



The Bustle

Editor: Jill Coble

Volume 52, Issue 10

February 2024

Beta Sigma Phi—Southwest Houston City Council

President's Message

Greetings SWHCC Sisters!

February is shaping up to be a busy month. We've got Mardi Gras on Feb. 13th, Valentine's Day on the 14th, and our Sweetheart Ball on the 17th. To add to that, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will kick off on Feb. 27th. So much to do and such little time! How many of these events will you be participating in? If you can only choose one, please come out and support our Sweetheart Ball!

Our February council meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 8th. It's important that all our Chapter Presidents are in attendance or have a Chapter Representative present because we will be taking a vote on the new Standing Rule #18 that was proposed by ADT Chapter. Jill went over this proposal in detail at the January meeting. I hope all chapter presidents have had an opportunity to discuss this with your chapter members. If you missed the meeting, Jill has included a copy of the Proposed Standing Rule in this issue of the Bustle.

The deadline for sending in your SWSE nominations is February 29th. PLEASE get those sent into me as soon as you can so I can prepare the ballot information that will be handed out at the March council meeting. Sisters, we have several members that are worthy of this great honor. Remember, this is not a chapter nomination. Any member of SWHCC can submit a nomination. Please put some thought into this and nominate someone. If you are unsure about the nomination process, please go to our website and download the forms or send me a note and I will forward everything to you.

I can't wait to see everyone at the Sweetheart Ball! Until then, Happy Valentine's Day Sisters!

Beta Hugs,
Sharon



Inside this issue:

<i>Presidents Message</i>	1
<i>Reminders</i>	2
<i>January Council Meeting</i>	3
<i>Proposed Amendment</i>	5
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	6
<i>Let's have some Fun</i>	8
<i>Alpha Delta Theta</i>	9
<i>Laureate Iota Omega</i>	14
<i>Laureate Iota Tau</i>	19
<i>Preceptor Nu</i>	23
<i>Xi Alpha Zeta</i>	30
<i>Members at Large</i>	39
<i>Misc Info</i>	40

COUNCIL REMINDERS

Council meeting coming up on Thursday, February 8th. Please look for your evite and respond with your RSVP.

Arrive early and enjoy dinner with your SWHCC Sisters.

BSP International

- Gifts Discount Notification Email was sent in early December to chapter and city council presidents. The email contains the discount order form, Founder's Day gift sheet, and a letter from Director of Gifts, Danel Ward. The discount is 10% starting January 1, 2024 and running through February 29, 2024.
- Endowment Fund Ballot Email will be sent in early January to chapter presidents. The email will contain a list of the current endowments as well as any renewals.
- Recommending Prospective Members to International: When recommending a prospective new member to International, please include the following information: The recommending member's name, member number and chapter number; the prospective member's full name, address, email, phone number, age and chapter preference (online, local or both); and confirmation of the prospective member's consent to share her contact information with chapters in her area.
- If you are wanting to print the Torch Magazine without color you will have to choose the Greyscale or Black and White option in your printer properties. This is the menu that comes up when you click the print button in adobe acrobat reader at the top! Each printer is different so the actual wording in the printer properties may differ.

Editor Notes:

Make sure you check out the pictures of those who attended last month's council meeting.

You will want to check out the LIO Chapter report and see what SWHCC Sister celebrated her 75th Birthday during the month of January.

Review page 5 to see the proposed Amendment that we will be voting on during the February Council Meeting. Your Chapter should have discussed and be prepared to vote.

Happy Valentines Day!!

Until next month.....

Jill



SWHCC January 2024 Meeting

There was laughter and fun as LIO chapter members entertained us with their "organizational recruitment" skit.

The President of the local HOA, Barbara Hupe, had invited Mary Crochet to speak at their HOA meeting to inform the neighborhood about a great organization called Beta Sigma Phi. Mary is the "go to" person in the neighborhood to share her years of knowledge about the group.





The following Standing Rule 18 is being proposed by Alpha Delta Theta Chapter. Should the Standing Rule pass, then the current Standing Rule 18 will be re-numbered to Standing Rule 19.

Proposed Standing Rule 18

18. Starting with the 2024-2025 Council Year, a SWHCC Chapter Rotation Schedule will be established to serve in the position of Council President-Elect, thus serving as Council President the following year. The remaining Chapters will submit by the February Council Meeting, one nominee to serve as one of the remaining SWHCC Officers (Council Vice President, Council Recording and Corresponding Secretary and Council Treasurer). The Nominating Committee will work with those nominated to determine who will serve as Council Vice President, Council Recording and Corresponding Secretary and Council Treasurer.

Reason for the Proposed Standing Rule

Each year, it continues to be difficult to get members to volunteer to serve on the Council Board so the time has come for Chapters to nominate a member to serve for the year. The rotation schedule for President-Elect will allow all Chapters to have a Chapter Rep serve as the Council President on a 5 year rotation based upon the current Chapters in Council. In addition, this proposed standing rule would combine the positions of Recording and Corresponding Secretary, allowing for five officer positions. Currently, with just five chapters, this would allow each Chapter a voice on the Council Board serving in one of the Officer positions. It would be understood when the Chapter member is nominated by the Chapter to serve on the Council Board, that they will serve in one of the positions listed. As we continue to grow SWHCC and work on increasing our Chapter numbers, we will make adjustments such as splitting the Recording and Corresponding duties.

If the above Proposed Standing Rule passes, then Standing Rule 14 would be amended to the below:

Current Standing Rule 14 reads:

14. The Nominating Committee shall meet, at the earliest date possible following its election, to agree upon names of candidates chosen from the incoming council members to be submitted for the respective elective offices. A written report listing the nominees for each office will be emailed to all chapters prior to the March Meeting.

Change to Read:

14. The Nominating Committee shall coordinate with those nominated by the Chapters to determine who will serve in each of the Council Officer positions. A written report listing the nominee for each office will be emailed to all chapters prior to the March Meeting.

After the January Council Meeting, Xi Alpha Zeta Chapter amended what was proposed by Alpha Delta Theta as noted below. This will first require Chapters to vote on the Alpha Delta Theta proposal and if that motion passes, then a vote can be taken on the amended Xi Alpha Zeta proposal. Please come prepared to the February Council meeting to take a Chapter vote.

Proposed Standing Rule 18

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Reason for the amendment to the Proposed Standing Rule from ADT

This amendment would still allow for the combination of the Recording and Corresponding Secretary into one office. And still promote the individual voice of each chapter with equal representation on the board. However, having all offices on a rotating basis will allow chapters the opportunity to nominate the appropriate member for a specific office in the designated year.



Please join us to honor BSP Sweethearts at our


RED, WHITE, & BEAUTIFUL BALL

February **17** 6:00 PM

HILTON GARDEN INN
722 Bonaventure Place
Sugar Land, TX 77479

RSVP Vicky Ryan \$60.00 per person

*Hotel Rooms \$105 with
breakfast
\$99 without
Reservations due Feb. 3rd*




Watch $\beta\Sigma\Phi$ Grow and Bloom!

Founder's Day

Save the Date!

April 27, 2024

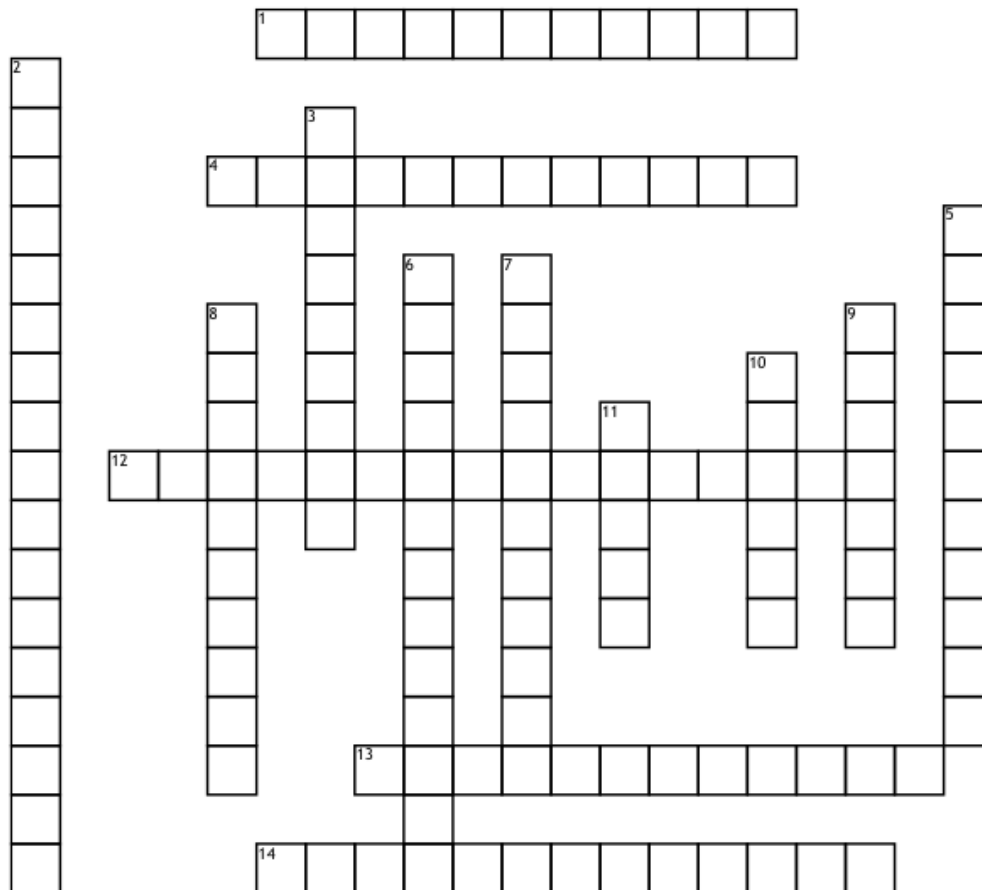
11 am to 2 pm



**Pecan Grove Plantation Country Club
3000 Plantation Drive
Richmond, TX 77406**

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Beta Sigma Phi



Across

- 1. Highest Degree
- 4. Colors of Beta Sigma Phi
- 12. International Contest due 1 November
- 13. Headquarters City
- 14. First Chapter

Down

- 2. 2018-2019 Theme

- 3. First judge for Valentine Contest-1939

- 5. 30 April
- 6. Annual Dance in Pensacola

- 7. Founder of Beta Sigma Phi

- 8. Sorority Flower

- 9. Wise Woman of Mantinea

- 10. First Ritual given

- 11. Sorority Magaine

JANUARY SOCIAL

"No Persian meal is complete without an abundance of herbs" —Samin Nosrat

The ADT January social found us in the home of Karen Sweet-Angel (along with sous chef Sherry Sweet) for some lessons in a tantalizing foray into Persian Cuisine. Karen learned the art of Persian cooking while living in Iran, tastes closer to Mediterranean cuisine than that of most Middle Eastern fare. The meal started with sabzi khordan, a mix of basil, mint and Italian parsley paired with radishes, green onions and paneer (similar to feta cheese, but creamier.) This was wrapped in bread and then eaten.



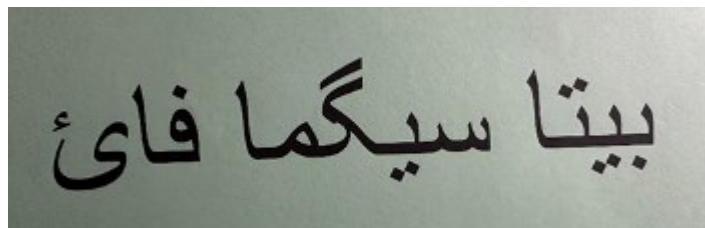
The main course was chelo kabab, Persian rice and ground meat kabob, along with broiled tomatoes and salad Shirazi (diced tomatoes, cucumbers and red onions), prepared by Barbara and Diane. Karen explained how to make the meat paste, and everyone had the opportunity to prepare a skewer for the grill. Cathy did an excellent job with the grilling.



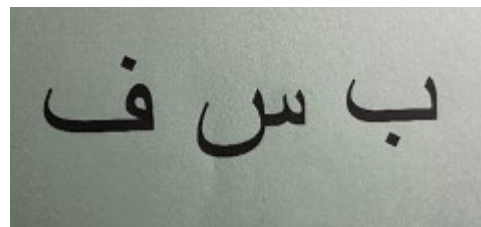
ALPHA DELTA THETA....PAGE 2

Served with rice and the sides, including the crispy rice that was a favorite with everyone, the meal was prepared and enjoyed by all.

In addition to the meal, that included Shirini (sweets) Karen had a challenge to find each persons name written in Farsi, which uses the Arabic alphabet and reads right to left. Clues were given to some of the letters. Barbara was the winner, finding her name first, and received a Persian cookbook as her prize. A parting gift of a mortar and pestle and Persian saffron was given to each sister.



Beta Sigma Phi (read right to left)



BSP (BSF, no Ph in Farsi)

JANUARY MEETING

Our January meeting found us in the home of sister Cynde Renteria where she provided us with a feast. She had prepared: chili with fixings, tamales, rice, beans, cornbread, guacamole with chips and a Boston crème cake for dessert. Everything was so delicious and everyone ate generously.



A Pledge Ritual was held for Cathy Wilson, the latest recruit to the ADT family. Welcome Cathy. A general meeting was held. Items discussed included: review of City Council happenings, yearbook updates, financial update, secret sister in March, service project and news on upcoming socials.

Following the chapter theme of various flowers, host Cynde shared with us interesting information about the carnation. Carnations are in the top 5 bestselling florist flowers worldwide. They have been a florist favorite for more than 300 years. First cultivated by the Moors in Spain in the 15th century, they were first sold as a florist flower in Europe in the 17th century.

In the US, the carnation has a special association with Mothers' Day, which was made an official holiday in 1913. Some special connections with carnations: The state flower of Ohio is the red carnation. Birth month flower of January. First wedding anniversary flower. National flower of Balearic Islands, Sicily, Slovenia and Spain.

Cynde had a timed carnation word search which Karen won, finding 10 out of 15 words during the allotted time. Sylvia was the winner of the raffle.



SERVICE



The ADT spring service project was serving dinner at Ballard House, located in Katy Texas. In December 2013, The Ballard House, a 20,000-square-foot facility on three acres, officially opened, welcoming families from around the world for medical treatments. The generous support from the community and dedicated volunteers has been instrumental in making The Ballard House a home for those in need, free of charge.

Monday January 29th, ADT provided dinner to 35-40 people, consisting of soups, various chilis, bread, cornbread, salad, drinks and two types of cake for dessert. Recipients included people from San Antonio and Austin and as far away as Virginia and Guatemala. Decorations were done in Mardi Gras theme. Everyone enjoyed the meal and were very appreciative of the efforts and generosity of the ADT sisters.



ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Happiest of birthdays to Jill Coble, Melinda Montgomery and Barbara Meurer, our January birthday girls.



A family vacation to Universal Studios for Renita Hudson and family. The girls got their robes and wands and set a blazing path through the park! They were all fortunate to receive the VIP experience which included a private group guided tour for the entire day. No waiting in line for this group of wizards.



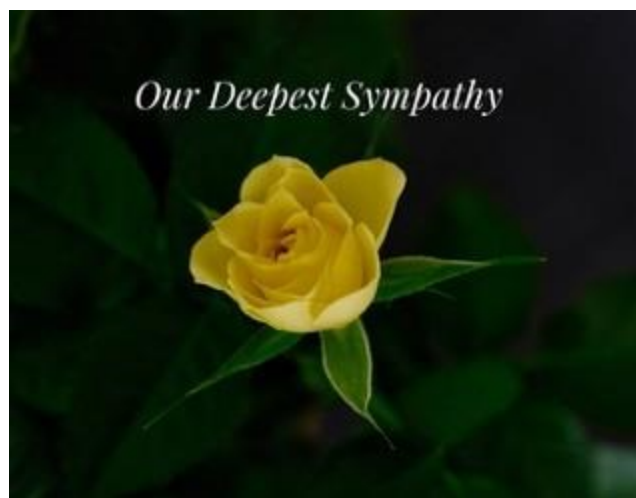
LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA

REPORTER: SHIRLEY GRASS

Hi it's Bustle Time again and this is Shirley reporting for LIO.

This month has been busy as our chapter is hosting Sweetheart Ball "Red, White and Beautiful". The chairman is the talented Joan Batts. We are fortunate to have representatives from other chapters to help. I must tell you I am so impressed with Joan's creativity and dedication and determination to give us the best ball ever. You won't want to miss this event!

It is with sadness we announce the passing of another Beta Sigma Phi member, Jane Eaton. Jane was active in Houston Southwest Council for a few years where she made many dear friends. Bobbie Viles can tell you lots of stories of Jane and her adventures. For me, she was special as she taught my grandson during his preschool years. She is survived by her husband Ron Landers, children and friends.



LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA...PAGE 2

Barbara Hupe and Becky Fuller completed very close to 300 days each participating in Jazzercise classes. So proud of them. What an accomplishment!



jazzercise®

We celebrated a very special birthday in our chapter. Joan turned 75 years old this month and we had a great celebration. The party was held at Kings Bar B Que. There were beautiful decorations and favors as well as a delicious cake. BSP sisters, family, friends, teachers and staff, Bible study group and new and previous students all attended.



 This
Queen
makes
look
75
Fabulous

LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA...PAGE 3



LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA...PAGE 4



LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA...PAGE 5



Hope you all are staying dry and warm. Hopefully I will see you at Sweetheart Ball.

LAUREATE IOTA TAU

REPORTER: LINDA DASPIT

LIT members enjoyed a late lunch and the January meeting at Linda's house. We honored our new sweetheart, Frances, with a touch of spring: a pot of red tulips. After lunch, we had our January meeting. We played self-care bingo, which Frances won and received a prize of self-care goodies.



LAUREATE IOTA TAU....PAGE 2

Frances' hubby, Garland, had a mini family reunion with his two surviving brothers.



Frances & Garland's daughters Stephanie and Amanda surprised them for Dad's 80th and Mom's 77th birthday with reservations to the Taste of Texas.



LAUREATE IOTA TAU....PAGE 3

Of course, desserts were complimentary for the birthday couple.



Frances & Garland also enjoyed Grandparents luncheon with their daughter Amanda's sons Luke & Sam at their elementary school.



LAUREATE IOTA TAU....PAGE 4

And Linda and Tom went on a Nile cruise, camelback riding, sampled many mystery meat meals, and had many other adventures in Egypt and survived!



PRECEPTOR NU

REPORTERS: SHAWN DORN AND CAROLYN MEEKS

This should be posted in every school.





*LINDA'S
CROWNING*



PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 3

Randall's Crowning



We were so pleased to have Michelle Lovelace's lovely daughter, Taylar, join us for this momentous event.



Gracing us with their indomitable presence were many of our very endearing Beta Buds: Randall Nolty, Jeff Lovelace, Jim Rather, Roy Wright and Rev. Blaise Polk.

PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 4



Also joining us, was our favorite "World Traveler", Carmen Romonger



And there was singing,



Exuberant joy and love,



Lifelong friendships...

but, most of all, a true deepening of the bond of our sisterhood that enveloped us all



PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 6

As many of you may have known, Carolyn Meeks was rushed to the hospital while at a scheduled routine appointment with her doctor; which was most fortunate for her. She was released after three days, with strict instructions to insure she ate and slept right, and above all kept hydrated which is what is believed to have instigated the necessity for her hospitalization. (These orders from her doctor are good for us all to heed so as to avoid unpleasant occurrences if not observed.)

Once Carolyn was home and unable to operate a motor vehicle, until the doctor felt it was safe for her (and others), she managed to catch up on her needed rest. Then, with the help of her wonderful and caring son, Judge Chad Bridges, and ever thoughtful PN sisters, she had good wholesome food delivered to her. I am so pleased to report, that as of this date of submission for our Chapter to the Bustle, Carolyn has been released from her "house arrest" and is now allowed to operate her car. Her vitals were exactly where they should be and her attitude is amazing after eating and resting well. Praise HIM!



Alice Chen and Linda Noltz deliver enormous yellow roses and two quarts of Sandy McGee's "renown" Broccoli Cheese Soup and included a number of the minis toasts to accompany the soup.



Shawn joined Linda and Carolyn for a wonderful lunch of Soup, Tamales, Empanadas and Palomas at Johnny Tamales on FM 1092 near Cartwright Rd..



Ever had the hankering to learn to drive a forklift? Tuesday, January 30, 2024, Shawn volunteered for training being performed for the HLS&R. Not that her volunteer duties require that skill; she just wanted to. She says it was FUN!

PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 7

2024 Sweetheart Reveal Poem for Linda Noltz

In a sorority adorned with sisterly love, there blooms a sweetheart. Her jokes are like flowers, they bloom in the air, creating a garden of sweet fragrance, beyond compare.

Compassion her compass, guiding hearts with grace, An artistic soul, painting life in vibrant embrace.

Energetic rhythms pulse within her veins, Her knowledge of music, a tapestry so grand, A maestro of emotions, orchestrating joy and tears, In a symphony of kindness, calming all fears.

A canvas of friendships painted with care, A sister who understands, always willing to share. Harmony in diversity, a melody so sweet, She weaves together voices, making sisterhood complete.

With every beat, she leads the dance, A rhythmic celebration, a joyful trance. In the garden of sisterhood, she's a vibrant bloom, A leader, a friend, dispelling all gloom.

Compassionate whispers in the midnight air, Her kindness a melody, beyond compare. Artistry in her actions, a masterpiece untold, A sorority sister with a heart of gold.

This year's Preceptor NU's Sweetheart is our beautiful, esteemed President, Linda Noltz!

XI ALPHA ZETA

REPORTER: JEANNE MELTON



Diana Rayle and Joan Ferguson delivered personal hygiene donations to Helping Hands for our ongoing service project.

For our program at the first November meeting, Ann Jones shared a painting of her favorite flower, the Poppy. She was inspired to do this painting after attending the Poppy Festival in Georgetown, TX.

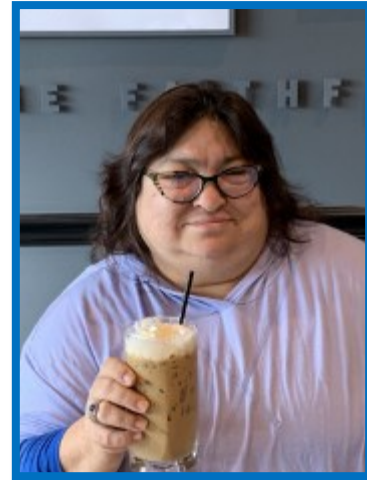


Miriam entered her 2023 Halloween quilt in the Fort Bend County Fair and won Outstanding and first place in the quilting category. Congratulations!



XI ALPHA ZETA...PAGE 2

XAZ's 2nd November 2023 social/meeting was held at Oliver's Gourmet restaurant in Missouri City at the suggestion of Ann Jones.



Ann Jones handed out animal stress balls for everyone to help us with the upcoming holiday stress.



XI ALPHA ZETA...PAGE 3

Cultural Program: Who's Oliver? Chris, our waiter, shared his story about why they started the restaurant. His son, Oliver was born 8 weeks early, weighing just 4lbs 7oz, and unable to swallow. Two days later, he underwent surgery to correct the issue known as "esophageal atresia with tracheo-oesophageal fistula (EA/TEF)", which basically means his esophagus was not attached to his stomach. The scenario in which this repair can be done successfully for a child so small is very rare, especially on the first try. Through what can only be described as a miracle, Oliver's surgery was successful, and the surgeons at Texas Children's were able to reattach his esophagus to his stomach in one surgery.

Chris shared that they started the restaurant so that his family could all work together. They wanted to create a space where people could come to the table and eat together since his son, Oliver was not supposed to be able to eat at all.

Why Gourmet? Gourmet sandwiches and fine food are something to remember. They hope to provide a community centered around good food and family time. A portion of all profits go directly to support missions around the world, children's medical research, and families of NICU babies.

The family and staff believe so strongly in the power of prayer and its ability to bring forth miracles that they have a prayer wall and pray for members of the community who fill out prayer requests.



Oliver's story....



XI ALPHA ZETA...PAGE 4

XAZ's December meeting was held at Pecan Grove Plantation Country Club with Miriam Langford as the Hostess and Ann Jones as Co-Hostess.



XAZ members had a wonderful luncheon, then exchanged gifts and played games.



XI ALPHA ZETA...PAGE 5

Let the games begin: snowball challenge...



Diana gearing up for her best snowball throw.



Joan showing off her snowball throwing skills.

Santa hat ring toss...



Diana's guest, Lori is the winner of the snowball challenge, shown with ringmaster, Ann.

XI ALPHA ZETA...PAGE 6



Ann gave instructions for both games.



Joan is the winner of the Santa hat ring toss, shown with hostesses, Miriam and Ann.

We are truly blessed with the gift card gift exchange as well as some Special gifts from special friends:

Diana and her guest Lori are shown wearing their special infinity bracelets from GiGi.



XI ALPHA ZETA...PAGE 7

Joan gifted each member a box of Russell Stover chocolates.



Joan is holding the Christmas tea towel Queenie Jeanne Murray had specially made featuring each of the XAZ members' names, even our recently departed and excessively missed sister, Donna.



Miriam made each member a special gingerbread man holding some treats!



Rita gifted each member some tea and chocolates.

XI ALPHA ZETA...PAGE 8



XAZ members take part in SWHCC Costume Contest:

Joan is shown with other council elves.



Miraim, Ann and GiGi are XAZ's very own Ms. Christmases.



XI ALPHA ZETA...PAGE 9

XAZ members take part in SWHCC Christmas Games



Joan playing the council snowball toss.

Miriam and Rita shown with Shauna playing the jingle in your trunk game.



MEMBERS AT LARGE

REPORTER: JOYCE FRANK

Winona and Jill enjoyed a night out with dinner at The Union Kitchen followed by the "Year in Review 2023" show at The Music Box Theater.



*Beta Sigma Phi
Southwest Houston
City Council*

**For more info
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www.betasigmaphiswhcc.org

**Motto:
Life, Learning,
Friendship**

ΒΣΦ



2022—2023 Executive Board

Sharon Pietruniak—President

Gigi Kennell—Vice President

Barbara Meurer—Recording Secretary

Barbara Kupe—Corresponding Secretary

Carina Kadnot—Treasurer

Melinda Montgomery—Parliamentarian

Chapter Presidents

ADT—Melinda Montgomery

LIO—Mary Crochet

LIT—Linda Daspit

PN—Linda Nolty

XAZ—Joan Ferguson



Council Advisor

Winona LaBrant