognosis than I would have had, say, 10 years ago. There would not have been anything they could have done for me other than send me home."

PUSHING FORWARD

Keese said there are several ways she has dealt with her three-time diagnosis.

"I have the wonderful support of my husband (Deryl), my children and grandchildren, with my church family, with my sorority sisters I'm very close to," Keese said.

"But I also just got on with my life and kept pushing and moving down the road."

Exercise is also something Keese has always believed in and does regularly. Now 76, she takes part in senior exercise and water aerobics "to keep my joints moving and just for your mental outlook and the endorphins they provide your body to help to put you in a better mental place."

Keese is optimistic with advances in cancer research, genetic codes and treatments that cancer patients, like herself, can expect to live longer.

She already feels that cancer fundraising and research since her initial diagnosis

SEE CANCER, PAGE B6



Carolyn Keese is pictured in her backyard.

Keese says positive attitude, gratitude for each day helped with cancer battles

started on a drug called tamoxifen. After 10 years of the drug and an additional two years, her cancer returned in 2010.

The second time around the cancer was in her left breast and her lymph nodes. She had another lumpectomy followed by six rounds of chemotherapy, but this time she got to have all her treatments in Seneca. Despite being retired by this time, having her treatments in Seneca meant less time traveling and more time living to the fullest.

A third diagnosis came in 2021. Carolyn found a lump in her side, the cancer had metastasized to her left kidney and right lung. After determining the cancer in her lung was due to her breast cancer, doctors immediately put her on a new type of treatment, a series of hormonal injections once a month, plus pills each month, for 21 days.

While there is no cure for metastatic breast cancer, the hope is that treatments will give Carolyn extra time. Carolyn has remained optimistic through it all, choosing to move forward with the help of family and friends. "I don't take a single day for granted," she said. "I enjoy each day that the Lord has provided for me."

CANCER: 'I enjoy each day that the Lord has provided me'

FROM PAGE B1

have been a tremendous help in fighting the disease even up to this point.

"Don't give up hope, don't think you're not going to be around, because there's so much

around the corner that we don't know. A new drug could come out anytime that could help even me," Keese said. "Stay positive and stay around people who have a positive mindset — whether through a support group, family or

church family — and do what your doctor tells you to do.

"I don't take a single day for granted," she added. "I enjoy each day that the Lord has provided for me."

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Thank you

Bears, Blankets



Christine Poplaski and Lois Dean of Washington Laureate Gamma Delta, Yakima are showing off a trunk full of bears, blankets and books the chapter collected for the foster children of Kid Sense.



The sisters of **Washington Laureate Gamma Delta, Yakima**, chose the local Kid Sense LLC for their service project last year. Kid Sense LLC offers a community and family based foster care program with foster homes located throughout Washington state. Locally, they currently serve about 40 kids, ranging in age from two months to 18 years.

Each year, foster kids come into the system through no fault of their own. They normally show up with nothing more than the clothes on their back. They have been removed from their family, and no matter how dangerous or dysfunctional their situation was, they still miss home. Kid Sense endeavors to provide a positive memory for each child

HONORS & AWARDS



Sisters recognizing sisters for their accomplishments.



Sondra Drake (right) receives the Torchbearer degree from Kathi Moe.

Recognizing Two Sisters

California Delta Iota Master, China Lake recently honored two members at a meeting. Chapter president, Kathi Moe, made all the presentations. In recognition of her 50 years of membership in Beta Sigma Phi, Diane Thompson received the prestigious Golden Circle award and pin. Sondra Drake progressed to the highest degree with the presentation of the Torchbearer degree ritual and pin.

Delta Iota Master meets once a month and concentrates on community service, instructional and entertaining programs, as well as friendship.



Diane Thompson (left) receives the Golden Circle award from Kathi Moe.

Mu Master Accolades Abound

During the June 2021 luncheon meeting of **Maryland Mu Master, Hagerstown**, hosted by Bonnie Beachley, member Robin Spickler progressed to the Master degree; the Golden Circle Ritual was performed for both Karen Kidwell and Margaret “Peg” Ziegler; and the Diamond Circle Ritual was performed for Teresa Schafer. Though Mu Master is a small chapter, they have 300+ years of membership.

All recipes used for the luncheon were from the Xi Alpha Phi cookbook printed in 1984.

Seated from left are Robin Spickler, Karen Kidwell, Margaret Ziegler and Teresa Schafer. Standing from left are Joan Weitzel, Linda Reid and hostess Bonnie Beachley.



Silver Circle recipients, l-r, are Tamara Bryson, Sheri Jaeger-Eklund and Judy Bentz (on the end). The presenter, Cheryl High, is in the blue dress.



Golden Circle recipients, back row, l-r, are Judy Stauch, Sherilynn Paul, and Lynda Krant. Presenters Dotty Shepard (left) and Ardella LaManna are shown here in front.

A Day To Remember

Sunday, June 27, 2021 was a day to remember for the members of **Conejo Simi Valley Council** and **San Fernando Valley City Council** (now one council under the latter name). This was their first gathering since March 2020. Cheryl High hosted the membership in her home as everyone enjoyed appetizers and desserts that were made and presented by Cheryl, Tamara Bryson, Sheri Jaeger-Eklund, Sharon Miller, Eula Nebeker, Sherilynn Paul and Marsha Prieto.

Bobbie June Knoll, who was unable to physically be there gave the invocation via Zoom. There were nine honorees that received milestone rituals.

The Silver Circle Award was bestowed upon Tamara Bryson, Sheri Jaeger-Eklund and Judy Bentz with Cheryl High presenting.

The Golden Circle Award was bestowed upon Judy Stauch, Sherilynn Paul, and Lynda Krant with Ardella LaManna and Dotty Shepard presenting.

The Diamond Circle Award was bestowed upon Ruth Mullen, Eula Nebeker and Ardella LaManna with Linda Disney presenting.



It was a wonderful day full of renewed friendships, great food (of course, it is a Beta Sigma Phi event!), lots of laughter. Many new and special memories were made. The day was capped off when everyone joined together to sing “Happy Birthday” to Dotty Shepard as the very next day was her 99th birthday!

Diamond Circle recipients, l-r, are Ruth Mullen, Eula Nebeker and Ardella LaManna with their presenter Linda Disney on the far right.



Newnan, Georgia’s Artist of the Month—Barbara Kelly

Georgia Preceptor Beta Lambda, Newnan is proud to present their sister Barbara Kelly who was chosen ‘Artist of the Month’ by the city of Newnan. Barbara joined Beta Sigma Phi in May of 2013 as a pledge to Preceptor Beta Lambda. Her sisters are very proud of her and were excited to see her featured in The Newnan Times-Herald on Saturday, August 6, 2022.

Barbara’s interest in art began in the fourth grade. She took art lessons after her elementary school teachers saw her artistic talent. However, upon graduating from Cedar Crest College, instead of art, Barbara began her teaching career which spanned 33 years. After teaching elementary in both Jacksonville and St. Petersburg, Florida and then in Fayetteville, Georgia, she earned her master’s of education in school counseling and spent seven years as a counselor in Peachtree City.

Then in 1996 The Fayette Society of Fine Arts formed and renewed Barbara’s interest in painting, and at a time when she was ready to retire. She became very active in the organization and has gone on to win awards and have her work on display in various exhibits.

Barbara loves watercolor and pastels, but mostly uses oils for her paintings. She won Best of Show in the Newnan-Coweta Art Association’s Annual Juried Show for a piece done in pastel in 2010. Her inspiration for the piece was a Spring trip to Provence. Her travels to Europe, Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean have influenced many of her pieces including pieces displayed at City Hall.

In addition to City Hall, she has exhibited at the state capitol, The Georgia State Fair, Clayton Arts Gallery, Fayette County Courthouse Show and the Nixon Centre for Visual and Performing Arts.

Barbara is very active as a member of both The Fayette Society of Fine Arts and the Newnan Coweta Arts Association. She also belongs to two book clubs, and is active in her church and in sorority.





Susan Costello

**Calgary, Alberta Sr. Management of Foodservices,
Chair of CARP (a national advocacy team for seniors)**

After leaving the Czech Republic in 1968, Susan immigrated to Switzerland where she lived and worked for nine years. While there she received training in Foodservice Management and was introduced to the Tourism Industry. In 1976 she immigrated to Canada and immersed herself into yet another new life style, language and new business ethics in her new homeland.

Following senior management positions with both the Civic Cafeterias and the University of Calgary Foodservices, she formed her own consulting company, Robansu Management Ltd. The company's primary activities include meeting and event planning, food and beverage consulting and tourism projects management.

Susan is also a very active volunteer in the community and enjoys sharing her knowledge and her energy with many organizations.

Her professional and volunteer activities include:

- Past Provincial President, Alberta Restaurant and Foodservice Association
- Member of Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)
- Advisory Board for Hotel/Restaurant Management Program
- Past Chairman, Tourism Calgary (formally CCVB)
- Director, Heritage Park Society
- Member of Calgary/Quebec City Exchange Steering Committee
- Past Chairman, Calgary Tourism Education Consortium
- Volunteer and Special Advisor for the 1997 World Police/Fire Games (WPFG), a biennial athletic event, open to active and retired law enforcement and fire service personnel throughout the world. The WPFG Federation is an arm of the California Police Athletic Federation (CPAF), an American non-profit organization. The games attract approximately 10,000 entrants, slightly fewer than the Summer Olympic Games, and exceeding the third position holder, the Commonwealth Games.
- Director, Alberta Tourism Partnership Corporation
- Director, Calgary Immigrant Women's Association (CIWA)
- Hostess and Event Planner of the Consulate of the Czech Republic in Calgary
- Past Chairman of the Board, Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP), a national, non-partisan, non-profit organization committed to advocating for a New Vision of Aging for Canada. Backed by more than 320,000 members, C.A.R.P. is the largest advocacy association for older Canadians committed to working with all parties in government to advocate for older Canadians, for better healthcare, financial security and freedom from ageism.

Starting in 2009, Susan served as Calgary Area City Sponsor concerned with the social matters and the prestige of the organization in the city. Susan was later made an Honorary Member and is now an International Honorary Member.

Susan has two children, Andrea and Roman, and now two grandchildren, Jakob and Samuel.

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Proudly displaying the 2022-2023 theme "Friends At Your Fingertips." This 1" decorative seal is ideal for adding a friendship flourish to any sorority correspondence. 50 per pkg.

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No.173 . . . \$6.00



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White with Rose.**
"Beta Sigma Phi" text
and yellow rose
on white.
No.1430 . . . \$5.00

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magnetic back features
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No.1434 . . . \$4.50



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green pin makes an
inexpensive gift.
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A Theme Come True—With A Handful of Roses



The sisters of Indiana Xi Eta Kappa, Fort Wayne gathered together to celebrate the 2022-2023 "Friends at Your Fingertips" theme. Member Sue Shull embellished a mannequin hand display with nine beautiful yellow roses, representing each member and friend. At each meeting the host focuses on the "Friends at Your Fingertips" theme and the display has become a traveling representation of their friendship.

"We are truly grateful for our many friendships through the years," comments Ann Frances Phillips.