

*Beta Sigma Phi
Southwest Houston City Council*

January 2011

The Bustle

President's Message

Dear Sisters,

Happy New Year to all!

I hope you had a joyous Christmas and a wonderful New Year with your family and friends.

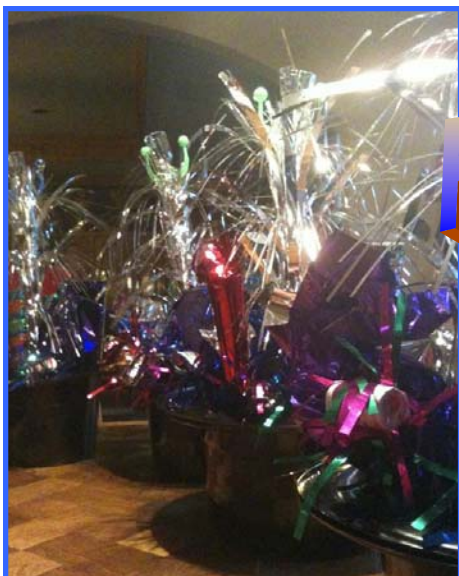
Melinda and her committee deserve a SPECIAL thank you for putting everyone in the Christmas spirit at our "Christmas In Candy Land" Tea. It was a delightful afternoon filled with fun and friendship among members, guests and prospective members. The hand written greeting cards to show support to the wounded service men and women brought a warm spot to everyone's heart.

I shared a wonderful evening as I entertained my Executive Board, Committee Chairs and Beta Buddies during the Christmas holiday's. This was only a small way for me to show my appreciation for their commitment to give the best that is in them to our sorority. These ladies have devoted many hours of hard work and have "brainstormed" new ideas to ensure the longevity of BSP organization.

Our next event will be the Sweetheart Ball... "DANCE WITH THE STARS GALA". Joan & Jill are making plans for a wonderful evening as we will share the joy of honoring our chapter sweethearts. My congratulations go out to these glamorous ladies!

I look forward to our journey together in "2011" as we continue to share our BSP Sisterhood with others.

I am thy sister,
Duang Putnam



Happy New Year!

*Thanks Duang for making
the great New Year's top hat
decorations for Oasis.*

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**Keep checking back
for new updates!**

www.bspswhcc.com

**January
Service Projects
at Oasis**

Decorations:
Duang Putnam

Ice Cream Social:
Beta Lambda Beta

Alpha Xi Theta

Submitted by Susan LeJune

AXT met at Cafe Benedicte off of Memorial for a Sunday brunch right before Christmas. We had decided to have an ornament exchange. The four of us sat there and talked for some time and really got to know one another. It was a very enjoyable lunch.

AXT didn't have a meeting in December due to our 4 members being out of town or

sick so we've decided to meet at Sue Jolly's house for our January meeting.

The Candyland Tea was nice. Jan Brucker, Sue Jolly and her mom and myself attended.

AXT wishes everyone a very Happy New Year!

Preceptor Laureate Beta Lambda

Submitted by Grace Wallace

Our President, Carole Sandoval, joined 15 SWHCC sisters at Houston's own PBS station on the UH campus for an intense evening of working the on-air pledge drive phone bank for some community service. The trainers did a great job in a short time period...but some computers just did not want to cooperate! The sisters had plenty of bling for the camera and the evening raised a record amount of pledges for the station. If you missed the original broadcast, tune in some evening and you just might catch your sisters in a re-run! Thanks to Jill Coble for organizing this event and all the supportive sisters at home.

Our regular December meeting and social was held at the home of Mary Horton on Sunday, December 12. We welcomed back Carol Sherwood from knee replacement surgery and our guest for the afternoon was Bertie Clarke - long time friend of Gwen Vanzant from Stone Mountain, Ga.

Prior to the meeting, we had a large table of various finger foods provided by all the chapter.

Mary Horton was named the Valentine Sweetheart for 2011 and "crowned" by outgoing sweetheart, Carole Sandoval. Mary also presented the program on Christmas customs and the countries they originated from. As part of the program, Mary served traditional plum pudding and a sauce she perfected by watching her mother-in-law.

Secret Sister gifts were exchanged and Christmas gifts were shared followed by visiting and making plans for the upcoming year.

Terry Colley spent Christmas with her son and family in Dallas. They enjoyed a multiple family celebration with her daughter-in-law Elaine's family. Terry fell in love with their new puppy, Sluggo, an English Bulldog. Sluggo spent most of his time sleeping in her lap and being held by everyone. The weather was very cold with freezing rain.

Tom and Mary Horton split celebrating this year. Carol and her family came over Christmas Eve from Kingwood, bringing the meal with them. They ate, went on to MDPC for the service and came back to open presents and enjoy dessert. Quinn is 2 1/2 and was really fun to be with. Mary handed him the presents, telling him who to give them to, and got a laugh when she gave him his to a clear "mine!". But his dad got the most interesting present. They gave him an indoor helicopter and they had fun watching him try to fly it - and being amazed at how well it stood up to the treatment. Saturday they went up to Spring and ate dinner with Susan's family.

Grace Wallace and Carol Sherwood spent Christmas with family and had a wonderful holiday.

Barbara and John Hobbs spent Christmas Eve in their home in Katy with their daughter, Holly, her family, and her mother-in-law., who all reside in Spring Branch.

They hosted a Christmas Eve dinner, after which presents were opened. On Christmas Day, the family met in the mother-in-law's home for another delicious dinner and more great times together. Before Christmas, Barbara, her sister Denise, her daughter, Mandy, and Barbara's daughter did a "Girls' Weekend" of serious Christmas shopping in San Marcos and Wimberley. The "shopping spree" has become an annual event for the family.

Christmas Eve for Joyce Frank was spent with her daughter, Deanna and Grandson, Christopher and Granddaughter, Anna. They went to Church and then enjoyed an evening waiting on Santa. Christmas morning was fun as the kids opened gifts. Deanna and Joyce enjoyed gifts as well. Then they spent the afternoon at her nephew, Steven and Cassie's home in Needville. It included Steven, Cassie (his wife) and her two boys, Lane and Loden, Joyce's niece, Kim and grandniece, Sarah and Kirby (brother in law). It was a little sad being the first year without her sister, Sue. They opened gifts and enjoyed food together.

Happy New Year.

Preceptor Nu

Okay, it's soooooo cold outside...what a mystery Texas weather is!!!! One day you burn up...the next you freeze. This may not be as long as in the past, we're packing for a trip to Disney World for the grandkids and their parents...hope we don't get too tired....

First, a big "Shout Out!!!!" to Melinda Montgomery and her committee for producing a beautiful tea and filling our hearts and spirits with so much holiday love. Lots of folks came, the food was great and the games lots of fun...I do love to see how great "Collaboration" can be. They mixed up the seating....but no one seemed to mind...we are all "sisters!!"

Our Christmas meeting this year was at Carolyn Johnston's beautiful "Christmas" home. Shirley Hyatt was the co-hostess and I gave the program. Course we held the meeting...and enjoyed lots of snacks, but all loved the opening of Secret Sister gifts. My secret sister was so thoughtful

Beta Lambda Phi

Happy New Year to all of our Sisters! We hope you enjoyed the holidays as much as BLP did.

Erica and her Aunt Patricia (of XPG) went to exotic Abu Dhabi to visit Erica's parents for a week in December. They had a wonderful time - see the picture of them in front of the famous Burj Al Arab Hotel.

Diane also went on an exotic trip to Uruguay to visit family. She was there for two weeks and was glad to be able to celebrate her grandmother's 90th birthday.

Kimberly spent her first Christmas in Houston despite living here for six years. Her husband's family came to visit for a week over Christmas and Kimberly's parents visited over New Year's weekend. Everyone appreciated the warmer weather here as opposed to the snow in Virginia. We had lots of much-appreciated help getting things set up in the nursery.

Amy O. traveled to Louisiana to visit her family over Christmas. Poor baby Luke was sick for a while, but he is on the mend and back to his smiling self.

with a Texas theme gift....and a beautiful "memento" from Chico's...wow....Santa is good!!! Members were reminded of the upcoming chapter party at The Meeks. More fun on the horizon!

The Christmas party was a culinary delight....catered with food to die for...the cake for dessert was the size of a wedding cake. After stuffing our tummies, Larry Meeks pulled his truck up with a fully decorated trailer to take the group caroling. Beta Buddy, Del Hyatt joined Larry in making a hayride to remember. There were so many lights in Greatwood...plus the group stopped by Gary and Sandra Simpson's elaborately decorated house for some "liquid to warm the cockles of our hearts" and some very fancy snacks!!! The final happening of the evening was the crowning of the PN Sweetheart...our own "Bloomers The Clown"...aka Lois LaRose and her handsome other half "Guy." were the honorees. Lois was presented gifts and flowers by our secret clown (Del

Lesley and her family spent Christmas at her Aunt's house in Lake Jackson. It was baby Gianna's first Christmas and she had more fun with the ribbons and bows than with the actual gifts inside!

Lesley hosted our December meeting where we finalized the Santa Letters fundraiser project. We are excited to report that we mailed over 80 letters! Thanks to all of our Council Sisters for your support, and a big thanks to Andrea for doing an excellent job on all those letters. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and we already have orders for next year!

Amy W. hosted our December social at her lovely home where we had a Nintendo Wii party and enjoyed a delicious home cooked meal of stuffed shells and yummy appetizers. However, the desserts were just to die for! We have since nominated Amy for the "Martha Stewart" award and also learned that Lesley has a strong competitive streak in her.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our next Council meeting.

Submitted by Carolyn Meeks

H.) who had a look most have not seen.... A good time was had by all...I loved having everyone come into our Christmas Home... Shirley is so great as a co-hostess...so full of energy and ideas!!!

Well, this ends the Bustle for me for 2010.... but I do want to share that Robert Roberts, our resident Santa was with us for the hayride...and did a "supreme" job...but he also did a repeat performance at Memorial Hermann Hospital...where he brightened the spirits of many children... and the adults were impressed too...isn't that what Christmas is about...not just receiving...but rather giving...as a group of sisters...PN has learned how to be good honest folks who love and support each other...in good and bad...we have a good year because we have each other....So Happy New Years to you and yours...God Bless Friends...Stay Safe, and come back next month....

Submitted by Kimberly Smith



“Happenings Around Council”



PLBL held their Christmas party on December 12th in the home of Mary Horton.



XPG members volunteered at the Katy Christian Ministries toy drive on December 3rd sorting toys for needy children.



XAZ celebrates with a Christmas brunch at Carmelo's.



Happy New Year!



BLP's Diane Giagnacovo traveled to exotic Uruguay to visit family during December.

Follow Sarah's Adventures in Council



Sarah jumped right into the middle of the action at the Holiday Tea!



She joined the Executive board members and committee chairman for a festive party hosted by President Duang at her beautiful home.



You missed seeing Sarah dance the night away on New Year's Eve!



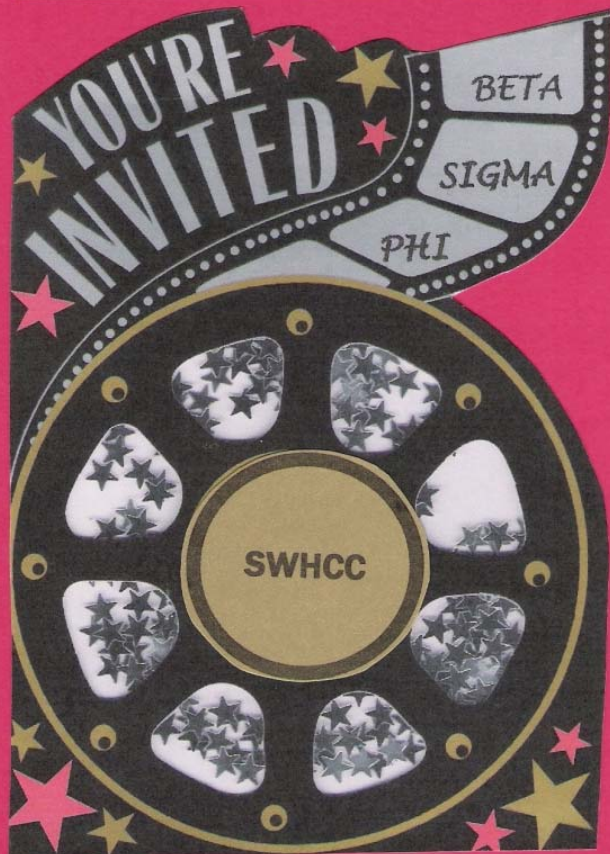
PN sisters welcomed Sarah, as guest, at their December meeting.



Are there 2 Sarah's now or is that from partying to much?

2011 Sweetheart Ball

Dance with the Stars!



*To walk the red carpet to
SWHCC's award winning
"DANCE WITH THE STARS"
2011 Sweetheart Gala*

February 12, 2011

Cocktails - 6:30 PM

Dinner - 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$55.00

Reservations by January 31, 2011

**Vicky Ryan - 281-222-8830 or
victoriaryan@windstream.net**

**Plaza Ballroom
Twentieth Floor
Renaissance Houston Greenway Plaza
Hotel
6 Greenway Plaza East
Houston, TX 77046**

Afterparty - 11:30 PM

**Hotel Rooms available for \$89 plus taxes
Contact hotel at 713-629-1200 by February 4
for "SWHCC Beta Sigma Phi" reservations.**

**Don't miss the council meeting
on **Thursday, January 13th** for
the announcement of all Sweet-
heart names.**

Memories from the Holiday Tea!

Sisters and friends,

Well the holidays are over now, but the memories will continue on. I'd like to thank everyone who attended the "Christmas in Candy Land" luncheon. It was a lot of fun to get into the spirit of the season by sharing time with so many sisters from around council. I hope you had as much fun as I did. Thanks again to all committee members— Amy, Erica, Kim, Nina, Joyce, Sharon and Bridget—for their efforts to make the event special for all. And the service men and women thank you for the donation of the many hand written cards you sent. May you all be blessed with new memories as we follow each new path to friendship!

Melinda



Xi Phi Gamma

Submitted by Melinda Montgomery

December was a busy month for the sisters of XPG with celebrations scattered all around. On December 3rd, Kim, Melissa, Chris and Patricia volunteered at the Katy Christian Ministries Christmas toy drive. They helped sort toys for over 700 families who were in need of assistance this year. What a way to kick off the month with that giving spirit! The very next day, 7 of our 10 sisters all joined each other at the SWHCC Holiday Tea in Katy. We talked, we ate, we sang and played games...fun was had by all. A special thank you to Sharon and Bridget for their work on the committee in preparing some yummy desserts. Girls, would you want to share your recipes? Also, kudos to all of the committee members for a wonderful Holiday Tea - we had a great time.

The next weekend was even busier. On the 11th, we held our monthly social which was a trip down to Kemah for some holiday shopping and camaraderie along the boardwalk. We "broke in" our newest Beta Buddy on the trip. William, Melissa's sweetie didn't know he was going to be the only guy there! But he's a good sport and played along with the fun! After shopping, we then followed it up with appetizers and dinner at Landry's with much anticipation of the beautiful Christmas Boat Parade. We had the perfect seats inside the restaurant for viewing as the weather

had turned cold and very windy that evening. The boats were a rockin' and a rollin' along, despite the windy conditions and rough waters. Jill presented everyone with a warm winter scarf...good timing Jill! And to end the evening (and avoid the heavy traffic jam), we piled into Jill's car for a little eggnog and dessert. I bet all of the others sitting in traffic (going nowhere) wished they were with us!

We just couldn't seem to get enough of each other so we spent the whole weekend together by having our monthly meeting and Christmas party on the 12th. Diane opened up her home to us for the celebration and Susan served as our hostess...thanks to both of you! We enjoyed appetizers and visiting with each other before our short meeting and then dined on a delicious lunch catered by Lasagna House. Our special treat was the homemade desserts provided by Bridget. Thanks again Bridget! Susan led us in a few Christmas games for some added fun and laughs. We held our annual ornament exchange and then opened up our Secret Sister gifts. Boy, are we lucky or what...we have much to be grateful for...like each other!

Sandy Dickey accepted our invitation to join our chapter so we are happy to an-

nounce our newest addition! Welcome Sandy!

Chris Jones was elected as our new chapter Sweetheart. And she definitely is a sweetheart of a gal! Congratulations Chris! We look forward to celebrating "you" at the Sweetheart Ball.

Patricia took an exciting trip to Abu Dhabi before Christmas to meet up with her sister and brother-in-law. We look forward to hearing all the details and seeing the pictures of her exciting journey

New Year's Eve was spent in Rosenberg dancing the night away to the sounds of the Triumphs. Jill, Sharon, Melinda, Patricia and George met up with other BSP sisters and Beta Buddies at Rita's Mexican restaurant. Then all moved over to the American Legion building for the extravaganza. Happy New Year to all!

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. We're looking forward to meeting back up with each other for a great new year in 2011 and hope to see many of our fellow sisters in council.



Xi Alpha Zeta

XAZ had a festive December beginning with our first meeting of the month, December 7, at the lovely home of Rita Mayo. Rita planned an evening full of Christmas traditions. She chose "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song as our theme – with her beautiful ornaments to the song as our party favors and our dinner of holiday foods served on her special plates. Then we sang the song to open up our Secret Sister gifts!!! We ended the night with cakes by Ann and a flan by Rita. We give BETA HUGS to Rita's daughter, Lauren, who was a fabulous assistant to our beautiful and fun evening!

Our annual Christmas Brunch was held this year at a surprise location. We all



met at the Lasagna House on Westheimer to find out our final destination...the famous CARMELO'S Italian Restaurant on Memorial Drive! We had a delicious Brunch and do recommend this fine dining to all our Beta Sisters. They provided a special private room for us to have our Christmas party and gift exchange. After eating and more eating, we then exercised for our gifts...everyone had a special stone at their place with instructions on how to pass your gift on the mystical pathway. Jeanne Murray and Jeanne Peltier did a fabulous job planning our day. Thank you for a grand celebration.

Saturday, Dec. 18 we went to the Open Door Breakfast at Calvary Episcopal

Submitted by Nina Coltharp

Church and had a Christmas celebration with the Rojas Family (Service Project). We presented each of the three children gifts and gift certificates for their mother. Once again, Tony and Ellie O'Dell made us a delicious breakfast of pancakes and bacon!!!

WE hope that all our sisters had a blessed Christmas and we wish you and your families a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year 2011.



Xi Eta Epsilon

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of our SWHCC sisters! I hope this is the best year ever. Our chapter had an exciting December which started off with the wonderful holiday Tea in early December. It certainly got us all in the holiday mood and gave us some practice on singing those favorite Christmas Caroles. Thank you to Melinda and committee members.

Our chapter held our December meeting and Revealing social in the home of our President, Bobbie Viles. It was a wonderful afternoon of sharing holiday plans, a wonderful meal, and revealing Secret Sis-

ter gifts. After the short business meeting everyone joined in wrapping Christmas gifts for our adopted Christmas family which was a single mom with three children.

We look forward to our first January meeting where we will choose our chapter Sweetheart, discuss plans to host another chapter at a Bunko party, and our next garage sale in late January.

Submitted by June Ryan

*Beta Sigma Phi
Southwest Houston City Council*

For more information:

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Motto:
Life, Learning,
Friendship

BΣΦ



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>

New Year's Day

The Romans dedicated the first day of January to Janus, the god of gates, doors, beginnings, endings and time. The month of January was named after Janus, who is depicted as having two heads, facing opposite directions; one looks back at the last year while the other looks forward to the new, simultaneously into the future and the past.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org>

So What Are Your New Year's Resolutions?

Here are a few simple ideas:

Love yourself... physically and emotionally

Be happy and smile...it's contagious!

Let go of the past...tomorrow is a new day

Take risks...life is an adventure...don't be left behind!

Share your wisdom with others...you'll receive back more than you give

Say a kind word to a stranger...everyone needs someone

LIVE...don't just exist!