

# Pearl Pages



C. BENNETT, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

NEWS OF TAU PSI ZETA CHAPTER ALSIP, ILLINOIS

## Toys, Philanthropy and Zetas

### 4th Annual Toy Drive and Benefit by Soror H. Smith



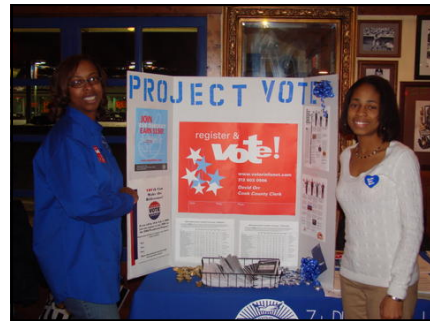
On December 6<sup>th</sup>, TPZ held its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Toy Drive and Benefit at Fuddruckers in Calumet City, IL. The goal of the program is to provide toys to disadvantaged children during the holiday season and to raise money to benefit the fundraising efforts of the chapter. Despite the inclement weather, Sorors came out in full force along with family, friends, and other members of the Greek community for this signature event.

Each year this event gets bigger and better with more friends, more family, and more toys! The record breaking toy this year was donated by Joel Head of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Almost 300 toys were donated and delivered by TPZ to Hope Village, Comer Children's Hospital, Children's Memorial Hospital, The Better Boys

Foundation, the Power 92 toy drive and three families in need.



Sorors & "The Hot Boyz" of Power 92 at McDonald's dropping off Toys



Sorors H. Smith & S. Lane at the Project Vote Display

In addition to fun, food and philanthropy, TPZ provided much needed information regarding the presidential candidates and their platforms through a Project Vote information session. Charlotte Taylor outlined and explained the importance of voting and the moral and social obligations of American citizens.

Special thanks to the fundraising committee and its coordinators, Sorors Lane and Byrd, for their effort in making this event such a success!

### From the Desk of the President:

Greetings Sorors, Amicae, Youth, Brothers, Family & Friends,



We are almost halfway through our fiscal year and have completed many wonderful programs and projects that you can read about in this issue. We welcomed our largest group of new members (neophytes) in December. In January, we braved the cold weather and participated in the Chicago Cares Celebration of Service to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We also honored a few of our own with our chapter's Founder's Awards, and celebrated our Founder's Day with our brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. Finally, we continued our service by collecting toys for the needy and raising money for the Fervent Hearts Foundation with our annual Toy Drive and Raffle. I hope you can join us at our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Finer Womanhood Prayer Breakfast where we hope to award over \$4,000 in scholarships to some deserving young women. Please check out our website at [www.taupsizeta.org](http://www.taupsizeta.org) for other upcoming events as we continue to reach out as a community conscious, action-oriented organization!

Sisterly,

Charlotte D. Taylor, Esq.

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## Tackling Problems with Zest

### Z-HOPE Workshops

By Soror C. Bennett



In keeping with Zeta's programmatic thrust, Z-HOPE, TPZ continues to host

informative and timely workshops for the community. TPZ in conjunction with the men of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. hosted a series of workshops for men at the Chicago Bee Branch of the Chicago Public Library.

The workshops held on February 2nd and February 23rd were designed to address health issues of grave importance for African American males. George R. Smith, Jr., M.S., a member of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., facilitated lectures on hypertension, prostate cancer, and tobacco prevention. Also, a presentation on fitness and

nutrition was conducted by TPZ's own Soror Flowers.

Participants found the presentations interesting and motivating, they walked away armed with knowledge and a commitment to regain control of their health. Kudos to the Z-HOPE team and event coordinator, Soror Wallace.



## Taking Pride in Zeta

### Black History Tea

By Soror C. Bennett

In celebration of Black History Month, the United Baptist State Convention of IL held a Black History Tea on February 23<sup>rd</sup> to acknowledge the achievements and history of African Americans. The tea included a fashion show, singing and a tribute to Black Greek Letter Organizations and the impact they've had on society. TPZ's award winning step team took the stage to represent the Royal Blue and Pure White with a hand-clapping, toe-tapping routine that left the audience screaming for more. The men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. participated as well. Special thanks to Frater Dr. Isaac L. Floyd, President of UBSC of IL, for inviting us to be a part of this superb event!



On a blustery Saturday morning, TPZ was up before the sun to take part in one of the largest volunteer days in Chicagoland! January 19, 2008, marked the Chicago Cares Celebration of Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Over 3,500 volunteers came together at the United Center to work towards the realization of Dr. King's dream.

TPZ Sorors and Amicae served as roadies to help with bus management, check-in and food distribution. Though the weather outside was frightful, TPZ was so delightful in carrying out their assigned duties with the same fervor and zeal with which they do everything. Special thanks to the Social Action Chair, extraordinaire Soror Mariam Thiam and her committee, for her efforts in organizing this inspiring project! See ya again next year!!!

## Temperature Proof Zetas

### Chicago Cares Serve-A-Thon

By Soror C. Bennett



Sorors L. Calonge, R. Byrd & A. Henderson on a cold winter's morn at the United Center for the Chicago Cares MLK Day Serve-a-thon

**Terrific Presentations with Zetas**  
*3rd Annual Chapter Retreat*  
 By Soror S. Lane

TPZ's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Retreat was held on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Harris Park District. The retreat



was organized by the Special Events Committee. The event began with an ice breaker led by Soror Wadlington; followed by a presentation on the history of Zeta and TPZ by Soror Sanders. Friend Thelma Sykes gave the history of the Amicae. Soror Byrd presented on how to effectively use the Yahoo Groups: the main method of communication for the chapter.

Sorors Taylor and Harris facilitated the "Do's and Don'ts of Zeta Fashion." The fashion show covered the proper dress code for business meetings, ceremonies, party attire and paraphernalia. The models; Sorors Snyder, N. Jones, Williams, Henderson, C. Peace, K. Block and Friend Bennett truly exemplified the meaning of Finer Womanhood.

The Parliamentary Procedures Session, led by Soror Walton, was an explosive and informative presentation followed by an interactive quiz. Sorors Byrd and Buckner gave the captivated audience a great lesson on Conference Protocol and Soror Williams offered tips on public speaking. The last presentation was given by Sorors Taylor and Buckner on the duties of Officers of the Chapter.

Great prizes were given out throughout the day; from candle sets to pretty blue blankets and purses! The Third Annual Retreat was a great success! Soror Payne kept the retreat rolling with her infectious excitement for Zeta! Kudos to the Special Events Committee and presenters for such a wonderful, exciting, and informative retreat!

**Truly Pleasing all Zetas**  
*2nd Annual IL State Leadership Retreat*  
 By Soror R. Byrd



President Taylor and NEF Liaison, Soror Thiam kick off the conference showcasing the Illinois banner

The 2nd Annual IL State Leadership Retreat took place on Saturday, February 23rd in Skokie, IL at the Doubletree Hotel. TPZ Sorors joined members of the other 27 chapters in the State of Illinois to learn, network and move Zeta forward. Under the direction of Illinois State Director, Soror Alice F. Craft, members of Tau Psi Zeta performed several important tasks in contributing to the success of the retreat. Soror Kendra Jenkins, IL State Financial Secretary, ran registration, Sorors Taylor, Thiam, Byrd and Sanders conducted presentations on conducting an effective



meeting, the National Education Foundation, parliamentary procedures, and the Stork's Nest respectively. A wealth of knowledge was spread to all of the Sorors that were present.

**Truly Positive Zetas**  
*Salvation Army Service Projects*  
 By Soror C. Bennett



Can you guess how TPZ spent Thanksgiving and Christmas morning? By providing service to the community, of course! TPZ was up bright and early spreading holiday cheer and goodwill at the Harbor Light Salvation Army on Monroe in Chicago. On Thanksgiving morning TPZ Sorors, Amicae, and Archonettes worked in teams to wrap gifts, create decorations, and prepare meals for the residents and transients of the shelter. TPZ was such a help to the shelter that they were invited back to assist at Christmas. On Christmas morning, TPZ was busy serving meals to the less fortunate. Both of these projects gave TPZ an opportunity to reflect on its many blessings including family, friends, and Sorors. Many thanks to the Social Action committee and its chair, M. Thiam, for keeping TPZ community conscious and action-oriented!

**Editor's Corner**

Welcome to another edition of *The Pearl Pages!* TPZ is growing by leaps and bounds and the staff and I are pleased to provide you with information about our chapter. As always, this issue is packed with all the blue news fit to print! Zee you soon at one of our upcoming events!



Charise R. Bennett  
 tpz26lu4u@yahoo.com

# Girls of Pearls ~ News

## The Youth Auxiliary of Tau Psi Zeta Chapter

### Toys for Tots with the Sigma Betas of INS!!

By Soror R. Byrd



Christmas came early for some fortunate children with the help of the Zeta Archonettes and the Sigma Betas of Iota Nu Sigma (INS) Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. On an unseasonably warm winter's day, December 15, 2007 at Yorktown Shopping Center in Lombard, IL, there was a Blue and White invasion.



The fire engines came a roaring and all helped unload the trucks and ambulances of toys that were donated to needy children. The event was the Annual Dick Biondi Holiday Toy Drive, sponsored by 94.7 FM in partnership with UCAN. The volunteer duties included being a Collector, Counter, Sorter, Bagger, Transporter and Runner. The volunteer efforts lasted for 4 hours and afterwards, the group sat down to a well deserved meal.



This service project is one of many collaborations between Renee Byrd, Zeta Archonette Sponsor and Shelton Smith, Sigma Beta Sponsor, during the year. The group shares meetings, service projects as well as social outings.



#### Congratulations

*Archonette Ebony Honeywood  
2008 "Archonette of the Year"  
&  
Archonette Tyler Madison  
2008 Archonette President  
  
Keep up the good work!!*

### Celebrating Kwanzaa!!

By Soror R. Byrd



A Family tradition is becoming a TPZ Youth Auxiliary tradition as well since the chapter has made Kwanzaa an annual event for the youth

groups. On December 29, 2007, the Kwanzaa Fest was held at St. Ailbe church. The event boasted an attendance of about 35 Youth, Sorors, brothers and guests. Brother Kamau Kadirifu of INS chapter taught the lesson for the day, with an emphasis on the principles, traditions and reason for the celebration. Pictured are Archonettes Shanyce Harrell and Angelica Taylor lighting the candles on the **Kinara**.

### Supporting the Sigma Betas!!

By Soror R. Byrd



*Charlotte, Archonette Brianna Simon, Stacy and Cece at the Basketball game*

On February 16th after the Archonette Club meeting, the girls and Sorors took to a basketball game against the Sigma Betas of INS chapter and the Kappa Leaguers of Chicago Alumni Chapter

of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Even though the Sigma Betas lost the game, the support given by the Archonettes and Sorors was appreciated. Thanks to Brother Gerald Washington of Iota Phi Sigma Chapter for the use of Harris Park and Recreation Center.

*Archonettes: Elaina Dalton, Shanae Scott and Shanyce Harrell watching the Sigma Betas*



# Friends of Pearls ~ News

The Adult Auxiliary of Tau Psi Zeta Chapter



*TPZ Amicae and friends at the Anniversary party*

## It's A Celebration! Amicae 2nd Anniversary Party

*By Soror C. Bennett*

The Amicae celebrated their 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary on November 30, 2007 at Gloria's Lounge and Show Club in Harvey, IL. Amicae and members of TPZ came together to rejoice in their success as an auxiliary group and to share their enthusiasm for the upcoming year. Old and new friends ate, drank and made merry as

they danced the night away. Here's wishing the Amicae continued success in their pursuit of excellence!

## Welcoming New Members! Amicae Induction

*By Soror C. Bennett*

On January 19, 2008, TPZ enhanced its Amicae auxiliary group with the induction of two new members—Janice Bennett and Karen Plunkett. The ceremony took place at the West Pullman Branch of the Chicago Public Library.

The new Friends were lavished with gifts and

accessories by TPZ and Amicae members. Friend Janice Bennett was introduced to Zeta by her daughter, Charise Bennett. She is excited about the work of Zeta and has new ideas to contribute. Friend Karen Plunkett plans to do all she can in the Amicae to pursue Zeta in the future. The new members are energized by their new sisterhood and are ready to get down to the business of Zeta!



*Newly inducted friends: Amica Janice Bennett & Amica Karen Plunkett*

## Toasts and Praise for Zeta

### Founder's Day Celebrations

By Soror C. Bennett

On January 12, 2008, Sigmas and Zetas met at the Sigma House in Chicago to celebrate the founders and the future. The annual sip is a part of the Founder's Day festivities and provides the opportunity for the Blue and White Family to form new relationships and rekindle old friendships.

Sorors at Bar Louie on January 16, 2008 in celebration of our Founder's Day



Fraters and Sorors, mixed, mingled, danced, and shared stories until the wee hours of the morning reveling in the bonds of family!

On January 16, the most revered day in Zeta, TPZ Sorors gathered at Bar Louie in Hyde Park to toast the Most Honorable Founders of the beloved sorority. Sorors from other chapters joined TPZ in a moment of reflection and celebration of 88 years of Service, Scholarship, Sisterly Love, and Finer Womanhood, Z-Phi!



Members of TPZ & Alumni of Omicron Delta Chapter Sorors Graham, Cannon, Johnson and Peace at the Founder's Day Sip

## Touching the Past of Zeta

### 8th Annual Joint Founder's Day Celebration

By Soror J. Johnson



"Royalty: A Toast to the Founders & the Future!" was the theme for the 8th annual Joint Sigma/Zeta Founders Banquet held on January 26, 2008. The banquet was held at NIKOS Restaurant and Banquets in Bridgeview, IL. The celebration brought together old friends and new from the Chicagoland Graduate (Alumni) chapters of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Members of the Blue and White Family came out to reflect on the principles and honor the founders of the organizations.

The night's program included the Black National Anthem being played by a young violinist, a slideshow presentation of the various chapters in the Chicagoland area, and the singing of the Fraternity and Sorority National Hymn. Fraters and Sorors that have been a part of the organizations for twenty years or more received special recognition. The Founders Day committee put together an outstanding event and the Blue and White Family is looking forward to another great celebration next year!

## Top Performing Zetas

### Pearl Founder's Awards

By Soror S. Flowers

TPZ kicked the New Year off with its 2nd Annual Pearl Founder's Awards on January 5, 2008, at St. Ailbe's Church on 90th and Stony Island in Chicago. The Pearl Founder's Awards were designed to commend chapter members for their hard work and dedication to the world of Zeta & TPZ.



#### Sisterly Love Award

Nicole Jarnagin  
Angela Payne

#### Scholarship Award

Charise Bennett  
Tina Davis

#### Service Award

Kendra Jenkins  
Stacy Lane

#### Longevity Award

Charlotte D. Taylor  
Natilee Simon

#### New Member Award

Janese Johnson

#### Reclaimed Member Award

Lejon Ross-Busch

Congratulations Ladies and thank you for your commitment to Zeta. Let's give Two Doves Up to the By Laws committee and TPZ's parliamentarian, T. Candice Walton, for their time and effort in making this year's Pearl Founder's Awards another success!

## The Pursuit of Zeal

### Welcoming TPZ's New Members

By Soror K. Eaton

On December 6, 2007, Tau Psi Zeta assisted 15 women with their pursuit of zeal. These 15 ladies showed the chapter that they were dedicated to upholding the foundation that the charter members of the chapter worked so hard to build. The NPHC had better look out because TPZ has added more ladies of diverse backgrounds and talents to the chapter!

Under the direction of the Membership Coordinator, Margo Watson, Tau Psi Zeta proudly presents;

- Keleyssa Block
- Reisha Bogan
- Lynda Calonge
- Linneth Harris
- Keturah Jenkins
- Robbie Jewell
- Noelle Jones
- Francetta Osborne
- Ayanna Pearson
- Cecelia Ruiz
- Jacqueline Steward
- Tamera Taylor
- Andrea Wells
- Tiffany Williamson
- Qiana Young



Their neophyte show will be held at the Elks Lodge in Crestwood, IL on April 5, 2008. TPZ hopes that you will join them in welcoming these ladies to this wonderful organization. Ladies, continue to let the light of Zeta shine in you!



Neophyte Sorors Qiana Young & Jackie Steward position themselves for the "Soulja Boy"

## Tokens, Points and Zetas

### Finer Womanhood Social

By Soror C. Bennett

To jump start the celebration of Finer Womanhood Month, TPZ held a social on February 29<sup>th</sup> at Dave and Buster's on Clark Street in Chicago. TPZ Sorors along with Amicae and Archonettes enjoyed fun, food, and fellowship in one of the entertainment center's private rooms. The group dined on a fiesta buffet while dancing to the sounds of DJ Darnell. Once everyone was full from eating and sweaty from dancing, they left the private room to earn points and win prizes in the game room.

Even those who didn't win any prizes had a great time being with the TPZ family. Special thanks to the Finer Womanhood committee for getting the celebration off to a great start!

## The Pearl Zone

### Finer Womanhood Worship Celebration

By Soror C. Bennett

On Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, TPZ ushered in the Finer Womanhood Month (FWH) festivities in praise and worship at St. Ailbe's Church in Chicago, IL. With the Pastor of the church, Father John Breslin at the helm, the Sorors worshipped with the parishioners of St. Ailbe--the church home of our own Soror Leslie Buckner, Zeta of the Year.

The Sorors sang gospel hymns, danced with the praise dancers and listened to a uplifting homily.

*Remember that a chapter that prays together stays together.*



