

# National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.

## Iota Chapter

### Newsletter

Volume 1

Issue 8

March 28, 2021



## Soror Spotlight

### Cynthia A. Stocks



*Basileus 2007-2011*

I became a member of IOTA chapter in 1994. I received my 25-year certificate last year. Soror Stocks became a member of Iota because she thought it would be a good network with teachers and give back to community through the scholarship program and cotillion. Her most **memorable Iota experience** was working with the Kudos. She really

expectations. "I also enjoyed the meeting with sorors from around the country at the Regional Conference and Conclave." What Soror Cynthia finds most rewarding about being a member of Iota Chapter is working with women that are gifted to educate students and each other.

Soror Cynthia grew up in Pleasantville, NJ and now lives in Galloway, NJ. Her parents are deceased. She has 3 brothers and 3 sisters. She is the second oldest. She and her husband have been married for 39 years. They have one son two daughters and 9 grandchildren.

Soror Stocks keeps her hand in the education till by working as a group facilitator with Future Leaders in Pleasantville. Her educational philosophy is, "Everyone can learn. Look to develop the strengths, gifts, and

kind of adults we are developing our children to become. "

Soror's hobbies are traveling, reading and movies. She loves movies from the 1930's and 40's. "I plan on attending a film festival when the pandemic is over!!" One thing people don't know about Cynthia Stocks is that she, "Had my African Ancestry done and I have roots from Nigeria and my tribe is Fulani."



## Soror Spotlight Sherry Spence-Leslie

I became a member of NSPDK Iota Chapter in in the

Spring 2001. What made me want to become a member was that, "Many of the Sorors in Iota Chapter were very influential in my decision to become a teacher and encouraged me to pursue a career in education, including my former teachers Soror Elizabeth Stroud and Soror Juanita Harmon. Some of these Sorors are also my Delta Sorors (Agnes D. Howard) and often invited me to attend Iota's programs and events. This increased my desire to be affiliated with like-minded educators. Soror Lula P. Howard, my Delta Line Sister, invited me to become a member.

Soror Sherry's most memorable Iota experience was working with Soror Lynda Browne-Kidd and the Debutante Cotillion for many years and later working with Soror Janida Newby." It was a joy to work with and mentor young women in our schools and community. Another memorable experience was being selected as one of the honorees during our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2017." What Soror Spence-Leslie finds most rewarding about being a member of Iota Chapter is that we have the opportunity to help nurture our youth as well as

help educators further their growth and development.

She grew up in Pleasantville and now, "I have the privilege to work in the school district that I attended." Soror Sherry now lives in Galloway. She is now a widow. "My beloved husband passed away in September of 2020 and my precious mother passed away in June of 2013. I have one beautiful daughter, DaShera."

• Soror Spence-Leslie is currently the Acting Principal at Leeds Avenue Elementary School in Pleasantville. She is also a Doctoral student at Stockton University School of Education and hopes to defend her dissertation in the Fall. Her educational philosophy is that every student has the potential for greatness and deserves a quality education in a safe and nurturing environment. Learning is a life-long process. We never stop learning. As educators, we're obligated to take advantage of every opportunity to motivate our students and help them develop to achieve academic success.

• Her hobbies are Sudoku, bowling, shopping, and traveling. One thing that people probably don't know about Soror Sherry Spence-

Leslie is that she loves watching Jeopardy! "I feel smart whenever I get an answer correct."



## Soror Spotlight Annette Perkins

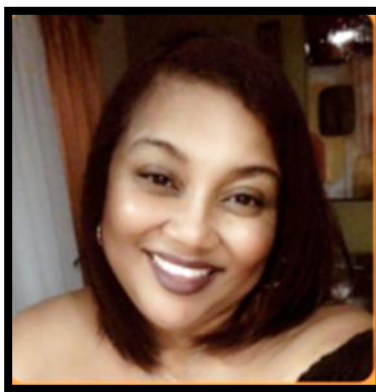


Soror Annette Perkins because a member of National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., Iota Chapter in the 1980's. What prompted her to become a member is that she liked what they were doing in the community. Her most memorable experience was the sorority giving the sorority for the decades that it has gone on. The most rewarding thing for Soror Annette about being a member of Iota Chapter is the fun she had meeting other sorors at the conferences and at the conclaves. Soror Annette's educational philosophy is to teach so that kids will be

able to learn, What's your educational philosophy? Teach kids so that they will be able to learn.

Soror Perkins grew up in Atlantic City and now resides in Pleasantville, NJ. She is married to Charles Perkins. She has two children, Eugene Harris and Deborah Harris. Eugene lives in Virginia Beach and Deborah lives in Yeadon PA. Soror Annette has two grandchildren, Eugene Harris, Jr., who lives in Phila, Pa and Jamal Bogle, who lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She also has six great-grandchildren, Jamal, Jr., Asa, Aliyah, Jackson Harris, Jordan Harris and one brand new eight-month old baby great-grandchild.

Soror Perkins loves to sew and she also loves going to the casinos. She especially likes playing the \$1 machines, although she has not been to the casino since the pandemic started last year. One thing people don't know about her is that she used to make her daughter's clothes



## Soror Spotlight Tamia Murphy

Soror Tamia Murphy became a member of NSPDK Iota Chapter on April 6, 2015. She joined because, "I wanted to be a part of a professional organization that impacted the youth."

My most memorable Iota experience would have to be when my line did the entertainment part of our pledging process and attending Conclave with my line sister, Kaisha." The aspect of being a member of Iota Chapter that she finds most rewarding is the sisterhood and fellowship.

Soror Tamia was born and raised in Atlantic City, NJ. She currently resides in Galloway, NJ. She has a 22-year-old son, named Quentin.

Currently, Soror Murphy is a Middle School Science Teacher and a Science Teacher Leader. She works

at Mastery Charter School in Camden, New Jersey and has been teaching there since 2015. Her educational philosophy is, "If I can make a difference in the life of at least one child, then I have made a change".

Soror Tamia's hobbies are baking and shopping. She is particularly adept at baking, and because her sweets are so delicious, she has begun selling them. In fact, she has a coterie of baked sweets that she sells regularly to a wide swath of customers. One thing people don't know about her is that "I am really an introverted person and only become extroverted when I need to be."



## Soror Spotlight Sylvia Stephens



Soror Sylvia Stephens became a member of National Sorority of Phi Delta

Kappa, Inc., Iota Chapter in 1992. What prompted her to become a member of Iota Chapter was that "I wanted to be a part of a teaching sorority that helped fellow educators and gave back to the community. It was actually Soror Lula Pope-Howard who encouraged me to join.": Soror Stephens' most memorable Iota experience was hard to pinpoint because, "There are so many, but I would have to say my most memorable experience was the year, 1995, that we went to Virginia Beach - and watching the girls' faces when we all knew the odds were against us. There were 42 Xinos that I took to Virginia Beach with Soror Lisa Ragland. We literally broke the stage. We had to turn sideways to compete because there were so many of us. We thought it was going to change the outcome but in the middle of the program we broke the stage competing - STEPPING.WE WON! What Soror Sylvia finds most rewarding about being a member of Iota Chapter is the fellowship. "I really enjoy that - bouncing ideas off each other, watching the chapter grow and the youth too, - watching them grow.

Soror Sylvia was born and raised in Pleasantville, NJ. She now resides in EHT, NJ.

Soror Stephens lives with her husband, Martin and they have been married 28 years. They have three children: Martin, Jr., Matthew, and Mariah (all names beginning with M's - done intentionally). Martin is a graduate from William Patterson with a degree in Psychology. Matthew will graduate this fall from Wilbur Int'l in Florida with a degree in Business. Mariah is a senior at Egg Harbor Township High School and will attend Ryder University in the fall and will be majoring in Criminal Justice.

Soror Stephens is currently a First Grade Inclusion teacher for the first time in 30 years - she is dual certified - General Education and Special Education. She has a total of 16 students, half Special Education, and half General Education. She also spoke of some of the joys of being an educator, such as the great joy she receives from having former children and Xinos and Kudos reach out and contact her. She also has had some former students and former colleagues. She recalls that sadly some of the former Iota affiliates have passed. "But sadly, we have lost two former Xinos. Annette Wiggins passed away the 90's from Lupus. She was the first ever Xinos to pass away. Just last month we

lost our second Xino, Megan Johnson. Soror Sylvia's educational philosophy is that all children can and deserve the right to learn. "I truly believe that. I don't let their current situation impede their ability to learn."

Soror Sylvia Stephens has taken up gardening but says that she is just learning about that. She also loves to crochet. She says that she can make blankets and that's it. She has one stitch. It's so therapeutic. During the pandemic they had a yarn shortage and to this day they haven't replenished the particular yarn she used.

What many people may not know about Soror Sylvia is, "My son, Martin Jr. and I met Coretta Scott King when she presented at Stockton University in the early 2000's. There were 500 people there and they weren't doing interviews. What they asked the audience to do was to write any questions they had for Mrs. King on an index card and they vetted the questions. Martin's question was selected, and he was invited to the stage. He got to personally meet Mrs. Coretta Scott King. Ask her some questions and get a hug and a kiss. His question was, 'Can I come up on the stage and give you a hug and a kiss?' Mrs. King said, "of

course you can, because that was my husband's name." Mrs. King also autographed a pamphlet from the King Center to Martin. Since her passing, the King Center has asked if they can have it for their artifacts. The African American Museum in Atlantic City has asked if they can have it too, but the Stephens family just can't part with it." Soror Sylvia still has the picture and the other memorabilia.



## DID YOU KNOW

**The color for Women's History Month is Purple?**

The theme of the 2021 Women's History Month is "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced?" (No election could ever be won without the female vote).



### 12 Of the Most Famous Women in History

- Jane Austen (1775 – 1817) ...
- Anne Frank (1929 – 1945) ...
- Maya Angelou (1928 – 2014) ...
- Queen Elizabeth I (1533 – 1603) ...
- Catherine the Great (1729 – 1796) ...
- Sojourner Truth (1797 – 1883) ...
- **Rosa Parks** (1913 – 2005) ...
- Malala Yousafzai (1997 - )

Women's History Month started as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of

Women planned and executed a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978.

Presentations were given at local schools where hundreds of students participated in a "Real Woman" essay contest. A parade was also held in downtown Santa Rosa to celebrate.

President Jimmy Carter was the first to acknowledge Women's History—but only proclaimed a Women's History Week.

**IOTA CHAPTER is FULL OF WOMEN WHO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. WE MAKE HISTORY AND WE MAKE WOMEN'S HISTORY EVERY SINGLE DAY!**