

# The Bustle

Editor: Jill Coble

Volume 53, Issue 1

May 2024

## Beta Sigma Phi—Southwest Houston City Council

### President's Message

Greetings BSP Sisters,

Founder's Day is one of the most important celebrations during the sorority year. I think we would all agree that this year's Founder's Day lived up to our expectations. Rita Mayo and her committee delivered a beautiful and thoughtful event. I loved everything about it. From the flower-arranging demonstration to the memorial ritual for Shirley Hyatt, Donna Unangst, and Margaret Chesser, it was perfect. Congratulations to Joan Batts who was selected as Sister with Something Extra, and all the chapter members selected as "Woman of the Year."

As we look ahead to the new sorority year, I want to thank Sharon Pietruniak who served as council president this past year. Sharon did a great job as did all the officers Gigi Kennell, Barbara Meurer, Carina Hadnot, Barbara Hupe, and Melinda Montgomery. A shout-out to Winona LaBrant who served as council advisor. Our deep appreciation for the time and effort you invested in SWHCC this past year. Great leadership!

At the May council meeting the 2023-2025 officers will be installed. As incoming president of SWHCC, I will be serving with these amazing women:

Jeanne Melton, XAZ, President-Elect  
Mary Crochet, LIO, Vice President  
Sherry Sweet, ADT, Treasurer  
Barbara Meurer, ADT, Recording Secretary  
Joan Batts, LIO, Corresponding Secretary  
Jill Coble, ADT, Parliamentarian  
Winona LaBrant, Council Advisor.

I am truly honored to serve as your president. My promise to you comes right from our opening ritual "a determination to give the best that is in us to our sorority and to assist in any and every way to shed the light of our torch throughout the world." I've always loved these words and they really seem to resonate now more than ever for our sorority. I am committed to being "right where I need to be for BSP" as we move into the new year. We will laugh, we may cry, but mostly we need to hang together to make BSP as good as it can be and recruit more sisters to our sorority.

I look forward to our new year together.

I am thy sister, Sandra

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

### COUNCIL REMINDERS

Council meeting coming up on Thursday, May 9th. This will be the final council meeting before we take a Summer break. Chapters, you will be finding out what month you will be hosting council, approving the 2024-2025 budget, learning what we will be doing for programs for the council meetings, and more. In addition, the 2024-2025 SWHCC Officers will be installed. So make sure and look for your evite and respond with your RSVP

Arrive early and enjoy dinner with your SWHCC Sisters.

### Editor Notes:

Here we are, starting a new council year and it looks like I'll be doing your Bustle for another year.

So what would you like to see in the Bustle during the coming year? Please let me know if you have any ideas.

In this edition of the Bustle, make sure you check out the pictures starting on Page 5 from Founder's Day.

Catch up with what Chapter's have been doing starting on Page 14.

Until next month.....

*Jill*



### Outgoing 2023-2024 SWHCC Officers

President—Sharon Pietruniak  
Vice President—Gigi Kennel  
Recording Secretary—Barbara Meurer  
Corrsponding Secretary—Barbara Hupe  
Treasurer—Carina Hadinot  
Parliamentarian—Melinda Montgomery



The April Southwest Houston Council Meeting was held on Thursday, April 11 with Preceptor Nu Chapter as the hostess for the meeting.



Southwest Houston City Council



meeting







## A Founder's Day Celebration "Watch Beta Sigma Phi Grow and Bloom"



















*Professional floral designer, Savannah Kovar, demonstrated how to design a beautiful fresh floral arrangement. Big winner was Joyce Chriss!*







## 2024 Founder's Day Winners



**2024 Women of the Year**

L to R: Rita Mayo (XAZ), Linda Noltz accepting on behalf of Alice Chen (PN), Sandra Rutland (LIT), Joan Batts (LIO), Pam McDuffie (ADT)



**Nominees for 'Sister With Something Extra'**



**2024 Sister With Something Extra  
Joan Batts (LIO)**



# Thank You



To my beloved Sisters of Beta Sigma Phi:

I am profoundly grateful and deeply touched to have been selected as the "Sister with Something Extra". It fills my heart with joy to reflect on the many cherished friendships I've formed across our chapters. The camaraderie we share is truly special, particularly when we come together to collaborate on projects. It's inspiring to witness the willingness of so many to lend a hand. Through our collective efforts, we not only solve challenges but also forge deeper connections with one another. Beta Sigma Phi serves as the binding force that unites us, enriching our lives with meaningful friendships and genuine care for one another. The lovely earrings and necklace will be treasured memories for me and a chance to find a new outfit!

My heartfelt thanks to each of one of you.

With love and gratitude,

Joan Batts



## In Loving Memory...a BSP Memorial



*Led by Winona LaBrant and Joyce Chriss*



**Donna Unangst**  
**Xi Alpha Zeta**



**Shirley Hyatt**  
**Preceptor Nu**



**Margaret Chesser**  
**1<sup>st</sup> SWHCC President**



### APRIL SOCIAL

"Traveling with our sisters makes every moment picture perfect."

Our April ADT social was our annual Girls' Weekend. This time we found ourselves heading to Waco, Texas for a stay at the Magnolia Hillcrest Estate, a renovation project by Chip and Joanna Gaines. We started out early on Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> and stopped for lunch around noon at Ninfa's in Waco.



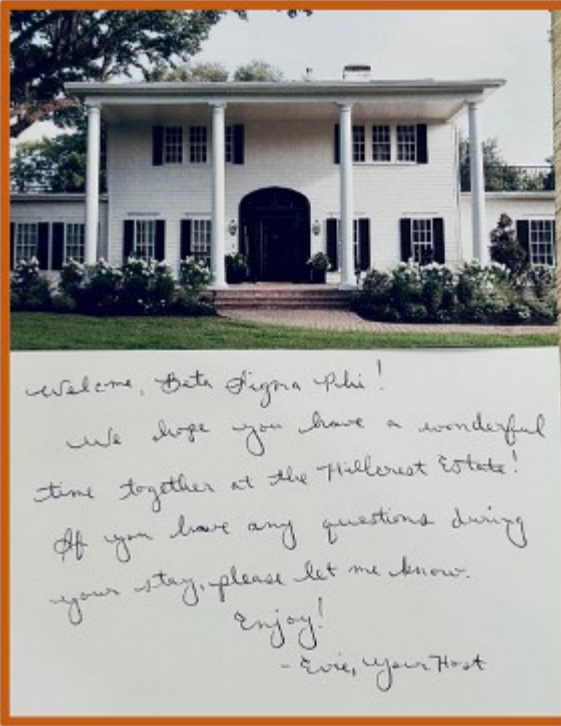
After our delicious lunch, our next stop was Spice Village, a collection of over 80 boutique shops with everything from clothing to home decor to gifts. Located in a 1908 warehouse and opened in 1997, it offers a unique shopping experience in a historic 30,000 square-foot building in the heart of downtown Waco.



After we shopped to our hearts' content, we headed to our accommodations for the weekend. We arrived at the Magnolia Hillcrest Estate, a beautiful historic home built in 1903 in the heart of Waco that seemed stuck in a time gone by. A renovation by the Magnolia Homes team updated features while maintaining the home's original details and character. There were 5 bedrooms, accommodating 12 people (unfortunately Melinda was not well and was unable to attend), so we split up and settled in. After settling in, we had time for some catching up and indulging in some gourmet cupcakes and lemonade before heading out for dinner.



## ALPHA DELTA THETA....PAGE 2



Dinner was at the Backyard Bar-Stage-Grill in Waco. Encompassing music, food and fun. Conceptualized by 4 Texans, in 2015 they opened a 1000 capacity live music, multi-bar, restaurant and family-friendly 12,000 sq. ft courtyard venue, offering something for every age. On the night we were there, Kin Faux was the featured act. A high energy Texas/Rd Dirt nCountry band whose obvious influences, along the lines of Charlie Daniels, Alabama and R4estless Heart, show strongly through the virtuosic fiddler and strong harmonies. They had everyone up and dancing, including our ADT sisters.



## ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 3



What an amazing night filled with great food, great company and great music. All of the sisters enjoyed our time at The Backyard and we made our way back to the house for a well deserved night of rest.



## ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 4

After breakfast provided by our social committee of Cynde, Pam and Renita, we headed back into Waco for some more retail therapy. Our destination this time was the Shops at Silo and the Magnolia Market. Each of the shops is curated with a specific style and theme in mind=ranging from bath + body, men's provisions, bags + jewelry, Magnolia-branded goods and books + paper. The Shops at the Silos offer a more intimate shopping experience and product selection. When setting out that day, we were each handed a beautiful shopping bag and told to "fill it up." Even the rainy weather didn't keep us from enjoying our day. Lunch that day was at the Magnolia Table.



Returning home that afternoon we had a lovely happy hour and then played some games. One game we played was "Something About Me" Each person wrote down something about herself and the others had to match it with the right person. Some of them are included below. Perhaps you can match them with the correct sister. If not, just ask.

I play the violin and cello

I participated in a credit card sting operation when I worked retail

I finished a 36 hour dance marathon in college

I am highly competitive

In college, I played Melanie in a parody on *Gone With the Wind*

I jam out on the guitar and drums

I've been collecting china dolls since I was 6, gifts from my great/grandmothers

For dinner, our social committee provided a lovely Italian dinner featuring salad, bread, lasagna and chocolate cake for dessert. After dinner, we played Left-Center-Right and Cynde was the winner, receiving a make-up travel bag set. We also had the opportunity to celebrate Sherry Sweet's birthday on Saturday. She was turning 39 (again.)





## ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 5



### APRIL MEETING

Sister Carol Trujillo hosted our April meeting at Alicia's Mexican Grille, a Tex-Mex restaurant in Katy, Texas. Dinner included chips and salsa, chicken and beef fajitas, rice, various bean selections and libations of our choice. Every agreed it was a delicious feast. General business was conducted including discussions on: BSP June 2025 Royal Caribbean Cruise, City Council meeting review, international dues, chapter account balance, upcoming girls' trip social, May social to the zoo, and May secret sister exchange.

At the April meeting, four of our ADT members received the Exemplar Degree of Beta Sigma Phi, having completed four years at the Ritual of Jewels Level. Recipients were: Renita Hudson, Pam McDuffie, Karen Sweet-Angel and Carol Trujillo. Congratulations ladies from all of your ADT and BSP sisters.





## ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 6

Carol presented a program on the Tulip. Tulips are perennials that bloom in the spring and die back after blooming to an underground storage bulb. They can grow to between 4 and 28 inches in height. There are about 120 species and the name is thought to be derived from the Persian word for "turban" where they were worn to show affluence. First appearing in Asia around 1000AD, they were found in a band stretching from Southern Europe to Central Asia. In 15<sup>th</sup> century, they became a symbol of the Ottoman Empire. They were rapidly introduced to Northern Europe and became much sought after during the "tulip mania" from 1636-37. Today they are closely associated with the Netherlands. In Christianity, the tulip symbolizes passion, belief and love. White represents forgiveness while purple represents royalty.



### ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Happiest of birthdays  
to Sherry Sweet and  
Carol Trujillo, our April  
birthday girls.





## FOUNDER'S DAY 2024

Congratulations to Pam McDuffie, the Alpha Delta Theta Woman of the Year. Also congratulations to Jill Coble and Barbara Meurer as Sister With Something Extra Nominees and recognition of Jill Coble and Melinda Montgomery as past Council Presidents.

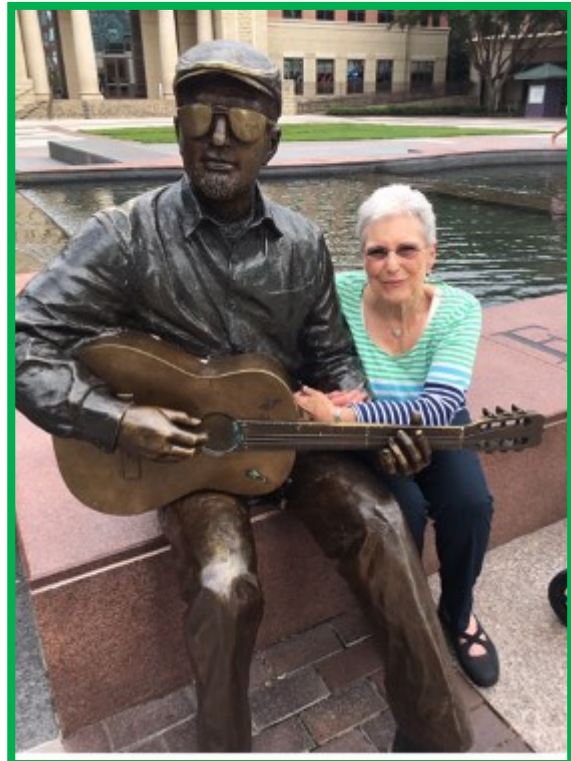




# LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA

REPORTER: SHIRLEY GRASS

Hi it's Shirley reporting for LIO. I just want to share with you the loss of my dear friend Diane Durbin. She was a librarian, and we had such fun discussing books and etc. Diane and I attended many Broadway plays, the Houston Symphony, Bluebonnet Festivals, Houston Dairy Maids, trips to the rich parts of Houston to see Christmas lights and road trips all over Texas. One of our favorite things to do was lunch on the second Wednesdays. We always chose one of Alison Cooks recommendations. I will miss my friend. On a lighter note: some of you may remember Dixie Mullins. Dixie got married recently. She said after 35 years she finally found someone who accepts her as she is. Best wishes Dixie!



Mary Crochet was able to attend the 69th Texas Retired Teachers Convention in Corpus Christi, Texas. There were six in Mary's group with Mary serving as the delegate. They did have fun but had lots of business to take care of. At the luncheon on the last day -Elvis was in the house! He entertained them and was a good impersonator, he even looked like Elvis. There were over 700 retired teachers from all over Texas in attendance. Thank you Mary for taking care of all us TRS members.

**RETIRED**  
*but*  
*forever*  
*a*  
**TEACHER**   
*at heart*

## LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA...PAGE 2

Barbara Hupe was chosen as the Volunteer of the Year at Sienna Crossing Elementary School. She was not surprised as she receives the volunteer of the month title every month. Congratulations Barbara. Good job!



Joan's brother Ralph and his friend Linda flew in from Seattle to see the eclipse. They all went to Round Rock to watch the eclipse from a rooftop restaurant. Oh what fun.





## LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA...PAGE 3

For Easter holidays Joan and her daughter Anne flew to South Padre Island to visit Space X which was very impressive. They ate at several fun restaurants. Highlight of the trip was Joan getting to take her first helicopter ride.



Vicky Ryan has been under the weather and ended up in hospital with blood clots in her lungs. With good medical care and lots of good wishes and prayers she is now back at home in her favorite chair recuperating.

After serving as our Bustle reporter this year, I have a new appreciation for Jill and all who make the Bustle possible each month. Hope you all have enjoyed reading about our news. Have a great summer and stay cool.

I am thy sister  
Shirley Grass

# LAUREATE IOTA TAU

**REPORTER: LINDA DASPIT**

LIT members enjoyed lunch together at Frances' home in Brookshire. We all had a good catch-up, followed by our meeting & a program continuing with our theme of self-discovery, where Frances talked about a 1000 Ways to find happiness.

Debbie, our newest member, progressed and received her Preceptor ritual, with Linda and Frances officiating.



 Congratulations



## LAUREATE IOTA TAU....PAGE 2



## LAUREATE IOTA TAU....PAGE 3

Ladies' birthday lunch out trip to Babin's, where we went to celebrate Julie's birthday. However, she had a fall and was unable to attend. Hope she will join us at the next birthday lunch! Linda's sister Carole joined in the fun during her annual visit to the US.





## LAUREATE IOTA TAU....PAGE 4

Frances' grandson Luke was so good that he was asked to play Andrew, the apostle, and one of the criminals in his after Easter school play!

Granny Frances gave in (she's a UT grad) and bought a maroon shirt to support Luke's baseball team. Ironically, both Sam & Luke's teams are called the "Aggies".

Frances' grandson, Sam, attempted to light 45 candles on his mom Amanda's birthday cake and was successful in not burning down the house!



## LAUREATE IOTA TAU....PAGE 5

Founder's Day 2024: Linda, Johnette, Frances, & Sandra attended - unfortunately, Debbie got sick the day before or she would have been there too. We had a nice lunch at Pecan Grove CC, enjoyed an interesting program on flower arranging, and celebrated the Women of the Year. Congratulations to Sandra, who is our new WOTY. Many thanks to Gaye Lynn for the lovely poem she wrote for our WOTY while recuperating at home.





## LAUREATE IOTA TAU....PAGE 6



Our chapter has had quite a year.  
Thank God this sister was always here.  
Keeping in touch can be a task,  
But when in need, we simply ask.  
Always wearing a cheerful smile  
While she goes that extra mile.  
There's no doubt who LIT would choose  
To fill these "Woman of the Year" shoes.  
Congratulations to our new woman of the year:  
Sandra Rutland

# PRECEPTOR NU

REPORTER: SHAWN DORN

XCARET, PLAYA DEL CAR-

MEN, MEXICO



Rosina & David Foster's trip to Xcaret, Playa del Carmen end of March, '24. "It's paradise! This is our forth visit; this time to celebrate our son's 40th birthday!"





## PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 2



Michelle Lovelace hosted our April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn and did an amazing job at decorating the table in bright, vibrant colors. We all ordered from the Hilton menu and for dessert, Michelle





# PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 3

The Big Easy

April 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>  
Shawn Dorn &  
Rosina Foster  
indulged in New  
Orleans' French  
Quarter Music



Temps be-  
tween 62 &  
82 degrees  
PERFECT!



## PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 4



This April brought to us a Solar Eclipse, on the 8<sup>th</sup> and a surplus of wild-flowers



Mickie Wright had her hip surgery. She fine and re-covering



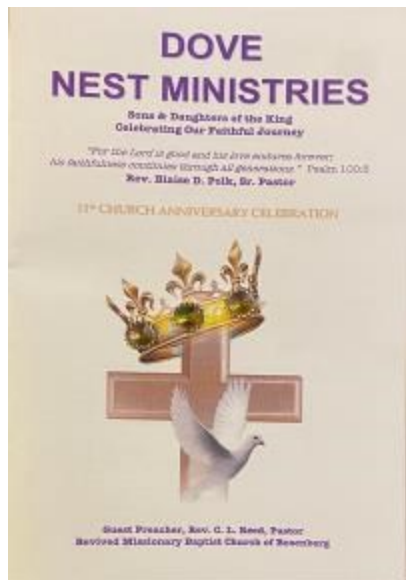
Ellie Grace decided to play dress-up at the **Pregnancy Resource Medical Center** this week. She wants to remind everyone that the "Baby Bottle Boomerang" kicks off on Mother's Day through until Father's Day. So, Ellie Grace is hoping you all will gather your coins, cash and checkbook to make a generous donation. Thank you for being a "Life Defender". Contributed by her loving Grandmother, Dr. Lizette Polk.



# PRECEPT NU...PAGE 5



Ann Jones and PN's Shawn Dorn attending to Check-



And, here's our Liz... all dressed up to the '90s' for the Founder's Day



Carolyn Meeks sang, "How Great Thou Art" at First Baptist Church, Rosenberg, Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at Pastor & Dr. Polk's 11<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Celebration.





XAZ's 1st April meeting was held at the home of Jeanne Murray with Joan Furguson as co-hostess. We enjoyed a meal of delicious stuffed peppers and salad with papa beards' cream puffs for dessert.



Service Project: Miriam Langford delivered member donations to Helping Hands.

Cultural Program: Jeanne Murray shared her favorite flower, the yellow orchid, which conveys Happiness, Friendship and strength and then gifted the orchid to our newest member Lori Bownds.



## XI ALPHA ZETA...PAGE 2

XAZ's Installation of 24-25 Officers:  
On April 2nd at the home of Jeanne Murray.

President: Jeanne Melton  
Vice-President: Jeanne Murray  
Secretary: Gigi Kennell  
Treasurer: Rita Mayo  
Parliamentarian: Joan Furgeson



### Rituals held:

Pledge Ritual for  
Lori Bownds and  
Master Ritual for  
Miriam Langford  
and Rita Mayo



XAZ's 2nd April meeting was a social/meeting organized by Jeanne Murray. We met at Russo's in Sugar Land to share a tasty meal and discuss business.

Ann Jones celebrated Easter with baking and decorating.





*Beta Sigma Phi  
Southwest Houston  
City Council*

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**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**

**Jill Coble—Parliamentarian**

**Chapter Presidents**

**ADT—Melinda Montgomery**

**LIO—Mary Crochet**

**LIT—Frances Speer**

**PN—Linda Nolty**

**XAZ—Jeanne Melton**



**Council Advisor**

**Winona LaBrant**