

# Brooklyn *P*earl



March, 2020

ΔΡΩ

#PowerPurposePassion

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March 2020

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Patricia Ramseur

Dawn Baskerville

Emma St. Bernard

Carole Brinkley

Octavia Hill

# “Bringing Pearls of Opportunity to Brooklyn and Beyond”

## From The Desk of the Basileus



Welcome to the March, 2020 edition of the Brooklyn Pearl!

March is Women’s History Month and we pay homage to all of the great women that have blazed the trails in American History! We salute women such as Soror Katherine Johnson, Soror Marian Anderson, Althea Gibson, and Dorothy Height. These women deserve our respect and admiration. Sorors, each of you deserve accolades for all of your sacrifice on behalf of your career, family and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®! Your energy, dedication, and hard work have played a role in the history of this great chapter. I thank YOU for everything you have done and continue to do on behalf of sisterhood and service to all mankind.

Delta Rho Omega was well represented at the Cluster III Founders’ Day Luncheon held on February 29, 2020. The fabulous event was hosted by Pi Phi Omega Chapter. Soror Arla J. Bentley, N. Atlantic Representative to the International Membership Committee was the guest speaker. Delta Rho Omega also received the Excellence in Programming Award for the HBCU College Tour!

The North Atlantic Regional Conference was held from March 4-8, 2020 in Hartford, Connecticut. Once again Delta Rho Omega’s presence was strong! Soror Octavia Hill was the chapter honoree at the Sisterhood Luncheon, Soror Janice Taylor represented the Ivy Rose Foundation at the Public Meeting, 12 delegates were present at the plenary sessions, Sorors Dawnasia Freeman and Crystal Abrams were AEBLI graduates, and Golden Soror Beryl Miles and Soror Jewel Rambo were honored at the Diamond, Golden, Silver luncheon. Delta Rho Omega also received recognition as the Best of the Best in Chapter Reclamation, and two EAF Platinum certificates! We also had a fabulous time celebrating each other at the Dessert Social held after the Awards Gala.

Sorors, Delta Rho Omega is the preeminent chapter in the North Atlantic Region with over 72 years of Sisterhood and Service to the community and I’m proud to serve as your Basileus!

Sisterly,  
*Soror Victoria Thomas*

*“We must carry forward the work of the women who came before us & ensure our daughters have no limits on their dreams, no obstacles to their achievements & no remaining ceilings to shatter.” –*

*President Barack Obama*

## Message from the First Anti-Basileus



Greetings Sorors!

During the 89th North Atlantic Regional Conference in Hartford, Connecticut, we heard about the progress the sorority has made toward the 2018-2022 program goals of Exemplifying Excellence through Sustainable Service. Our sorority's collective impact across the region and around the world is the result of the hard work of individual Sorors working on committees in their local chapters.

Yes...that means you and Delta Rho Omega!

Delta Rho Omega continues to execute programs with Excellence, thanks to the committee chairs who step up to lead and the committee members who step up to serve. You'll be happy to know that the opportunities to serve this month are plenty. The Beautillion/Rites of Passage committee continues to work with our beaus and escorts to prepare for the Rites of Passage Ceremony and culminating event. The HBCU Tour committee will launch a workshop series for dozens of high school students prior to the commencement of our 13th Annual HBCU Tour. Your support of these signature chapter programs is paramount for their continued success.

I look forward to working alongside you in service to our Brooklyn community.

Sisterly,

*Soror Monique Okumakpeji*  
First Anti-Basileus

## Second Anti-Basileus' Message



Let the spirit of celebrations continue all year long! We started the year celebrating the formation of our illustrious Sorority and our Founders. We walked into February loving each other and celebrating the skin we're in... and this month we are stepping into the greatness of being a woman! May we find reasons all year long to lift up celebrate ourselves and one another!

As we continue to let our light shine, we want to illuminate our chapter and make it even brighter! This month I'm kicking a Chapter wide incentive called RECLAMATION150. We want to glow up from 100 percent wattage to 150! Let's bring our Sorors home! We are challenging every Soror to reclaim as many Sorors as possible! The Soror who reclaims the most Sorors by the November Chapter Meeting will receive \$150 towards their 2021 dues! Sorors must list your name when transferring in to receive credit. Everyone is able to participate. Should there be a tie, the money will be divided. Make sure you stand out! The race is officially on! Let's bring our Sorors home!

Continue to shine bright like a diamond!!!

Sisterly,  
*Soror Phillipa Pearson*  
2nd Anti-Basileus/Membership Chair

## March 2020 Hostess Committee

Hostess Captain - Soror Yolanda Holmes

**Soror Karmia Berry**  
**Soror Bintia Boure**  
**Soror Carole Brinkley**  
**Soror Serena Castellano**  
**Soror Tempii Champion**  
**Soror Gina Chavez-Moore**  
**Soror Helen Drew**  
**Soror Tanisha Francis**  
**Soror Adero-Zaire Green**  
**Soror Monique Holaman**

**Soror Kimberly Howard**  
**Soror Jamilah Lemieux**  
**Soror Manisha Mignon**  
**Soror Irene**  
**Okumpakpeyi-Ajagbe**  
**Soror Evelina Rene**  
**Soror Jennifer Robinson**  
**Soror Mona Romain**  
**Soror Marvelie Tribie**  
**Soror Kimberly Vick**



### Greetings from the Hodegoi

Welcome March, as we end one month we open another month. This month we celebrate International Women's Day. This month is where we celebrate the movement of women rights and we celebrate ourselves. Be strong, if you have a dream make it your goal. Together we can do anything we want to do if we put our minds to it.

Respectfully submitted and always Sisterly Yours,

*Soror Deena and Soror Tiffany*  
Hodegoi

*"Where there is a woman, there is magic." Ntozake Shange*



## Happy Birthday Sorors!



3/2	Soror Tiffanie Young	3/3	Soror C. Joyce -Julian
3/4	Soror Lorraine Mitchell	3/6	Soror Jacqueline Charity
3/7	Soror Angela Terry	3/10	Soror Doris Alexander
3/14	Soror Adero-Zaire Green	3/16	Soror Randa Henry Jenkins
3/16	Soror Katuscia Lawrence	3/17	Soror Shanice Smith Branch
3/19	Soror Adele Allen	3/23	Soror Ariel Terry
3/23	Soror Irene Okumakpeyi Ajagbe	3/24	Soror Mary Alexander
3/25	Soror Linda DeHart	3/26	Soror Gina Strachan
3/30	Soror Pamela Wilson	3/31	Soror Allyson Green-Beard

### Congratulations are in order...

- Congrats to Soror Natalie S.Clunis on receiving a Director level position producing content for Disney Films. We wish you the best on your new journey in Los Angeles. See you soon!
- Congrats to Soror Brandi Bradshaw for being 1 of 50 playwrights selected across the globe to have her work read at the highly anticipated 50in50.
- Soror Cheryl Crews had an anniversary as a pastor for 5 years of St. Stephens Lutherans Church in Flatbush, Brooklyn. The official ceremony will be held on June 28,2020 at 3pm.

### Thinking of you Soror...

- Soror Wanda Berry-Joseph, for the passing of her uncle Mr. Dennis Berry who was her mother's twin. He transitioned on February 15. Sorry for your loss.
- Soror Tarvatta Simmons-Nanton, as she is going through the recovery process for her son Dominique who recently had lung surgery.
- Soror Faye Beverly Bryant who is our sorority's 21st Supreme Basileus, she recently passed away. Please pray for Soror Faye's family during this difficult time of Bereavement.
- Soror Deena Sellers, as she is recuperating and heals from a surgical procedure that she had recently.
- Madam Basileus, Soror Victoria Thomas as she recuperates and heals from her surgical procedure that was done on Wednesday morning. We wish you a speedy recovery! Keep being strong and get well soon.

May the Lord keep them all in his comfort and peace.



## Greetings from the Sisterly Relations Committee

On Saturday, February 29th, Delta Rho Omega's Creative Soror Carol Killibrew hosted 37 sorors and guests for a night on Broadway to see "A Soldier's Play" at the American Airlines Theater starring David Alan Grier and Blair Underwood. This play is about a black Sergeant who is murdered in 1944 on a Louisiana Army base. A tenacious investigator must race against his white leadership to unravel the crime before they unravel him.

Check out the DRO Connection for more information about our upcoming Sisterly Relations events:

March 7th, 2020 – NARC Gathering post Awards Gala

April (TBD) - Pearls of Wisdom

May 9th, 2020 – Celebrating Legacies Tea

Sisterly,

*Soror Kimberley Bugg-Allen and Soror Antonia Hope*

Sisterly Relations Co-Chairs

*Soror Spotlight:  
Soror Brandi Bradshaw*



*Submitted by Soror Jovanna*

Happy Women's History Month!

This month's Soror Spotlight features Soror Brandi Bradshaw. Soror Brandi was born and raised in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, NY; she is an only child and was raised by her mother (retired Captain - Rikers Island) and grandmother (deceased - Assistant Director of Urgent Care Services at Kings County Hospital; Master Seamstress). Soror Brandi was the committee chair for the 2020 Founders' Commemoration Event and became a member of our illustrious sorority by way of the Epsilon Pi Omega Chapter, Fall 2017.

Please see excerpts from our conversation below.

**Please describe your collegiate educational background and current profession?**

I earned a B.S. in Psychology from Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, NC and an M.S. in Developmental Psychology (with interdisciplinary research in computer engineering) from Howard University.

While at Bennett College, I received the Derieux Award for Excellence in Research; was the first of my graduating class to be accepted to graduate school and went on to attend Howard University on a full ride through the Minority Graduate Education Program (now AGEP- Alliance of Graduate Education and The Professoriate). I completed my studies as a research fellow of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Identity and Success Research Lab (ISRL) and pioneered the use of new genetic research tools in exploring the psychological significance of race and phenotypic variation in people of African descent.

After 13 years of professional experience working within the non-profit sector in addition to becoming the Director of Youth Development Programs for a community-based organization, I went back to my first love on full time basis - the arts! I am now a Barrymore award winning actress, playwright and vocalist.

### **Are any of your relatives a member of a BGLO?**

It appears that I am forging the way as the only member of a Greek organization in my family and the only AKA. Maybe I will have a legacy one day...cross my fingers!

### **Are you a member of any other social/professional organizations?**

While an undergraduate, I became a member of the following honor societies: Psi Chi (psychology), Beta Kappa Chi (math & science), Pi Gamma Mu (social science) and Alpha Kappa Mu (general honors).

### **What are some of your favorite or fun things to do?**

Watching documentaries about artists or personal interviews (i.e. Inside the Actors Studio or Unsung), movie dramas, reality television, funny animal videos and listening to WBGO jazz station on Sunday mornings. But of course, my all-time favorite is to act and write!

### **What programs have you identified in DRO where you feel you can make the greatest contributions?**

My journey to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. took a span of 18 years, and, given that I have no siblings, programming with sisterly relations and membership at its core will always remain as the heart-beat of my service. I love to see women flourish together as they individually find their wings within the confines of the organization!

**How have you been able to honor sisterhood throughout your years of service?**

I have developed very strong bonds with many Sorors across chapters near and far by making myself available. Honoring sisterhood for me means cheering my fellow sister on, being an advocate when necessary, lending an ear when needed and offering tangible support and resources wherever I can.

**What advice would you give a new Soror in our sorority?**

Don't be afraid to ask questions for clarity and to remain informed. Give yourself an opportunity to learn but don't let your newness stop you from contributing to the organization. Always be gracious, forgive and move on. In all things honor God and remain true to yourself. Be wise with how you spend money.

**Please share any accomplishments, upcoming recognitions or events you'd like to promote.**

This year I founded a Multidisciplinary Writers Collective for Women of Color called "TheBlackHerThePen". January 2020, we launched our first reading series hosted at The Drama League in NYC. Please follow us @theblackherthepen.

**Fun Fact: I performed on stage with Mariah Carey for her Day-Dream World Tour at Madison Square Garden in 1996.**

### Pink Goes Red for a Day Initiative

In accordance with our Pink Goes Red Heart Health initiative, Soror Shanelle Gabriel and the AKAfit committee conducted a fitness activity entitled Mind, Body, Soca & Soul



### J. Marjory Jackson Scholarship Performance

At the public meeting for the 89th North Atlantic Regional conference, the J. Marjory Jackson scholarship recipient did a dance performance.



## 2nd Annual Black History Night

Sisterly Relations along with Soror Carol Killibrew hosted 37 sorors and guests for a night on Broadway to see “A Soldier’s Play” at the American Airlines Theater starring David Alan Grier and Blair Underwood.



## 89th North Atlantic Regional Conference at Hartford, CT

Delta Rho Omega chapter attended an amazing conference held by Cluster V.







# WALKING WITH THE BASILEUS

Walk 8,000 steps per day with The Supreme Basileus and the Basileus!

- Use a fitness smartwatch or an activity tracker.
- Keep track of your daily steps.
- Create challenges with sorors to stay motivated.
- The soror with the most steps per month will get a prize at each chapter meeting.
- Contest begins September 1, 2018!
- When posting on the FB Group Walking With the Supreme please use the hashtags #DeltaRhoOmega and #PowerPurposePassion



MEMBERS OF CLUSTER III OF THE  
NORTH ATLANTIC REGION OF  
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.  
INVITE YOU TO

# DRUMFOLK BY STEP AFRIKA!



NEW VICTORY THEATER

209 WEST 42ND ST. NEW YORK, NY 10036

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020 AT 12PM

TICKETS CAN BE RESERVED AT [NEWVICTORY.ORG](http://NEWVICTORY.ORG) USING CODE DFAKA20

If you have any questions please email

Njeri Johnson-Small, Coordinator at [njerikhalea1908@gmail.com](mailto:njerikhalea1908@gmail.com)

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.  
DELTA RHO OMEGA CHAPTER  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
IVY ROSE FOUNDATION, INC.  
PRESENT



# HBCU



HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

# TOUR

APRIL 13-17, 2020

The cost of the tour is **\$415** per person which includes: transportation (luxury coach bus), hotel accommodations, and meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner)

**Students will visit the following HBCUs:**

Clark Atlanta University, GA | Hampton University, VA  
Howard University, DC | Morehouse College, GA  
Morgan State University, MD | Norfolk State University, VA  
North Carolina A&T University, NC | Spelman College, GA

For more information please visit  
[www.ivyrosefoundationinc.org/hbcucollegeturn](http://www.ivyrosefoundationinc.org/hbcucollegeturn)



**Bklyn**  
Public Library



# March CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TIME
3/4 - 3/8	89th North Atlantic Regional Confernce		Connecticut Convention Center 100 Columbus BLVD Hartford, CT	
3/14	Social Hour/ Chapter Metting	Monthly Business Meeting	St. Philips Episcopal Church 265 Decatur Street Brooklyn, NY	2pm to 5pm
3/15	DrunFolk by Step Afrika		New Victory Theatre 209 West 42nd Street New York, NY	12pm

# April CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TIME
3/4 - 3/8	89th North Atlantic Regional Confernce		Connecticut Convention Center 100 Columbus BLVD Hartford, CT	
4/11	Social Hour/ Chapter Metting	Monthly Business Meeting	St. Philips Episcopal Church 265 Decatur Street Brooklyn, NY	2pm to 5pm
4/13 - 4/17	HBCU College Tour		DC, MD, VA, NC, GA	

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### BASILEUS OFFICE HOURS

Calls and emails will be responded to within 24 hours.

Email: [DROBasileus@gmail.com](mailto:DROBasileus@gmail.com)

Phone: (917) 941-4113

### MARY BENTLEY LAMAR

North Atlantic Regional Director

P.O. Box 413

125 Glenridge Ave.

Montclair, New Jersey 07042

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## STAY IN TOUCH!

 @DELTARHOOMEGA

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