

AFRICAN PEARLS OF WISDOM

SOUTHERN AFRICA ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER



Where We Serve

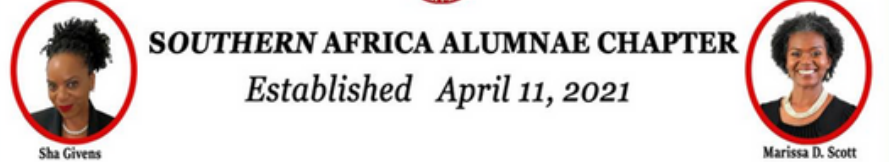
The Sensational Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter

Our chapter serves Kenya and the 16 countries in the Southern African Development Community. We have active sorors living and working in six of these countries: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, and South Africa.

The countries in our region are home to powerful cultural histories and incredible landscapes. From the Zulu people and cosmopolitan vibes of South Africa to the roaring waters of Victoria Falls and the creative energy of Nairobi, the Sensational Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter serves a region that is home to vast cultural heritage and incredible landscapes.

The Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated was chartered on April 11, 2021. Our goal is to expand the growing movement to connect Africa and the Diaspora, as well as support local communities in our region. We proudly support several projects in the region including the Adelaide Tambo School in Soweto, the Training and Resources for Early Education (T.R.E.E.) in Durban, and the Delta House/Vashti Village in Eswatini.

SAAC also supports projects in Kenya including the Mary Help of the Sick Mission Hospital in Thika, I CAN FLY International, which supports marginalized and under-resourced communities by increasing access to educational resources, and the Mbingu Boys Secondary School in Machakos.



Delta Sigma Theta
Sorority, Incorporated



SOUTHERN AFRICA ALUMNAE CHAPTER
Established April 11, 2021



LETTER FROM OUR EDITOR



HELLO
darling



I am so grateful for another year in our illustrious sisterhood. The Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter turned two and we are so proud of what we have been able to accomplish. There is much work to be done on the continent. Our work this past year supported children living with HIV, female entrepreneurship, tree planting, providing sanitary items for girls and expanding our knowledge of black authors through our Southern Africa Books Of The Year initiative to name but a few.

We are a part of the Dynamic & Historic Eastern Region and continue to make history on the beautiful continent of Africa.

We always allow God to guide our footsteps and we thank all of our supporters that take this journey along side us.

Our journey continues...

Yours in Delta,

Soror Yvette

Soror Yvette Davis Gayle
Journalist



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Distinguished

Distinctive, devoted, delightful, dedicated
women of distinction,
carrying themselves proud yet humble
as the young girl is surrounded by the elders,
she gazes at these...
women of distinction,
dreaming that someday
she could be like them too
honored, revered,
cherished and loved,
yet with all the love and honoring they receive
they carry themselves with more humility than you and me
those are the women of distinction
they pass through a crowd and stand out
only because they know what it is to live with and without
they know what it is to work hard without recognition
as they ripened on the tree and their flowers bloomed
they hung gently from the tree
suddenly to be noticed by you and me
because that is not what they're all about
but because you can't ignore the doctors, the lawyers,
the dreamers who live the dream
the aspiring women who created hope in us
the women who would not stay on the back of the bus
the warriors when no one else would fight
the leaders when few wanted to follow
This is to say thanks to those who made it possible
for me to be here today,
living my dream among the crop as the cream.

By: Paula Marshall



Soror Sherida Stevens
President



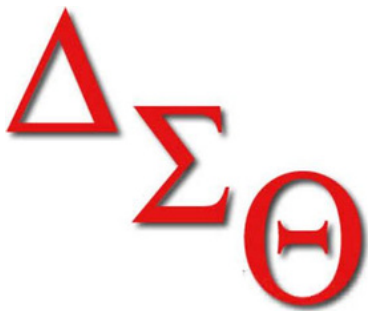
2022-2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD



President - Sherida Stevens

First Vice President - La Chenna Cromer

Second Vice President - Ghairunisa Galeta



Corresponding and Recording Secretary

Amaka Nwankwo-Igomu

Financial Secretary and Chaplain

Debra Townes

Treasurer - Katrina Jackson-Stephens

Parliamentarian and Country Coordinator

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Sergeant at Arms and Custodian Of Property

Jasmine White

Journalist - Yvette Davis Gayle



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Spending time in the presence of God is the most important activity of my day and life. He gives us His Spirit to heal us, guide us, strengthen us, convict us, and empower us. We all need God's presence in our lives more than we need anything else. But where do we find the presence of God? When I encountered Jesus, I experienced the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God changed my life and gave me joy, peace and love for people.

Continual reliance on God's Spirit is essential for mission and evangelism—because the mission of Jesus is something we should do in His strength, not our own. Jesus is the rock on which the Church is built. Jesus is the center. The Church is the body of Jesus. We encounter Jesus in community as we come together. We encounter Jesus in worship, and we encounter Him as we pray. We encounter Him as we read the Word of God—He speaks to us through the Scriptures. But it's through the Holy Spirit that we can encounter Jesus directly.

A friend once said her favourite prayer is a simple, three-word prayer: "Come, Holy Spirit." As I invite the Holy Spirit into my daily activities, I am conscious of peace in my spirit and walk with confidence that my steps are ordered.

How have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit? Where do you need His power, healing, and encouragement today? Take time today to invite the Holy Spirit into every aspect of your life, and rely on His power.

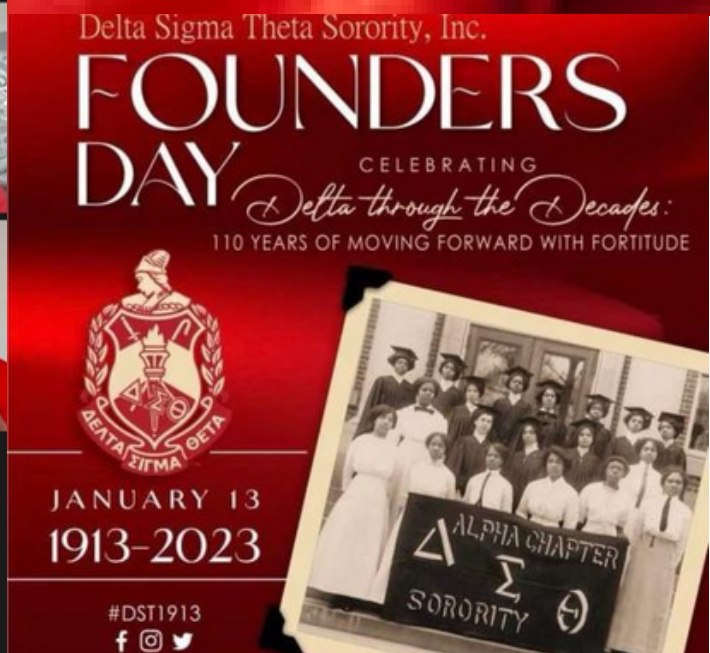
As we continue doing the work of Delta Sigma Theta, rely upon the Holy Spirit for direction and strength.



Soror Debra Townes
Chaplain



FOUNDERS DAY 2023



The Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter celebrated the 110th Anniversary on January 14, 2023

Moving Beyond Borders, Fulfilling Our Founders Wildest Dreams.

We were proud to host the 26th National President Beverley E. Smith as our Keynote speaker. The virtual event captured all of our hearts with a look into the rich history of our founders and the journey they embarked that still impacts the world today. Our time of reflection on the achievements of the 22 Founders inspired us to think beyond borders and seek greater change on a global level in the realm of our five point thrust.





EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



SAAC SPEAKER SERIES

On April 8th the I Can Fly Girls High School students in Machakos, Kenya were positively impacted by a conversation with our very own Soror Marissa Scott. Soror Scott shared a series of life lessons and wisdom in the area of career planning and women's empowerment. The girls learned the value of living a focused and fearless life while pursuing dreams. They were inspired to dream bigger dreams despite the challenges they face coming from rural communities.

It was a day to remember.



SOROR MARISSA SCOTT
Charter Member



INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT



Southern Africa Alumnae And Las Vegas Alumnae Partner For World AIDS Day

To commemorate World AIDS Day 2022, Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter (SAAC) partnered with Las Vegas Alumnae for a WAD event on Dec. 3, 2022 for a webinar with HIV/AIDS experts, activists, and survivors from across Southern Africa and the United States.

More than 65 viewers signed onto the webinar and 40 viewers submitted the survey. 90 percent of the viewers were extremely satisfied and thought the information shared was very relevant. The key message for most viewers was that “the need is still great to support those infected”.

SAAC President, Soror Sherida Stevens, gave opening remarks sharing the great impact SAAC hopes to make in 17 countries that form the SAAC service area. Six of the seven International projects are located in our area including the Vashti Village (Eswatini) where the webinar donations will be allocated.

SAAC member Dr. Dorothea Love Hall provided the keynote address, focusing on the national WAD theme “Reflection, Celebration, Rejuvenation.” She highlighted that Delta Sigma Theta has worked with communities many years helping people living with HIV/AIDS to live longer and healthier lives. On both sides of the ocean, newborns infected with HIV in South Africa & USA, early 2000’s faced complex social and economic challenges. The tight knit communities that embraced them have successfully empowered them to dream big with hope that they too can have successful lives and provide impactful service to the community.

Soror Debra Townes introduced Thembi Ngcamphalala, Swazi woman, sharing her experience through film detailing the Eswatini epidemic from 1996 to 2021 when the country was on the brink of destruction but turned the curve on the HIV epidemic. Today, Thembi spends her time helping others navigate their journey from diagnosis to treatment with hope for a healthier future.

Other United States-based speakers shared the impact of HIV on minority communities and areas of opportunity that sorors can have greater impact to stop the spread of HIV; improve services for people living with HIV/AIDS and stop stigma and discrimination through education and dialogue.

SAAC is committed to developing lasting collaborations with community partners to bolster the tremendous progress already made in protecting the most vulnerable and reversing the impact of the HIV epidemic in Southern Africa. SAAC is committed to educating ourselves and others on current treatments and social programs to improve the lives of people living with HIV. Lastly, but not least, SAAC is committed to celebrating with people living with HIV to hope for longer and healthier lives.



INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT



Southern Africa Alumnae Supports Youth Sanctuary For World AIDS DAY



Reflection, Celebration, Rejuvenation: Living Positively with HIV- The Fight Continues

To commemorate World AIDS Day 2022, members of the Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter (SAAC) planned an outreach event and holiday party with youth at the Lambano Sanctuary in Germiston, South Africa. Founded in 2001, Lambano Sanctuary is a registered residential care and support facility for orphaned and vulnerable children living with HIV. Many of the children supported by Lambano were among the first children in South Africa to receive antiretroviral (ARVs) to support viral load suppression and manage their HIV infection.



Under the sub-theme *“Living Positive with HIV, the Fight Continues”* with the National theme of *“Reflection, Celebration and Rejuvenation”*, SAAC members spent the day engaging with Lambano Sanctuary leadership and staff and their decades of work supporting children living with HIV. In response to a Christmas wish from the children, Sorors also presented gifts and hosted a KFC lunch. The Chapter’s (IAI) Co-Chair, Nomhle Canca, noted that before the chapter’s chartering in 2021, sorors living in Johannesburg often volunteered at Lambano. Further, Soror Canca stated that SAAC’s relationship with Lambano has deepened as SAAC can now more formally organize activities to support the facility under the sorority’s IAI Programmatic Thrust. The chapter determined that it needed to update the donor communities on how ARVs has enhanced lives and eased the social impact of their chronic condition on them, their communities and families as well as the urgent need to refund ARV support programs given the recent diversion of resources to address the pandemic.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



PAMOJA

A Fellowship Program for Black Women Entrepreneurs Developed by the Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

The PAMOJA Fellowship was launched by the Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter (SAAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in November 2021. SAAC welcomed the second cohort of participants on October 4, 2022. PAMOJA, the Swahili word for “together,” is a concept for how SAAC believes Black women entrepreneurs in Africa and America can grow more substantial businesses and build deeper bonds. Specifically, SAAC’s goal is to support increased networks of Black women entrepreneurs across our service area and the United States. Through PAMOJA, our participants will be positioned to transform their communities by unlocking their economic growth potential through owning, running, and operating successful small and medium businesses.

World Bank data indicates that 14 of the top 20 nations with the most significant percentages of women in the labor force are in Africa, with seven countries falling within SAAC’s service area. Globally, the rate of Black women entrepreneurs continues to rise; however, Black women face similar challenges on the continent and in the United States. Through PAMOJA, SAAC uses targeted engagements like peer-to-peer learning groups, mentorship, specialized resources, masterclasses, and a cadre of inspirational speakers and business leaders to create an enabling environment for market-ready Black women entrepreneurs to tap into existing business ecosystems and move forward with a strategy for success.

This sorority year, SAAC focused on developing partnerships across various sectors and alumnae chapters to leverage resources and bring diverse perspectives to support and empower PAMOJA participants. Our second Fellowship cohort was composed of 10 budding women business owners who represented five African countries and three U.S. states. Their businesses also cut across six sectors – including education, health and beauty, agriculture, tourism, hospitality, and retail. During the six-month program, SAAC supported the “wholeness” of the Black woman entrepreneur with sessions that uplifted each of the Sorority’s five-point programmatic thrust and empowered Black women to become business leaders and voices of change in their communities. Program sessions covered a range of topics to include strategic planning and business plan development, money management and fundraising, and skills building to ensure participants were aware of the latest tips for using digital business tools.



2023 DELTA DAYS AT UNITED NATIONS



The 19th Annual Delta Days at the United Nations was held on March 13 – 14, 2023 under the theme, Forward with Fortitude: 20 Years of Elevating Our Global Impact through Partnerships, Programs and Social Action.

Soror Cynthia Lully,
SAAC chapter member in
person at Delta Days at the
United Nations (DDUN),
with Soror Carol
McLaurin, Chair of the
International Awareness
and Involvement sub
committee

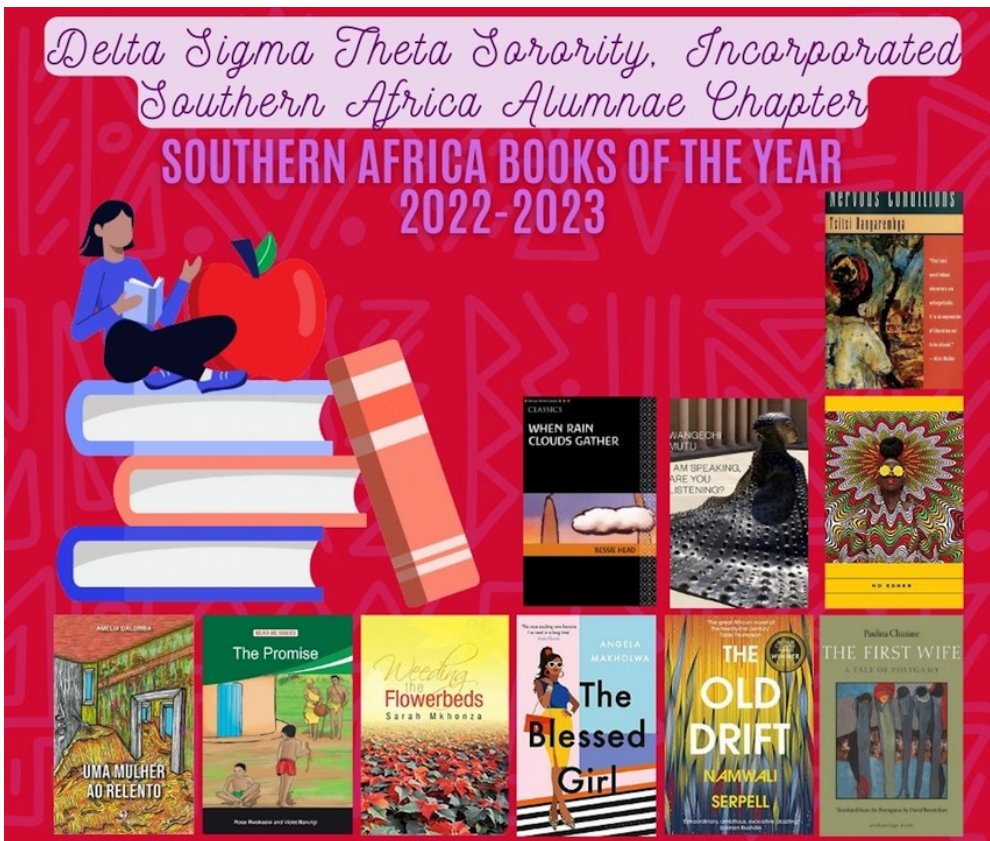


Since its inception, Delta Days in the Nation's Capital provides an opportunity for members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. to participate in the nation's public policy-making process. This annual conference includes legislative briefings, issue forums and advocacy skills development. Featured speakers include key policy makers, members of the United States Congress, congressional staff members and national issue experts.

The hybrid conference was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, DC.



ARTS AND LETTERS



“Our Books Matter.”

SABOTY 2022-2023 promotes the literacy of written stories from Southern Africa. This year’s listing of ten (10) books were primarily written by predominantly Black African women or African women of color. The authors represent ten of the 17 SAAC regional areas: Zimbabwe, Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, Angola, Uganda, Eswatini, South Africa, Zambia and Mozambique. Two hundred color bookmarks listing the ten books were distributed in Kenya. One hundred bookmarks were mailed to Pittsburgh Alumnae Chapter in honor of Delta Authors on Tour in the Eastern Region.

Although this is the first year for SABOTY, SAAC’s Arts and Letters Committee plans to announce books annually during May Week. So, future SABOTY campaigns may include book talks, author cafes or writing workshops.



Southern Africa Books of the Year 2023

1. **"Nervous Conditions"**
by Tsitsi Dangarembga (Zimbabwe)
2. **"When Rain Clouds Gather"**
by Bessie Head (Botswana)
3. **"I am Speaking, Are You Listening"**
by Wangechi Mutu (Kenya)
4. **"No Edges: Swahili Stories"**
by Fatma Shafii (et al) (Tanzania)
5. **"Uma Mulher ao Relento"**
by Amélia Dalomba (Angola)
6. **"The Promise"**
by Rose Rwakasisi (Uganda)
7. **"Weeding the Flowerbeds"**
by Sarah Mkhonza (Eswatini)
8. **"The Blessed Girl"**
by Angela Makholwa (South Africa)
9. **"The Old Rift"**
by Namwali Serpell (Zambia)
10. **"The First Wife"**
by Paulina Chiziane (Mozambique)



ARTS AND LETTERS



National Arts & Letters Commission Celebrates!

Honorary Member, Lena Horne Becomes 1st Black Woman to have Broadway Theatre Named in Her Honor.

Tuesday, Nov 1st, 2022
2pm – Block Party
3pm – Ceremony

256 West 47th St. NYC
(outdoors)

The Brooks Atkinson Theatre will officially be renamed the Lena Horne Theatre in honor of the iconic entertainer, civil rights activist, and Honorary Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.



Photo: Lena Horne
Courtesy of The Nederlander Organization

A formal celebration will take place on 47th Street to celebrate the historic moment for the theater community. The ceremony will include special performances, remarks, and an unveiling of the new marquee.

Join the celebration and represent with members of Delta



**Soror Cynthia Lully
Represented SAAC**



Mission Trip 2023

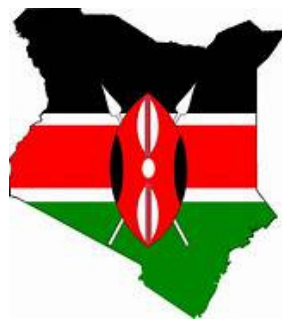


Southern Africa Alumnae Joins U.S. Delegation During Historic Visit

The Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter (SAAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was invited to join in the National Delegation Mission Trip 2023 to Kenya May 8-10, 2023. Eight SAAC chapter members met the 40-person delegation at the Jomo Kenyatta airport to welcome them to Nairobi. The delegation was led by National President and Chair of the Board of Directors Elsie Cooke-Holmes, the National First Vice President, Pamela E Smith, National Secretary Joi L Moore and the 26th National President, Beverly E Smith. Co-Chairs National of the Program, Planning and Development Committee, the Chair of International Awareness and Involvement subcommittee, headquarters staff and sorors representing all seven regions.



Mission Trip 2023

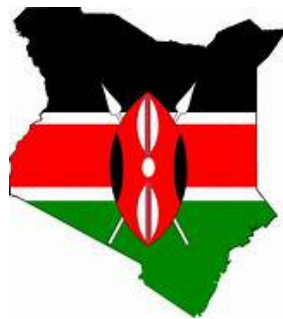


The first day started at the US Embassy in Kenya. The delegation was privileged to hear from USAID, CDC, and received a tour of the American Spaces. Additionally, National President and Chair of the Board of Directors, National First Vice President and 26th National President, Sorors Sherida Stevens and Kerry Scott were invited to meet with the esteemed US Ambassador to Kenya, Meg Whitman for an engaging exchange of information.

After the US Embassy, the delegation headed to Mary Help of the Sick Mission Hospital in Thika, Kenya. After a rousing welcome with song, dance and roses, the hospital did on presentation on the work that is being done there and provided a tour of the premises. Attendees were able to see the equipment that has been purchased with funding from the sorority. One of the highlights was the visit to the Surgical Theatre (Maternity Ward/Operating Room) where all viewed the photo of the 27th National President Cheryl A. Hickmon.



Mission Trip 2023



The second day was exciting as everyone headed to charter member Sha Givens' school at I Can Fly in Machakos, Kenya. The 200 girls met the delegation and performed traditional dances, gave tours of the school, showing the various classrooms, hostels, and computer labs. The group was in for an emotional day with the 200 girls and the three workshops that were co-led by own chapter members, Sherida Stevens, Amaka Nkwankwo-Igomu and Shawntrice Thomas. The workshops were about finance (needs and wants), health (menstruation/you are normal) and education (higher education).

The final stop was a visit to Muindi Mbinga School for boys in Machakos, Kenya. The boys' school welcomed the group, offered a tour and invited attendees to join in some music and dance presentations.

It was a historic day for members of the Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter to visit three of the nationally-approved initiatives along with members of the National Board of Directors. Chapter members plan to share their experiences and learning with the rest of the community to further the work that is in progress internationally.



53RD EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE



The 53rd Eastern Regional Conference was held at the National Harbour from August 31 - September 4.

SAAC Sorors were proudly in attendance in person and virtually





53RD EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE





OUR BELOVED DELTA DEAR



Initiated Tau Chapter
November 11, 1954

Soror Charlotte Fuller celebrated her 92nd Birthday on
April 11, 2023



GALLERY





GALLERY





GALLERY





THANK YOU



With gratitude and appreciation, we thank our National President and Chair of the Board of Directors, the National Executive Committee, and our Eastern Regional Director of the Dynamic and Historic Eastern Region, and the Eastern Region Team for your unwavering support of SAAC!

