



*Beta Sigma Phi
Southwest Houston City Council*

December 2010

The Bustle

President's Message

Dear Sisters,

What a "FUN" November Council meeting! The room was filled with laughter, lots of interaction between our SWHCC sisters which was a wonderful scene to behold for me as President.

On top of that, our BLP sisters provided us with fabulous refreshments and a lovely autumn table setting. Their program was heartwarming, each member told how they came to know BSP and how the organization has impacted their life. But the most important aspect was their relationship with one another. Wow...this is what keeps BSP alive!

Exciting Council News.... Jill Coble has done so much for our Council and now as Publicity Chairman, she has made arrangements for a group of SWHCC sisters to volunteer in the phone bank for Houston PBS. It is such a delightful feeling to be able to give back to the community and especially during the holiday season.

Speaking of Christmas holidays, I am looking forward to spending the afternoon with you at the "Christmas in Candy Land" Tea/Luncheon.

I also would like to wish you and your family all the joys of Christmas and happiness throughout the New Year.

"FRIENDSHIP IS A SPECIAL GIFT"

I am thy sister,
Duang Putnam



*Wishing you God's blessings this Christmas season for
love, hope, happiness and peace.*

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Chapter News	2-3, 8-9
Happenings Around Council	4
Sarah's Travels	5
BLP Fundraiser	6
Houston PBS	7
Christmas Message	10

**Keep checking back
for new updates!**

www.bspswhcc.com

**December
Service Projects
at Oasis**

Decorations:
Executive Board

Ice Cream Social:
Alpha Xi Theta

Beta Lambda Phi

The women of BLP wish all of our sisters a wonderful holiday season! We are all busy gearing up for Christmas and excited about our Santa Letter fundraiser to help us raise money to travel to Austin for BSP convention next summer.

November was a month of celebrations - Amy O.'s son, Luke, had his first birthday. Kimberly traveled to Virginia to visit family and was honored with a baby shower, then

celebrated her father's and husband's birthdays.

Our November meeting was hosted by Kimberly at her home in Katy, as was our November social which included our service project. We raised over \$1,100 for MS and participated in the MS Walk at Katy Mills Mall on November 13. We had a great time making t-shirts decorated with the Beta Sigma Phi letters (and lots of

Submitted by Kimberly Smith

bling!) during a sleep over party the night before the walk.

BLP also had a great time hosting the SWHCC meeting on November 11, where we got to share how special sorority is to each of us.

We hope to see you at Holiday Tea this weekend. And again, have a great holiday season!

Preceptor Laureate Beta Lambda

PLB sisters are enjoying their activities and events in their lives. Joyce Frank arranged for PLBL to go to the Imperial Theater located in Sugar Land Town Square on Saturday night, November 13. This was the first "sold out" show for the theater and the play was Steel Magnolias. The 6 ladies in the cast were perfectly suited in the role of small town Louisiana busy-bodies with current references to politicians and other local topics. The Imperial Theater for the Sugar Land Performing Arts is a great cultural addition to our area.

October 31 was a big day for Carole and Bob Sandoval as their Granddaughters were confirmed at Alvin Lutheran Church. The outstanding service with the confirmans participating was followed with a family luncheon at Mona and Carley Weavers' home with reminiscing of

McKenna and Lacey's baby years. Winona LaBrant's grandson Christopher Alan Zook made All District team as a Freshman at St. Thomas High School. He had missed 2 games: one with a concussion and one with a staff infection. Don't know how he did this? Gwen VanZant's daughter Ruth decided to take her to Alabama during a break in her treatment. They drove the first day to New Orleans. They did some shopping, walking and a ride in a horse drawn carriage and spent the night in a hotel in the French Quarter. They continued to Biloxi the next day to check the cemetery, where Gwen's husband is buried. They then went on to Mobile to visit Gwen's baby brother Ron and his family. On Thursday, they had lunch with some of Gwen's old classmates. She expected six and found twelve. They had quickly come together to visit with her and with Ruth. They spent about one and a

Submitted by Grace Wallace

half hours visiting. She had a great time on the trip. Sue McPherson will become a great-grandmother again in June.

As for Thanksgiving events, Joyce Frank spent it at her nephew's in Needville with the rest of the family. Terry Colley drove to Dallas to be with her son and family. Grace Wallace enjoyed being with her nephew, wife and a new baby Izzy. She looks exactly like her Dad.

On the health front, Pat Haake has back problems. Carol Sherwood is recuperating at home. Grace Wallace is glad to be home. Thanks to Terry Colley, who took her to her operation and home to her house.

Alpha Xi Theta

I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving! I had an awesome one sharing it with my family. My youngest daughter flew in from Hattiesburg, MS and rode with her father and me down to Harlingen to be with our oldest daughter and her family. I got to be grandma! Spending that time with my little Emma after the struggle she went through when she was prematurely born is truly something to be very thankful for. I'm sure that all of us have encountered struggles, but with the love and support of our BSP sisters, how could you not come through your struggles a better woman? Having one another is a blessing to never take lightly. Friendship is, in my opinion, a gift from God.

Now down to business, our meeting for November was held at my house hosted by Jan Bruckler. We were delighted that Shirley Hyatt and Duang Putman were in attendance. With only 4 members in our chapter at the moment, we didn't have a lot of business to discuss except on how we can continue to grow our chapter. Right now, it seems like women we've come across or spoken to are busy preparing for the holidays and feel like they just don't have the time to participate in anything till the first of the year. Shirley and Duang however, were able to meet some ladies in a nearby Mexican restaurant and tell them about BSP. Names were exchanged and hopefully they'll be future members. Good work Shirley and

Submitted by Susan LeJune

Duang! After the business portion of our meeting, Jan had prepared a program for us. It was unbelievable! Jan shared her precious gems/jewelry with us and every single piece was beautiful. She went on to tell us about the different gems, what they mean, where they came from and how she has been buying/collecting for years. She had beautiful rings, bracelets and necklaces and to me she could open her own store! Thank you Jan for sharing with us.

Our December meeting will be held at Sue Jolly's home and after the business portion of the meeting we will be creating beautiful beaded crosses. Sue brought one of the crosses she had made to our

Preceptor Nu

"HAVE A HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS...IT'S THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR!!!! Hello to all...looks like we're "spittin' distance" from 2011...can you believe it!? Many memories have been made with many more to come. Blessings and love for those who have struggled this month. Prayers were answered for the Johnston's...Stephanie is doing well...Ruth M. welcomed new nieces...Life is good!!

Our most recent social was held at Jan G's house...remember her...the "GOURMET CHEF." It's a compliment, but also true. Do you know of anyone else that can make "culinary cuisine" called Sloppy Joe's? Add to that appetizers by Judy S. and Ruth M's salad. Ruth is also a "gourmet" cook...at our meeting she proudly prepared her secret recipe for white chili accompanied by pumpkin pie. When you chow down with PN... you're enjoying Texas heaven!!!

The theme for the evening was "Minute to Win it." We weren't able to attend, but my special friend, Judy S. says a good time was had by all. There was lots of friendly competition, with the group divided into three teams of 5 each. To get the crowd in the right frame of mind, each person was given a flat sugar cookie which they had to

place on their forehead and try to get down to their mouths by using "facial expressions" and without using their hands. What a neat ice-breaker! The remainder of the evening pitted the teams against each other in games such as Office Tennis, Cup Pyramid, All the Marbles, Penny Hose and String Spaghetti. The winning team won a stop watch and a gold medal. A wonderful addition to the evening were Ken and Deb Bray, Johanna's sister and the cute and delightful "Landon," the precious grandson of Shirley and Del.

Earlier in the month, PN entertained the always exuberant members of Xi Phi Gamma. The theme of "Stiletos and Satin," brought lots of beautifully dressed ladies to Duang P's holiday adorned house with luscious dishes served and prepared by PN members. Sandra S. presented "signature" drinks which were favorites of all. Sandra also gave a very interesting overview of champagne...one of her favorite things. Carolyn Meeks gave a brief history of Stiletos and commemorative party gifts were given to each guest. Fun and friendship are always so much better when it is shared!!!

Our next meeting will include, good friendship and gifts for "Secret Sisters." Follow-

Submitted by Carolyn Meeks

ing that on Saturday the 18th, PN will celebrate the traditional holiday social at Carolyn and Larry's house with Shirley H. co-hostess. Rumor has it that the couples will entertain the Greatwood neighborhood with an old fashioned "caroling hayride." What a way to celebrate December...now to get ready for December 31st as we welcome in a new year of opportunity!

Hope to see you all at the wonderful holiday tea planned by Melinda Montgomery and her hard-working committee. I was really touched by her idea of sending cards to our dedicated servicemen... Thoughtfulness begins at home...you know.

Okay...times a wasting...so leaving to shop...tonight we will all be "manning" the phones for PBS to help with donations. Thanks to Jill Coble for making this happen...we have special shirts that will promote the beauty of BSP! What good is having such a wonderful organization if we don't share the joy.

PEACE LOVE AND JOY...Best wishes to you and yours...GOD BLESS YOU ALL! Take care friends...talk to you next month!

Alpha Xi Theta - continued

November meeting and we all can't wait to make our own. It looks simple to do, and we believe this can be a great option to make money for our chapter.

As the month of November comes to a close, we have a special time coming right around the corner. Christmas! and to start off this season is our "Christmas in Candy Land" tea. What a great way to start getting in the spirit of joy and giving!

From our Chapter to yours, we wish every single one of you and your family the most Joyous, Merriest and Blessed Christmas!



BLP gets ready for their MS Walk with a Slumber Party the night before.



“Happenings Around Council”



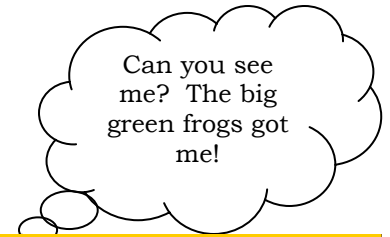
XAZ Vice President, Jeanne Peltier, presented a beautiful evening of Rituals on November 16, 2010. Nina Coltharp (Exemplar) and Ann Jones, Jeanne Murray, Diana Rayle and Debbie Harris (Preceptor Laureate).



*Service projects performed by XAZ:
The Rojas Family Pancake Birthday Breakfast cooked by Ellie and Tony O'Dell at Calvary Episcopal Church.
Working with Second Mile Mission located in Stafford.*



Follow Sarah's Adventures in Council



After a one mile walk around the mall, Sarah and the ladies of BLP enjoyed refreshments and celebrated victory.



The ladies of Beta Lambda Phi raised over \$1,000 for Walk MS 2010.



After the MS Walk, Sarah joined Xi Phi Gamma and attended a "Stilettos and Satin" Soiree that was hosted by Preceptor Nu.

Sisters from Preceptor Nu greeted Sarah with a toast for attending the party and visiting our sisters in Texas.



Sarah takes a short "behind the scenes" camera break while volunteering at the Houston PBS pledge drive.

Beta Lambda Phi Holiday Project

Personalized Letters from Santa

Santa is now writing letters for 2010!

Sending a "Santa Letter" is becoming a new tradition in many households. No one gets more excited about the holiday season than our children. Imagine the look of joy and wonder on your child or teen's face when they open a personalized letter from Santa Claus, stamped from the "North Pole". Santa has special letters for baby's first Christmas and even will write to adults just to bring a smile.

Each Santa Letter is unique. The text will be different for each Santa letter depending on how much information you provide. The information used for your order is NEVER sold or shared in any way.

Forms must be received by **Friday, December 10th** for Christmas delivery to their mailbox. Won't they be surprised to get a letter from Santa just for them!



Child's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Age _____ Male or Female _____ Wish List _____

Grade _____ Teacher's Name _____

Special Accomplishments or activity _____

Loved one's name _____ Relation _____

Please submit completed form & \$7.00 per letter request (check or money order) to:

Andrea Reck
1319 Wendel
El Campo, Texas 77437

Houston PBS Pledge Drive November 30th

"Thanks for calling Houston PBS!!!" That seemed to be the sound heard throughout the Channel 8 studio on Tuesday evening as sixteen of your SWHCC Sisters spent the evening participating in the PBS Pledge Drive. While it may have seemed to be a little overwhelming at first, it didn't take your sisters long to add that special "BSP touch" to each phone call. As Pat Robert's said "It was a great combo, a good time along with a good service project for supporting something so important as enriching the lives of people of all ages".

A big THANK YOU to the following for graciously volunteering to help with the pledge drive: Carole Sandoval, Carolyn Meeks, Shirley Hyatt, Bobbie Viles, Duang Putnam, Melinda Montgomery, Melissa Dailey, Pat Roberts, Amy Okie, Debbie Harris, Joan Ferguson, Diana Rayle, Erica Galvan, Sheila Ayres and Barbara Hupe. While we were limited to the number to work the pledge drive, I had additional people volunteer so I would also like to thank those who volunteered but didn't get to work. And I can't forget our visiting friend from Canada "Flat Sarah", as she also made an appearance on PBS.

I'm already looking for other ways to promote Beta Sigma Phi - so stayed turned for future events.

Jill Coble

Public Relations Committee, Chairman



Xi Phi Gamma

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. The members of XPG are thankful to have such great sisters in their lives. And now it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas. And I love Christmas, house is decorated, yard lit up and work station festive.

We were pleased to meet at the home of Dianne Eldridge in November. Dianne is currently working on her MBA and is not always able to make meetings so it was great to catch up with her. She was featured in the University of Texas-Houston MBA's 2011 Program and Admissions guide. We are all very proud of her. Secret sister gifts were exchanged at the meeting and Dianne provided us with a great selection of snacks and dessert.

The sisters of XPG were entertained by the sisters of Preceptor Nu on November 13th. All the ladies looked beautiful in their Satin and Stilettos. The program on stiletos and champagne was very informative and we enjoyed the great food and the special champagne drinks. We especially enjoyed getting to know our PN sisters a little better.

Kim was not able to attend this special event because she was participating in the San Antonio Rock 'n Roll Marathon. She was running in support of our nation's surviving military families by participating with the TAPS Run and Remember Team. TAPS is a wonderful and heartfelt national, non-profit veteran's organization that reaches out to families and loved ones who have been impacted by a death of a loved one in the armed forces. By running with the team, Kim is honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this great nation, and is helping those whom they have left behind. Way to go, Kim.

Melinda Montgomery and Sharon Mandigo spent Saturday, November 20th at a holiday craft show promoting the sales of our handmade Rock Art Angels. It was a perfect "selling" day in the beautiful sunshine and money was raised to go towards future service projects.



Submitted by Susan Fontenot

Our second meeting was hosted at President Patricia's home. We welcomed back guest Sandy Dickey and Patricia presented us a program on Thanksgiving traditions around the world. It was very interesting to learn about the similarities and differences.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas in Candy Land Holiday Tea.

May everyone have a blessed Christmas

Xi Eta Epsilon

FIFTY AND FABULOUS...we continue to celebrate our 50th year as a chapter and enjoying every minute.

In early October we held our annual garage sale at Sheila Ayres house and had a very profitable day. As always we are the best shoppers and always enjoy our time together. We all had a great time at the SWHCC Hoedown. We had a successful 50/50 jackpot, the food was scrumptious, and we all had a great time dancing to the Texas tunes. Thanks to Carolyn and her gals.

Before Halloween Beta Lambda Beta hosted our chapter at a fabulous Halloween extravaganza gathering. Everyone was dressed as witches and the decorations and food were devilish. This group can really put on a great time...thanks to all of the bewitching members!

Early November continued fun times with an early Saturday morning meeting in the home of June Ryan. Our program was on the history of Spring Texas which was followed by a road trip to Old Town

Submitted by June Ryan

Spring. We enjoyed the Christmas decorations and some of us got in some early Christmas shopping...I hope my Secret Sister likes what I bought her!

With Thanksgiving over and the holiday season upon us we look forward to the Holiday Tea and coming together in the spirit of the season. During the hustle and bustle remember to take some time for yourself and enjoy your friends and family...HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Xi Alpha Zeta

XAZ had a beautiful November being thankful for our many blessings and sharing with those who needed our help. Our first meeting of the month, November 2, was at the lovely home of Debbie Harris with Jeanne Murray co-hosting. Debbie planned an evening full of traditions and cultures of Okinawa. She started off the dinner serving us Hibiscus Tea and Biscuits. This was followed by Edamame, Taco Rice, and Pineapple Wine Cake. Debbie then presented us a slide show from her recent trip visiting the grandchildren in Okinawa. We ended the night with Jeanne Murray's cake that she purchased from Open Meeting. What a fun evening!

Saturday, Nov. 6 we went to the Open Door Breakfast at Calvary Episcopal Church and had a birthday celebration with the Rojas Family (Service Project). We presented each of the three children a quilt made by Miriam Langford, and gift certificates for them to pick out a special surprise. Tony and Ellie O'Dell made us a delicious breakfast of pancakes and bacon!!!

On Nov. 9, we brought our food donations

to Second Mile Mission. After touring the huge facilities, we were put to work!!! Some of us shelved canned goods and the rest of us bagged freshly baked breads. March 2011 we plan to bring clothing and household items and have another work night. Thank you to Joan Ferguson who organized our Service Project and meetings at Second Mile Mission.

Thanksgiving is traditionally the beginning of the holiday season, and so we had our yearly social to Brookwood on Nov. 13 to get a head start on shopping and of course to enjoy a delicious lunch too!

On Nov 16 we had a beautiful evening of rituals at the lovely home of Joan Ferguson with Ellie O'Dell co-hosting. Joan served us a delicious pasta meal with lots of veggie side dishes including the yummy sweet potato/pineapple/marshmallow dish. We dined on cakes and pies and brownies after the rituals. Jeanne Peltier presented Nina Coltharp the Exemplar Ritual and then she presented Debbie Harris, Ann Jones, Jeanne Murray, and Diana Rayle the Preceptor Laureate Ritual. It was a very special evening for all of

Submitted by Nina Coltharp

us. Thank you Jeanne Peltier!

We hope that all our sisters had a wonderful Thanksgiving with their families. What a great day to pause and reflect on our many blessings. As we prepare for the Christmas season, may we all remember to pray for each other with grateful hearts.



*Ellie delivers flowers to Oasis
for November*

A REAL FRIEND

A simple friend, when visiting, acts like a guest.

A real friend opens your refrigerator and helps herself and doesn't even feel the least bit weird shutting the door with her foot!

A simple friend has never seen you cry.

A real friend's shoulder is soggy from your tears.

A simple friend brings a bottle of wine to your party.

A real friend comes early to help you cook and stays late to help you clean.

A simple friend hates it when you call after they've gone to bed.

A real friend asks you why you took so long to call.

A simple friend seeks to talk with you about your problems.

A real friend seeks to help you with your problems.

A simple friend wonders about your romantic history.

A real friend could blackmail you with it!

*Beta Sigma Phi
Southwest Houston City Council*

For more information:

Duang Putnam
Phone: 281-238-8400

E-mail:
dputnam@medtrakdata.com

www.bspswhcc.com

Motto:
Life, Learning,
Friendship

ΒΣΦ



Executive Board

<i>President</i>	<i>Duang Putnam, PN</i>
<i>President Elect</i>	<i>Carolyn Meeks, PN</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Melinda Montgomery, XPG</i>
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	<i>Shirley Grass, XEE</i>
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	<i>Vicky Ryan, BLB</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Terry Colley, PLBL</i>
<i>Parliamentarian</i>	<i>Kim Butner, XPG</i>

Timeless Message of Christmas

By Jeannie Nourse/12-08

A peaceful hush falls over the world...
When this holiday rush is through...
It's time to reflect on family and friends...
And so I think of you...

It's a time to send our greetings...
To those who are far and near...
To wish you the blessings of the season...
Not just today but throughout the year...

We pause and think of this special time...
A time that is set apart...
For thinking of those who are dear...
Who hold a special place in our heart...

Believe in the magic of the season...
May the love of God warm your hearts...
May you forever cherish the memory ...
And what this season imparts...

It is not the gifts that are wrapped...
And placed under the Christmas Tree...
But the Christmas that lives within our hearts...
That is special to you and me...

For unto us a child was born...
He is our Savior and King...
It's the time we celebrate the day of his birth...
And the blessings his love does bring...

May the magic and wonder of the season...
Bring joy and happiness to you...
May it be a season you will always remember...
And stay with you, your whole life through...

May the timeless message of Christmas...
Fill your heart and home with love...
May you and yours be forever blessed...
With the peace of the snow white dove...