



IOTA PHI LAMBDA SORORITY, INC.

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“The 2017 Theme for Black History Month is “The Crisis in Black Education.” The Association for the Study of African American Life and History’s founder Carter G. Woodson once wrote that “if you teach the Negro that he has accomplished as much good as any other race he will aspire to equality and justice without regard to race.” Throughout the last quarter of the twentieth century and continuing today, the crisis in black education has grown significantly in urban neighborhoods where public schools lack resources, endure overcrowding, exhibit a racial achievement gap, and confront policies that fail to deliver substantive opportunities. The touted benefits of education remain elusive to many blacks of all ages. Tragically, some poorly performing schools serve as pipelines to prison for youths. Yet, African American history is rich in centuries-old efforts of resistance to this crisis: the slaves’ surreptitious endeavors to learn; the rise of black colleges and universities after the Civil War; unrelenting battles in the courts; the black history movement; the freedom schools of the 1960s; and local community-based academic and mentorship programs that inspire a love of learning and thirst for achievement. Addressing the crisis in black education should be considered one of the most important goals in America’s past, present, and future.” -- ASALH 2017 Executive Summary



Michelle Peace
Epsilon Tau President

With the historic confirmation of Betsy DeVos as the Secretary of the Department of Education, Epsilon Tau, we must be more vigilant in our work to encourage young women to enter the business field by means of business training.

During this month we also shine the spotlight on heart disease in women. Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women, causing 1 in 3 deaths each year. The American Heart Association’s Go Red For Women movement advocates for more research and swifter action for women’s heart health. As African Americans and Iota women it’s time to take care of our health so we can take care of business and leave a mark on this world.

Seven gavel taps to Sorors Dr. Tonya Sawyer McGee, Social and Networking Committee for our outing to see Hidden Figures and seven gavel taps to Soror Tiffany Bryant, Grant/FriendRaising Chair for the execution of the ET “Get Fit Don’t Quit” Raffle. Sorors, you ROCK!

“Memories of our lives, of our works and our deeds will continue in others.”- Rosa Parks

Sisterly, Michelle

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ET CHAPTER MOVIE SOCIAL



On January 15, 2017, Sorors and Man of Iota and members of the Epsilon Tau Chapter family along with Soror Dwala Brown of Psi Chapter enjoyed a movie outing social to see the acclaimed movie 'Hidden Figures' at Studio Movie Grill. The movie highlighted the true story of three African-American women who were the trailblazers and catalyst behind N.A.S.A.'s launch of Neil Armstrong. The women were also responsible for years of dedicated service ensuring detailed and correct mathematical and engineering analytics, including N.A.S.A.'s first African-American female engineer and first black female supervisor.

ET FIL FUNDRAISER

During the month of January 2017, ET FIL held a raffle ticket fundraiser for a Valentine's Day gift basket. ET FIL were successful in their efforts and raised over \$500 to be used towards FIL activities. The FIL held the drawing and announcement of the winner via FaceBook Live. ET FIL thank each of their supporters for their donations.



ET FIL Valentine Basket valued over \$150



FIL Valentine raffle fundraiser ticket.



FIL President Johnathan Arline with Valentine Basket winner, Mr. Oscar Parker holding the winning raffle ticket.

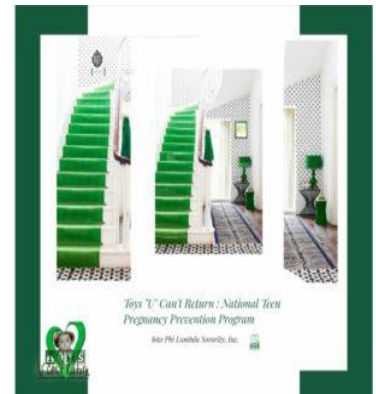
EPSILON TAU HONORS DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



ET Sorors along with the family, FIL, and MOI celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The ET family participated in various activities in the DFW metroplex. President Michelle Peace and Soror Wendy Jacques volunteered during MLK Day of Service. Soror Robin Mack attended an MLK gala. Sorors Eriele Johnson and Alicia Hinkle and family attended the Doris Joyner luncheon. Soror Randle and her family participated in local MLK events. Soror Dr. Tonya Sawyer-McGee and MOI McGee attended the annual MLK parade.

TOYS U CAN'T RETURN

Epsilon Tau Chapter presented the Toys 'U' Can't Return Project to the 7th graders of ROPP for Girls, Inc. on Saturday, January 21, 2017. Sorors Katrina Stevens and Wendy Jacques discussed abstinence, self-worth, and financial responsibilities of having a child with the girls. Our committee's goal is to prevent teen pregnancy but if the girls end up with that "Toy U Can't Return", we will equip them with the tools to be successful in life and future careers.



This year, Epsilon Tau Outreach expanded its support to Develop Africa. The new Develop Africa initiative, Creating Pathways Centre, correlates to the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. Toys U Can't Return Project. The Centre was created as a direct response to problems created in the Sierra Leone by the Ebola outbreak. During the outbreak, schools were closed and left many girls vulnerable to become victims. Because of the stigma of the teen pregnancies, new mothers and pregnant girls were not admitted back into schools when the outbreak ceased thus the birth of the Creating Pathways Centre. The Centre opened to provide these girls an opportunity to receive training, life skills, and assistance. The Epsilon Tau Outreach donation to the Creating Pathways Centre went to Nancy. Nancy is a young mother to a baby boy. Epsilon Tau Outreach support helped pay for Nancy's tuition, books, school supplies and related school expenses.

EPSILON TAU OUTREACH EMPOWERS WOMEN FOR BUSINESS GLOBALLY

In support of business and professional women across the globe, Epsilon Tau Outreach has participated in the Microfinance Program through Develop Africa for the past three years. Develop Africa Microfinance loans of \$200-\$500 are provided to African youth and women to help them realize their dreams of entrepreneurship. ET's 2016 donation went to Agnes. Agnes started her business of purchasing items and selling them on credit. It is common practice in Sierra Leone to sell items on credit - where the buyer pays the seller in one or more installments over one or more months. The first set of items that Agnes purchased were Techno cell phones. She has sold them and will be receiving funds from the sale over the next 1-2 months. She was delighted to receive the support.



EPSILON TAU SELECTS OUTSTANDING WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Epsilon Tau's Outstanding Woman of the Year nominee is Dr. Hamaria Crockett. Dr. Crockett has a Ph.D. in Human Services, an Ed.D. and is an accomplished author, speaker, Life Coach, and adjunct professor. The primary focus of Dr. Crockett's career work is specialized to Veteran's Affairs and making higher education and life opportunities better for our veterans. She owns and operates a life coaching business, "ImperfectMe, LLC.", founded the non-profit organization, Wisdom 4 Warriors, and currently works in the Career Services Department for Texas Women's University- Dallas Campus.



EPSILON TAU SELECTS LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Epsilon Tau's Local Scholarship Winner is Jazkira Combs, a senior at the Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School. Jazkira plans to attend Hampton University and major in Business Administration. Her aspiration is to "break down barriers in the field of business and to reach back and help other minority girls."



SMALL BUSINESS TIP


by Dr. Tonya Sawyer-McGee

Branding Your Business

Branding is essential for business regardless if you are a small business owner or a large corporation. Below are tips to help you successfully brand your business:

1. Define your brand (what product or service will you offer?)
2. Determine what drives your business (what is it's purpose?)
3. Be innovative and daring (avoid a lot of politics which can prevent flexibility to needed changes)
4. Create your own distinct identity (don't try to be like other, be authentic)
5. Establish and build lasting relationships with customers (they will become your biggest opportunity for marketing your brand).

February 2017 Calendar of Events

February 03, 2017	ET GOES RED for Heart Disease Prevention
February 04, 2017	ET Black History 'Family Affair' @ Babb's Barbeque, 5:30 PM
February 11, 2017	FIL Community Service at Shoes for Orphan Souls, 1:00 PM
February 12, 2017	MONTHLY CHAPTER BUSINESS MEETING, 3:00 PM
February 14, 2017	Happy Valentine's Day 
February 19, 2017	ET New Member Orientation Workshop, 3 PM , Hampton-Illinois Library
February 26, 2017	Black History Observance "The Bloodless Jungle" @ Black Academy of Arts and Letters

IOTA PHI LAMBDA SORORITY, INC.



OUR STORY

Contributions of the First African American Business and Professional Women's Organization and Statehood 1929 to 2017