

ZΦΒ

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
Omicron Zeta Chapter



2021 Finer Womanhood Observance

March 28, 2021

4:00 PM

Via Zoom



**Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
Omicron Zeta Chapter
Finer Womanhood Observance Programme**

Mazie D. Lewis, Mistress of Ceremonies

Musical Prelude

**Welcome.....Yasmin Morton-Moses, Esq., President
Omicron Zeta Chapter**

**Invocation Portia Tomlinson, Chaplain
Omicron Zeta Chapter**

**Greetings Valerie Sinclair
State Director of North Carolina
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.**

**The Honorable David Baker, President
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
Eta Sigma Chapter**

**Dayna Harper, Secretary
Greater Raleigh Wake Pan Hellenic Council**

**Musical SelectionTia Newkirk
Omicron Zeta Chapter**

**Presentation of Collegiate of the Year.....Sherry Haith-Clanton
Third Vice President, Omicron Zeta Chapter**

**Collegiate of the Year Vanisea Miles, First Vice President
Mu Xi Chapter, North Carolina State University**

Presentation of Zetas of the YearYasmin Morton-Moses, Esq.

**Zetas of the YearLaKrystal Sanders
Rhonda Currie**

**Poem..... Autumn Lee (Pearlette Affiliate Representative)
Madisen Moses (Amicette Affiliate President)
Madison Williams (Archonette Affiliate President)**

Introduction of Women of the YearYasmin Morton-Moses, Esq.

Woman of the Year ~ Mrs. Ella Wilder Perry

Woman of the Year ~ Mrs. Lucille Thomas Lea

Musical Tribute.....Tia Newkirk

**Acknowledgement of Former Men & Women of the Year Doris Jackson, First Vice President
Omicron Zeta Chapter**

**Acknowledgement of Guests Joni Newkirk
Omicron Zeta Chapter**

**Closing RemarksMazie D. Lewis
Yasmin Morton-Moses, Esq.**

Woman of the Year

Mrs. Lucille Thomas Lea



Mrs. Lucille Thomas Lea, a native of Raleigh, NC, spent the majority of her professional career abroad. She was one of the first Black women to pursue a career in diplomacy, foreign affairs and international management with the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service. During her illustrious career, she held key positions at the Department of State in Washington, D.C. and at U.S. Embassies abroad. She was often the most senior ranking minority woman at the Embassies.

While serving at the Embassy in Ottawa, she managed large, multi-lingual and multi-cultural staffs and multi-million dollar budgets. Her position required that she travel across Canada from Halifax in the East to Vancouver in the West. Throughout her career, Mrs. Lea received frequent recognitions: promotions, Presidential Performance Pay Awards and commendations for superior evaluations of her staff members.

Mrs. Lea served at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, France; Tunis, Tunisia (North Africa); and Dakar, Senegal (West Africa), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and Ottawa, Canada. Prior to joining the Department of State, she was a researcher at the U.S. Library of Congress. During her career, she conducted official diplomatic missions to more than 35 countries, meeting with political, military and business leaders. Her private meeting with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India remains the highlight of all her world travels. Today, Mother Teresa is a Saint.

Her extensive experience and facility with foreign languages led the Department of State to select Mrs. Lea to attend the prestigious National War College, Defense University, at Fort McNair, Washington, DC. She was the sole Black woman in the class of 186 senior military and civilian officers.

She became President/CEO of Lea Funeral Home, when her beloved husband, Rudy N. Lea, Sr., passed away on June 23, 2019. They were a team for twenty-five years.

She is a strong supporter of HBCU's and the community. She was a Charter Member of the Advisory Board of International Affairs and Management at North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC.

Mrs. Lea is a graduate of Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, NC, the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. She studied abroad at the L'Universite de Lyon, Lyon, France. She holds an Associate Degree in Funeral Service with high honors from Fayetteville Technical Community College. She is a licensed Funeral Director and an experienced Manager. She speaks French, Spanish and German.

She is a member of many national and international organizations, including the Alpha Theta Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. Mrs. Lea is a member of historic First Baptist church in downtown Raleigh, where she has served on several church ministries. She has been featured in Cosmopolitan Magazine, Jet Magazine, Who's Who in American Women, and the Department of State Magazine.

Woman of the Year

Mrs. Ella Wilder Perry



Mrs. Ella Wilder Perry was born on September 2, 1929 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Her parents were Robert and Minnie Wilder and her siblings were Thomas, Linnie Rae, Lovie Ann, Minnie Lean, James Curtis, and Lonnie Lewin.

Mrs. Perry was married to Ransom Perry and to this union, one son, Thomas Ransom Perry was born. She has a very close relationship with Thomas and his wife, Mamie. She is blessed with three grandchildren: TJ, Fatima and Mitchell and three great grandchildren: Breelyn, Garrison and Eden.

She is a graduate of Washington High School and a recipient of an AB Degree in Elementary Education from Shaw University. Additionally, she furthered her studies at NCCU, ECU, and UNC-CH.

She has enjoyed membership in many organizations, and has received numerous awards and honors. She was instrumental in organizing the first Vacation Bible School at her church, Juniper Level Missionary Baptist Church. She, proudly, serves on the Panther Branch Rosenwald School Community Alliance, Inc. Other awards and notable recognition include, but not limited to:

- Inducted into the Hall of Fame for the Wake Baptist Association, Women Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of NC.
- Past First, Second, and Third Vice President and recipient of Outstanding Dedicated Service for fourteen years of service to Wake County Sunday School Convention.
- Organized the Concerned Citizen for Children and Education in 2004.
- Named Teacher of the Year twice while teaching at Swift Creek Elementary School.
- Membership in the National Education Association, North Carolina Association of Educators, Wake County Retired Teachers Association, Shaw University Alumni Association, National Association of University Women.
- Awarded Woman of the Year by Top Ladies of Distinction, Wendell Chapter; Outstanding Service Award, Leisurettes Retired Teachers Club; Humanitarian Award, the NAACP; and inducted into the Circle of Elders by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Sigma Xi Zeta Chapter of Morrisville, NC.

Her teaching career extended from 1952 to 1984. As one of the original African-American teachers, staff integration of the Wake County Public School System was not a difficult endeavor for her. Her focus remained the same for all students: When they left her classroom, they would be competent readers, regardless of race, creed, or color. Her commitment was observed by others and she was asked to serve on the accreditation team to help procure accreditation for Swift Creek Elementary and East Cary Elementary schools. This included reviewing qualifications of staff members to counting the number of textbooks in the school. One requirement for accreditation was that each school should have a certain number of books per student and this task sometimes lasted into the midnight hours. Mrs. Perry's thirty-two years as an educator in the Wake County Public School System and the students she encountered were the foundation to post-retirement. Parents called on her to tutor their children and she did so without pay.

Her favorite scriptures: If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sins and will heal their land. Chronicle 7:14.

I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. Psalm 37:2.

Mrs. Ella Wilder Perry, a finer woman for all occasions.

Zeta of the Year

Mrs. Rhonda Currie



Rhonda M. Currie retired in 2011 after thirty plus years with North Carolina State Government. Her tenure includes positions with the Department of Motor Vehicles and Vital Records. Her last employment was with the NC Department of Health and Human Services as the Administrator of Social Security Disability Determination Services.

She graduated from W.B. Wicker High School in Sanford, NC. Rhonda earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC. and graduated from North Carolina's Public Manager's Program as a Certified Public Manager. It was during her time at North

Carolina Central University that she joined the illustrious blue and white family and pledged Zeta. She has been a member over fifty years and is recognized as a Zeta Dove. Her service to Zeta includes serving on the Founders' Day Committee, Finer Womanhood Committee, Decorations Committee for Blue Revue and currently as a member of the Ad Hoc Scholarship Committee.

Rhonda has received several awards in the area of leadership including the prestigious Disability Determination Services Regional Administrator's Leadership Award from the U.S. Social Security Administration and a Social Security Commissioner's Team Citation. She was awarded North Carolina's Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Beverly Perdue.

She is a faithful servant of Martin St. Baptist Church (MSBC), Raleigh, NC, where she has served as Chairman of the Christian Education Ministry, Sunday School Superintendent, and a member of the Music Ministry where she sings with the choir. She continues to be an active Sunday School student and mentor and advisor with the MSBC Youth Leadership Development Academy. Rhonda functions as manager for the MSBC Blessings in Bags Ministry, a community food distribution program.

Rhonda's current community involvement includes serving as Chairman of the Martin Luther King Jr. All Children's Choir Scholarship Board and a member of the Strategic Planning Committee with the Inter Faith Food Shuttle.

Rhonda and her husband George, who is a Sigma, have two adult children and three awesome grandsons.

She defines her purpose for being as "serving others and giving back".

Zeta of the Year

Ms. LaKrystal Sanders



LaKrystal Sanders has been a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Omicron Zeta since 2007. She enjoys being involved in the community and making a positive difference in the lives of other people.

LaKrystal was born and raised in Raleigh, NC and is a devoted mother to one daughter, Makayla Sanders. She attended North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University (AGGIE PRIDE!) where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Finance. She then obtained her Master's degree in Public Administration from North Carolina Central University. Currently, LaKrystal is

pursuing her Doctorate in Public Administration at Liberty University, where she maintains an "A" average.

Professionally, LaKrystal is the Grants Accountant at Shaw University. She also serves as the Campus Advisor to one of our undergraduate chapters, Omicron, located on the campus of Shaw University. LaKrystal has served as Omicron Zeta's Corresponding Secretary since 2018. In 2020, she was appointed as one of the Z-HOPE Co-chairs. Z-HOPE, more formally known as Zetas Helping Other People Excel, is the National Service Program of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. It is an interactive holistic multidimensional outreach program designed to enhance, cultivate and empower participants to develop health promoting lifestyle choices across the lifespan. In the six months since her appointment, LaKrystal and her Co-Chair have implemented over 40 service projects for Omicron Zeta Chapter and its Youth Affiliates.

In addition to her elected and appointed positions within Zeta, LaKrystal also serves on other chapter committees. In March 2021, LaKrystal was inducted into the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Eastern Region Legacy Club. Her mother, Angela Sanders, is a member of Zeta Amicae of Raleigh; her brother, Cleveland P. Sanders, III, is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; and her daughter, Makayla Sanders, is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Omicron Chapter.

When she is not spending time with her family, doing schoolwork or the work of Zeta; LaKrystal is busy baking and decorating beautiful and delicious cakes. She is the proud owner of Krystal Kakes, where she makes all your cake dreams come true!

Collegiate of the Year

Ms. Vanisea Miles



Vanisea Miles became a member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Mu Xi Chapter in the Fall of 2017. She serves as the First Vice President of the chapter and has enjoyed bringing in many other members into the sorority. She had the opportunity to also serve as the Historian for her chapter. Vanisea is a Senior majoring in Nutrition Science with a minor in Spanish at North Carolina State University in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She is involved

on the campus of NC State as a Veteran Camp Counselors, a Summer Start Mentor, coordinator of the Peer Mentor Program, among other services. Vanisea's career aspirations are to attend graduate school and ultimately become an OB/GYN.



OZ Finer Womanhood Committee

Mazie D. Lewis, Chair

Ellen Cannon-Reid, Annie Doris Jackson, Joni Newkirk, Asha Piggott, Portia Tomlinson

Yasmin Morton-Moses, Esq. ~ President



Former Men and Women of the Year

Dr. Margarite Adams*
Dr. Ellen S. Alston*
Rev. Paul & Mrs. Betina Anderson
Hon. Sheriff John* & Mrs. Juanita Baker*
Mrs. Sonia Barnes
Dr. Jeanette Beckwith
Mrs. Jeanette Boone
Mrs. Emma P. Boyer*
Rev. Charles & Mrs. Regina Brooks
Mrs. Vivian T. Brown*
Rev. Dr. Charles & Dr. Shirley Bullock
Atty.* & Mrs. Fred Carnage*
Mrs. Elizabeth B. Cofield*
Hon. Linda Coleman
Mrs. Jesse Copeland*
Dr. Majorie Debnam*
Dr. Paulette Dillard
Mrs. Minetta G. Eaton*
Mrs. Mary Flagg*
Mrs. Dorothy Allen-Freeman*
Dr. Alice Garrett
Mrs. LaVerne Goins*
Mrs. Mary H. Grady*
Mrs. Gladys Graves
Mrs. Gilda Harris*
Rev. Dr. Dumas A. & Mrs. Sharon Harshaw
Mrs. Norma Haywood
Mrs. Sarah B. Herbin*
Mrs. Jeanette Hicks*
Dr. Willie High*
Anita Jackson, M.D.
Ms. Moszetta Johnson
Mrs. Thelma Keck*

Ms. Dorothy Lane*
Ms. Louise Latham*
Mrs. Emily M. M. Kelly*
Mrs. Mollie H. Lee*
Mrs. Thelma Lennon*
Mrs. Nora Lockhart*
Mrs. Lillian W. Logan*
Rev. Regina Henderson Moore
Mrs. Margaret Rose Murray
Mrs. Virginia Newell
Dr. Elliot & Mrs. Juanita Palmer
Mrs. Fannie Peace*
Mrs. Susie V. Perry*
Mrs. Mary E. Phillips*
Rev. Mabel Gary Philpott*
Ms. Octavia Rainey
Mrs. Margaret Ratcliff
Mrs. Joyce M. Robinson
Rev. Marion & Mrs. Jennifer Robinson
Mrs. Leolia Spaugh*
Mrs. Maria Spaulding
Mrs. Joan Spencer
Mrs. Virginia S. Tally
Mrs. Annette O. Watson
Dr. Harold* & Mrs. Lucille Webb
Mrs. Harriet B. Webster*
Mrs. Harveleigh White*
Dr. Shauntae B. White
Mrs. Mary Whitley*
Ms. Frances Lonnette Williams
Dr. James* & Mrs. Bertha Wilson*
Mrs. Cliffonia Wimberly*

*Deceased



Omicron Zeta Chapter

67th Finer Womanhood Observance

Patrons List

Centennial Patrons

Marian Harris

Shirley Hinton

Virginia S. Tally

Pearl Patrons

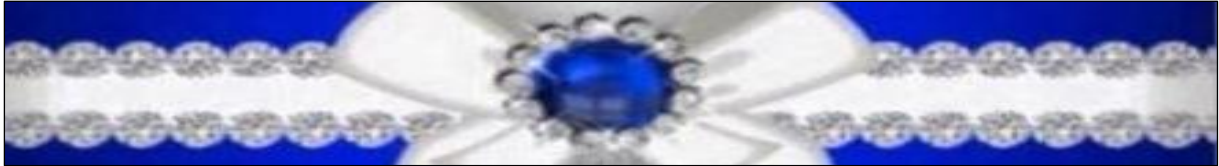
Doris Alston

Veronica Bell

Rhonda Currie

Belinda DeJesuz

Marilyn Fields



Pearl Patrons (Cont'd)

Carolyn Fox

Natalie Haith-Edwards

Sherry Haith-Clanton

Dr. Dudley Flood

Annie Doris Jackson

Mazie Lewis

Deborah Lofton

Sarah McDonald

John Milner

Linda Milner

Sheryl P. Morton

Yasmin Morton-Moses, Esq

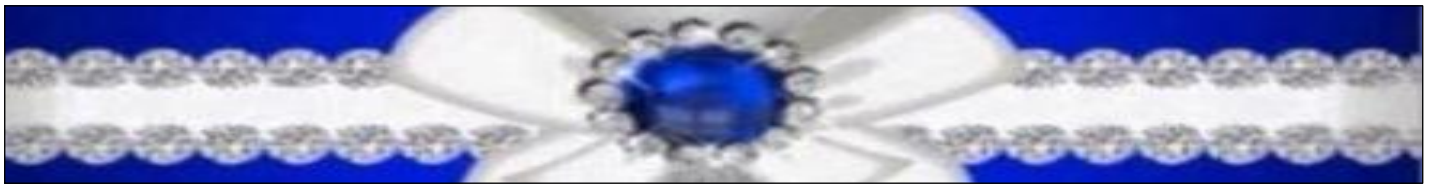
E. Margo Newkirk

Joi Newkirk

Lisa Roberts

Joyce M. Robinson

LaKrystal Sanders



Pearl Patrons (Cont'd)

Lady Elaine Shelton

Catherine Smith

Portia Tomlinson

Gwendolyn Williams

Joyce Wilson

Diamond Patrons

Eleanor Adams

Linda Booker

Susie Hunter

Teresa McNair

Sheryl Merritt

Tia Newkirk

Gold Patrons

Eva Oakley

Cassandra Pryor



Silver Patrons

Barbara Gamble

Dr. Vera Palmer

Bronze Patrons

Toni Brown

Madisen Moses

Deborah Richardson

Madison Williams

Michaela Williams

**Thank you for supporting
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
Omicron Zeta Chapter**