

# The Bustle

Editor: Jill Coble

Volume 53, Issue 8

December 2024

## Beta Sigma Phi—Southwest Houston City Council

### President's Message

Happy Holidays!!!

I hope you had a lovely Thanksgiving holiday with your loved ones. Our little family enjoyed way too much of the bountiful holiday meal combined with a helping of football and friends. We were truly blessed. Now we are shifting our focus to the December holidays.

It's time to get all the holiday lights in place on the house and in the yard. We will prepare our holiday shopping lists, yes, we will check them twice. I am sure many of you are doing much the same. Please save December 12<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for our SWHCC monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wear your favorite holiday hat to the meeting. We promise this meeting will be short on business and long on festivities. I hope you will join us, the more the merrier.

Looking ahead to 2025, teams are hard at work on Sweetheart Ball and Founder's Day. These events are labors of love. I hope you will be attending both events. Events are just more fun with more people.

I am pleased to let you know that SWHCC will be donating \$2000 to Reigning Strength Therapeutic Horsemanship in Richmond. Generous attendees at the Fall Event made this donation possible. Check out their website at <https://www.reiningstrength.org/>.

I am thy sister,  
Sandra



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## This and That.....News from Council

### Hostess Schedule 2024 -2025

December 12, 2024—Executive Board  
January 9, 2025—Alpha Delta Theta  
February 13, 2025—Laureate Iota Omega  
March 13, 2025—Laureate Iota Tau  
April 10, 2025—Xi Alpha Epsilon Omega  
May 9, 2025—2025-2026 Executive Board

### Council Meeting



The next council meeting will be Thursday, December 12th. Mark that date on your calendar and make plans to attend. Beta Buzz starts around 5:00 pm with the Council Meeting starting at 6:30 pm.

### Editor Notes:

*You will want to check out page 3 to see pictures from the November Council Meeting where XAZ Sisters hosted.*

*Chapter reports start on page 9. Enjoy seeing what chapters did during the month of November.*

*It's hard to believe that 2024 is coming to a close. Where has the time gone. The next Bustle will be the first one in January 2025.*

*Enjoy the holiday season.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

*Until next month.....*

*Jill*



**So how aware are you of SWHCC Standing Rules? During the next few months, let's learn a little about them. It will be sort of like pledge training when we have a new member!**

**Standing Rule #3** - No member shall be eligible for the office of Council President unless having served as the President-Elect of Council or as President of a Chapter.

**Standing Rule #6** - The standing committees of Council may be: Bustle, By-laws, Convention, Properties, Directory, Founder's Day, Friendly Venture, Service Liaison, Open Meeting, Scrapbook, Holiday Event, Sister with Something Extra, Sweetheart Ball, Membership, Web, and Financial Review.

*More to come next month.*

## November SWHCC Meeting

Things were buzzing when SWHCC members arrived at the November 14 council meeting. Following dinner, we moved on to the Business Meeting where XAZ Chapter hosted for the evening. XAZ members pinned "BSP being the right place to be" for XAZ and shared places they have been together.





# XAZ

BSP is our favorite place to be...

From Alaska to the Mediterranean, Mackinac Island to Mexico, whether it is happy hour at a nearby restaurant, cruising on a ship, fine dining at a bowling alley, a meeting and meal at a sister's house, lobster rolls on the cape, shopping and lunch, county festivals, high tea, or a council event, we have found that our favorite place to be is together!







A block of hotel rooms have been reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn. Rooms are \$107 + tax. Rate includes breakfast the morning after the ball. To make hotel reservations for the night of the Sweetheart Ball, please use the link below.

[SWHCC Sweetheart Ball](#)

## Sweetheart Ball Committee Meeting

Are you getting ready for the Sweetheart Ball? The Sweetheart Ball Committee met recently to finalize plans for the upcoming February 22, 2025 Romancing the Stone: Jewel of the Nile Sweetheart Ball. It's going to be a fun event as we honor our Chapter Sweethearts. So mark the date on your calendar now as you won't want to miss it.



*The* **JEWEL**  
*of the* Nile



**THE RIGHT PLACE TO BE**  
**BETA SIGMA PHI**  
**94<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FOUNDER'S DAY**



**THE CLUB AT FALCON POINT**  
**24503 FALCON POINT DRIVE**  
**KATY, TEXAS 77494**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025 11:00AM-2:00PM**



Details on the 2025 BSP Friendship Cruise. I know there are at least four SWHCC Sisters who have already signed up to go on the cruise so why not join in the fun!



## 7 Night Greek Isles & Turkey Cruise



Second time around and by popular demand, let's do it again. And I can offer you payment plans.

### VOYAGER OF THE SEAS

Athens, Greece

Mykonos, Greece

Istanbul, Turkey

Ephesus (Kusadasi) Turkey

Santorini, Greece

Athens, Greece

**June 2—9, 2025**

**\$726.50\* Inside pp\***

**\$936.50 Oceanview pp\***

**\$1196.50 Balcony pp\***

Taxes & fees \$170.18 pp

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*Virginia (Ginger) Lee*





### NOVEMBER SOCIAL

*"Animals are the bridge between us and the beauty of all that is natural. They show us what's missing in our lives, and how to love ourselves more completely and unconditionally. They connect us back to who we are, and to the purpose of why we're here." — Trisha McCagh*

# HOUSTON ZOO



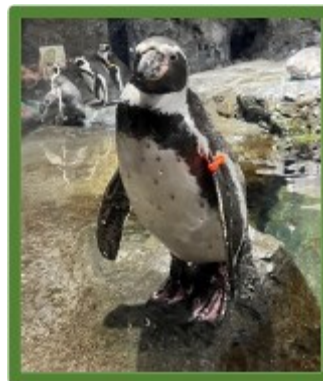
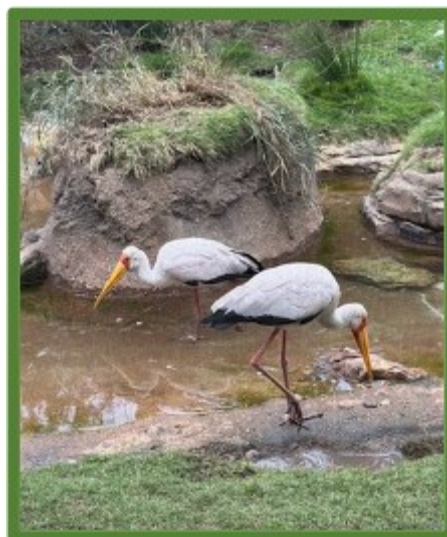
The Houston Zoo is located in Herman Park and houses over 6,000 animals and more than 900 species. It receives 2 million visitors a year and is the second most visited zoo in the US. Their mission statement is "The Houston Zoo connects communities with animals, inspiring action to save wildlife."

Our November social found us exploring the Houston Zoo. We had an amazing day for it. The day started out a bit forecast, but then the clouds parted and it turned into a beautiful sunny Saturday. Four of us made a day of it, visiting as many exhibits as we could. We soon realized that it would take more than just one day to truly experience everything the Houston Zoo has to offer.



Some of the exhibits we did see were some of the primates, exotic birds, giraffes, penguins, lions, tigers and bears (Oh my.) Melinda enjoyed the penguins while Karen's favorites were the giraffes. Sherry and Cynthia had fun feeding the giraffes. Did you know a giraffe's tongue can be 18-20 inches long? WOW.

## ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 2



We all had a lot of fun and even found time for a quick bite and had a chance to chat about coming back again. Also don't miss the Zoo's holiday light show available now through January



## NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting took place in the home of Karen Sweet-Angel in Cypress. Prior to the meeting, Karen offered dinner and drinks and the dinner selections tied to her program for the evening. She offered: ghormeh sabzi (gourmet greens) with rice, zereshk polo with chicken (rice with barberries) both Persian cuisine; shrimp with a rum chili glaze (Trinidad cuisine) and spice cake with peanut butter frosting (her grandmother's recipe).



The meeting was called to order. Attendance was taken and the meeting began. We welcomed guest Brenda Kleidon to her second visit with us. October minutes were approved. November City Council Meeting was reviewed and included updates on the Sweetheart Ball and Founder's Day. Presidents report by Karen included mention of the SWHCC Christmas Party/December Meeting and she encouraged all to attend as it was quite festive last year. This year will include a holiday hat contest. Officer reports were reviewed. Committee reports included updates on socials and secret sister. Karen requested non Thanksgiving pictures for the Bustle by Nov. 27th and Thanksgiving pictures ASAP.



A pledge ritual was held for Sonia Afshar, led by vice president Barbara Meurer. She was welcomed by all and received her pin and a yellow rose. Melinda introduced her to the BSP sister hand shake. We are excited to have Sonia as our newest sister to Alpha Delta Theta.

## ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 4



Following our programs for this year "The Best Place to Be is Home." Each sister has presented what home means to them and Karen was no different. Karen explained how her love of cooking has followed her through childhood and all of the places she has lived. The foods she served for dinner were an example.

As a child, her grandmother was the person she looked to for guidance in cooking and she shared her love of cooking with her oldest sister Sherry. As teenagers they would plan and cook elaborate dinners for their parents, with their middle sister Sandy playing waitress. Their parents would dress up and would be served dishes like chicken cacciatore and baked Alaska. The spice cake was an example from their grandmother.

Karen lived in Iran for 3 years and learned to cook Persian cuisine from her Mother-in-law. She has been making Persian food for the last 35+ years and even taught her BSP sister to make kebab at one of their socials last year, sharing one of her won traditions of home. Living in Trinidad gave Karen the opportunity to soak up the island life and culture, including some of the local dishes. Many of the dishes have an Indian flavor to them and they also eat a lot of seafood. She shared a shrimp dish with a rum chili glaze, a favorite in Trini cooking.



Ghormeh Sabzi



Zereshk Polo



Spice Cake w/peanut  
Butter frosting



## ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 5

Wherever she travels. Karen carries with her all the receipes and kinds of foods she has learned. For her, these are her traditions and reminds her of where she's been, who she's been with and especially those who are no longer with her. Wherever she goes, "home" is always just one dish away.



A raffle was held and Melinda and Sonia were the winners. Melinda received baking utensils and Sonia received a Trinidadian Cookbook.



Happiest of birthdays to Karen Sweet-Angel, our November birthday girl.



## ON A PERSONAL NOTE



Melinda and her sister Melanie celebrating their mom Barbara's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BARBARA 🌈



Rubi, Sylvia's foster daughter was sworn in and now is an American citizen. Rubi graduated from Cinco Ranch HS and served in the US Navy. Rubi is also a martial arts instructor.

In the Land of OZ, where good and not so good abound, Diane and Sylvia attended the early showing of the new block buster movie Wicked. Diane wore a pink sweater, representing Glenda and Sylvia wore a Wicked shirt and cap, representing, well, you know who. They both had an amazing time.



## ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 7



Diane and Dan had a wonderful Thanksgiving at their daughter Christy's house, that included son-in-law Ryan, granddaughter Lilla, grandson Flynn, and son Brian. Sunny the dog was shy when it came to having his picture taken.



Sherry and Karen spent Thanksgiving in New York City with Karen's daughter Sahar and her son-in-law PJ. Members of PJ's family were there from St. Louis, Chicago, and Omaha. They celebrated with a Thanksgiving breakfast together provided by Sahar and Chef PJ. Later everyone enjoyed a traditional dinner at Bobby Van's,

## LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA

### REPORTER:

News from Shirley Grass: These are all my grandchildren except for Isabelle who is in Alabama and me. I am very grateful and thankful that our whole family could get together this year. My heart is full of love, kisses and hugs. We had 20 family members and 7 dogs and one cat. God is good!





## LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA....PAGE 2

News from Joan Batts: Joan and Her daughter were on a Thanksgiving cruise to Mexico. Beautiful weather with a lot of relaxation. So thankful I didn't have to cook!!



# LAUREATE IOTA TAU

**REPORTER: LINDA DASPIT**

ONCE AGAIN, NO NEWS FROM LIT.



# PRECEPTOR NU

REPORTER: SHAWN DORN AND CAROLYN MEEKS

Shawn Dorn had the unique opportunity to attend Neville High School's 50th Year Class of 1974 Class in Monroe, LA. She grew up with most all those graduating and even though she attended & graduated from another High School, the invitation was extended to Shawn to attend and participate in all the events planned because many felt it would be a wonderful opportunity to touch base again and catch up.

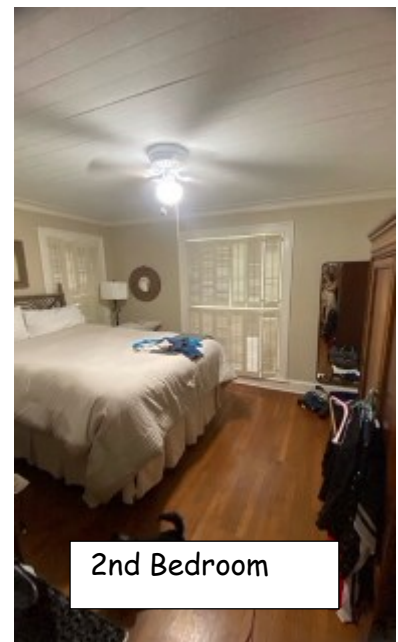
Shawn and Carolyn had never experienced an AirB&B before and decided this was the perfect trip to do so. When they arrived to their AirB&B they were delightfully surprised. It was very clean, quite charming, nicely decorated and quite comfortable. The fenced in back yard, for our dogs, was enormous! And the kitchen was well provisioned with fundamentals one might expect, but the owners included extras that one wouldn't expect to receive at a hotel/motel. It was a most pleasant surprise. If you haven't tried an AirB&B you might want to consider doing so.



Living Room



Master Bedroom



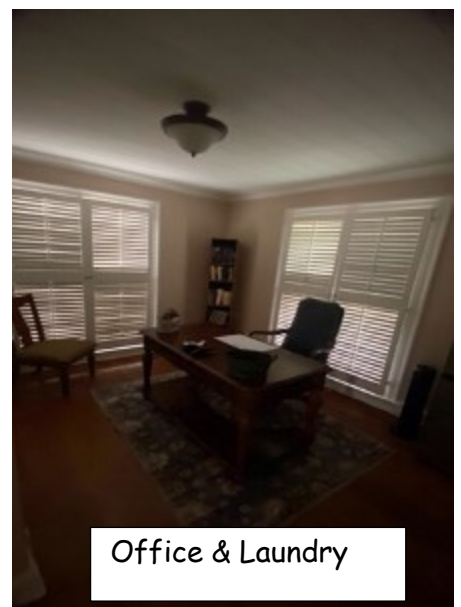
2nd Bedroom



Dining Room



Dining Room



Office & Laundry

## PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 2

The cake created for Neville High's Class of 1974, 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion held at the Bayou DeSaird Country Club spotlighted Shasta, the school's loved tiger mascot.



I was pleased to see that my friends who had been Neville Cheerleaders hadn't changed that much over the past 50 years. They

### MICHELLE LOVELACE, Actress Extraordinaire



#### Closing weekend.

Agatha Theater in downtown Rosenberg is known for its murder mystery dinners that have the audience become characters as well.

Closing weekend of Hocus Pocus II Killer Witches, Michelle "had a spell" on Mary Crochet because she couldn't recognize who she was! The show ran the month of October.





## FAMILY MEMBER UPDATES!



Chandler Lovelace earned his Eagle Scout on October 22. He belongs to Boy Scout Troop 1656 in Richmond.

He completed a raised garden for those living with physical disabilities to be able to participate in gardening. That was his Eagle Scout project



Mickie's 11-month Great Grand, Briar, was ready for some Thanksgiving dinner! This last month she started pulling herself up by using furniture to assist her. Also. She loves music & bounces on her knees.



Murphy Sampley, the blonde in aqua above, Shawn's Great Niece, pledged Chi Omega this past month

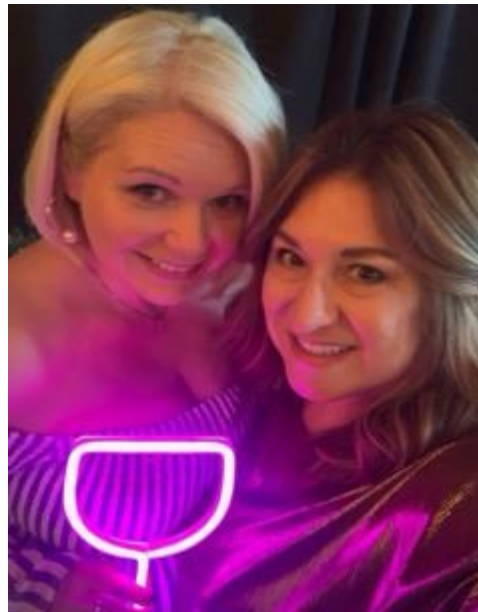


Mickie's 3 month Great Grand, Wren, is a tiny sweetheart!! She is being cuddled & spoiled by her 2 aunts, Allie @ Amy, Mickie's Granddaughters! She finally is big enough to wear her newborn clothes.

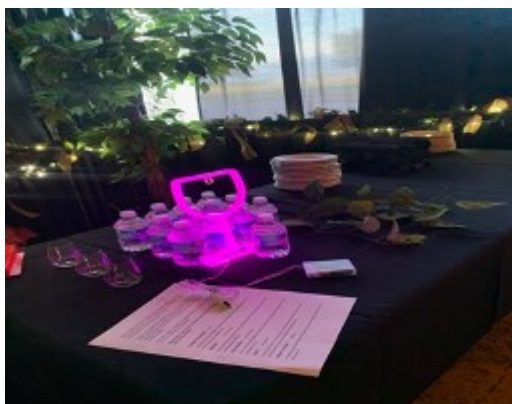


## PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 4

Shawn's sister, Shela, came to shop the Nutcracker Market with Shawn. Saturday they met in Sugar Land for brunch with a friend's daughter attending HCU on a golf scholarship. In the square we were privileged to a car show where Shela managed to get herself arrested. (LOL)



Michelle Lovelace and Linda Noltz were our hostesses / wine aficionados for this fun & engaging social that was held Saturday evening, the 16<sup>th</sup> at LaMonte's, in Richmond, TX.





## PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 5





## PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 6



Shawn, Michelle & Linda Noltz did a lovely job in putting this meeting together. It was held at P.F. Chang's Sugar Land in their beautiful private room. Michelle once again bowled us over with her amazing "Orange" themed decor. Linda Noltz grabbed out attention with her Program about the orange. , This topic was found to be a lot more interesting than one might have thought! Shawn created two amazing desserts served in 1/2 of a scooped out orange & complimented by a spice cake bob bon. I must say, even though the Orange Poulett and the Mousse didn't retain their thickened consistency while waiting to be served, the taste of them were absolutely divine.





# XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA

REPORTER: JILL COBLE

We started off the holiday shopping season with the Annual Ace Hardware Ladies Night Out, Thursday, Nov 7th. We were treated to some delicious samples of food and drinks while we shopped and checked people off our lists. Everyone received a discount of 20% on their purchases. Jeana Dorow was one of the lucky ones to be in Top 10 to line up and received a special prize. She got an insulated tumbler and some hand sanitizer from Ace Hardware. They had a really festive atmosphere complete with holiday music and Photo Booth!



*Ladies  
Night Out*

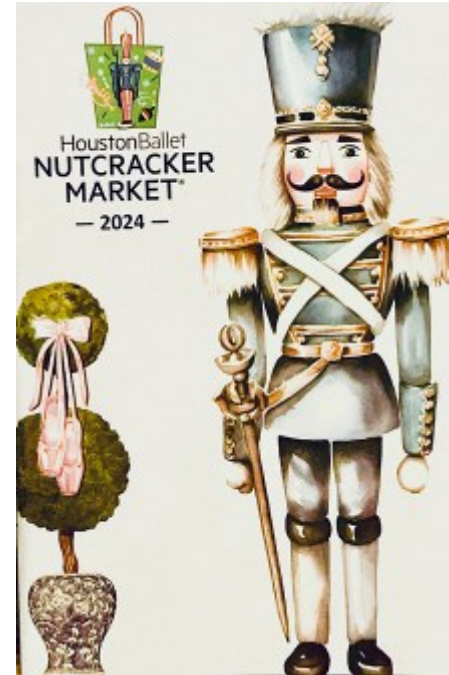




## XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 2

As XAEO journeys continued, we found ourselves heading up to the North Pole to look for Christmas treasures and all things that glitter and shine at the November Nutcracker Market. But not before we boarded our sleigh filled with tasty treats and confections to fuel our bodies for the fun shopping that lied ahead. Libations were enjoyed, gay apparel was donned, lots of laughs were had, and some of us even got a new set of eyebrows!

We think Santa might be putting a few of us on the naughty list!!!!





## XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 3





## XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 4



Hey look, it's the Harvest Moon!!!

XAEO realized the Best Place for us to be when it came to doing a Service Project was right here in our own community, Katy Texas. After some research we chose Clothed by Faith. The organization is connected with many agencies that distribute clothing and shoes to those in need. They were very organized as we sorted mounds of clothing and even made it fun! We worked for two solid hours and left feeling blessed for the opportunity to serve others. After all that work, we were a little hungry so we headed to Buzz & Bites to enjoy lunch.





## XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 5



All Aboard for the November XAEO Chapter Meeting! The train pulled into the station (Pam's house) as she hosted the November meeting. Following a delicious dinner, we held our Business Meeting where members received a few more stamps in their passports. Pam presented an interesting program on the right place to be for her which was the time she spends at her country home in Louisiana. With her theme, "Best Memories are Made on the Farm". Pam shared the time spent with family, her memories of her Dad catching crawfish and even had a crawfish trap and explained how it worked. Pam ended her program with "A Cajun Toast".





## XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 6



### A CAJUN TOAST

May there be crawfish in your nets  
And gumbo in your pot.  
May the Sac-au-lait be biting  
At your favorite fishing spot.

May God's sun be shining brightly  
When you need its cheerful rays.  
May the oak tree shade you gently  
On those lazy bayou days.

May a Bourrée game be waiting  
When all your work is through.  
May the fais-do-do bring pretty girls  
To toss a wink at you.

And when your time is over  
And your place on earth is gone,  
May you waltz right into heaven  
To the tune of "Jolie Blonde."



## XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 7

### A word from our Members:

XAEO Chapter members Pam McDuffie and Renita Hudson, with Beta Buddies Mark and Eddie enjoyed a 7 day cruise aboard the Harmony of the Seas. Ports of call were Roatan, Honduras and Costa Maya, Mexico. Cozumel was skipped due to outrunning Hurricane Rafael in the Caribbean. No fear there....they made it back safely to Galveston and never missed a beat. That missed port gave them an extra sea day which was the Right Place to Be, spending the day among friends.



No report.



**MEMBER AT LARGE**

REPORTER: JOYCE FRANK

No report.

*Beta Sigma Phi  
Southwest Houston  
City Council*

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***www.betasigmaphiswhcc.org***

**Motto:  
Life, Learning,  
Friendship**

**BΣΦ**



**2024—2025 Executive Board**

**Sandra Simpson —President**

**Jeanne Melton—President-Elect**

**Mary Crochet —Vice President**

**Barbara Meurer—Recording Secretary**

**Joan Balts —Corresponding Secretary**

**Sherry Sweet —Treasurer**

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**LIT—Frances Speer**

**PN—Linda Nolty**

**XAEO—Jill Coble**

**XAZ—Jeanne Melton**



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