

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL EVENTS

April 24, 2019

Founders' Day Luncheon ◆  
11:00 a.m.

Junior League of Houston  
1811 Briar Oaks Ln. (77027)

### MAY EVENTS

May 2, 2019

HAPA/HAPF Scholarship  
Luncheon  
11:00 a.m.

Junior League of Houston  
1811 Briar Oaks Ln. (77027)

May 7, 2019

Food Truck al fresco ■  
6:30 p.m.

Home of Laura Sheffield  
914 Briar Ridge Dr. (77057)

May 21, 2019

Book Club ◎  
7:00 p.m.

Chairman: Dori Boone

- ◎ Small Group Event
- Sisterhood Event
- ◆ Signature Event

## From Our Co-Presidents

Pi Phi Sisters,

As we come to the end of our term as co-presidents, we look back with gratitude on all that you have shared with us this year. You entrusted us to try new things and you enthusiastically contributed your voices to our strategic planning process. You turned out in large numbers for our daytime and evening sisterhood events and you reminded us, again and again, what a privilege it is to be Pi Beta Phi.

In addition to introducing a new programming format this year (with sisterhood, signature, and small group events), we formed a steering committee to inform the strategic direction of our alumnae club. We are fortunate to have more than 600 dues-paying members spanning 75 years of membership in Pi Phi. However, there is an opportunity for better engagement with the 1,500-plus alumnae in the Houston region who are currently not members of our club. In an effort to be more accessible, inclusive, and relevant, we are excited to introduce a **new dues structure** in 2019. The new dues structure is based on the guidance of the steering committee and the feedback of our members via survey, meeting discussions, and written comments.

This year, alumnae will be able to select one of two membership options: **"a la carte" dues** or **sisterhood dues**. In addition, we will offer special pricing to our junior members (under age 30) and our senior members (80 years and older). Members who select **"a la carte" dues** will pay annual dues of \$75 to cover just the basic costs of membership in the Fraternity and our club. The member will pay "a la carte" for any club events attended throughout the year (including sisterhood, signature, and small group events). This structure allows members to get the full value out of their membership by only contributing to events that they are able to attend.

For those who prefer a more price-inclusive option, **sisterhood dues** of \$150 will include basic annual dues



Alicia Middleton Stephens and Katy Weaver Smith

plus attendance at all sisterhood events (day meetings and evening events like Pink Party and Favorite Things). Pricing incorporates a small discount when compared to paying for the same events a la carte. Sisterhood dues do not include signature events (e.g., Founders' Day, Theta Social) or small group events, all of which will be paid for on an individual, per-event basis.

In addition to annual dues, alumnae also will have the option to support the club with **angel dues**, which

directly supplement reduced dues for young alumnae, special events for Golden Arrows, and the Holiday Tea. Angel donors will be recognized by a three-tier designation, at PI (under \$50), BETA (\$50-\$99), and PHI (\$100 and above) levels. Those who give angel dues at the PHI level will receive a complimentary printed directory.

The Houston Alumnae Club annually provides \$4,500 in **chapter support** to six college chapters in Texas, the majority of which sponsors meals and snacks during primary recruitment. To provide you with a more direct way of supporting your chapter of choice, chapter support also will be a separate and additional giving option on the dues form. You will have the opportunity to name your chapter of choice and make a dedicated monetary gift toward the cost of meals and snacks delivered to the chapter on behalf of the Houston Alumnae Club during primary recruitment.

We sincerely hope that this new dues structure enhances the value of your investment in Houston Pi Phi. We are grateful for the gift of sisterhood with all of you.

Yours in Pi Phi,

Katy Weaver Smith  
Texas Gamma '81

Alicia Middleton Stephens  
North Carolina Alpha '96



In an effort to better support our members who experience loss and hardship, our Angel Wing Support Network is moving to a digital platform. If you would like to receive up-to-date information from our Angel Wing correspondent, please sign up for updates from @houpiPhi via Remind. You can use Remind on your computer ([www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com)) or you can download the app to your smart phone. Simply join the "Houston PiPhi" class or search for @houpiPhi. We will continue to provide Angel Wing updates in our quarterly Archer newsletter but we aim to improve communication through this online platform.

## Welcoming our New Co-Presidents

**ELIZABETH MOORE VAIL** was born and raised in Houston and was a Texas Beta at Southern Methodist University. After returning to Houston after college, Elizabeth obtained her JD at South Texas College of Law and practiced law for the next 10 years. After her husband Tim's career change, Elizabeth moved with him to New York City, Grosse Pointe, Michigan, and Greenwich, Connecticut, where her twins Alexandra and Peter were born. After returning to Houston in 2005, Elizabeth committed herself to volunteer and civic service while raising her children, now 11<sup>th</sup> graders, at the Kinkaid School. She has chaired galas, luncheons, and committees for Trees of Hope, River Oaks Baptist School, Juvenile Diabetes, Society for the Performing Arts, BEAR, The Center Houston, Friends of Nursing, and The Kinkaid School. In 2017, she co-chaired the Houston Pi Beta Phi Ungala with college roommate Chris Mizell. Elizabeth loves to travel, boat, pursue her wine studies, and French. She is looking forward to



renewing Pi Phi friendships and giving back to the organization that has meant so much to her since her college days.

**JENNIFER MALONE STEVENSON** was born in Austin and was a Texas Alpha at the University of Texas. She has served in several leadership roles with the Houston Pi Beta Phi alumnae club, including the Champions Are Readers chairman and, most recently, serving for two years with her pledge sister from UT, Mary Chaffin, as co-chairs for the newsletter. Jennifer also served on the organizational committee for the first annual Pink Party event. She is involved with the Junior League and enjoys volunteering with her daughter, Haley, at the Houston Food Bank. Prior to taking on the role full time to raise her family, Jennifer worked in the field of marketing. She and her husband, Mark, have two children, Harrison and Haley, both at Kinkaid. She loves reading, traveling, and hiking. She is excited about renewing Pi Phi friendships, making new friends and, as Elizabeth said, to give back to the organization that means so much.

## Incoming Junior President Welcome

I'm looking forward to serving as the next Junior Group president for another year of meaningful programming and sisterhood.



When I moved to Houston from New York four years ago, the ladies of the Junior Group helped Texas feel like home. I've made so many lasting friendships through Pi Phi after college, and those relationships further enrich my commitment to sisterhood. I hope I can be as helpful as the officers before me in welcoming the newest group of members to the Houston Alumnae Club. The other Junior Group officers and I are planning some awesome events for this upcoming year and can't wait to see everyone in the fall.

Pi Phi Love,  
Jackie Harkenrider  
New York Epsilon



## \*New\* Houston Recruitment Process

Pi Beta Phi has launched a new online RIF for referring a potential new member (PNM) to a college chapter. In order for our Recruitment Committee to be aware of your PNM, you **MUST** follow the steps on the Houston Alumnae Club recruitment page. The following link will take you there directly: <https://www.houstonpiphis.org/public6.asp>.

The new online RIF allows you to attach a resume and one photo. It does **NOT** allow for Letters of Support (LOS) to be attached. Therefore, by following the steps on our club website, you will send the LOS to our Recruitment Committee email address. Our dedicated Recruitment Committee will make sure the LOS is emailed to the appropriate chapter contact and that we receive confirmation that all materials have been received.

Collegians are very excited about the online RIF process and they are encouraging alumnae to use it instead of the paper format.

Our club website has been updated to provide a direct link to the online RIF and an option for you to submit your LOS and other information via email. The Houston Recruitment Committee requests that alumnae **submit all RIFs by May 15<sup>th</sup>**.



# Member Spotlight – Sharing Our Stories

Pi Beta Phi is the tie that binds our Houston Alumnae Club members, but there is also plenty that makes each of us unique! “Sharing Our Stories” is where we highlight the experiences and accomplishments of a few of our members each quarter. We are a multi-faceted group of women, with a wide variety of interests, skills, and talents to share. If you have a member spotlight idea for a future issue, please contact Leslie Loftis at [leslieloftis@gmail.com](mailto:leslieloftis@gmail.com).

## Home Through Sisterhood



Dana Johnson

**Dana Johnson** (Texas Zeta) has many passions but the top two are serving people and negotiating real estate. Dana graduated from Baylor University in 2000 with a degree in education. She was intramural chair for Pi Beta Phi for two years while at Baylor.

Her previous career history of pharmaceutical sales, real estate investments, and business management, combined

with a healthy competitive nature, have paved the way for Dana to become one of the top real estate agents in Houston.

Dana is married to Baylor alum and business partner Jonathan Johnson ('00). They have three children, a son, Halden, and two daughters and future Pi Phis, Lillian and Adelyn. They are her biggest supporters as she sets her goals high and furthers her real estate career.

Pi Phis have been some of the biggest supporters of Dana's career. She loves helping her sisters find the right home. Partly because of all the support from Dana's Pi Phi sisters and their families, Dana and Jonathan founded the Johnson Team of Keller Williams Memorial in 2018.

Over the years, friendships with Dana's Pi Phi sisters have been life changing. They have cheered each other on, worked together, volunteered together, traveled together, and raised children together. Being part of the Houston Alumnae club, the newly made friends, and opportunities have all been invaluable.

When Dana is helping clients, she represents Pi Beta Phi well by offering personalized and professional services with specialty knowledge in luxury, investment, and new-construction homes. She treats clients like family.

Dana loves serving others with their real estate needs and has the experience and passion necessary to help sell a home and/or find the home of her client's dreams.

## Born to Teach



Shelby Shelton

**Shelby Shelton** (MS Beta) says both patience and love were God-given gifts that she is grateful to have and use in her life. Shelby teaches at Memorial Middle School and is the lifeskills teacher. As a new teacher, this is her second year, she feels she does not have the experience that other teachers may have, but she can

show patience and love toward her students. There are difficult days, both in and out of the classroom, but she has never doubted if she was in the right career. Shelby wants to make an impact on all students who enter her classroom and wants each student to feel worthy of themselves. This is important time for teens, they are being introduced to many new situations and it is not easy. Shelby attended Memorial Middle School in 2006-2008 and, only being 11 years since leaving middle school, Shelby has a clear picture of how others made her feel.

Shelby attended Ole Miss and followed her mother's footsteps of becoming a member of Pi Beta

Phi. Shelby loved being a member and formed many friendships as a result. While at Ole Miss, she received her degree in special education and went on to get a graduate degree in instruction and curriculum. She also enjoyed volunteering as a tutor and mentor with low income students. Shelby absolutely fell in love with the students who attended Leapfrog and felt that she was making a difference. She was a graduate assistant at Willie Price, which is an on-campus lab school for 3 and 4 year olds. Through the years, Shelby has been told she is a natural at working with students. Obviously she is making a big difference in children's lives and was born to teach.

## Steering Committee Updates

On September 5, 2018, the Houston Alumnae Club Executive Board voted to create a steering committee for the purpose of conducting research in the following areas of interest: **Membership/Dues and Philanthropy/Fundraising**. The committee is comprised of 13 alumnae, including board members, general members, and two Foundation advisors. These committee members' involvement with Pi Phi spans a collective 50 years of membership. Committee members include Dori Boone, Mary Chaffin, Shelby Edmondson, Leslie Fletcher, Ann Johnson, Leslie Loftis, Julie McCuen, Katy Smith, Alicia Stephens, Jennifer Stevenson, Elizabeth Vail, and Foundation advisors Linda Ittner and Pat Shuford.

The role of the steering committee was to research the assigned areas of interest and to provide recommendations to the executive board based on data gathered in the research. The executive board could elect to adopt and implement any recommendations received by the steering committee.

Data Sources: The steering committee used several information-gathering strategies and tools to inform their review, including but not limited to:

- Multi-topic survey distributed to all (605) dues-paying members of the Houston Alumnae Club. Survey response rate of 22 percent included all age cohorts.

- Multi-topic survey distributed to approximately 1,000 non-paying alumnae in the Houston area. Survey response rate of 6 percent (61 out of 1,000) included all age cohorts.

- Direct email inquiry to 10 alumnae clubs, including nine Panhellenic clubs in Houston and the Pi Phi Dallas Alumnae Club.

- Informational interviews with nonprofit organizations, philanthropic leaders, and fundraising professionals on philanthropic and fundraising practices.

In late January, the Steering Committee presented the research findings along with recommendations first to the executive board and then a few days later to the general membership

at a morning General Meeting. Discussion, thoughtful questions and comments, and feedback occurred at both meetings. The feedback received was almost exclusively in the area of dues structure.

Based on the feedback the committee received at the meetings, the committee's recommendations for dues structure was revised. The full and final Houston Alumnae Club Steering Committee recommendations on membership/dues and philanthropy/fundraising are now posted on the club website. More details on the new dues structure can be found in the co-presidents' letter on page one. In the area of philanthropy/fundraising, the recommendations of the committee center around increasing attendance at an annual event by targeting a broader audience. This would include moving to an annual event on a weekday with consistent elements, including branding. This change to maximize our effectiveness in the area of fundraising would also include a move away from a biennial style show format.

## Collegiate Corner



Ellen Bacarisse

**Ellen Bacarisse** is a sophomore at Baylor University, majoring in journalism with a concentration in public relations and a minor in entrepreneurship. She states she has “loved being a Pi Phi at Baylor and has made many incredible lifelong friends. It has also been a special experience to be a Pi Phi like my mom, and to have her pin me at my initiation and share being a Pi Phi together.”

Ellen graduated from Second Baptist School, where she enjoyed being part of the theatre program in high school. She believes theatre helped her in confidence and learning to present herself well. Ellen’s senior year, she was nominated for a Tommy Tune award for her part as Hilda in the musical “The Boy Friend.” Although Ellen is not continuing with theatre in college, it has been a blast to perform on stage in Baylor’s All University Sing, which is a song and dance show and competition among the sororities and fraternities.

Ellen currently has a part-time internship throughout the year with 512 New Media, where she helps post digital social media content for the Sam Malone Show. Ellen stated that she “enjoys keeping informed on current events to do her job and enjoys the internship.”

**Berkeley Fatjo** (TX Alpha) is currently finishing up her junior year at the University of Texas at Austin. She is majoring in advertising with a minor in finance. She is planning on getting an internship in Los Angeles, California, this summer with four of her pledge sisters.

Going into recruitment, Berkeley did not know what she wanted. Throughout the week, a big smile spread across her face every time she left the Pi Phi house. On bid day, she knew right away she had made the right decision. “I felt at home and welcomed by girls from all over.”

Her love for Pi Phi continued on, and she was elected to be on the recruitment team for 2018 recruitment. The long hours and days had paid off. She wanted people to leave the house everyday with the same big smile she had. She said, “It was the most rewarding experience and I wanted to share what I had with other people.” It was one of her favorite summers and she would do it again if she could.

Berkeley is now living in the house, surrounded with all of her friends, and is so sad to leave. She explained the house as one big family that eats together, studies together, and has fun together. Berkeley feels like the luckiest person in the world. She notes, “I could not be more grateful for the connections and friendships I have made. I know they will last a lifetime.”



Berkeley Fatjo

## January 2019 Recruitment Update

We are thrilled to announce Pi Phi new members from Houston at the following chapters in winter recruitment:

### Baylor

Kendall Reppert  
Mary Claire Crain  
Katie Walla

Linday Iler  
Grayson Wilkes

### SMU

Ava Street  
Taylor Smith (sophomore)  
Lauren Foyt  
Emily Arcidiacono

### W&L

Katherine Bermen  
Elizabeth Kent

### Auburn

Nicole Zivley

## Angel Wing

Do you know of a Pi Phi who just had a baby, received a new promotion at work, or has had a death in the family? Please contact Melissa Knauth at [mkaunth1@comcast.net](mailto:mkaunth1@comcast.net) with any life events to be included in our angel wing.

Our deepest sympathies to the families of the following Pi Phis.

- **Martha Wood Gayle** (Texas Zeta '77) passed away on September 5, 2018, at the age of 90.
- **Elizabeth “Betty” Baker Harris** (Texas Alpha) passed away on November 24, 2018, at the age of 92.
- **Katherine Elledge Turley** (Texas Alpha), mother of **Elizabeth Turley Darnall** (Oklahoma Alpha '86), passed away in January 2019 at the age of 80.
- **Martha Maxwell Loyd** (Virginia Alpha '55), born April 12, 1937, passed away on February 9, 2019.
- **Alice Patton Conroy** (Louisiana Alpha '42) passed away on February 19, 2019, at the age of 95.
- **Ann Frost Bailey** (Arizona Alpha '63) passed away on February 28, 2019, at the age of 74. Ann was honored for 50 years of membership in Pi Beta Phi.
- **Rosemary Turner Fowler** (Texas Zeta) passed away on March 17, 2019, at the age of 94.
- **Leila “Lee” Hull** (Texas Alpha '66) passed away on March 22, 2019, at the age of 74. Deepest condolences to Lee’s daughters, **Laura Cochran Savage** (Texas Delta '94) and Norrie Cochran Adams.

## CELEBRATING OUR CAR STUDENTS



CHAMPIONS ARE READERS

Thank you to all of you who have participated in the CAR program this year! We have added two new schools and plan to add more next year. The goal is six!! We need more help with this very important literacy program. Ideally, going forward it would be helpful to have more people commit to working and volunteering with the program and actually taking on a point of contact role for each new school.

For those who are interested in learning more about Champions are Readers, please contact Jennifer Carmichael. The kids love it and it is very rewarding! Jennifer Carmichael 713-569-7635 or [carmichael928@gmail.com](mailto:carmichael928@gmail.com).

*The Houston Alumnae Club of Pi Beta Phi  
Invites You to a*



## **Founders' Day Luncheon**

Honoring Our  
Diamond and Golden Arrows

### **Remembering Our Founders Program**

Presented by Our Silver Arrows

### **Installation of 2019-2020 Houston Alumnae Club of Pi Beta Phi Officers**

**Wednesday, April 24, 2019**

Reception 11:00 a.m. – Lunch and Program 11:30 a.m.

The Junior League of Houston  
1811 Briar Oaks Lane

*Please Reply by April 15, 2019*

**\$45 per person**

This is a Pi Phi-Only event

Founders' Day Co-Chairmen  
Susie McGee    Gail Orr

# Event Photos

## FRATERNITY DAY OF SERVICE AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF HOUSTON



## HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS WITH THE JUNIOR GROUP (LEFT) AND PI PHI CHILDREN (CENTER AND RIGHT)



**HOLIDAY TEA**



**FIRST ANNUAL HOUSTON PI PHI PINK PARTY**



## GOLDEN ARROWS VALENTINE PARTY



## MONMOUTH DUO LUNCHEON WITH HOUSTON KAPPAS

