

NATIONAL SORORITY OF PHI DELTA KAPPA, INC. IOTA CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

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Soror Spotlight

Dr. Sherri Parmenter



BASILEUS

2019 2021

I became a member of the NSPDK Iota Chapter in 1998. I believe I am the only soror in this chapter who also had a

Mother as a soror in the chapter.

Elizabeth Stroud was my sponsor. How do I know – because she asked me if I were interested in becoming a member, and I was. I wanted to become a member because I had been around and had been cognizant of

NSPDK Iota Chapter since I was in the 9th grade. I was a Xino for my four years of high school, as was my sister. Naturally, my mother was one of the advisers, which was a little tricky at times for a 14 year-old trying to hang with her (many times older) Xino

friends from across the Eastern Region. I wanted to become a member of Iota Chapter because I was familiar with the things that Iota Chapter did from seeing my mother do them. What probably impressed me the most about Iota Chapter was the Debutante Cotillion.. It was the biggest social event of the year. I desperately wanted to be a part of that as a young lady. Of course, that dream came true and I was a debutante in 1976. Being a Xino and then being a debutante in the Cotillion were all awe inspiring activities that never left me so when I had an opportunity

to become a part of this auspicious organization, I jumped on it. Only two of us pledged and it was at the very end of the school year. Katherine McEachean was our Dean of Pledgees. She was very colorful and very helpful. It was a very challenging – experience, one that has stuck with me.

Perhaps the main reason as a professional educator that I wanted to join Iota Chapter was because I wanted to give back to my community and this was the best way that I could see to do this. I knew that Iota Chapter was very active in the Atlantic County community.

My most memorable Iota experience was seeing my mother welcome me, on Initiation evening, into the sorority with

open arms and of course, sorority gifts. It was a very proud day for my mother and that's what most offspring live for - to make their parents proud. I was no exception. My mother felt good and I felt good. It was good all the way around.

I took a hiatus (which my soror/mother did not like) from the sorority for about a decade. I did this to further my professional education. In 2011, I returned to the chapter after obtaining my master and doctorate degrees and have been active ever since.

My educational philosophy mimics many of our sorors in that I too believe that all children can learn. I believe teachers have to reach the kids where they are and to lift

them up to where they ought to be. We must have high expectations for our children.

I grew up in Pleasantville and have one brother and one sister. My mother passed away in 2015. My father is still living. I have one child – a daughter who just turned 30. She is married and lives in West Virginia.

My hobbies are writing, reading, cooking, baking, trying new recipes.

Something people probably don't know about me is that in 2000 I took flying lessons. Then in 2001 when 911 came I was much too frightened to continue my flying lessons. I plan to resume these lessons in the very near future.

Another thing people probably don't know

about me is that I have a Juris Doctorate degree (law degree) since 1988. I forget myself sometime that I have that degree. I

The last thing I'll mention that many sorors may not know about me is that I have a side hustle of dissertation consulting. While in my doctorate program I noticed that many of the people who started the program did not finish the program. This inspired me to launch my dissertation consulting to help people who had reached the end of their doctorate program but who also needed help in completing their dissertation.

Finally on this my last day as Basileus, I want each of you to know that it has been my pleasure to serve you for the past two years. I

also want all of you to think of educational leadership in another perspective. Educational leadership is not all done in the classroom. Think about running for your local school board, provided you do not live in the district that employs you. School boards make policy. In this day and time, with all of the rights that are being rolled back, think how much power is being used and abused in determining policy matters and especially in and what gets taught and what does not. Keep in mind that educators educate for life – not just academically. Teachers are training people to be productive and good citizens.

Get in a position to lead from a power position of policy. There are other ways that you can

affect educational change. Buttress yourself to become a member of one of our community college Board of Trustees. Apply for and demand appointments into non-partisan county positions. There are county voluntary advisory boards where you must be appointed by your county executive, ie. Mental Health Advisory, Disability Advisory, , Cultural and Heritage Advisory, Criminal Justice Advisory, Youth Services Advisory Board, to name a few. These are all positions from which you can make a difference and effect change in whatever your position may be. These are all boards where you get the information first. Knowledge is power! Position yourselves into a position of power on the outside which affects policy and strategies on the inside.

If not us – then who?

All the very best to
you all!

Sherri Parmenter,
Ed.D.



Soror Spotlight

Denita Bunch



Soror Denita Bunch became a member of NSPDK Iota Chapter in June of 2019. She wanted to become a member of a professional organization with women who are

highly educated, love to work with children and love what they do.

Her most memorable experience with Iota was “Crossing over as a NSPDK Iota Chapter Soror with my best friend Soror Deneen McQueen” What she finds most rewarding about being a member of NSPDK Iota Chapter is learning from the most highly intelligent women.

Soror Bunch grew up in Atlantic City, New Jersey. She went to Atlantic City Public Schools and graduated from Atlantic City High School in 1988. She currently lives in Mays Landing, New Jersey with her husband, Khaadim Abdullah. She has a daughter and a son and she has one grandson Namir, which I call him my lovebug.

Soror Denita started her career at the

Pleasantville School District in 2001 as a secretary. “I became a guidance counselor, after receiving my masters in counseling from Capella. I am currently a guidance counselor at the Middle School of Pleasantville serving students in the 7th grade. “

Her educational philosophy is “Every student can learn just not on the same day or in the same way” -George Evans

Her hobbies include doing jigsaw puzzles, watching game shows on Game Show Network, and reading a good book. “What people don’t know about me is that I am scared of thunder and lightning. When it is raining, thundering or lighting, I cut everything off and sit in the dark”

SOROR SPOTLIGHT

Tracee Oliver



Soror Tracee Oliver became a member in 2019. She wanted to become a member to work with educators who make a difference in the lives of children.

Her most memorable moment in Iota Chapter was the intake experience. Her most rewarding experience in Iota was working together for a common goal.

Soror Tracee grew up in Woodstown, NJ. She is married and has three beautiful children. She is currently Literacy Coach in the AC Public Schools.

Her educational philosophy is that all children can learn and want to learn. "As an educator, my job is to meet them where they are and move them forward to be a part of society."

Soror Oliver enjoys spending time with: family, singing and traveling. She admits to being a shopaholic and loves to shop!! "Amazon is my best friend"



**Please join me
in welcoming
Iota Chapter's
Newest Sorors**

Mala Kyles-Blunt



**Elementary
Teacher at
Uptown
Complex**



**June – Kaisha 12th, Lula
23^{r,d} Miriam 27th.**

**July – Tamia 17th,
Vivian 25th**

**Aug. – Lois 7th
Tamara 28th**

Kathryn Howard



Special
Education
Teacher
Texas Ave School

Flossie Garrett



Elementary
Teacher
Texas Ave School

**Constance Days-
Chapman**



Vice Principal
Atlantic City High
School

**Cordis
Chikezie**



Owner - Kids
Choice
Academy

**Danielle
Newsome**



Special
Education
Teacher
Texas Ave School



Step and repeat from our
newest Sorors!!!

DID YOU KNOW?

That June has these many things going on?

- **June 5** is [World Environment Day](#)—a day meant to raise environmental awareness across the globe.
- **June 14** is [Flag Day](#) (U.S.). Be sure to raise the flag! Learn about the [U.S. Flag Code](#), which provides guidelines for displaying the American flag properly.
- **June 19** is [Juneteenth](#)
- (also known as **Freedom Day** or **Emancipation Day**). On this day in 1865, Union General Gordon Granger read the Emancipation Proclamation aloud in Galveston, Texas, effectively liberating slaves in the state, which had thus far been beyond control of the Union Army. This is the first year that it has become a Federal Holiday. President Biden signed it into law a mere days before the actual date and for the first time, people were given time off of work for the holiday.
- **June 20** is the [summer solstice](#), which heralds the start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere. It's the day with the most hours of daylight, so enjoy! In the Southern Hemisphere, winter begins at this time.
- **June 20** is also **Father's Day** this year. Find activity ideas and learn about the history of [Father's Day here](#).
- **June 21**
- is **National Indigenous Peoples Day** (Canada). This holiday is meant to remind Canadians of the contributions of the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.
- **June 24**
- brings [Midsummer Day](#), traditionally the midpoint of the growing season, halfway between

planting and harvesting. This is good information if you're a gardener or trying to be a gardener.

SCHOOL IS OUT!

Dear Parents,
TAG... YOU'RE IT!!!
♡ The Teachers

**HAPPY
SUMMER
VACATION!**

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t h r o w b a c k .

-Throwback Pictures of Iota Chapter programs -
Courtesy of Soror Tamia Murphy and Sherri Parmenter





**HAVE A GREAT
SUMMER, SORORS!**