

President's Message

EXceptional Women doing, EXtraordinary Things

Can you believe that March is already upon us! Springtime is around the corner and it's Women's History Month. It has been a challenging time these past weeks, but we are a resilient women just as our founders and the women before us.

Black History Month was phenomenal as the Epsilon Chi Chapter provided Iota "Do you know" trivia, held our first podcast series, presented a public event and closed with a tribute to our White Rose Queens and National President. The history of black people is complicated, yet rich of the struggles and triumphs we endured. Although Black History Month has ended Black History lives on every day and with each day we are proud to see progress.



We give thanks to those women who have paved the way, cracked the glass ceiling and others who have broken the glass ceiling. We must continue to fight for what is right and just in the workplace, government, social environment and the like so that our youth can live in a world that professes equality for all.

Being a woman is a beautiful thing! We are the mother's of this earth and the fruits of our labor exceed beyond measure. We will continue to smile and shine!

In Sisterhood & Service,
Donna Mitchell, President
Epsilon Chi Chapter



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Newsletter Articles are due by the 25th of each month

Calendar of Events

- March 12 - Chapter Monthly Meeting
- March 14 - Daylight Savings Time
- March 27-28 - Southwestern Regional Conference
- April - Business Month
- April 10 - Chapter Monthly Meeting
- May 8 - Chapter Monthly Meeting
- May 9 - Mother's Day
- May 31 - Memorial Day





Black History Month

The Black History Committee did a fabulous job of exemplifying the greatness of African Americans and the richness of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority Inc. The focus was to expound on Iota history and make visible to the public that Iota history IS black history. Throughout the month of February “Iota Do You Know” facts were highlighted. In addition, the Epsilon Chi chapter initiated it’s first podcast series focusing on individuals who are firsts in their profession, industry or specialty. Please listen to our podcast located here:

Click Here to Listen: [Podcast](#)

On February 13, 2021 Sorors dressed in their African attire and listened to Meme Styles, Activist and Founder of MEASURE as she enlightened us with conversation regarding what can be done to eliminate social disparities. This public event proved to be eye opening and ignited conversation that will continue to improve the quality of life for African American families. Tonya Tompkins, Education Chair, did a wonderful job and her committee comprised of Sorors Katrina Warren, Sheri Marshall, Cynae Punch-Brown, Donna Mitchell, Jana Gaskin and MOI Brown did an unparalleled job of implementing the Black History month activities.

IOTA DID YOU KNOW

Our founder, Lola Mercedes Parker served as the national president from 1929-1933 and did all the secretarial work until the first convention was held in 1933.

Epsilon Chi Chapter
Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.

Black History Month PODCAST Series

Guest: Judge Clarease Rankin Yates
FIRST FEMALE IMMIGRATION JUDGE IN THE U.S.

Topic: TRAILBLAZERS AND FIRSTS

Stay tuned for the next interview

IOTA did you know...

The first chartered Iota chapters by region are:

- Central** - Alpha, Chicago, IL - June 1929
- Eastern** - Gamma, Washington D.C. - April 1931
- Far Western** - Alpha Phi, Los Angeles, CA - Oct 1945
- Southern** - Delta, Atlanta, GA - June 1930
- Southwestern** - Psi, Dallas TX - July 1936

BLACK HISTORY



Meme Styles
Founder and President
Measure



Soror Birthday

Happy Birthday to Soror

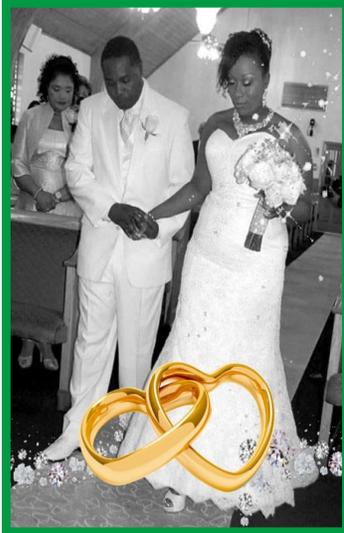


Soror Marchrisha Dottrey
March 25th



Soror Jana Gaskin
March 28th

Wedding Anniversary



Ervin and Redessa Shaw
March 2nd

Lotaversary



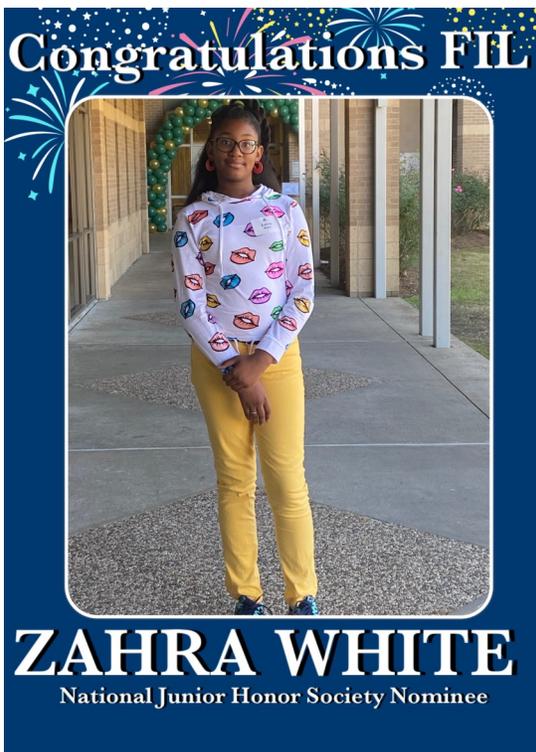
Katrina Warren
March 6th

Rose Beyond the Wall



The Epsilon Chi Chapter mourns the loss of our dear sister, Soror Pam Denmon. She was a gem of a person and a friendly soul who greeted everyone with a smile. Our sincere condolences goes out to the her family and Sorors of the Alpha Kappa chapter.

FILs Corner



Congratulations to FIL Zahra White who was nominated to the National Junior Honor Society.

NJHS is a national organization dedicated to service, leadership, and academic excellence. Our students meet virtually throughout the year to discuss service projects as well as other ways to serve our campus and community.

NJHS students are required to:

- Complete 20 logged volunteer hours per year
- Maintain a 3.5 GPA
- Attend regular meetings

Toys U Can't Return

The Toys U Can't Return Committee held it's first Virtual Youth Forum on Saturday February 27, 2021. Sorors, guests and FIL's attended and enjoyed the presentations that were provided. FIL Jalissa Nixon gave an excellent presentation on choosing to abstain from sex and empowering yourself. Michael Mitchell spoke about seeing the bigger picture and finding your purpose and vision in life. Lastly, Nikki Washington stressed the importance of knowing your worth and building character. We congratulate the winners of our Bucket List activity and look forward to continuing the conversation. The members of the committee did a phenomenal job coordinating the event and are to be commended for their efforts. Thank you to Sorors Gloria Davis, Corinne Copeland, Jacqueline Nixon, Audrey Hamilton and Donna Mitchell for implementing this event.





TOYS U CAN'T RETURN Virtual Youth Forum

Theme: "When you say yes to others make sure you aren't saying no to yourself!"

What gives you the fortitude to not succumb to peer pressure?
"Knowing my self worth and knowing it's ok to say no. Choosing myself first by not making decisions that could possibly hurt me."



Jalissa Nixon

- Senior at Klein Forest High School
- President of the Future Iota Leaders of the Epsilon Chi Chapter
- Team Captain of Klein Forest Swimteam



TOYS U CAN'T RETURN Virtual Youth Forum

Theme: "When you say yes to others make sure you aren't saying no to yourself!"

His belief is that with a **VISION** for where your going in life, self **IDENTITY** and awareness of your **PURPOSE** you can become great.



Michael "A.V." Mitchell

- Empowerment Leader and Entrepreneur
- Published Author
- TV/Radio Host and Performing Artist
- 2018 "Forty Under 40"



TOYS U CAN'T RETURN Virtual Youth Forum

Theme: "When you say yes to others make sure you aren't saying no to yourself!"

What gives you the fortitude to overcome the challenges of being a teenage mother?
"My strong foundation in God, support system, resilience, and the perseverance to live up to everything God promised me. As with many teen mothers, we are labeled and stigmatized by society. Every trial, obstacle, set back, tear and hurt was not for me. It was for me to be a living testimony for others."



Nikki Washington

- Director of Cardiology, St Joseph's Hospital
- Past Teenage Mother

Get to Know our Soror

Epsilon Chi invites you to get to know Soror Jana Gaskin

We asked Soror Gaskin

What makes you who you are?

Well, I have always been a lone ranger. I often say, "I walk to the beat of my own drum." Which usually kept me in trouble as a kid. Not bad trouble though. But as an adult, I have learned to embrace my "individuality". I never mind running my race alone, thinking outside the box but inside of my bubble (bubbles can grow as big as you let them), and just doing me. Now, don't get me wrong. I love to socialize and sister-ize. If there is a party or girls trip...count me in! But I also appreciate the value in just being me, with me. I think this trait about me has helped me achieve many goals, weather many storms, and is the framework for many of my future endeavors.

What is your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievement is being a mom, a boy mom. Motherhood has given me courage, determination, strength and has showed me how to love with my whole heart. Being a mommy to two wonderful boys is the one thing in that is absolute and forever. I take great pride in wearing this title.

Name an influential woman you would like to invite over for dinner and conversation?

That's easy, my grandmother.

Name one thing you wish someone had told you when you were younger?

Don't get all those darn student loans.

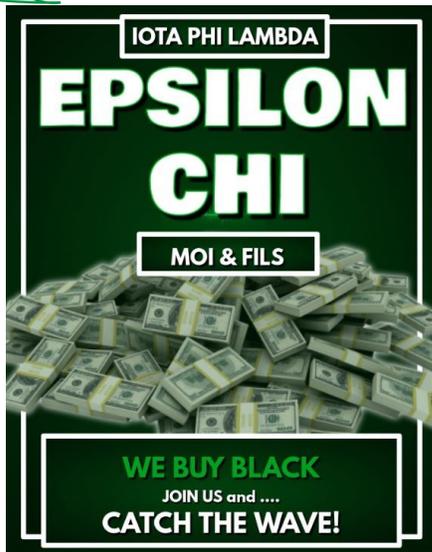
What do you like to do for fun?

I enjoy traveling, cooking, and hanging out with my boys.



Supporting Black Owned Business

Through the Epsilon Chi Buy Black initiative, we are proud to encourage entrepreneurship and promote economic empowerment of black owned businesses (BOB) by intentionally spending our dollars . Whether virtually or in-person, a product or service, youth or adult we will invest in our community to help raise awareness and enhance the financial stability of BOB's. During the month of February the following businesses were patronized by Epsilon Chi Sorors, MOI's and FIL's.



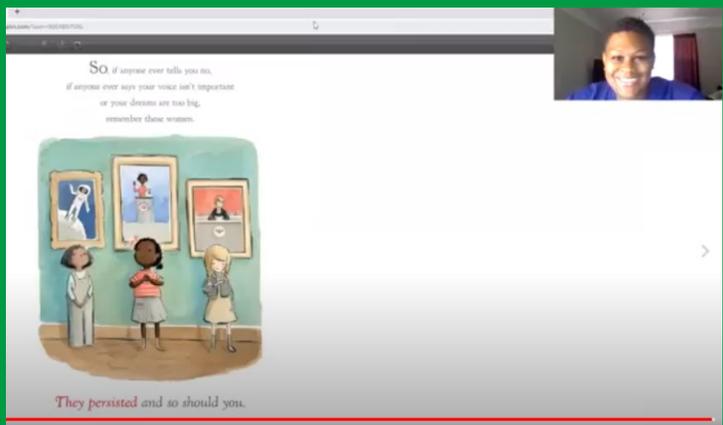
- ⇒ Real Nurturing Family Practice
- ⇒ Brock Orthodontics
- ⇒ Eleven 86 Water
- ⇒ Nails by Donee
- ⇒ Herbs of Nature
- ⇒ Benson Watch by Marcel
- ⇒ Beloved Box Co by Danie Altidor
- ⇒ All Good Granola Bar
- ⇒ Darby and Allen
- ⇒ LaSandra Collins book purchase
- ⇒ African Print Dresses
- ⇒ Canadian Boutique



The dress is from
Kaela Kay
African print dresses

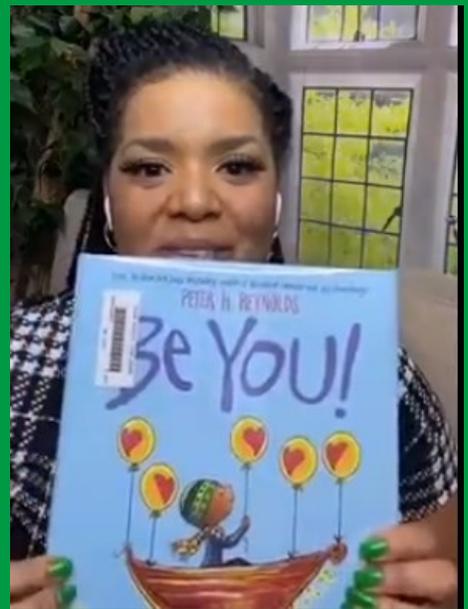


Iota Tutorial programs are designed to assist in remediating youths academic weaknesses and tapping their strengths. It provides students with supplementary skills over and beyond regular classroom instruction which will enable them to perform satisfactorily or better in the classroom, and to meet standards required by the State Board of Education.



The Epsilon Chi chapter participated in a reading tutorial program for the Katy Independent School District and provided electronic reading sessions to their partner, Hutsell Elementary School.

Special thanks to Sorors Gloria Davis, Tameka White, Jana Gaskin and Donna Mitchell for reading and engaging the students.



Business Corner



Epsilon Chi celebrates National Woman's History Month. By bringing you a list of Black Businesses owned by women! Did you know these companies were founded by African American Women?

[Briogeo Haircare products](#)

Founded by Nancy Twine

[The Honey Pot Company](#), natural feminine products

Founded by Beatrice Dixon

[KLUR](#), skincare products

Founded by Lesley Thornton

[Castamira](#), luxury swimwear

Founded by Chantel Davis

[The Lip Bar](#), vegan and cruelty free beauty products

Founded by Melissa Butler

[Mented Cosmetics](#)

Founded by KJ Miller and Amanda Johnson

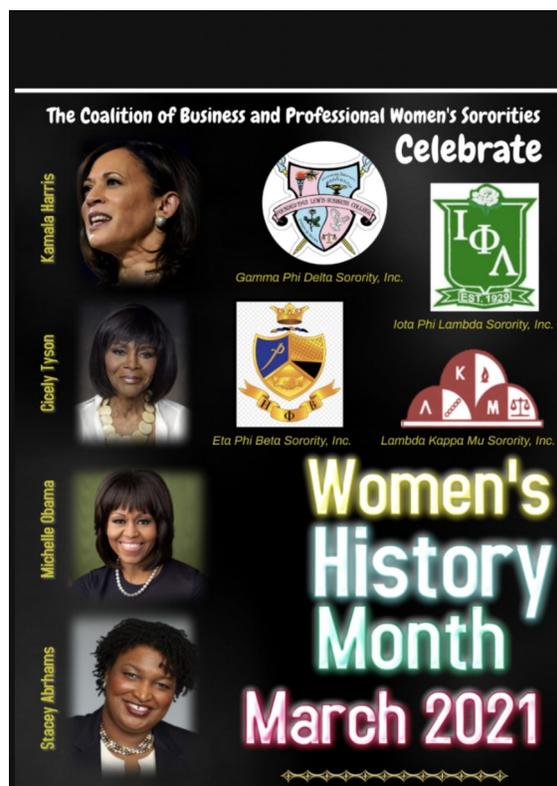
[BYCHARI](#), handmade jewelry

Founded Chari Cuthbert

[Sukie's Candle](#), toxin free soy wax candles

Founder by Sukie Jefferson

You should know some of these companies are listed on the Forbes, "Black Businesses you should know." We salute these amazing women and wish them much success!



Regional News

The nominating committee has submitted the slate of officers for the Southwestern Region. Elections will be held at the 74th Southwestern Regional Conference. The nominees are as follows:

Southwestern Regional Director – Rosetta Davis, Alpha Kappa Chapter

Assistant Regional Director – Sharyl A. Butler – Beta Delta Chapter

Assistant Regional Director – Wendy B. Jacques – Epsilon Tau Chapter

Recording Secretary – Robin Mack, Epsilon Tau Chapter

Treasurer - Leticia Speed - Psi Chapter

Journalist – Dr. Valencia D. Hall – Epsilon Phi Chapter

National Recording Secretary - Tanesha Mosley — Beta Psi Chapter

National News



America Saves Week is a widely recognized national campaign where thousands of organizations join together to collectively encourage their communities to focus on their individual financial wellness. Iota is a national participating partner for America Saves Week. Chapters throughout the United States participated by sharing information and initiating conversations on social media around the topic of "Saving Automatically."



Amazon Smile

Shop with a purpose. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Lola Mercedes Parker Foundation for the Economic Empowerment of Business and Professional Women.

(Click AmazonSmile below to shop.)

2020 - 2021 Epsilon Chi Executive Committee



Donna Mitchell
President



Sheri Marshall
Vice President



Jana Gaskin
Recording Secretary



Gloria Davis
Financial Secretary



Trina Moore
Treasurer



LaSandra Collins
Journalist



Redessa Shaw
Dean of Intake

Sorority Meeting

2nd Saturday of Every Month
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Epsilon Chi Chapter

P. O. Box 6398, Katy, Texas 77491

Let's stay connected:



Check out our website: [Epsilon Chi Chapter](#)

SORORITY LEADERS



Donna Mitchell
Chapter President



Vahnita D. Loud
Southwestern
Regional Director



Dorothy White
23rd National President



Lola Mercedes Parker
Our Founder

Chapter Theme:

Together we are Limitless as we Imagine, Excite and Empower

Regional Theme:

Affirming the Legacy, Bonding in Sisterhood and Committing to Business and Developing Leaders

National Theme:

Business and Professional Women Building the Foundation for Generational Financial Empowerment

National Headquarters:



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