



Beta Sigma Phi
Southwest Houston City Council

December 2011

The Bustle

President's Message

Dear Sisters,

"Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me!" I heard this today at a Christmas Concert with the Houston Symphony. It really stuck with me and I think it's a message that should permeate throughout the world. I see the return of soldiers from far away places, houses being readied for out of town guests, and children climbing up on the large laps of Santa all decked out in their holiday garb. And when I do, I'm reminded that as difficult as this past year has been for my family, we celebrate the tomorrows and know that our lives are enriched by each other. We are soooooo fortunate to be living in a world where we are able to enjoy holidays just as we wish. We are able to spend and cook with relatively little worry about whether we can make ends meet after the holidays. Many are not that lucky. Having said this, I hope we all count our blessings and "PAY IT FORWARD." If you see an opportunity to help a fellow being...remember no good deed goes unnoticed!

Yesterday, I was so happy to attend the Holiday Tea. Erica and her sisters certainly did themselves proud. The venue was marvelous, the food scrumptious, and the interaction with other sisters was priceless. Love makes the world go round and there was a roomful of that at Bistro Le Cep!

Hope all of you have a safe and memorable holiday...take care of yourselves, and remember to join us in January at the Oasis when PN will host us and our beautiful Sweethearts will be presented...What a New Year!!!!!!

I'll say good bye and see you all in 2012...MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR DEAR FRIENDS...YOU ARE LOVED AND APPRECIATED!

God Bless.

Your sister,
Carolyn

**Next
Council Meeting is
Thursday
January 12th
7 pm at Oasis**

**December
Service Project:
Oasis Assisted
Living Center**

Decorations:
Beta Lambda Phi

Ice Cream Social:
Executive Board

*Thanks to all for their
commitment to bring-
ing a smile to the faces
of the "seniors"!*

**Happy
Birthday!**

**Kimberly Smith
Jeanne Murray
Ruth Mayson
Grace Wallace
Janann Gibbs
Lois LaRose
Sue McPherson
Winona LaBrant**



**MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE FILLED WITH
PEACE, LOVE, AND HAPPINESS, AND MAY
THE NEW YEAR BRING YOU EVERY JOY, AND
THE WARMTH AND CLOSENESS OF FAMILY
AND FRIENDS.**



Beta Lambda Phi

Happy Holidays from BLP! Thank you to everyone who joined us for Holiday Tea last Saturday; we had a wonderful time and appreciate everyone spending time together in the spirit of the season. Our game of "Family Feud" was a blast and we will all remember Joseph in the Manger, thanks to Sandra Simpson. :-) We received lots of donations to the food bank - thank you to all who contributed. Congrats to Erica for putting it all together!

In other news, Kimberly and her family travelled to wintery Minnesota for Thanksgiving. Diane celebrated her birthday with a night on the town that included lots of dancing. Erica and Amy W. are finishing

up their semesters at school - wish them luck on finals and papers. Amy O. is traveling to assist her mother after gall bladder surgery, and Kelly is relieved to say that her mother-in-law is finally home after suffering a stroke and spending a month in the hospital. We wish them all well and speedy recoveries.

BLP is proud to announce that Kimberly received her Exemplar Ritual and Amy W. received her Ritual of Jewels. Yeah!

Thanks to our Council sisters and their friends and family who participated in our Santa Letters fundraiser. This was another successful year and we are happy to bring

Submitted by Kimberly Smith

smiles and excitement to many children.

We all had a sleep over party at Kelly's house for our November social. We worked on a scrapbook, made yummy pizzas for dinner, and drank lots and lots of wine! The next morning we participated in the Houston MS Walk at U of H. Our chapter raised over \$500 for the cause.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all!

Preceptor Nu

Well, the fun just keeps on coming with "The New Preceptor Nu!" We just keep growing and enjoying the excitement of new sisters and new ideas. Although we are still "in the building stage..." we're just "spittin distance" from having 10 grand members...each and every one special.

Our ladies enjoyed the Thanksgiving season....

Carolyn and Larry spent a week travelling to Fort Worth, San Antonio and Wimberley. With the "angel kids" with them, they came home tired but with beautiful memories.

Shirley and Del had all the grandkids together and partied for several days...now it's sad to report, that Shirley has been down "with the grunge" for almost two weeks...but, you can't keep a good woman down and the PN Christmas Party and Sweetheart Celebration will be celebrated on December 9...and a hopefully recuperated Shirley will be in charge....

Toni and Lum enjoyed a beautiful Thanksgiving with family and friends, but more importantly, they are nearing the wedding date of their daughter in Puerto Rico...!!! WOW...what a memorable venue...They will be there from about Dec. 12 to Dec. 29th.

Sandra and Gary have been in perpetual motion...Sandra is almost constantly on the road and the "newly retired" Gary, began his new job about three days after retirement...What a Man!! BTW, if you are in Greatwood during the holidays, you should go by their house in the Glen and see Gary's Christmas decorations...they are a sight to behold. They even decorate the turn around in their court. He's soooooo excited about his Ags big move to the SEC.

Michelle and Jeff continue to be very busy as Michelle continues her "entrepreneurship" with Mary Kay. She's a super mom, great wife and an outstanding saleswoman. I didn't know that Mary Kay did Black Friday or Cyber Monday... Michelle informed me of this!! Don't hesitate to call her if you have any "beauty" needs.

Tricia and William are burning up the highway between New Territory and Norman, Oklahoma. Talk about doing good things for folks, she is the custodian of her "special needs" sister...and does an admirable job of juggling home and the needs of her sister. She is soooooo interesting to talk to...so many neat past/present experiences. We will miss them at our Christmas party...they've got to fill up with gas and head for Oklahoma again...

Bob and Duang continued their busy times

Submitted by Carolyn Meeks

with grandkids and friends. Bob just celebrated birthday number 29 again...with friends and family. Bob was formerly in the Air Force and that was a commemorative part of his celebration. Thanksgiving was spent at the fellow in-laws of the son and daughter-in-law...a good time was had by all. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. BOB!

Janis and Avery spent Thanksgiving at Pappas Bar B Que....YUM, YUM...they do a really big Thanksgiving spread with turkey and all the fixings...you don't have to live in the Houston area long to realize how very good their food is. Looks like to me that dear, sweet, transplanted Avery is really warming up to "us Texans!!"

Throw in a fun steak cook-out at the Meeks Ranch and our days and nights have been full. Now we head for Ms. Shirley's Christmas soiree' and our year will definitely be labeled a "success!." I do hear a recurring theme of food and friends...How great is that?!

So, we hope Santa is good to all of you, don't forget the "reason for the season"....God Bless, and y'all come back again next month.

Laureate Beta Kappa

Submitted by Judy Stover

Fall and Winter have finally arrived and for us who "live" on the golf course, this weather is perfect for a day on the links (or spending any time in the great outdoors). Hope you are enjoying it as much as I am. We all hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are getting ready for the December holidays.

First of all, LBK is happy to report that the three ladies who have been visiting our chapter and attending our socials have accepted our invitation to join BSP. We are pleased to welcome Mary Ann DePaula, Cindy Hess, and Jan Rowland-Green.

Our November meeting was held at Pat Roberts with a delicious dinner she prepared for all. We elected our Sweetheart and she will be revealed by Lois LaRose, our current Sweetheart, at our annual Christmas party on December 16.

One of our biggest events of November was our cultural program when all but one member and husbands attended our first

ever polo matches on Sunday the 13th. What an experience and it just so happened that the polo players that day were all women from all parts of the world. We watched the match in our box seats as we ate snacks and sipped on champagne and enjoyed the beautiful Sunday afternoon. For those of you who have not attended a polo match, all of us in LBK highly recommend it. Their season is March through May and September through November and



they play on Sunday afternoons.

Not too much news from LBK...we wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year!!



Preceptor Laureate Beta Lambda

Submitted by Grace Wallace

PLBL entertained Laureate Beta Kappa and Beta Lambda Beta at the home of Carole Sandoval in Fulshear. We started out with Sister's Kiss drinks-champagne and cranberry juice. We had wonderful salads, muffins and crackers with appetizers to begin the event. There was much hugging and kissing among the sisters. Getting to know each other better was the end result. A left to right game was played with passing gifts. It was a fun day.

PLBL had the privilege of entertaining SWHCC for the month of November. We dressed as pilgrims and an Indian and gave the true history of Thanksgiving. We had spiced apple punch and various goodies to eat.

Earlier in the month of November, PLBL served ice cream at the Oasis. Winona LaBrant and Marvin Smith along with Mary Horton and Tom. The guys did the dipping of ice cream while Mary and Winona entertained the residents. The guys loved what they did.

Joyce Frank had a Thanksgiving lunch at

her new apartment for her family. There were 9 of them, each bringing something for the meal. It was fun and no one minded being in her little apartment. After lunch, they enjoyed each other's company. Terry Colley took off to Dallas with most of the food for Thanksgiving with her son and family. Of course she had to see Slugo-the dog.

Carole Sandoval continues to check things from her Bucket List with a "girls" trip to NYC. Highlights were a back stage tour of Radio City Music Hall on opening weekend of the Rockettes Christmas Spectacular...and it truly was...complete with 3D glasses; food tasting & culture tour of Little Italy and dinner at Bobby Flay's Mesa Grill.

Winona LaBrant and Marvin Smith have spent the Fall attending the football games of St. Thomas High School. Their Grandson (a Sophomore on Varsity) started the season as a Receiver (St. Thomas was losing) and was moved to Quarterback about mid-season. They began to win (he was listed in the Chroni-

cle as one of the Outstanding Players in the city) and he took them to the State Playoffs in Temple for the 1st time for STH since he was 18 months old. Now CAZ is faced with shoulder surgery as he has been playing with an injury. Why doesn't he play Golf?

John Hobbs has one more chemo and one the following Monday. Barbara and John Hobbs saw his doctor last week and said he was doing well. After these treatments, he will get injections of Aranesp every two weeks to bring his hemo numbers up. Then he will see his doctor on the 19th of January. He has had minimal effects from the chemo--mostly fatigue. Sue McPherson has had some health issues with balance. Grace Wallace is thankful for the results of a recent PET scan as negative. The Doctor had thought it was cancer of the lungs.

Members that have new great grandsons are Mary Horton, Carole Sherwood and Sue McPherson..

The True Thanksgiving Story...

Seven Pilgrims and one friendly little Indian provided us with a bountiful feast at the November council meeting. Thanks to PLBL for the fabulous food and for sharing the true story of Thanksgiving with us!

Most stories of Thanksgiving history start with the harvest celebration of the pilgrims and the Native Americans that took place in the autumn of 1621. Although they did have a three-day feast in celebration of a good harvest, and the local natives did participate, this "first thanksgiving" was not a holiday, simply a gathering. There is little evidence that this feast of thanks led directly to our modern Thanksgiving Day holiday. Thanksgiving can, however, be traced back to 1863 when Pres. Lincoln became the first president to proclaim Thanksgiving Day. The holiday has been a fixture of late November ever since.

However, since most school children are taught that the first Thanksgiving was held in 1621 with the Pilgrims and Indians, let us take a closer look at just what took place leading up to that event, and then what happened in the centuries afterward that finally gave us our modern Thanksgiving.

The Pilgrims who sailed to this country aboard the Mayflower were originally members of the English Separatist Church (a Puritan sect). They had earlier fled their home in England and sailed to Holland (The Netherlands) to escape religious persecution. There, they enjoyed more religious tolerance, but they eventually became disenchanted with the Dutch way of life, thinking it ungodly. Seeking a better life, the Separatists negotiated with a London stock company to finance a pilgrimage to America. Most of those making the trip aboard the Mayflower were non-Separatists, but were hired to protect the company's interests. Only about one-third of the original colonists were Separatists.

The Pilgrims set ground at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620. Their first winter was devastating. At the beginning of the following fall, they had lost 46 of the original 102 who sailed on the Mayflower. But the harvest of 1621 was a bountiful one. And the remaining colonists decided to celebrate with a feast - including 91 natives who had helped the Pilgrims survive their first year. It is believed that the Pilgrims would not have made it through the year without the help of the natives. The feast was more of a traditional English harvest festival than a true "thanksgiving" observance. It lasted three days.

Governor William Bradford sent "four men fowling" after wild ducks and geese. It is not certain that wild turkey was part of their feast. However, it is certain that they had venison. The term "turkey" was used by the Pilgrims to mean any sort of wild fowl.

Another modern staple at almost every Thanksgiving table is pumpkin pie. But it is unlikely that the first feast included that treat. The supply of flour had been long diminished, so there was no bread or pastries of any kind. However, they did eat boiled pumpkin, and they produced a type of fried bread from their corn crop. There was also no milk, cider, potatoes, or butter. There was no domestic cattle for dairy products, and the newly-discovered potato was still considered by many Europeans to be poisonous. But the feast did include fish, berries, watercress, lobster, dried fruit, clams, venison, and plums.

This "thanksgiving" feast was not repeated the following year. Many



years passed before the event was repeated. It wasn't until June of 1676 that another Day of thanksgiving was proclaimed. On June 20 of that year the governing council of Charlestown, Massachusetts, held a meeting to determine how best to express thanks for the good fortune that had seen their community securely established. By unanimous vote they instructed Edward Rawson, the clerk, to proclaim June 29 as a day of thanksgiving. It is notable that this thanksgiving celebration probably did not include Native Americans, as the celebration was meant partly to be in recognition of the colonists' recent victory over the "heathen natives". By then, it had become apparent to the settlers that the natives were a hindrance to their quest for more land, so the good will they shared at the first feast had long been lost.

A hundred years later, in October of 1777 all 13 colonies joined in a thanksgiving celebration. It also commemorated the patriotic victory over the British at Saratoga. But it was a one-time affair.

George Washington proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving in 1789, although some were opposed to it. There was discord among the colonies, many feeling the hardships of a few pilgrims did not warrant a national holiday. And later, President Thomas Jefferson opposed the idea of having a day of thanksgiving.

It was Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine editor, whose efforts eventually led to what we recognize as Thanksgiving. Hale wrote many editorials championing her cause in her Boston Ladies' Magazine, and later, in Godey's Lady's Book. Finally, after a 40-year campaign of writing editorials and letters to governors and presidents, Hale's obsession became a reality when, in 1863, President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving was proclaimed by every president after Lincoln. The date was changed a couple of times, most recently by Franklin Roosevelt, who set it up one week to the next-to-last Thursday in order to create a longer Christmas shopping season. Public uproar against this decision caused the president to move Thanksgiving back to its original date two years later. And in 1941, Thanksgiving was finally sanctioned by Congress as a legal holiday, as the fourth Thursday in November.

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Friendly Venture Report

Submitted by Duang Putnam

"SHARE THE GIFT OF BETA SIGMA PHI WITH OTHERS"!

It was an enjoyable gathering at the home of Duang Putnam on November 17th for three members and two guests. The magic blend of wine, appetizers and good conversation made a great combination of friendship! The two members, beside myself, were Jill Coble and Michelle Lovelace. Our two guests were Tiffany Sterling and Melody Minear.

Tiffany Sterling was referred to us by Michelle and is new to BSP. Tiffany, her husband, and a 7 year old son have just moved from Virginia and are eager to make new friends. She enjoyed meeting everyone and is very much interested in our organization. She and her husband are invited to PN's event on December 9th.

Melody Minear, read about us through the BSP advertisement in Pecan Grove's newsletter. Melody and her family live in Pecan Grove. She was a member of BSP prior to moving to Texas and is very interested in getting back to active status.

In addition to Tiffany and Melody, I also had the opportunity to accompany two prospective members Dana Munsch and Leah Baker to the French Holiday Tea. They both enjoyed meeting our council sisters and are eager to learn more. In fact, Dana is a transferee from Copperas Cove, Texas. Leah Baker is new to BSP. She was referred to us by our sister Ellie O'Dell. She and her husband also live in Pecan Grove.

The F/V committee is so excited to be working with these ladies. Won't it be sweet if we can introduce them as our members at the January council meeting!

Best wishes to you and your family for a happy holiday season!

Public Relations Report

Submitted by Jill Coble

When Melinda sent the monthly reminder about the Bustle deadline, I began to think what might I share with my SWHCC Sisters this month that I haven't already been sharing throughout the year. Then I remembered the article below. I think it pretty much speaks on why we are in Beta Sigma Phi and the importance of sharing this wonderful organization with others.

My Vitamin F

Why do I have a variety of friends who are all different in character?

Some of them can be considered marginal even?

How do I get on with them all?

I think that each one helps to bring out a "different" part of me...

With one of them I am a polite, good girl.

I joke with another friend.

I sit down and talk about serious matters with one of them.

With another I giggle at every silly thing.

I have my wine with one and dance with another.

I listen to one friend's problems and give her advice.

Then I listen to another advising me.

They are all like pieces of a jigsaw, when completed they form a treasure box.

A treasure of friends!

They are my friends who understand me better than myself, who support me through good days and bad days.

They are like colorful anti-depressants that I take on different days.

Real Age doctors tell us that friends are good for our health.

Dr. Oz calls them Vitamins F (from Friends) and counts the benefits of friends to our well being.

Research shows that people in strong social circles have less risk of depression and terminal strokes. If you take Vitamin F constantly you can be up to 30 years younger than your real age. The warmth of friendship stops stress and even in your tense moments, it decreases the chance of a cardiac arrest or stroke by 50%. I am so happy that I have a stock of Vitamins F!

In summary we should value our friends and keep in touch with them. We should try to see the funny side of things and laugh together, not forgetting to open our mouths big to swallow the floating vitamins F !!!!

Thank you for being one of my vitamins!

Merry Christmas!

Holiday Tea Snapshots...



Thank you to Erica and her chapter for a FESTIVE AND FUN Holiday Tea!



Canned goods collected for the Houston Food Bank thanks to SWHCC generosity!



The Christmas Story

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with Child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the LORD came upon them, and the glory of the LORD shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the LORD. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into Heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the LORD hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the Child, His Name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

Luke 2:1—2:21; King James version



Xi Phi Gamma

Christmas lights sparkle, fireplaces glow, packages are wrapped and spirits soar. Whether big and noisy, or small and quiet, XPG wishes for all our sisters, the best holiday season ever.

November was a busy month. Ritual of Jewels was conducted for Melissa Dailey and Sandy Dickey. Visitor Beth Tracy attended another meeting and we are so happy to have her back. The Salt and Pepper restaurant in old Katy was the stepping off point for our November social. And Back Room Beads was the entertainment. While the ladies are not ready to quit their day jobs, all the girls created beautiful necklace and earring creations. Kim wore her set to the last meeting, and the end product is lovely! Thank you Jill, for organizing our fun!

Sisters were on the go this month. Kim and Peggy (former XPG member moved to Mississippi) did the half-marathon at the San Antonio Rock-n-Roll Marathon. Way to go ladies! You are an inspiration to the rest of us. Jill was on the move in Bran-

son, MO, with family and friends. Kim is headed to Abilene, TX, in December to celebrate her granddaughter's birthday with a trip to American Girl in Dallas. Her granddaughter wants Kanani, the newest release, a doll created to share Hawaii's aloha spirit. Susan was in Louisiana to celebrate Thanksgiving with family. Sandy made a trek to Oklahoma. Paula has been in Florida. Our sisters have been many miles and seen many things in the past month.

Melinda and Patricia sold our angels at a craft fair on November 19. While the sales weren't overly rockin', our Melinda and Patricia are, for taking time from their Saturday to work the event for their chapter.

XPG sponsored a young boy for Christmas, provided through the Katy ISD Santa Cop's program. Melinda purchased amazing clothes, toys and games for our kid, and all the presents were wrapped during our last meeting at Susan's house. All the items had to fit into this enormous Ziploc

Submitted by Sandy Dickey

bag provided by the Santa Cop's program. If you ladies ever need a shopping expert, contact Melinda - you would not believe the goods she got for \$99! Megan took our donation to the drop site and one boy is going to have a super Christmas!

Bistro le Cep, our council holiday event, was on December 3, and Susan, Melissa, Melinda, Jill and Patricia enjoyed the French Christmas theme of food and decor. Gathering with our council sisters is always a gift! XPG is having their Christmas party on Monday, December 12, at the home of Dianne. We are celebrating with secret sister gifts, great food, good wine and of course, an ornament exchange and games!!

This time of year brings many deadlines, to-dos and destinations. In spite of the hustle and bustle, XPG wishes all of our fellow sisters peace, joy, time with loved ones and a special spirit of strength and happiness. God speed to all our sisters.



Xi Alpha Zeta

Submitted by Nina Coltharp

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 was held at Joan's house with co-hostess Jeanne P. Joan served us a dinner from her high school days in Home Ec class! We enjoyed the cheeseburger pie casserole, jello salad mold and yummy oatmeal cake. Joan also shared her old scrapbooks from the past carrying on traditions. We also brought new men and women's socks for the Second Mile Mission to our meeting.

Thanksgiving is traditionally the beginning of the holiday season, so our November

social took us to the beautiful Bayou Bend Homes Tour and then to lunch at Backstreet Café. We enjoyed our special day and many of us said that we would love to go back for the candlelight tour during the Christmas season – if you get a chance, please check out Ima Hogg's home and her contributions to Houston!

Rita hosted the second meeting of the month with Debbie as her co-hostess. The new council directories were passed out and everyone received their invitation to the Council Holiday Tea. Debbie completed the beautiful invitations to the 2012 Sweetheart Ball – you are so gifted! Our talented Miriam finished her awesome

quilt for Debbie's daughter's family in Japan. Debbie will send it over along with a \$100 check from our chapter to the troops for their Thanksgiving dinner surprise!!! Discussion was held regarding our Christmas service project – new unwrapped toys will be collected for the needy and Helping Hands, Second Mile Mission and Arcola Ministries will each receive \$100 for their food pantries.

We wish all our sisters a beautiful and blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year 2012!



*Beta Sigma Phi
Southwest Houston City Council*

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Motto:
Life, Learning,
Friendship

BΣΦ



Executive Board

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Let There Be Peace on Earth...

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our father
Brothers (Sisters) all are we.
Let me walk with my brother (sister)
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step i take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
With peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.

