

SIGMA NU ZETA NEWSLETTER

NEW YORK CITY

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! The holiday season was filled with excitement for the Sigma Nu Zeta Chapter. Among our many endeavors, we also celebrate the founding of our constitutionally bound Fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma's Founders' Day on January 9 and the Founders' Day of our beloved sorority on January 16.

In 1920, the Founders of Zeta Phi Beta provided pillars for our organization to stand on: Scholarship, Service, Sisterly Love and Finer Womanhood. We hold these tenants dear to our hearts as sorority members and most of all, as individuals. As our Founders intended, we make serving our community our top priority.

In this issue you will read about our chapter reaching new community service levels. In addition to our traditional projects like preparing Thanksgiving dinner for the Convent Baptist Church community and adopting a family through the Harlem Dowling Center, Sigma Nu Zeta hosted its first Finer Womanhood Workshop for African-American women transitioning from violent domestic environments. We certainly hope our efforts have contributed to a more empowered, stable future for these women. But the mere sharing of our time and talent with these women was very rewarding, humbling and personally enriching.

We hope that we have your continued support and in-

vite you to join us at our events, donate your time to our community service projects and support our initiatives. We send a heartfelt thank you to our sorors, fraters, friends, relatives, supporters and fresh faces who donate their time and energy to our programs. Continue to stay informed about the many activities we're leading this Spring.

Remember to visit our website, follow us on twitter and become a Fan of our Facebook page:
www.zphibsnz.org



Sharon LaDay

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Special Points of Interest:

- During the New York State Founders Day celebration, we will be collecting money and goods in an effort to aid all those who were affected by the earthquake in Haiti.
- Sigma Nu Zeta is committed to serving our community— Look inside to keep up with our current endeavors.
- Thank you for attending our first event of the year! Our After work Mixer and Cocktail Sip was a success!

ΣNZ EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2010

President - Sharon LaDay

1st Vice President - Alison Rissing

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SNZ SERVING OTHERS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This holiday season, Sigma Nu Zeta Chapter continued our annual participation in our signature service project at Convent Baptist Church, in Harlem. 2009 marked the seventh year we have assisted with Thanksgiving Dinner preparation. We worked closely with the welcoming Convent members toward continuing their mission of serving others.

Also in the essence of serving others, we have partnered with the Services for the Under Served (SUS). SUS is a multi-service agency, which provides support services to individuals living with mental illness, developmental disabilities, homebound seniors, homeless individuals and persons living with HIV/AIDS. We made Holiday Stockings for the SUS recipients living with HIV/AIDS.



In addition to our Holiday Stocking Stuffer, we also participated in Harlem Dowling's Adopt a Family program. Each year, Sigma Nu Zeta Chapter works with Harlem Dowling by providing supportive resources to a family in need. Harlem Dowling is a non-for-

profit multi-service agency, which provides culturally comprehensive services for children and families of color.

In the spirit of the season, Sigma Nu Zeta encourages donations of any kind to any of the local and or national agencies, which provide support for the community and its residents.

Some local agencies:

Harlem Dowling

www.harlemdowling.org

Services for the UnderServed

www.susinc.org

NY Charities

www.nycharities.org

FINER WOMANHOOD WORKSHOP

On November 21, 2009, Members of the Sigma Nu Zeta chapter facilitated a Finer Womanhood workshop at a transitional housing shelter. Focusing on empowering the women among the nearly 200 families at the residence, SNZ provided career advice, the latest developments in personal health, and conducted an eagerly anticipated raffle for a beauty giveaway.

The average resident at the shelter is a young black female, between the ages of 21-30 with two-five children, who has not previously experienced homelessness. The average educational attainment of the women is a GED-level, but many have already begun college courses. In addition to pampering these women sorors also gave them advice to prepare them for their next successful life steps.

As part of their case management program, the women are expected to actively pursue employment. Soror Cheryl Pemperton taught a workshop on interviewing skills. There was a special emphasis on how to articulate one's strengths and navigate difficult questions about extended periods out of the workforce. Soror Kate Ofikuru conducted a prayer circle where participants could make requests and on the spot prayers were given and scripture was quoted. All residents are also actively searching for apartments to move and Soror Felicia Chatman offered tips for managing their finances in Budgeting 101. Soror Lenice Nelson offered the Z HOPE information on March of Dimes premature babies, breast cancer and diabetes awareness. The women really took the time

to listen to all the information in order to work toward a healthier lifestyle. For fun, the women were treated to hand massages with delicious smelling soaks and lotion, learned how to make an apple sugar scrub with simple kitchen ingredients and signed up for the raffle prize—a free hair and make-up appointment at a Manhattan salon—a new look for a new beginning!

Special thank you to Sorors Shanton Simpson, Nicole Nichols and Kollie Saygbe for donating their time to this worthy cause.



Members of SNZ at the Finer womanhood Workshop

SECRET SOROR: CHAPTER ACTIVITY

Chapter members of Zeta Phi Beta participate in a program called "Secret Soror" where we are assigned to a soror anonymously to provide words of encouragement or send gifts and share inspirational messages. This is done in honor of one of our tenants, Sisterly Love. You will see messages to and from Secret Sorors in this issue.

THANKING OUR SUPPORTERS! COCKTAIL SIP

As the first social fundraising event for Sigma Nu Zeta, the Cocktail Sip in November could not have been as successful as it was without the help of a few donors. We are extremely grateful for the sponsors who donated products and the members of Sigma Nu Zeta would like to thank the following: Ms. Hollis Barclay of Hibiscus Day Spa, Mr. John Laubenthal of B. Smith Restaurant and Ms. Lesia Griffin of 144 Collection.

Ms. Hollis Barclay is the proprietor and owner of Hibiscus Day spa located in the Stuyvesant Heights section of Brooklyn. Hibiscus Day Spa Pays Homage to Bedstuy's rich cultural heritage through its décor, and its furnishings, featuring the creations of local artists. Currently, Ms. Barclay held a spa Holiday party on December 12, 2009, it was

certainly an event to remember!

Mr. John Laubenthal is the general manager of model turned culinary entrepreneur Barbara Smith's restaurant B. Smith. Located in one of Manhattan's busiest neighborhoods, Time Square on the famed Restaurant Row, B. Smith's is known for serving a global-eclectic menu featuring B.'s interpretations of



Presenting our Raffle Prizes. She's a winner!

cuisines from around the world. For more information please go to www.bsmith.com

Ms. Lesia Griffin is the owner/designer for 144 Collection, a handbag company. As a hobby, Ms. Griffin started sewing and over the years what was once something to pass the time became a lucrative business. Currently, Ms. Griffin is revamping her collection but rest assured there will be even funkier pieces released in the near future. For more information on products please visit <http://www.144collection.com/Home.html>.

The Fundraising committee would like to give a heartfelt thank you to these three individuals for their support and to our guests who shared in this event.

WHY THE FIVE PEARLS FOUNDATION

With the national call to service issued by President Barack Obama, it is appropriate that Sigma Nu Zeta Chapter had the foresight to create an entity that will allow it to bring greater resources to its service projects. The Five Pearls Foundation is the Philanthropic arm of Sigma Nu Zeta Chapter. This partnership increases the opportunity for us to bring resources, both human and financial to support the many programs of Sigma Nu Zeta Chapter. The Foundation is in part how we answer our call to action made with the founding of our beloved sorority. It is our proactive effort to act upon the belief of our founders that the socializing that is often seen as the primary purpose of sororities overshadows the call to service. It is through this vehicle, our public charity, along with our national and local programmatic agendas that we stand on the shoulders of our founders, and take on the mantle of our responsibility, the responsibility that educated women have to address the ills that affect humanity.

What are the ills that affect low income communities? Poor health, limited access to quality education and unrealized understanding of their place in the world and the possibilities that exist for each individual. What are the programs we have to address these issues? We have a Stork's Nest - an incentive based educational prenatal care program that encourages healthy behaviors in low income pregnant women. Our goal is to impact the low birth rates that plague low income communities. We have youth and community development programs including our enrichment program for high school girls- the Archonette program. The goal of the Archonette club is to expose youth to the arts, culture and other educational programs as well ensuring they are on tract to a program of higher education. We have an international community development program, Books Across Africa that is working to build libraries in rural villages in the Gambia, West Africa. This program is partnered with a youth initiative that teaches US students about the Gambia and fosters a cross cultural dialogue for US students. The goal of this program is not only to support an international literacy project but to foster self awareness both locally and internationally among inner city youth. Finally there are educational programs that provide support to challenged women and children, with workshops and coaching session on job readiness, financial readiness and the like. The goal of these workshops are to lend a hand up to those looking for a way out of their challenging circumstances. Finally, there are scholarship programs that help students get access to finances that enable them to make reality the dream of a collage education. In the coming months we will profile the individual programs mentioned above.

You will find more information about these and other programs at our website www.fivepearlsfoundation.org. If you would like to support these initiatives with your time, talent and/or treasurers, you can e-mail info@fivepearlsfoundation.org

To Yvette,

Soror Zora Neale Hurston said,
"Those that don't got it, can't show it. Those that got it, can't hide it."
 You got it!

Sisterly, Your Secret Soror

IN HONOR OF FOUNDERS DAY: JANUARY 16TH 1920

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. was founded by five visionary women on January 16, 1920. Zeta was more than an organization—it was a movement, a belief system that reflected, at its core, the desire to provide true Service, to embrace Scholarship, to set a standard for Sisterly Love and to define the noble concept of Finer Womanhood. This belief has sustained and encouraged Zetas around the world to hold fast to the ideals initiated and developed by its earliest members.

Most Honorable Founders- Arizona Cleaver Stemons, Myrtle Tyler Faithful, Viola Tyler Goings, Fannie Pettie Watts and Pearl Anna Neale were strong, principled coeds who possessed a great deal of modesty, strength of character and pride in academic achievement. They are indeed a worthy foundation

upon which to base our illustrious Sorority.

90 years later, over 150,000 members of Zeta Phi Beta will celebrate in honor of their vision and leadership. On Saturday, January 16, 2010 there will be a celebration at St. John's University- Little Theater, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens NY from 1-3pm. Please join us as we celebrate the heritage of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.— as well as bring supplies, goods and donations in an effort to relieve those affected by the earthquake in Haiti.



The Founders of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.

To my Secret Soror,

The best thing about having a sister was that I always had a friend. ~Cali Rae Turner

Imagine my surprise when I went to get my mail, to find a card there from my secret soror! Super secret, since I didn't have one! You truly made my day and I smile every time I think of your thoughtfulness! Thank you!

Sisterly, Cathy



BEING A “NEO” FOR A SECOND TIME

I became a member of Zeta Phi Beta, Inc. in Albany, New York in the fall of 2004 through Omicron Epsilon Zeta Chapter. I will never forget the feeling I had when I crossed. The experience was so intoxicating. I had the world at my fingertips and I felt as if nothing could stop me. I had also just completed my master's degree, obtained my dream job and now I was a Zeta. I was *complete*. Shortly after, I became engrossed in my career, I was in a new relationship, and I started a second master's program. The sorority, something I worked so hard for was put on the back burner and I was only two years in.

If you ask me why I became a Zeta, you may get a different answer each time. There are so many reasons, it's hard to just pick one. Starting with the words of our Illustrious Founder Viola Tyler (Goings), "There is a Zeta in a girl regardless of race, creed, or color, who has high standards and principles, a good scholarly average and an active interest in all things that she undertakes to accomplish." In addition, our ideals are something I hold so true to my heart. But it was more than that. It was the ability to walk into a room full of woman and feel completely comfortable and know that these women who are completely different from me are actually just the same. I'd so easily let that go.



Soror Dianne Villar

As we all know, however, Zeta is for *life*. It was there ready for me when the time was right. I just needed a little reminder. So here I am, five years in, back and better than ever, and doing the work I was meant to do with the women I was meant to do it with. It's like being a neo all over again.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR FEEDBACK!

Questions or comments about our newsletter?

E-mail Chantal Bonitto, ΣNZ newsletter editor at cbonitto@gmail.com.



To April,

Each day is a new canvas to paint upon. Make sure your picture is full of life and happiness, and at the end of the day you don't look at it and wish you had painted something different.

– Author Unknown

Sisterly, Your Secret Soror

CAMILLE NEWMAN'S ALBUM MAKES HER FEEL "UNASHAMED"

Three years ago, Camille Newman was lying in bed battling a crushing depression, when she suddenly began humming a melody that lifted her spirits. "It was the beginning of what would become 'God Is My Source,'" she says. "And I decided to finally put to song all of the issues I'd been dealing with."

When the emerging gospel artist began recording her debut album, *Unashamed*, she knew she wanted to create a unique sound that incorporated all of her musical influences from techno to reggae to classic R&B. "General praise and worship albums are great, but I wanted to create music that was going to speak to an audience that was saved, but still dealing with a lot of issues that young females face, such as broken relationships and trying to make your mark in the world. Trying to juggle those issues while being a saved, single female is very hard," Camille says.

The resulting *Unashamed*, is an album penned entirely by Camille Newman, that reflects upon how God pulled her out the many painful struggles she'd experienced in the way that only His word can.

"I looked up to Mary J. Blige as a teenager, because she kept it real. So I wanted to keep that same realness, but infuse how God helped me through certain situations."

The melding of contemporary sounds with gospel lyrics is evident from the CD's opener and first single "Life Back", which would get the dance floor of any club or -church pew- equally rocking. But *Un-*

ashamed contains not only club banger style hits, but also classic ballads, such as "Love" and nods to Camille's Jamaican heritage with the reggae infused "Give Him the Praise."

Already firmly established in the local New York City gospel scene, Camille recorded her CD as a way to spread her message of hope, love and resilience to more than just those who attend Christian churches on Sunday. *Unashamed* introduces the hottest undiscovered Christian artist to her intended audience—Everyone.

Camille is an initiate of Rho Rho Chapter, Oberlin College and will be performing at the New York Founders' Day Celebration on January 16th. For more information, visit www.cdbaby.com/Artist/CamilleNewman



Calendar of Events

*** Chapter Meeting takes place on the 2nd Saturday of every month. Contact us for meeting time and place.**



JANUARY

1/16/2010: Downstate Founders' Day Celebration @ St. John's Little Theater, 8000 Utopia Pkway, Qns 12-3pm (Public Program) Please bring donations, supplies, clothes for Haiti's earthquake relief effort.

1/30/2010: STROLL IT OFF @ St. John's University (Manhattan's Campus) Room 118 | Murray Street, NY| 1-4pm (Sorors Only)

FEBRUARY

2/5/2010: SISTER TO SISTER | Belly Dancing hosted by Soror Yolanda Roberson (Sorors Only)

MARCH

3/26/2010: Finer Womanhood Chapter Celebration & Retreat (SNZ Chapter Sorors Only)

SAVE THE DATES

April 21, 2010: Your Negro Tour Guide | One Woman Show by Torie Wiggins | TBA (Public Program)

April 25, 2010: March For Babies | Join the SNZ Team | Manhattan, NY

To Kate,

"Each day is a new canvas to paint upon. Make sure your picture is full of life and happiness, and at the end of the day you don't look at it and wish you had painted something different." I hope that this holiday season is bringing you new inspiration and much imagination for the New Year. Live each day like it's on purpose...

Sisterly, Your Secret Soror

ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC.

Sigma Nu Zeta Chapter
P.O. Box 2323
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163-2323

Email:

Visit us online!
www.zphibsnz.org

TO:

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED ZETA SOROR GRACE BUMBRY

Grace Bumbry (born January 4, 1937) is an American opera singer of great renown, considered one of the leading mezzo-sopranos of her generation, as well as a major soprano for many years. She was a member of an extraordinary and pioneering generation of singers who followed Marian Anderson (including Leontyne Price, Martina Arroyo, Shirley Verrett and Reri Grist) in the world of classical music and paved the way for future African-American opera and classical singers. Bumbry's voice was rich and sizable, possessing a wide range, and was capable of producing a very distinctive plangent tone. In her prime, she also possessed good agility and bel canto technique (see for example her renditions of the 'Veil Song' from Verdi's *Don Carlo* in the 1970s and 1980s, as well as her *Ernani* from the Chicago Lyric Opera in 1984). She was particularly noted for her fiery temperament and dramatic intensity on stage. More recently, she has also become known as a recitalist and interpreter of lieder, and as a teacher. From

the late 1980s on, she seemed to concentrate her career in Europe, rather than in the US. A long time resident of Switzerland, she now makes her home in Salzburg, Austria.

Of her recorded legacy, there's much from her mezzo period, including at least two *Carmens* and three *Amnerises* (possibly her most frequently performed role onstage and most frequently recorded), *Venus* (with Anja Silja as Elisabeth, at the 1962 Bayreuth Festival), *Eboli* and *Orfeo*. There are no commercially released complete studio opera recordings with her in a soprano role, but there are recordings of live performances of *Le Cid* (with the Opera Orchestra of New York), *Jenifa* (at La Scala) and *Norma* (Martina Franca), in addition to some commercial compilations



that include arias in the soprano repertoire. Interestingly enough, many of these were recorded in her "mezzo period," in the 1960s (including excerpts of *La forza del destino* in German, with Bumbry as Leonora and Nicolai Gedda as Alvaro). She also recorded music for the musical *Carmen Jones*, based on the Bizet opera; as well as operetta (Johan Strauss II's *Der Zigeunerbaron*), oratorio (Handel's *Israel in Egypt* and *Judas Maccabeus*), and an album of pop songs.

Bumbry has been inducted into the St. Louis Walk of Fame. Among other honors, she was bestowed the UNESCO Award, the Distinguished Alumna Award from the Academy of Music of the West, Italy's Premio Giuseppe Verdi, and was named *Commandeur des Arts et Lettres* by the French government.

On December 6, 2009, she was among those honored with the 2009 Kennedy Center Honors, for her contribution to the performing arts.