

# The Bustle

Editors: Karen Sweet-Angel & Sherry Sweet

Volume 54, Issue 9

January 2026

## Beta Sigma Phi—Southwest Houston City Council

### President's Message

Happy New Year, Sisters!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season filled with the warmth of family and friends. As we step into 2026, I am filled with gratitude for this sisterhood and the "Angels of Friendship" who make our council so special.

#### A Magical December Celebration

A very special thank you goes to our incredible **SWHCC Board—Diane Levie, Pam McDuffie, Linda Nolty, Joan Batts, and Sandra Simpson**. You all truly outdid yourselves! The decorations were absolutely fabulous, and the entertainment was top-notch. We had such a blast with the games and prizes, especially seeing everyone's creativity with the "Tops to Toes" outfits. [Congratulations](#) again to our winners for Best Costume, Most Original, and Funniest!

One of the highlights was certainly the gift exchange. **Joan Batts**, thank you for crafting such a wonderful "Left, Right" story for the exchange—it was a highlight of the night and such a fun way to share our gifts with one another.

#### Join Us in January: A Fresh Start

Let's keep that momentum going as we kick off the new year! Our next meeting will be hosted by the sisters of **LIO**, and I encourage everyone to attend to catch up and get the latest news

**What:** SWHCC January Meeting hosted by LIO

**When:** Thursday, January 8, 2026

**Beta Buzz:** 5:30PM

**Meeting:** 6:30PM

**Where:** Hilton Garden Inn Houston/Sugarland, 722 Bonaventure Way Sugarland, TX

**RSVP:** please RSVP by the afternoon of **Monday, January 5th**

#### Inside this issue:

<i>Presidents Message</i>	1
<i>Reminders</i>	3
<i>Special Project</i>	4
<i>Council News</i>	5
<i>Upcoming Council Events</i>	11
<i>Alpha Delta Theta</i>	14
<i>Laureate Iota Omega</i>	23
<i>Preceptor Nu</i>	24
<i>Xi Alpha Epsilon Omega</i>	29
<i>Xi Alpha Zeta</i>	37
<i>Misc Info</i>	45



# President's Message (continued)

**A gentle reminder on the importance of attendance and RSVPs:** Coming to the meetings is about more than just business; it's our time to visit and stay connected. Additionally, an accurate head count helps the hotel with room setup. Because the Hilton is so generous in allowing us to use this space for free, it is very important that as many members as possible are in attendance to support them by purchasing food or drinks. It's our way of saying "thank you" for their hospitality!

**Note:** *If you or anyone in your chapter is not receiving our communications, please let me know so I can fix that right away.*

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## Important Dates & Deadlines

We have a busy and exciting few months ahead

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**Sweetheart Ball - "An Evening at Tiffany's":** Mark your calendars for **February 21, 2026**, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Greenway Plaza. **Jill Coble, Pam McDuffie**, and their team are planning a spectacular event. Please begin making your hotel reservations now!

**Sweetheart Names:** As soon as your chapter has named your Sweetheart, please notify the committee immediately.

**RSVP:** Remember, chapters should send **only one check** with a list of names for all members and guests attending. These events are a perfect time to introduce a potential new member to the magic of BSP!

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**Council Dues:** The **second installment** of council dues is due at the January meeting. Treasurers, please be prepared to turn these in.

**Sister With Something Extra (SWSE):** It's time to start thinking about who in our council stands out as a "Sister With Something Extra." Nominations will be due soon, so keep an eye out for that information!

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## Our Angels of Friendship

In the spirit of our theme, I ask our "**Angels of Friendship**" to continue reaching out to the sisters on our prayer request list. Your calls, cards, and prayers spread the warmth and caring that define our sisterhood.

I can't wait to see your smiling faces on **January 8th!** Until then, enjoy the start of this beautiful new year and stay safe.

"May the Lord watch between me and thee."

Blessings to you and yours for a healthy, happy new year,

I am thy sister,

**Jeanne Melton**  
SWHCC President, 2025-2026

# This and That....News from Council

## Editor Notes:

### Happiest of New Years!

Another year, 2025 is finished and we begin anew in 2026. As we say goodbye to 2025 and look forward, we hope that your upcoming year is filled with new beginnings and joyful moments. Celebrate every step of your journey.

"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. — Melody Beattie

What will you write this year?

Beta hugs.  
Karen & Sherry



## NEW YEAR ANGEL PRAYER FOR 2026

MORE CREATIVITY.  
Flexibility.  
Beloved Angels of Light,  
as I step into this sacred new  
beginning,  
I declare that this is my year  
a year of celebration, success,  
abundance, and joy.

Diana Cooper

## Council Meeting



Mark your calendars for the next City Council meeting January 8, 2026.

Remember, Beta Buzz starts around 5:00pm and the Council meeting starts at 6:30pm, hosted this month by the LIO,

## Hostess Schedule 2025-2026

January 8, 2026	LIO
February 12, 2026	XAEO
March 12, 2026	PN
April 9, 2026	---
May 14, 2026	NEW BOARD



## “Everything OLD is NEW Again”

### 'Boy Friend' Performance Will Aid Research Fund

A benefit performance of "The Boy Friend," a spoof of the Roaring 20s, will be staged Thursday at 8:30 p.m. in the Music Hall.

Proceeds from the one-night stand will go to the Beta Sigma Phi Metabolic Research Fund of the Texas Medical Center. Local sponsors are Xi Iota Omicron, Tau Rho and Gamma Nu chapters of Beta Sigma Phi.

Trio Production's touring company has assembled a cast of names well-known to Houston theatre-goers. Sandra Hossley and Dick Bonelle will take the leads in the three-act hit Broadway musical comedy. Mr. Bonelle, a native Houstonian, has been in such productions as "West Side Story," "Carousel," "Show Boat" and "The Unsinkable Molly Brown."

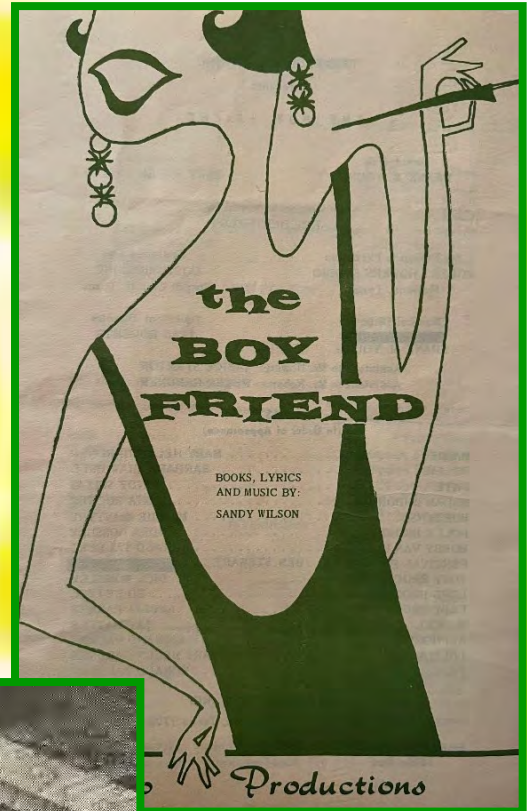
Playing the British Lord and his Lady will be Houston comedian, Ed Wetzell, and veteran Alley Theatre actress, Amelia Parker.

The production staff is headed by Frank Young, who serves as stage and musical director.

Choreography is by Mary Helen Gardner.

Tickets are now on sale at all three Foley's stores.

General co-ordinators are Mrs. James L. McDonald and Mrs. Robert T. Stavely.



## December City Council Meeting/Holiday Celebration

The December Council meeting started as usual with a Beta Buzz session, where everyone enjoyed a drink and a bite to eat.



An abbreviated meeting was held that included information regarding the upcoming Sweetheart Ball. Pam McDuffie and Jill Coble gave a skit which included pertinent information regarding the Ball; Double Tree Greenway Paza, 20th floor.; Cost \$65.; RSVP by February 2.; Rooms for \$139 by January; hotel number. Please see the flyer in this edition of the Bustle.

Many came dressed for the occasion, head to toe and Prizes were given for best costumes with the winners below.





Mickie W— Funniest



Pam M. —Most original



Barbara M.— Best Overall

Many games were planned by the Council members. One such games was guessing the number of marshmallows . The to three were: 3rd Lizette with 125, 2nd Barbara M with 130 and the winner was Jill with a guess of 136, just two off of the total of 138.

We played a snowball toss and it was fun watching the different techniques. Linda won with a total of 6. Melinda also received a prize for most unique toss style.



Here are a few more snowball toss contestants.



Another game was "Angels of Friendship" Bingo. Not sure if using M&Ms was the best choice for markers. Because they were being eaten, people had to keep replenishing their markers.

There were numerous winners including: Cynde R., Diana R., Becky F., Mickie W., Jill C., and Joyce C.



One of the highlights of the evening was the "Right, Left" game led by Joan Batts. She read a wonderful story and the contestants had all they could do to keep with passing the gifts left and right. It was so much fun that it was sad when the story concluded. Everyone had a great time and also received some beautiful gifts brought by the all of the members.



Everyone was happy with the gift they received in the "Left Right" game.



It was a wonderful evening to share with our sisters and a beautiful start to the holiday season.



*Darlings!*

*You are cordially invited to*

*"An Evening at Tiffany's"*




Beta Sigma Phi  
Southwest Houston City Council  
Sweetheart Ball

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026  
6 pm in the Evening

Double Tree by Hilton

6 E Greenway Plaza  
Plaza Ballroom- 20<sup>th</sup> floor  
Houston, TX



Tickets - \$65 per person  
RSVP no later than February 2nd

No refunds after February 2nd

Hotel Group Rate \$ 139++ available Feb. 21- 22, 2026

Booking Link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/hougwdt-bsp-6dOcdfdf-8IQ3-4e7I-8b82-5f75c7997e5O/>

Group code: BSP

Reservations must be made by January 31, 2026

\*Reservations can also be made by phone 800-222-TREE (222-8733), providing group dates and group code for Beta Sigma Phi Sweetheart Ball

Darlings, in the true spirit of "Breakfast at Tiffany's", would you please wear your little black dress or something black? Don't forget your utterly fabulous Pearls, Sparkles, and divine costume jewelry!

***FOUNDER'S DAY***  
***SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026***  
***THE CAFE AT BROOKWOOD***  
***More information to follow***



### DECEMBER SOCIAL



"I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love." — Linus

The ADT December social took place at City Centre. We started the evening at Seasons 52 where we enjoyed a lovely dinner and time catching up with each other. Then it was a short walk to the rest of the evening.



## ALPHA DELTA THETA....PAGE 2

The main attraction of the evening was at the Queensbury Theatre at City Centre. We enjoyed an evening with the characters from "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Just like the cartoon from our childhood, all the major players were there. We truly enjoyed the play, especially all of the singing and dancing, including from Snoopy. What an amazing way to start the holiday season.



## DECEMBER MEETING/HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Our December meeting and Holiday Celebration took place on December 8th at Palazzo's Restaurant in west Houston. With everyone in attendance the celebration started on a festive note that included decorations by Melinda. It was a busy time with many different elements in the evening.



Barbara presented each sister with a lovely card and cranberry nut bread. Karen also had a gift for everyone that included a yellow rose ornament and an ADT Sisters 2025 ornament.



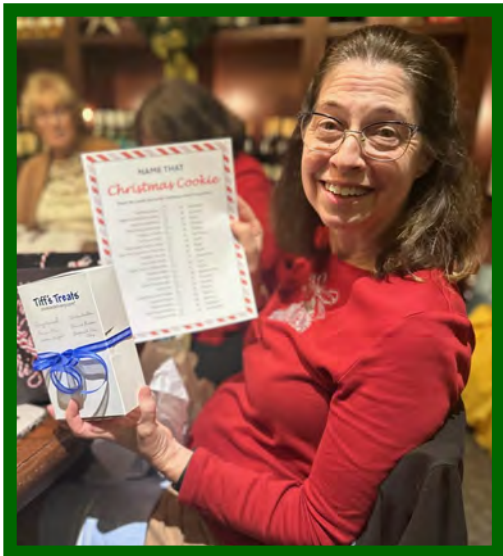
It started with a general business meeting where committee reports were given and gave way to games, secret sister and an important announcement.

## ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 4

Everyone loved their secret sister gifts that included snow globes, pictures, earrings, calendars, shoulder massager, shawl, a bag and wine with a glass.

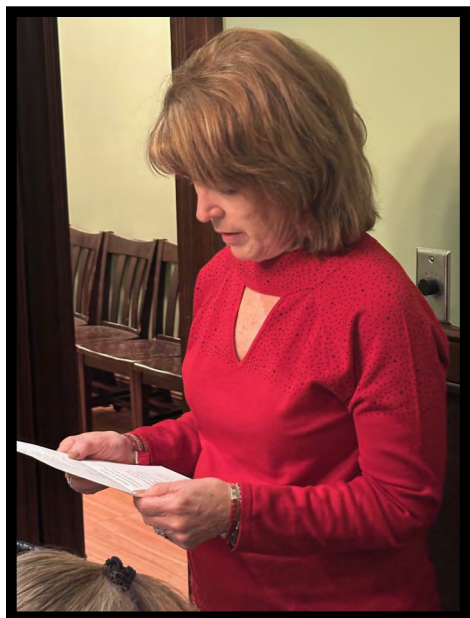


Games were also played: a Christmas cookie name game and Christmas A to Z,



Cynthia won the Christmas Cookie game, matching all of the cookies to their descriptions. Karen and Sylvia won Christmas A to Z, choosing a Christmas related word that began with each letter of the alphabet.

*ADT Sweetheart 2026*



Barbara Meurer read a lovely letter to the ADT Sweetheart, recognizing all that she had done for the chapter and BSP. She was pleased to announce this year's ADT Sweetheart is ...

*Cynthia Rogan*

Congratulations Cynthia, a well deserved honor.





Wishing all of our sisters and their families a very Happy New Year.



## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Happiest of birthdays to Sonia Afshar, our December birthday girl.



Melinda and friend attended the "For King + Country" Drummer Boy Christmas concert in Sugar land. She highly recommends it if they come back to town next year.



# ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 8



December 13th Diane Leive and husband Dan attended their grandson Flynn Gautreau's piano recital. Flynn did an excellent job playing Holly Jolly Christmas and Pep Rally. This was his first year playing.

Dan and Diane also spent Christmas Eve with her daughter and family. Pictured is her brother and sister with grandchild Lilla,

And the second picture is of the family.

The last picture is of their son-in-law Ryan with his fun gifts from Diane (people at his job nicknamed him Goat since his last name is Gautreau.)



## ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 9



Sylvis Chin went to a New Years Eve Renaissance party in Louisiana. The party, with characters in costumes, was very entertaining.



Karen and Sherry spent a week in New York celebrating an early Christmas with Karen's daughter Sahar and her son-in-law, PJ.



They went to Rockefeller Center to see the tree and to enjoy all the lights. It reminded Sherry and Karen of all their cold Christmases in Ohio. Each had a customized T-shirt.

**Sherry:** most likely to take a nap.

**Karen:** most likely to watch all the Christmas movies.

**PJ:** most likely to watch all the football games.

**Sahar:** most likely to ask Santa to define Good.

# LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA

REPORTER: BARBARA HUPE

No report at this time.

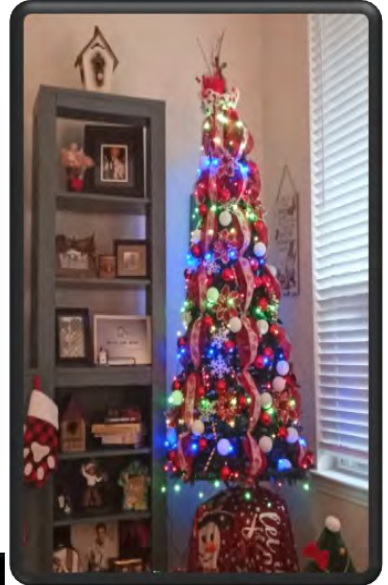
Twass the night before Christmas  
When all through the house  
The air conditioner was running  
Because you live in the south..

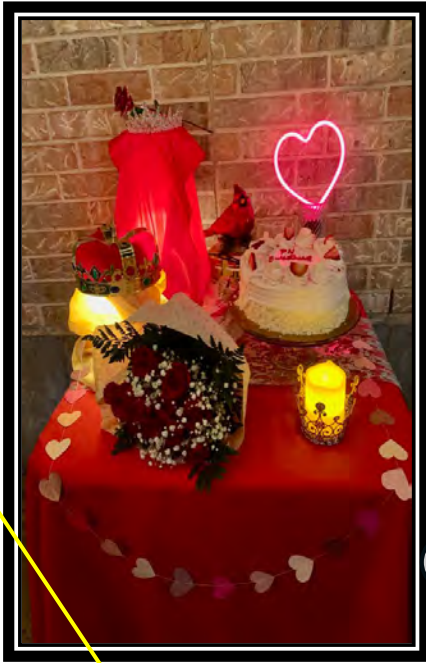


*MERRY  
Christmas*

Christmas is a time  
to reflect on the  
love of God, shown  
through the gift of  
His Son. May His  
peace fill your heart  
this season.

Blaise & Lizette POLK





**Hear Ye! Hear Ye!**  
 In lieu of a December meeting, Preceptor Nu met at LaMonte's Italian Restaurant in Richmond, Texas on Saturday, December sixth for their Sweetheart Reveal Dinner.



# PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 3



Caroln graced us all with a song for our newly crowned Sweetheart



## PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 4

Shawn Dorn spent Christmas in Austin with her family in her Niece's family home with their family, Winfield, a freshman in high school, Murphy, Shawn's Great Niece, was home from the University of Arkansas, Stuart, Kelly's husband, a renown residential architect in Austin and his mother & dad, who reside in Atascocita, TX. Shela, Shawn's sister and her husband, George were there also. We all had a warm and most enjoyable time together.





Nance, Lizette & Richard



Carolyn Meeks and her Dallas Cowboys

**BLASTS from the Past (compliments of Carolyn Meeks)**



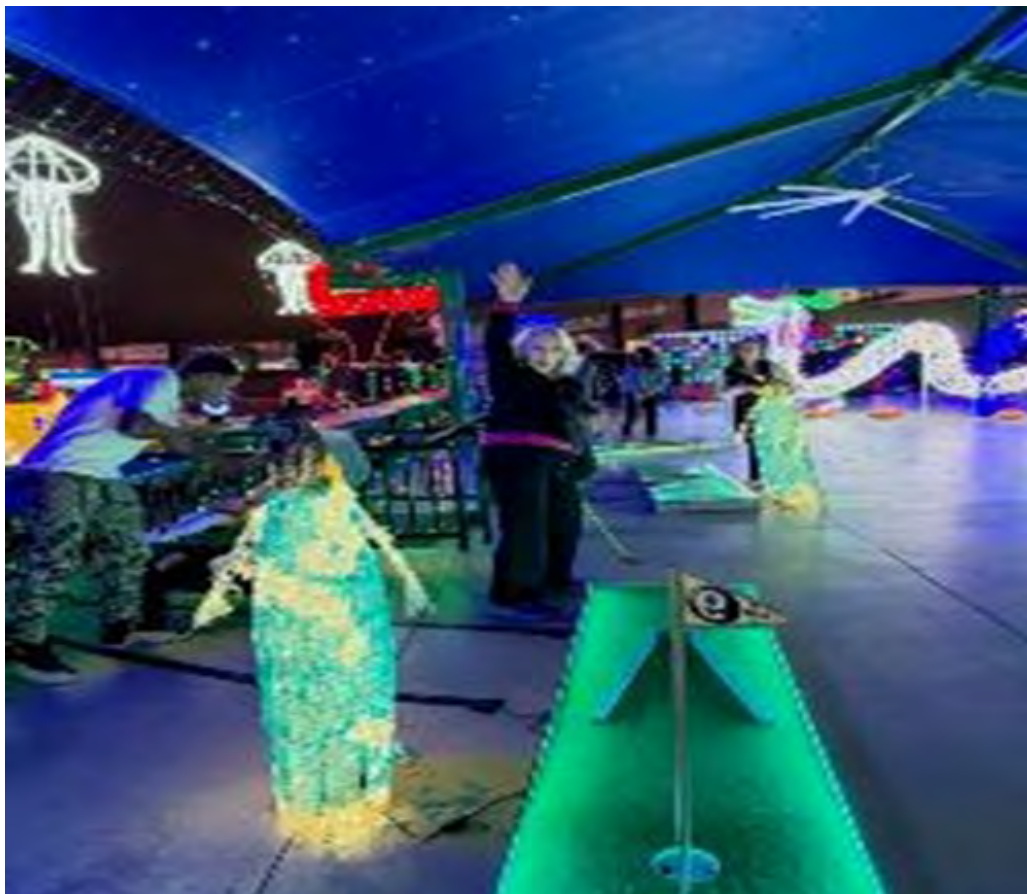
## *XAEO JANUARY BUSTLE REPORT*

### DECEMBER SOCIAL

XAEO members along with their Beta Buddies enjoyed an evening in Sugarland. First stop, Talyard Brewing Company for drinks and pizza. Then on to Constellation Field for their Holiday Lights. The weather was beautiful and just enough crisp in the air to feel like a sparkly winter wonderland.



# XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 2



# XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 3

## DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

XAEO social committee hosted the December Chapter Meeting at the Willow Fork Country Club. Frosty Friends gathered for a lovely lunch meeting, secret sister gift exchange and some fun holiday games.



The tables were all set with lovely holiday decorations highlighting the theme, FROSTY FRIENDS.

## XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 4



Cynde read a delightful Christmas poem about all of our XAEO sisters.



Sandra Simpson opening her Christmas Stocking full of wonderful surprises from her secret sister.

# XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 5



A fun game of building a snowman and snowball toss was enjoyed by all.



# XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 6

## 2026 SWEETHEART - CHRIS JONES

XAEO revealed our 2026 Beta Sigma Phi Sweetheart at the December Chapter Meeting. Chris Jones was very pleasantly surprised and thrilled to represent XAEO in February at An Evening at Tiffany's .



## PERSONAL

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Friends celebrating Cynde's birthday in a beautiful restaurant with twinkling lights, chandeliers and Christmas decorations. And big glass windows looking out into the trees and scenery, all of Cynde's favorites all rolled into one! Happy December birthday, Cynde!!



### HOUSTON BALLET- THE NUTCRACKER

Cynde and Renita enjoying a matinee performance of the Houston Ballet's Nutcracker. Always a nice holiday tradition.

# XI ALPHA EPSILON OMEGA...PAGE 8

## CHRISTMAS IN LOUISIANA

Jill enjoyed spending the Christmas holidays in Louisiana with Pam, Mark and family. It was a fun Christmas Eve at Nola's (Pam's mom) who hosted her annual Christmas celebration. Jill helped the Assistant Cookies Bakers, Hains and Estella, to make cookies for the Christmas Eve party.



# XI ALPHA ZETA

REPORTER: JEANNE MELTON

XAZ's December 2025 meeting was also our Christmas Party at Pecan Grove Country Club with Miriam Langford as Hostess and Ann Jones as Game Coordinator. We enjoyed a wonderful meal, games, and a challenging gift exchange! Followed by Miriam's delicious caramel cream pie for dessert.



**Jeanne Melton and Ann Jones were twinning with their matching Christmas Jackets!**



Thank you to our very generous **XAZ Sisters** for our Christmas surprises...





Let the games begin...

Ann demonstrates how to play while Joan plots her strategy.



**Joan for the wind up...**



**Queen Jeanne taking aim**



**Lori starts out in the wrong direction.**



Then she gets serious,  
**READY**



**AIM...**



**FIRE!**

Queen Jeanne playing the bow scoop and dump!



**XAZ Sisters, Miriam Langford, Jeanne Melton, Joan Ferguson, Ann Jones, Lori Bownds, Jeanne Murray and Rita Mayo wish you a Merry Christmas from Pecan Grove Country Club!**



!

Miriam Langford announced our sweetheart is ...  
**Lori Bownds.**



Ann Jones, Rita Mayo, and Jeanne Melton enjoyed a special Holiday Tea at Four Friends Tea Room in Pearland. We indulged in a selection of fine teas, served with savory soup, fresh salad, delicious finger sandwiches, scrumptious scones, and irresistible deserts. As a lovely keepsake, each guest received a festive teacup to cherish this special occasion.



*Beta Sigma Phi  
Southwest Houston  
City Council*

**For more info  
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**Motto:  
Life, Learning,  
Friendship**

**ΒΣΦ**



*2025-2026 Executive Board*

*Jeanne Melton — President*

*Joan Batts — President-Elect*

*Diane Leise — Vice President*

*Pam McDuffie — Rec/ Corr. Secretary*

*Linda Nolly — Treasurer*

*Sandra Simpson — Parliamentarian*

**Chapter Presidents**

ADT Barbara Meurer

LIO Vicky Ryan

PN Lizette Polk

XAEO Renita Hudson

XAZ Diana Rayle



**Council Advisor**

Winona LaBrant