

The DAC News

Detroit Alumnae Chapter Newsletter

January 2011



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Mardi Woods, 37th President

LOVE, LAUGH, & LIFT:

Health is Yours



Greetings Sorors. This newsletter illustrates the programming of Detroit Alumnae Chapter (DAC) which is targeted towards promoting the mental, physical and financial health of our beloved nation and city – including our youth, seniors and sorors. Please take a moment to read of DAC's many activities, the notable accomplishments of our members and how you can be involved in the wonderful things going on in your DAC.

It is my desire to stay connected with each of you. I hope you find my twice weekly Detroit Deltas Hotline email "blasts" informational. If you don't follow email, the information can also be accessed at (313) 533-1605. Importantly, please share your thoughts on programs and improvements with me at mardiw007@yahoo.com, (313) 510-9242 or drop them in the suggestion box located in the multi-purpose room at the Delta House.

To Everything There is a Season....

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS (September - December 2010)

Soror Dawn Weaver: Son, Harry IV

OMEGA OMEGA ANNOUNCEMENTS (June 2010 - January 2011)

... This in the end is the most fitting tribute to our Soror

Soror Marvarine McKinley Adkins
Soror Caressa Baltimore
Soror Lisa Furcron Bennett
Soror Hortense Golden Canady, 18th National President
Soror Bernadine Newsom Denning, 18th DAC President
Soror Kimberly Donaldson
Soror Dorothy Penman Harrison, 11th National President
Soror Dorothy Hughes
Soror Shirley Campbell Jennifer

Soror Dores McCree
Soror Eunice C. Palmer
Soror Jennifer Pace-Porterfield
Soror Christina Polk
Soror Sheila Hayes Surath
Soror Phyllis S. White
Soror Paris M. Finner-Williams
Soror Rubye D. Witten



Newsletter Committee:

Jenice Mitchell Ford, Chair
Alicia Nails, Editor
Decie Gunn
Gloria Jackson
Shirley Williams Jackson
Barbara Lester
Donna Melton
Nadonya Muslim
Cassandra Spratling Odetoyn
Charlene Jones Mitchell
Rose Marie Swanson

I AM MY SISTER'S KEEPER

Take the First Step in Your Walk Towards Healthy Living

Large strides are only made after one takes the first step. And, so it is with our health.

The DAC Healthy Living Committee (HLC) has adopted an aggressive agenda for 2010-2011. This year's programming not only focuses on health for the community but challenges sorors to encourage each other to get healthy. Such programming includes:

- ❖ Conducting monthly fitness activities including Hustle and Stretching & Relaxation classes at the Delta House (Nov. 2010 – May 2011)
- ❖ Distributing breast cancer awareness information in conjunction with the Social Action Committee's voter registration outreach and candidates forums (Nov. 2010)
- ❖ Enlisting sorors at chapter meetings to participate in a series of "Know Your Numbers" & "Education/Awareness" sessions, including Blood Sugar Screenings (Dec. 2010 – May 2011)
- ❖ Hosting documentary screening and dialogue on "Women & HIV" in conjunction with both the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion HIV/AIDS Programs and Michigan Women & AIDS Committee (Jan. 14, 2011)
- ❖ Implementing a "Weight Loss Challenge" program in conjunction with Teen Lift (Jan. 2011)
- ❖ Participating in Detroit's MLK Memorial Walk & March in conjunction with the Social Action Committee and Teen Lift (Jan. 17, 2011)
- ❖ Implementing a 12 week "Healthy Living Challenge" program (Jan. – April 2011)
- ❖ Hosting and conducting a WXYZ TV-7 Project Healthy Living event (April 16, 2011)
- ❖ Participating in the Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the cure (May 21, 2011)
- ❖ Participating in the American Cancer Society Detroit Relay for Life (June 18, 2011)



The HLC invites you to take one step at a time towards healthy living. Contact Soror Andrea Snoddy at asnoddyr@yahoo.com.

SERVICE *is What We Do*

Teen Lift: Lifting Detroit by Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders

In 1966, Grand Chapter established Teen Lift, a program to benefit teens aged 13 to 17 by providing them with first hand educational and travel experiences. Still answering this charge, DAC's Teen Lift committee is exposing more than 60 metro-Detroit young men and women to educational based experiences in a fun atmosphere. To date, the teens have participated in a "Scholarship Information Day" featuring institutions such as the University of Michigan and Western Michigan University. Also, plans are underway for a virtual college tour and a Black College tour in the spring. Recently, the teens hosted a Kwanzaa celebration where many, for the first time, learned of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. Rev. Mayowa Reynolds facilitated the lesson and dancers from the Detroit School of Arts led participants in a celebratory dance. Jordan, a Teen Lift participant, noted "I loved the Kwanzaa Celebration! It made me want to learn more about Kwanzaa. I feel every child should learn about Kwanzaa and our history so they can see how powerful and creative Black people really are." Xavier, another Teen Lift member, stated "Kwanzaa is more than a party, it's really about family and it made me want to celebrate it." Teen Lift meets the first Saturday of each month, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Delta House. Contact Soror Velva Burley at vburley1@comcast.net.



Teen Lift Members and Rev. Reynolds

It Suits Me!

DAC Launches "Plus-Size" Suit Drive

Sometimes the one obstacle standing between employment and unemployment – is a candidate's ability to dress the part for an interview and make that critical "first impression." Many women just need the right fitting suit for an interview but, due to circumstances beyond their control, don't have access to "Plus Size" suits. DAC partner charities advise that they receive many smaller sized suits, but donations of suits sizes 14 and up are rare. To respond to this need, DAC has instituted the "It Suits Me!" campaign.



Soror Malveaux visits Delta House

In cooperation with the Minerva Education and Development Foundation (MEDF), DAC has partnered with Detroit's own Ms. Alison Vaughn, the nationally recognized founder and CEO of Jackets for Jobs. DAC has also partnered with Bennett College for Women whose president is Soror Julianne Malveaux. Contact Soror Kathleen Clay Smith at jsmithkdr@att.net.

Program: "It Suits Me"

Goal: Collect 500 "plus-size" skirt and pant suits (Size 14 and above)

Suits: New or very gently used; cleaned, pressed and hung; packaged in size labeled plastic or garment bags

Drop Off: Suits will be collected at DAC's Founders Day Luncheon by Delsprite club members. Suits will be collected January – February at the Delta House at chapter and committee meetings.

PRECIOUS MEMORIES: A Moment In Living DAC History

DAC's 28th President Bernice Finley Morton Honored by Wayne State University College of Nursing with Room Dedication



The Wayne State University College of Nursing has, for the first time in its history, named a room in honor of an individual – DAC's own Bernice Finley Morton, PhD, M.S.N., R.N., associate professor emeritus. The room was dedicated on September 22, 2010, on the Detroit campus. The college's "Wall of Fame," with Morton as the first woman of color to have her picture included, is also located in that room.

Morton has been an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for 66 years. She served as DAC's 28th president, from 1991-1993. She was a founding director of Delta Manor, Inc., a senior citizens apartment building and founding trustee of Minerva Education and Development Foundation (MEDF), both not-for-profit organizations established by DAC. Morton is mother to two Delta daughters and she continues to be an active member of both DAC and MEDF.

Detroit Deltas Raise nearly \$60,000 for Chapter Programming With Innovative Raffle



Raffle Chairs and Top Ticket Sellers

In these tough economic times when money is short and ideas for raising money are even shorter, DAC held a successful raffle, raising funds for chapter activities. The chapter net revenues were approximately \$45,000, making it DAC's largest single event fundraiser. The raffle was held in partnership with the Minerva Education and Development Foundation (MEDF), one of DAC's partner foundations. In a unique approach, tickets were sold from June to October, 2010 – over the entire summer and early fall. On October 9, 2010 the raffle concluded with a winning ticket being drawn awarding the top prize, a week timeshare anywhere in the world plus a \$400 cash prize. Other prizes included \$2,000 cash, \$1,000 cash, an Apple iPad and a \$500 Wal-Mart gift card. Top ticket sellers were Soror Pam McClain with more than \$6,000 in sales and Soror Sharon Woodside with more than \$4,000 in sales.

DAC Celebrates Our Founding With Many Founders Day Themed Events & Celebrations!

Fireside Chat with 22nd National President Gwendolyn Boyd

DAC sorors will be treated to a fireside chat with Soror Gwendolyn Boyd at the Delta House on Friday, February 18 at 6 p.m. The Rev. Boyd will share insights on protocol, traditions, reclamation and retention. Following a Q&A, the evening will end with a group picture and the Sweetheart song. This once-in-a-lifetime experience is limited to DAC sorors only. An RSVP is required by February 5 to Soror Marion Binion at marionbinion@aol.com or (313) 345-5655. To make a "flame donation" to fund refreshments for the event, contact Soror Binion.

98th Founders Day Celebration – Featuring 22nd National President Gwendolyn Boyd

On Saturday, February 19 at 11 am our keynote speaker is Soror Boyd. Tickets are \$55. Parking vouchers are \$5. For tickets, contact Soror Alona Donerson at awelchd@aol.com. For parking vouchers, contact Soror Sharon Williams at sharonwilliams48@sbcglobal.net.

It Suits Me! "Plus-Suit" Suit Drive

Sorors are asked to donate "plus-size" suits (sizes 14 and up) at the Founders Day Celebration. Continue to read this newsletter for more detailed information.

The Homeless Committee: "1913" Canned Food Drive

Sorors are asked to donate 9 canned goods, representing each of our precious jewels. 1,913 items will be accumulated when 213 sorors donate 9 canned goods each. Canned goods will be accepted at the Delta House throughout the month of January. Won't you join the challenge and honor our founding in 1913 by donating canned goods?

DAC & Collegiate Sorors Serve Homeless Together!

Detroit Deltas shared the gift of health with Detroit's less fortunate on December 17, 2010 by designing and installing a fitness room at the Interim House, a Detroit homeless shelter. Fitness equipment along with a television and sofa were purchased with donations from sorors totaling more than \$2,500. Also, Interim House residents were each treated to four items from the "Delta Beauty Boutique" which consisted of more than \$5,000 worth of jewelry, purses and beauty products donated by Detroit Deltas. Other gifts included children's items provided by Delta Dears and a holiday feast donated and served by Delta Psi (City Wide Collegiate Chapter).

The next feeding will occur on March 26 at Cass Community Center – 11850 Woodrow Wilson The Homeless Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. Contact Soror A'llana Jones at fullfigured1@ameritech.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS (partial listing)

Saturday, February 5th – Tuesday, February 8th

Delta Days at the Nation's Capitol – Washington DC. Contact Soror Deborah Hunter-Harvill at debharvil@aol.com.

Thursday, February 10th

Education Is A Civil Right Participation/Volunteer Day at DPS. Sorors can volunteer, in morning and/or afternoon, to work with students grades Pre-K through 12 by reading, making career presentations or discussing scholarships and college opportunities. Contact Soror Debra Hunter-Harvill at debharvil@aol.com.

Tuesday, February 15th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Tech Tuesdays. Join the Tech Team in hands on technology workshops. Additional dates include March 15 and April 19. Contact Soror Tracey Walker at affiniti9@sbcglobal.net.

Friday, February 18th at 6 pm

Fireside Chat with Soror Gwendolyn Boyd. Must RSVP by February 5th. Contact Soror Marion Binion at marionbinion@aol.com or (313) 345-5655.

Saturday, February 19th at 11 am

98th Founders Day Celebration. Tickets are \$55. Contact Soror Alona Donerson at awelchd@aol.com.

Thursday, March 10th

Book Club. The featured book is "The Life and Rise of Barack Obama." Contact Soror LaNeice Jones at laneicejones@yahoo.com.

Sunday, March 13th at 5 pm

Delsprite Club New Member Open House. Contact Soror Tonya Roscoe at tonasia98@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, March 19th from 6 to 10pm

29th Annual Art Auction At Delta House. Ads for Auction Catalog Book due March 1st. Contact Soror Karmen Newby knewbydet@aol.com or Soror Ruby Washington at rdwash@aol.com or (313) 538-2575.

Saturday, March 26th – Sunday, March 27th

Statewide Founders Day. The keynote speaker is Regional Director Regina Harper. Registration is \$80 Alumnae and \$60 Collegiate. The event will be held at the Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth MI 48170. Room rate is \$109.00 plus tax. Call (734) 414-0600 and request "Delta Sigma Theta" room block. Reservation due date is February 25th. Contact Soror LaTanza Carter-Slan at ttcarter2@comcast.net.

Thursday, April 7th

Community Baby Shower. Sorors are asked to donate clothing for new born babies born to underprivileged parents at Hutzel Hospital. Contact Soror Dorothy Burrell at dburrell02@aol.com.

Saturday, April 16th from 9 am to 2 pm

Project Healthy Living. In partnership with WXYZ TV-7, the Homeless Committee will host this event at the Delta House. Contact Soror Andrea Snoddy at asnoddyr@yahoo.com.

Sunday, May 1st – Friday, May 6th

May Week. Sunday service followed by a week full of events culminating in a Friday fellowship. Contact Soror Felicia Baker at moosie1950@yahoo.com.

Saturday, May 7th

DAC Elections. Contact Soror Beverly Wilkerson at bd29karat@aol.com.

Saturday, May 15th from 2 to 5 pm

EMBODI Male Leadership Forum. Contact Soror Adriane Mayes at adrianemayes@yahoo.com.

Saturday, June 4th

General Membership Meeting. Moved to first Saturday due to Midwest Regional Conference.

Sunday, June 5th

Youth Year End Celebration. Event honoring DAC youth program participants. Contact Soror Melzina Cannon at james18465@aol.com.

Friday, June 10th – Sunday, June 12th

Midwest Regional Conference. Hosted by Glen Ellyn Alumnae Chapter of Glen Ellyn, IL.

WHO ARE THE DETROIT DELTAS?

DAC, Delta Manor, MEDF and DSTDFI



Delta Manor Continues to Offer Quality Housing to Detroit Seniors

Residents of Delta Manor, Inc. (Delta Manor) participated in an intergenerational celebration titled "Connecting Youth with Elders," in October of last year. Eleven students interacted with seniors by interviewing them about experiences in their own youth, and on a variety of topics including changes in times from "back in the day" to the present day.

The residents enjoyed the annual Christmas dinner held December 3, 2010 which featured caroling by the DAC choir and gifts provided by the Eta Area Sister Circle and the Delta Manor board. The seven story, 100 unit one-bedroom senior citizens apartment complex is located at 2140 E. Vernor in downtown Detroit. For rental information, contact Office Manager Dana Ankton at (313) 259-5140. For information on Delta Manor, contact Soror Jonnie Hamilton at jmham@prodigy.net.

MEDF Continues Its Legacy of Giving

In 1992, the Minerva Education and Development Foundation (MEDF) was founded to create a legacy of giving. Since 1992, MEDF has awarded more than \$250,000 in grants, scholarships and sponsorships to organizations and individuals who provide community services, education, arts or health programming.

In 2010, MEDF continued this giving tradition by awarding \$13,500 in grants and scholarships to the following groups and initiatives:

- △ Alternatives for Girls – Rise N' Shine Summer Program
- △ Bob Mann Scholarship – Benefitting Cass Tech and M.L. King, Jr. Senior High Grads
- △ Delta Sigma Theta Detroit Alumnae Chapter
- △ Detroit Windsor Dance Academy – DWDA/MEDF Mentor Scholarship
- △ Marygrove College – Contemporary American Authors Lecture Series
- △ National Kidney Foundation of Michigan - Healthy Kids & Kidneys Program
- △ WSU School of Business Administration – Biz Tech Summer Camp

DSTDFI Hosts Fundraiser and Welcomes Delta's National President

National President Cynthia M.A. Butler-McIntyre visited the Delta House on December 11, 2010. She and her husband, Mr. Ronney McIntyre, traveled to Detroit to attend the Delta Sigma Theta Detroit Foundation, Inc. (DSTDFI) "Glitz and Glamour on Madison Avenue" fundraiser held at the historic Detroit Athletic Club to benefit DSTDFI programs. Others who came to town to attend the December 12, 2010 event included 26th DAC president Evelyn Browne from Arizona and Soror Lillie Jackson from Louisiana. For more information on DSTDFI, visit www.dstdfi.org.



National President visits Delta House

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Detroit Alumnae Headquarters
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SPOTLIGHT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your DAC Committees Are Hard At Work

Introducing . . . Lillian Pierce Benbow Endowed Scholarship

Even 30 years after her death, 14th DAC president and 15th national president, Soror Lillian Pierce Benbow, is still referenced by many sorors as their guiding light into Delta. To honor her legacy, DAC has instituted an endowed scholarship in Soror Benbow's name through our national Delta Research and Education Foundation (DREF). The 24th DAC president, Soror Mattie Jones Johnson, chairs the DAC committee which established the fund. Please join us in honoring our own DAC Soror Lillian Benbow by being among the first sorors to make a tax deductible contribution to this fund at www.deltatfoundation.net or DREF, 1703 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20009. Contact Soror Johnson at (248) 352-1211.

Membership . . . At Your Service! – Help Us to Serve You Better

Help us to help you by providing feedback in the suggestion box located in the multi purpose room at the Delta House. This box provides an efficient and confidential opportunity to offer suggestions/comments and share ideas that Membership Services will use to make Detroit Deltas' vision of sisterhood come to pass. Contact 2nd Vice President, Soror LaNeice Jones, at laneicejones@yahoo.com.

DAC Seeks Officers For 2011-2013 Biennium

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| February 8 | Nominations due. Forms are available via the email hotline updates or at www.detroitdeltas.com |
| February 22 | Candidate packet mailed |
| March 5 | Candidate packet due |
| March 12 | Nominations accepted from floor at General Membership meeting; Candidate slate presented at General Membership meeting |
| March 19 | Candidate packets due from those nominated from floor |
| March 25 | Campaigning begins |
| April 9 | Candidate speeches presented at General Membership Meeting |
| May 7 | Election Held |

