

# HISTORY OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

## **In the Beginning, Let's get Started**

It all started in 1954. Fourteen (14) young men from all demographics of the United States came together in the Sacramento area, to form a chapter to keep the Brotherhood together and ALIVE. These men were Edward E. Aubert (Alpha Epsilon, U.C. Berkeley, 1935, DMV Analyst), J. Winston Bolden (Alpha Epsilon, U.C. Berkeley, 1932, ABC Investigator), Dr. Roscoe C. Brewer (Alpha Epsilon, U.C. Berkeley, 1922, Dentist), George C. Coker (Alpha Delta, USC, 1927, Social Worker), Dr. James F. Garner (Iota Lambda, Indianapolis University, 1939, Physician), Captain George M. Hubbard, (Beta Kappa, Langston University, 1937, Military), Arthur G. Johnson, (Beta Kappa, Langston University, 1935, Administrator), Kenneth M. Johnson, (Alpha Epsilon, U.C. Berkeley, 1926, Physician), Hovey D. Moore, (Alpha Epsilon, U.C. Berkeley, 1929, Businessman), Dr. James D. Morris, (XI, Wilberforce University, 1938, Dentist), Don H. Nance, (Gamma Chi Lambda, University of Utah, 1952, Civil Engineer), Dr. George S. Stewart, (Beta Mu, Kentucky State, 1941, Dentist), Dr. Arthur Trent, (Alpha Delta, USC, 1940, Physician), William H. Walker, (Beta, Howard University, 1938, Alpha Phi Alpha Executive Secretary, stationed at Beale Air Force Base).

Zeta Beta Lambda got it's beginning in the eve of 1954. Brothers in the area were concerned about the lack of an Alpha chapter, Alumni or college, in the area to foster the Alpha spirit, scholarship, national programs and to promote a partnership with the other fraternities and sororities. This concern went beyond the immediate need to start a chapter, but as a group, to improve educational opportunities, to further the political, economic and the social development of Black people in the community and of course to have comradely.

At a meeting at Brother Don Nance's' home on May 17, 1954, eight Brothers were present: Dr. James Garner, Dr. Arthur Trent, Arthur Johnson, Captain George Hubbard, Dr. Roscoe Brewer, Don Nance, Winston Bolden and Dr. J.M. Morris. Brothers Nance and Morris agreed to act as the temporary President and Secretary, respectively. It was at this first meeting that that the suggestion was made that the Secretary frame a letter to the General Secretary inquiring as to the steps to be taken to form a chapter. There was a consensus of opinion that there should be a Graduate chapter, if possible. And that Graduate chapter would also encompass the Chico, Marysville Stockton and Sacramento Areas.

At the June 8, 1954, Brother Harold Jones, Western Regional Director (now called Vice-President), was in attendance to hear the request of the Brothers. At this meeting Brother Jones suggested forming a Graduate chapter, with an undergraduate pledge club affiliate, until the undergraduate chapter could be formed at one of the colleges.

At a meeting September 9, 1954, Brother Nance presented the chapter petition in final form. A discussion followed as to whether the names of all Brothers should be submitted regardless of their Graduate or Undergraduate status. After an investigation, it was determined all of the Brothers present were Graduate status. An initial fee of \$17.00 was established to cover grand tax, charter and reinstatement fees. A bank account was opened October 5, 1954. Brother Arthur Johnson was appointed as the first Financial Secretary. Brother Dr. Arthur Trent was appointed to draft a chapter constitution. Brothers Brewer and Morris were appointed to be part of the committee. In November of 1954, Brother Harold Jones, Western Regional Director, informed the group that the negotiations were proceeding on schedule for the Sacramento charter and the group should plan for a ceremony. Brother Roscoe Brewer recommended securing the Burgermeister Clubhouse for the ceremony. The charter celebration was scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> or the 11 of December, or as soon as they received the charter. During this meeting two Brothers close the chapters heart were present, Brothers Byron Rumford (Rumford Act), Assemblyman from Oakland and Captain William H. Walker, Acting Executive Secretary Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Founder of Zeta Beta Lambda Chapter. At the December 13, 1954 meeting and in anticipation of the charter being granted, the House was open for nominations and elections of officers. Chapter name is still unknown at this point. Elections are as follows: President, Brother Don Nance, Vice-President, Brother Roscoe Brewer, Secretary, Brother James Morris, Treasurer Brother Arthur Johnson and Sergeant-at-arms Brother Doctor James Garner.

**The charter was dated December 22, 1954. The name given was Zeta Beta Lambda (Lambda meaning Graduate chapter).**

These men exemplified what Alpha was all about. They created the Brotherhood that was necessary to survive the racially torn atmosphere, in the capital city of California that was prevalent at the time in the Sacramento area. For an example, Drs. George Stewart, Roscoe Brewer and James Garner, bought a building in one of the not so good neighborhoods and created a group of offices for them to practice their crafts. They could not even rent a place to practice. As told to me by several of the Founders' that "Nobody would rent to them". So, they had to band together. At one time there were six Alphas in one building. There were dentist, family practioners, psychologist and alike, all in the same building. Brother Hovey Moore was a businessman (owner of the MoMo Club) and a "fair" brother. He used to buy buildings and sell them to the other black professionals, coming to the area. After "the powers that be" found out that he was a Blackman, they had to work a plan not to sell to him, anymore. From the first Zeta Beta Lambda Brunch, held in 1954, by then President Don H. Nance, with the Speaker being Byron Rumford (Rumford Act), to former Speaker of the Assembly, Bro. Willie L. Brown (Delta Omicron), to Former President and Mayor of New Orleans, Bro. Earnest "Dutch" Morial, to Zeta Beta Lambda own, Bro. Dr. Cornel West, one of the aims of the fraternity has always been at the

forefront, "Scholarship". As the years passed, the Brothers of Zeta Beta Lambda Chapter began a major push in politics and helping our young Black men achieve.

### **Trying Times, Staying Alive Politically**

The Brothers began the sixties with trying just to stay afloat. Places to have meetings were hard to find. No one would rent to them. They started to meet at a restaurant called, Posey's Restaurant (10<sup>th</sup> & Q Street), at Brother's homes and Brother Dr. Carl Drake's office basement (Folsom Blvd. & Alhambra). But that did not stop them from becoming, "servants of all". As stated by many of the Brothers, times were very hard. The Klu Klux Klan was rising in the Rio Linda area of Sacramento, with the Grand Wizard residing in that area. We had to fight. We still held fundraising dances. One of the Brothers instrumental in doing fundraisers was Brother Arunious Gay (made at Delta Omicron). He was an entrepreneur and had a liquor license. And Brothers did like their "spirits". We also on a yearly basis had formal dances. This kept the comrade going. After six years of not having a Brunch, Brother William Hight(1962) reinstated the Founder's Day Brunch, with the speaker being our own 1<sup>st</sup> President and founder, Bro. Don Nance.

Brother Willie Brown, Speaker of the Assembly, became our conduit to the capital. His causes became our causes. Brother Milton McGee, Vice-Mayor of Sacramento, also kept the fraternity on its toes. Sacramento became a player in the Western Region by hosting its first Western Regional Convention (1968). Another big move for the chapter was when the University of California, Davis was getting a new Law School. The name Martin Luther King was thrown around. The Brothers marched and fought with all of the zeal they possessed and the name was granted. It became the Martin Luther King Law School, University of California at Davis. The Brunch speakers that followed were geared to the emancipation of education of the young. With no undergraduate Brothers in the area, the Brothers began to a push to establish a chapter at the University of California, Davis or at Sacramento State University. They did not realize that in 1968, four young men attending the University of California who pledged at Stanford University affectionately known as "Deadly DO" or Delta Omicron", even existed. William Eugene Johnson, Henry Charles Andrews, Robert Keith Thompson and Valet Terry, were new Brothers and did not know that there were others, just like them. You see, as this author understood, that the undergraduate chapters did NOT cohesively intertwine with the Graduate chapters and the undergraduates were left to do their thing. This all would change in the next couple of years.

### **Our Prosperous Years**

The 1970's became the "Prosperous Years" for Zeta Beta Lambda they started with new premise, VISIBILITY. With the help of Brothers: Clifton West (Father of Brother Dr. Cornel West), Herman Sanders, Irv Gibson, Marcus Crowder, Charles Townsel, Arunious Gay, Kenneth Ponder and Leon Woods, a chapter was established at the University of California, Davis. The first pledges at the university were: Ronald Braggs, Theodore F. Hayes, Lincoln Douglass Ellis, Robert Clemente Jones, Alfred Gerald Murray and Dennis Reed Ivy. With the help of these Graduate Brothers from Zeta Beta Lambda, the first initiates of the new chapter, later to be named Theta Eta, charter July 1972, were Lincoln Douglass Ellis, Theodore Francis Hayes, Robert Clemente Jones and Dennis Reed Ivy. With the formation of the undergraduate chapter, the Brothers of Zeta Beta Lambda Chapter could increase their viability in the surrounding areas. Brother West was instrumental in helping the Brothers establish the first Black Family Day (1972). Brother Herman Sanders in his infinite wisdom and as head of the Scholarship Committee, felt that to join the undergraduate and the Graduate chapters together, elected to grant one scholarship to an undergraduate. The first recipient was Brother Theodore Francis Hayes, later to be Zeta Beta Lambda's Chapter Historian (1997-2021). Since their actions were limited on the college campus, they worked very closely with the undergraduates to start programs that would help them achieve autonomy and achieve the goals the Alphas admire. As stated, previous, they helped establish, Black Family Day and a tutorial program, on the Indian reservation, in the Davis area, now called DQ University. They also made a bold move and put it in the records that any young Brother, graduating from college, coming to the chapter would not have to pay chapter dues for the first year that they entered Zeta Beta Lambda. The next year they would only have to pay half, that half-year was paid by Brother Dr. James Garner (Founder of zeta Beta Lambda) and then the following year, they would pay full dues (that year was paid by Brother Clifton West. The first Brother to take advantage of this was Brother Theodore Hayes. He later became the Awards Committee chairman (1976-83). In 2000-2014, he became chapter Historian.

After much coaxing by some of the Brothers in the chapter, Zeta Beta Lambda started to contend for regional and national honors. In 1977 Brother Hayes appointed, by Brother Clifton West, as the Awards Chairman, submitted, in 1978 Zeta Beta Lambda for the Graduate Chapter of the Year award at the Regional Convention. Under the direction of then President Brother Heman B. Smith and Past President Clifton West, the chapter came away with, the "Chapter of the Year" award and the "Scrapbook" award. We were off to the National Convention in Minnesota. At the National Convention, our chapter represented the Western Region in fine form. We did not receive the Alumni Chapter of the Year award but the National Awards committee did present us with the Fredrick L. Johnson Award with the "Outstanding Chapter Leadership Award, under the asepis of the National Life Membership Program. This Award was given because our chapter had the most Life Members register for the convention, that year. As the undergraduates began to matriculate to the Graduate Chapter, Zeta Beta Lambda started to participate in all regional programs, of the time. Presidents were Brothers: Kenneth Ponder (1970), Curtis Woodard (1971), Arunious Gay (1972), Ernie Scott (1973), Marcus Crowder (1974-75), Clifton

West (1976-77), Heman B. Smith (1978), and Dr. Charles Townsel (1979-80).

Brunch speakers were: Wilson Riles, Superintendent of Public Education for the State of California (1970), Ronald Dellums, Member of the Senate for the State of California (1972), Willie L. Brown, Jr., Speaker of the Assembly for the State of California (1972), Dr. James Bond, President of California State University, Sacramento (1973), Dr. Julian Bond (1974), Richard Marriott, Mayor of Sacramento (1975), Leo Brooks, Commander of the Sacramento Army Depot (1976), Ambassador Bro. Andrew Young (1977), Coretta Scott King (wife of late Brother Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1978), Maj. Gen. Thomas Clifford (1979)

### **Were Moving on Up**

The 1980's began with a kind of lull in the community. Times were good for minorities. More middle-class communities were starting to form. The chapter was making money and giving out more scholarships. Sacramento was selected by the Region to be the host of its second Western Regional Convention. We were still doing the work of Alpha. During those years our presidents were Brothers: Herman Sanders (1981), Wilbur Beckwith (1982-83), Jacques Barber (1984-85), Eddie Lang (1986-87), and Allan Gordon (1988-89).

Our speakers for the brunches were: Dr. Walter Washington (President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Mayor Tom Bradley, Mayor of Los Angeles, Joe Singleton, First Black Athletic Director at the University of California, Davis, Norma Jean Tucker, one of the Little Rock Nine, Earnest "Dutch" Morial, Former President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Marion Woods, Bro. Willie L. Brown, Jr. Speaker of the California State Assembly, Lt. General Frank E. Peterson and Vickie Miles-LaGrange.

Also, during these years, Zeta Beta Lambda Chapter was awarded the Northern California Founder's Day event. At this event Brothers from throughout the district came to celebrate the founding of Alpha. The Brothers selected Brother Marc Morial, son of Past President Earnest "Dutch" Morial as our speaker. It was not a coincidence that our own Brother James Shelby, Sr. was the CEO of the Sacramento Chapter of the Urban League and Brother Morial was the CEO of the National Urban League. It was an excellent event, enjoyed by all in attendance.

### **Managing Time,**

The 1900's began with Brothers coming back home. With the help of some Brothers, which established a chapter (Theta Beta Lambda) located in Elk Grove, California, now DE chartered, Zeta Beta Lambda started to collectively to continue to do the work that was already Alpha. More emphasis was put on scholarship and educational advancement.

Our Presidents were Brothers: Robert Denmark (1990-91), Irv Gibson (1992-93), Sam Bellow (1994), Vernon Freeman (1995), Herman Sanders (1996), Wilbur Beckwith (1997-98), and Eddie Lang (1999-2004).

Our speakers for our Founder's Day Brunch began with: Bro. Willie L. Brown, Jr., made in Delta Omicron Chapter, Stanford, Assemblywoman Barbara Lee, Admiral Benjamin Hacker, Bro. Henry

Ponder, Maj. Gen. John F. Phillips, Dr. Michael Charles Lucien, Dr. Cornel West, Bro. Tony Brown and finally, our own Bro. Dr. Cornell West, made in Zeta Beta Lambda Chapter in 1998.

### **Reclamation Years**

In 2000, Zeta Beta Lambda celebrated to turn of the Century under the leadership of Bro. Eddie Lang. Our speaker was Bro. Sylvester Shannon, Chaplin for Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

2001 led off with a bang. Bro. Lang continued to be the catalyst for the workings of Alpha in the Sacramento area. Our speaker was Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kevin Douglass, Great-Grandson of Fredrick Douglass.

2002 was another banner year for the chapter. Speaker of the Assembly, Herb Wesson spoke on the value of State service. The idea of becoming members of the House of Representative, Senate, council members and etc.

The 2003 of Annual "Founder's Day Brunch saw twenty (20) students receive scholarships. The guest Speaker was, Mr. Robert J. Flowers, President of Community and External Affairs' Northwestern Region of Washington Mutual (NSYE:WM).

In 2004, Bro. Lang's final year as President saw that many programs began to take shape. The "Founder's Day Brunch brought Mr. Terrance J. Roberts, Member of the Little Rock Nine. Also in this year the Brothers, under the leadership of Brother Vernon Freeman, former Air Force Major and Assistant Superintendent of Del Paso Elementary school District decided to establish the Zeta Beta Lambda Foundation.

In 2005 Brother John Taylor became president of the chapter and was in that position for (7) seven years. It was like a breath of fresh air. With his enthusiasm and excitement, his zest for fraternal accomplishment, he led the chapter into an ear that as one founder proclaimed, "This is what we were meant to do". We began to emphasize the Martin Luther King March, with the young men that we were mentoring. The Juneteenth Program, which had started to become a major focus in the Sacramento area, also became important in teaching our young about our heritage. This event prospered because of the "Brother-to-Be", Gary Simon. He became Director of Cultural Affairs for the Sacramento Tourism Bureau. Also in 2004, Zeta Beta Lambda lost one of its' Founder's, Dr. Arthur Randolph Trent, Jr.

As a result of Zeta Beta Lambda celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2004, the scholarship committee decided to have an all-day seminar with the selected high school seniors to receive the scholarship awards at the upcoming Golden Anniversary Brunch. Typically, the scholarship committee would review the applications, interview the top candidates and select the recipients from the final pool of scholars, only spending time with the applicants during the interview and the Brunch. The Golden Anniversary committee had energized the entire Brotherhood, so the scholarship committee selected Valley High School as its host location for the all-day get together with the selected 2004 Scholarship candidates. The young people were so enthused about the meeting that they did not want to stop for

lunch and wanted to go the entire day. Brothers shared their college experiences and answered questions regarding attending college, leaving home, establishing a budget, and a variety of other life skill development discussions.

The scholarship committee decided to continue the all-day activity during the 2005 cycle for the next group of scholarship recipients and again the result was excitement, and a wonderful time was had by all. One of the ongoing challenges facing the scholarship committee was finding highly qualified young men to compete for the scholarships. Over the past several years, young women were superior to the young men. After much discussion regarding the all-day event held annually now for the scholarship recipients and finding a way to increase qualified male applicants the Alpha Academy was born. Brother's Travis Parker and John Taylor decided that one Saturday per month beginning September 2005 would be a good idea to begin an on-going outreach and mentoring program. It was decided that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, from 10am to 2pm with a modest lunch at noon would work. The monthly even was held at the Lemon Hill Boy's and Girl's Club in South Sacramento.

Bros. John Taylor, Travis Parker, Rickey Boyland and others started an all-day program at Valley High School (2004), to help our young men apply for the Alpha scholarship. Also in this year the Brothers felt the need to help the Senior Alphas, who were having a hard time taking care of their yards and homes and etc... This was called "Brothers Helping Brothers. Brother Theodore Hayes being a General Contractor helped this program function. He assesses this program morphed into the program being transferred to the new Boys and Girls Club, on Lemon Hill Road. Bro. Ken McPeters, an administrator for the Boys and Girls Club, made it possible to use the building, at NO COST. At a meeting of the Brotherhood, Bro. Rickey suggested that the program become a monthly activity. Bro. Boyland, our representative to the March of Dimes, became instrumental in achieving a grant of \$5,000 per year to support the program. As we began to grow and money became tighter, a new place was needed to accommodate the large number of young people in the program.

In 2006, Bro. Travis Parker, a professor at Consumes River Junior College, suggested that we go to his college, for the program. Being an elder statesman in the Los Rios Junior College system, Bro. Parker, conducted conversations with the President of the college, President Garcia and received permission to hold them at the college (2006-present). Because the National organization had started to a concept called the "Alpha Academy", the Brothers felt that that fit right into their concept. Thus the Zeta Beta Lambda Alpha Academy was created. In 2007, with the initiation of Bro. Hassan Abdulmalik, Ed.D, a counselor at Laguna Creek High School suggested that for the betterment of the young men we were mentoring, that we start a program for a parents group.

The combination of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday mentoring and weekly tutoring increased parents' interaction with the Brothers and Parent Support group was formed in 2007 as another facet of the Alpha Academy Program. The Parent Support Group began meeting separately during the Saturday 10am to 2pm mentoring sessions with the young men. The initial facilitator for the Parent Support Group was Brother Crandall Rankins, who passed the responsibility off to Brother Hassan Abdulmalik, and then later Sister

Cloteal Heron, a member of Delta Sigma Theta, joined the team. The Parent Support group went on to create the Alpha Academy Malachi Project at Antioch Baptist Church, the Concerned African American Parents (CAAP), advocacy group at Laguna Creek High School, the brothers of KUUMBA mentoring program at PS7 Middle School, and the creation in 2009 of the Annual Gospel Concert Spiritual Warriors awards programs inspired and initially led by parent Ms. Lailah Muuwakil.

In 2008, Bro. Daryl Pratt suggested that we add some days for tutoring. Initially tutoring was provided Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, but quickly grew Wednesday evenings at the same time, and every Saturday morning from 10am to 12pm. The program has evolved into the Brothers mentoring at Donner Elementary, PS 7 Charter Elementary and Laguna Creek High School. Thru this and programs associated with the Alpha Academy, over \$50,000 has been raised to conduct Alpha business. With all the programs that have been established. The Brothers, under the guidance of Brother Teddy Hayes Chairman and a new Brother to our chapter, Brother Dominic Beaumonte, Zeta Beta Lambda once again led the charge to become "Alumni Chapter of the Year" for the Northern California District. Brother Travis Parker, for all his work to the community and the Western Region was awarded the Northern California District, "Man of the Year, but did not gain the recognition at the Western Regional Convention.

In 2009, the 61<sup>st</sup> Regional Convention selected Zeta Beta Lambda chapter as the Northern California District and the Western Region "Alumni Chapter of the Year". The focus became to be more committed to our National programs. The first installment of the Alpha Academy Newsletter was printed. Our 56<sup>th</sup> Annual "Founder's Day Brunch", was an enormous success. The guest Speaker was the son of one prominent Brother, Bro. Dr. Carl Drake. Dr. Michael Drake is Chancellor at the University of California, Irvine.

### **Achieving Our National Objectives**

The 2010 year started off with the Alpha Academy at Consumes River College, with over 80 young men participating in the program. Also, a first was achieved. Brother Dominic Beaumonte was selected as the Western Region "Alumni Brother of the Year"; this was a great accomplishment for Brother Beaumonte as well Zeta Beta Lambda, it was our first. Also, Bro. Beaumonte became the Advisor to the Western Regional Vice-President, Bro. Aaron Crutison. And once again our chapter was awarded the "Chapter of the Year", for The Northern California District and the Western Region. At the National Convention, we came in second to the Brothers from the Southwest.

### **Onward and Upward**

In 2011, Zeta Beta Lambda once again was awarded the Northern California and Western Regional "Alumni Chapter of the Year". We had a perfect chance to win the award at the National Convention, but once again a chapter won from the Southwest, **again**. They had the "Brother's Keeper Program instituted by the National organization. In that program, younger Brothers help the older Brothers with their yard work, cleaning, cooking, and other things that they or their family cannot take care of. Zeta



Beta Lambda has been doing this type of work for at least 10 years or so. This author has been in this chapter for over 35 years and on several occasions, we did this type of thing for our older Brothers. We just never put a name on it.

2012 was a very eventful year. Once again Zeta Beta Lambda was on the move. Our President, Brother Dominic Beaumonte was awarded and the "Alumni Brother of the Year, for the Northern California District and the Western Region.

After another tremendous year, the chapter experienced two great losses, Brothers Carl Drake (99 years young), known as the Psychiatrist of the stars of Sacramento and Les Gary, singer extraordinaire and George Porter, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen. These were three of the hardest working Brothers in the chapter, despite their ages. They lent their support in any endeavor that the chapter needed.

The New Year brought the Alpha Academy once again to the forefront. Started by The Martha Parker Scholarship fundraiser entitled, "Resiliency of Righteousness: Cultivation of a Spiritual Warrior". As always in an event like this, we began with the Negro National Anthem. The Spirit Award was given to Bro. Hasan Abdulmalik, Ed.D.. Former recipients were, (2012) Deacon Eddie Collins, First Lady Charlene Carthen, Deaconess Mady Griffin, Brother Lamont Harris, (2011) Deacon James Holmes, Sister Angela Jemotte, Soror Archelene Martin, Deacon Clifton West, (2010) Sister Joyce Brown, (2009) Sister Lailah Muwwakkil.

Bro. Dr. Abdulmalik is a counselor extraordinaire at Laguna Creek High School, located in Sacramento, Ca. He has done great things at that high school, not only for our minority kids, but for all the children of the area. Bro. Abdulmalik helped developed the Courageous Connection Program, a high school model designed to create an inclusive and sustainable school culture to better serve our foster youth in public education. He has, in the past six months, been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), a great honor for a great brother. The guest speaker for this event was none other than our own Bro. Dr. Cornel West, made in Zeta Beta Lambda Chapter in 1998. Enough said. Little did we know that a month and a half later Brother Abdulmalik passed away from his disease? Zeta Beta Lambda, under the leadership of Brother Trotter, helped reestablish the undergraduate chapter at Sacramento State, Pi Gamma.

The Scholarship Brunch was a tremendous success. The speaker for the event was the renowned author, Terri Morrison. One of her books and movies were, "How Stella Got Her Groove Back",

Brother Beaumonte instituted a retreat for the chapter. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual retreat was held in Folsom, California in August. This was a time for reflection and new beginnings. At this retreat we discussed how to make the chapter better, set up a plan for the coming year and to set our finances in order.

Once again ZBL was awarded the "Alumni Chapter of the Year" for the Western Region.

ZBL "Family Day Picnic was once again a big success. The chicken, ribs, potato salad and pies of all sorts were a pleasure to behold.

Also, on that same day (August 24, 2013), our own Brother Irv Gipson (Omega Chapter) was honored in Oakland. The Scotland Youth and Family Center dedicated a Flight Simulator Training and Career Exploration Lab in the memory of Major Irv Gipson.

The idea was inspired by the movie "Red Tails". Brother Gipson was an excellent navigator, flying many missions in Viet Nam, including rescuing POWs from the Viet Cong. One example of his skill and heroism as a navigator came when, on a dark night, using only the stars to guide him, he was able to locate a small island in the middle of the Pacific that was lit only by car lights near the runway. He was credited with saving his crew. He was a member of the George S. "Spanky" Roberts Chapter of the Tuskegee Airman, Inc. for fifteen years.

What a great "Alpha Year". The Brothers, under the leadership of Brother Dominic Beaumonte, continued with the spirit of Alpha by hosting the, 2013-14 Northern California District Founders Day Luncheon. It was held at the Courtyard off of Stockton Blvd. The theme was "Black Wellness Brunch". The two quest speakers, future doctors, were Mr. Jeremy Johnson (1<sup>st</sup> year) and Mr. Leon Cushenberry (4<sup>th</sup> year). They are two young from the U.C. Davis, School of Medicine.

The mood was festive and wonderful. Brothers from all over the district attended and renewed acquaintances and swapped stories and lies of days gone by.

We ended this year with another successful event for the ZBL Christmas Promise. This is the eighteenth year of the program. Congratulations to Brother Bill Manning, who has been the spearhead of the program and has created an atmosphere of Brotherhood. A lot of the children have been blessed with the efforts of this program. Thank you to the committee on such a fun affair.

This year's 2014, 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholarship Brunch was well received. This year's theme was "A Legacy of Scholarship and Service. The Speaker was, Brother Dr. Robert M. Franklin Jr., President Emeritus of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He gave an inspiring speech and made a promise to one of our recipients. The recipient is going to attend Morehouse. He promised him that he would give him all of the help that he could as he matriculates through the college.

2014's ZBL Family Picnic was co-sponsored with the Eta Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. The affair was taken to William Land Park.

The Brothers had another successful retreat. This one was held in Bodega Bay. Many topics were discussed to enhance the fraternal bond of the chapter as well as formulated the 2014-15 year. Things that were discussed were: membership, Alpha Academy, chapter meetings, 2015 Brunch, fundraising, District, Regional and National Convention strengths. In the 2014 July edition of "Sacramento's Hub Magazine", our own Brother President, Dominic Beaumonte and Brother Kenneth Johnson (Videographer) were highlighted.

## Sacramento Alphas “Above and Beyond

Brother Danny Jefferson, Pastor of Rehoboth World Outreach Center in Vallejo, California, also a member of Kappa Omicron Lambda was the guest speaker for the 2014-15 ZBL Installation Dinner held on September 10, 2014 at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street Bistro. The theme for the year is **Sacramento Alphas, “Above and Beyond”**.

Our first event of the New Year began with the Alpha Academy. Approximately 60 young men and parent attended. With Brother Jones as the moderator, the event had many lively discussions.

The fraternal year started off on an excellent note. The Brothers were presented with an award by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women at a luncheon. Brother President Dominic Beaumonte accepted the award for the chapter. Our next major function on the agenda for the chapter is the “Black and Gold Ball”.

Under the guidance of Brother Virgil Torrance, Intake Coordinator, a chapter informational went as planned at the AKA House on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave... Three men were introduced to the Brotherhood.

The Black and Gold Ball, our 1<sup>st</sup>, was a fantastic affair. Bro. Cameron Johnson, Acting as Chairman did a fantastic job, for a “Neo”. Present were the 2013 Acting General President, former Western Regional Vice-President Aaron Crutison and the Northern California Regional Director . The affair was attended by many of the Chapter Officers and guest. The menu was: chicken wings, Meatballs, dirty rice, assorted vegetables, fruit, Alpha Cupcakes and assorted wines, sprinkling ciders and other spirits. A toast was given by the President, Bro. Dominic Beaumonte. Music was provided by our own Brother Gary and his group , from Vallejo California.

2014, in this author’s voice, was the “Seconding of Zeta Beta Lambda”

In 1972 the Brothers of ZBL took a definite interest in Theta Eta and helped create “ora”, throughout the campus.

Brother Beaumonte and the Brothers of ZBL did the same thing except to the chapter at Sacramento, Pi Gamma in 2015. It has been refreshing to have a young Brotherhood at a college campus so close and accessible. The young Brother that has been the President for the past 2 years has done a phenomenal job. This year at the Regional Conference he single-handedly helped Pi Gamma win not only the Scholars Bowl, Chapter of the year, but was chosen College Brother of the Year for the Western Region and will be representing the Western Region at the National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Also, at the National Convention, Pi Gamma and Zeta Beta Lambda Chapter were awarded the “Charles H. Wesley award”. This award is given to the two chapters, undergraduate and grad, which work well together, along with other criteria this is going to add to the legacy of Bro. Beaumonte.

Also, 2015, was the year that we lost two of our most coveted Brothers. First was Dr. Charles Townsel. He was a former Chairman of the Brunch for Zeta Beta Lambda; incidentally, he was instrumental in bringing Coretta Scott King (Wife of Dr. Martin Luther King) to be the guest speaker at an earlier brunch and was the former Superintendent of Del Paso Heights School District. His innovations in the field of education led to many changes in the neighborhood, he served. The last was the last "Founder" of Zeta Beta Lambda, Bro. George Stewart.

He was one of two African American dentists in Sacramento in the 1950's. (See Bio)

2016 started out with a bang. Not only will we be hosting the 68<sup>th</sup> Western Regional Convention but under the direction of President Beaumonte, we were awarded the "Chapter of the Year" and the Charles H. Wesley Award winners, for the Northern California District. Now our chapter will compete for the Western Regional awards, leading to the National Convention.

The Western Regional Convention was one the best in the last couple of years. The Brothers competed and won the "Charles H. Wesley Award with Pi Gamma. Excellent job done by all, who set the standard for Western Region.

There was NO rest for the weary. The "Founder's Day Brunch was the following Saturday. Bro. Claude M. Odom Jr., initiated, November 1, 1948, Beta Upsilon, was awarded the "Alpha Man of the Year", for 2016.

2016 was a special year for me as the author of this history. My son, Noah Lee Hayes became a member of the "Greatest Fraternity". After all his years going to Sacramento State, trying to get into the Pi Gamma Chapter, he finally made it into his father's most beloved Fraternity, Zeta Beta Lambda Chapter on November 11, 2016.

Again, the National office took another Brother from our chapter to head a National Program. Brother Dominic Beaumonte, remember the National Office have taken Brother William H. Walker as Executive Secretary of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., became the Chairman of College Brothers Affairs. A Great accomplishment for our dear Brother. Brother Beaumonte had brought this chapter into the electronic era. We had conferences online. We had minutes, notes and emails online. He made the Graduate Chapter work with the undergraduate chapter. Remember, we had just, with the help of the good brother, just reinstated Pi Gamma (Sacramento State University), who had years before had their charter taken away from them. Some years ago, this author was District Director and asked for the charter to be taken. This was mainly because they had been doing some things that were not conducive to the principles of Alpha. Also, some years before, Theta Eta Chapter at UC Davis, also had its Charter taken for unethical practices. And being a "Pearl of Theta Eta" really concerned me. The issue now is can they keep enough Brothers on campus. Also, they need Zeta Beta Lambda to support this and do what we did for Sacramento State University. Can they raise the money needed to keep the Chapter functioning. Can they be HONEST Brothers.

With a new administration coming into being, we will see!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2017-18 year is in full affect. With the new administration, President Bro. Virgil Torrence, the year is up and running. Also Bro. Torrence is the new Northern California District Director. For the first time in a long time the chapter is starting with money in the bank thanks to Bro. Travis Parker and the "Martha Parker Scholarship Fund". Every January, Alpha, due to Bro. Parker, has had program at Consumes River College to celebrate several "Spiritual Warriors". This year is no different. It will again be the last Sunday of the month.

2020—This year started out on a good note BUT then everything turned to SHIT.

With President Virgil Torrence at the helm of Zeta Beta Lambda, his task is to take us through the Covid-19 Crises. We must wear masks and social distance.

Our meetings are virtual. Zoom meetings are the thing of the future. All our programs have been put on hold. Alpha Academy, Martha Parker Scholarship program, Black and Gold Ball, Northern California District conference, Western Regional Conference and finally the Scholarship Brunch. This year we awarded 12 scholarships, but the difference is that we had NO brunch Program. Our installation of Officers was on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Zoom meetings are the norm for us. Chapter meetings and other functions are held via zoom. Our Founder's Day was held via zoom and over 30 Brothers attended. For those Brothers who could not attend the zoom, there was a get together at a restaurant called, Slim and Husky's in Oak Park.

On a side note, the Brothers of Theta eta Chapter, UC Davis, are starting to get together (zoom). And they are discussing getting the chapter together. Being a Founder of the chapter and a former District Advisor, I have told them that it is going to be Very difficult, but we can do it. Firstly, all the brothers that are talking should get financial with the chapter in their areas. If you are in the Sacramento area, get financial with Zeta Beta Lambda. Then you can fight from "the inside". Then you can fight for Alpha.

### **Our Pandemic Years**

Trying to end the 2020 years events, Brother Virgil Torrence is still the President of our Chapter. Back for his, I do not know how many years, has done a fabulous job. He has led the Northern California District to a pheromonal resolve.

Brother Christopher Hicks has led the Alpha Academy to new heights. He has conducted zoom meetings with the young men and has had some great guest speakers. The Sacramento State chapter, Pi Gamma, has been very instrumental in helping with the transition. Brothers Ed Jones and Art McElvey have been doing the work of Alpha by giving us some of the best Seniors in the Sacramento area to choose from. Although there was no Brunch, the young people were awarded their scholarships. Great job to the Scholarship Committee.

As 2021-22 started, we are still in the pandemic, but the brothers resolve is stronger than ever. With the addition some new BLOOD in the chapter, alphas are on the move. The first Zoom Brunch went off successfully. 10 Alpha Scholarships along with the Legacy Scholarship and the Alpha Academy. The Brothers awarded 12 scholarships. The zoom, with my son Bro. Noah Hayes, made in 2016, as the moderator, pulled it off. Tatiana Ali, actress and activist was the Guest Speaker. It was a large undertaking for the Brotherhood, but as we say, it is not too big for ALPHAS. With the zoom Brunch costing in upwards of \$20,000, the brothers have raised about (90%) ninety per cent of the funds needed to pay for the event. Now, the event is going to go viral for (5) five weeks. We are confident that that will raise more money for the scholarship brunch.

As a side note, although Brother Brothers has been with the chapter for some time. With the new administration and new ideology, Brother Brothers has raised more money through his efforts and determination. Through his efforts, this Brother has raised the money needed for President Johnson to complete numerous tasks. I along with other Brothers we congratulate him on a job well done and his continued work.

Our numbers are increasing for Zeta Beta Lambda (45). Summer Retreat in August is set. More planning for the following year.

The 2022-23 Fraternal year started with the installation of the new Officers. Brother Sam Walton was the Master of Ceremonies for the installation. Once again Brother Virgil Torrence was installed as the President. Also, this year Brother Torrence will not be the District Director for the Northern California District. This is a good thing because he has a lot of ideas for the chapter and having only one job in the fraternity is going to make his job MUCH easier. With the innovations installed by Bro. Torrence, our jobs in the fraternity along with emails and the such, makes the transition much easier for the chapter to move forward.

Once again, the chapter led in the NPHC diaper drive. Supplying more than any of the Divine 9.

The Brothers once again instituted the "Adopt a School Program". This year the school is Bowling Green Elementary. The Brothers read to the young ones and told them stories of their college days. Once again, the Brothers of Zeta Beta Lambda, under the direction of Brother Linton Hall has instituted the "Brothers Keeper Program". He is calling widows, doing work at their homes and getting Older Brothers together for get togethers, to let them know that we are still thinking of them. Kudos to Brother Hall.

The second Zoom Brunch of Zeta Beta Lambda was orchestrated by Chairman McElvey. He has done a yeoman's job as the Chairman of the Foundation and Brunch Committee Chairman. The Brothers awarded 12 scholarships The moderator for that Zoom was Kevin John, made in 2022. It was a huge undertaking for the Brotherhood in which, we raised about 90% needed to pull it off. Then the event was going to be shown over the next five weeks to raise the remaining funds, to cover the cost of the zoom plus the scholarships. The Retreat continues.....

Once again, we lost another Brother and Friend in Brother Travis Parker. Brother Parker was one of the first professors to open up Consumnes River College. He started the soccer program that went on to win Junior College State Championships in California. He was one of the Founders of the Alpha Academy for ZBL. He started the tutorial program. He started the Martha Parker Scholarship Program, which helped give over \$100,000 in scholarships to needy students.

The 2023-24 year started out great. Bro. Antonio Johnson was installed as President of the chapter. (As a side note, Brother Johnson is a relative of mine. His Great Grand-Mother is my grandfathers, first cousin on the Hayes side of the family). Brother President with the help of other Brothers sold flavored popcorn, which made a lot of money for the programs that Brother President wanted to institute. Also, Bro. President instituted the hybrid meetings. This is hard for most of the older Brothers. Computers and such. But with the help of the younger teck-savy brothers it worked.

To show that starting the chapter again, during Brother Beaumonte administration at Sacramento State University is paying off. A young man by the name of J. Luke Wood made in 2014 was confirmed as the new President of the University. A coup for the Graduate chapter. This was the first year that the Regional Vice-President mandated that the Graduate chapters in charge of the Undergraduate chapters in their areas.

Brother President also instituted the "Sneaker Ball". A great time was had by all of the Divine 9, in attendance.

At the end of the year, Bro. President instituted a new idea. He was going to celebrate the brothers and former Presidents of Zeta Beta Lambda for their service to the chapter. He gave certificates to the living Presidents and the brothers who are celebrating 25, 50, 60 and 70 years in the fraternity. Former Presidents were Brothers Arunious Gay (1972), Heman Smith (1978), Allan Gordan, (1989), Sam Bellow (1994), Vernon Freeman (1995), John Taylor (2004-10), Domonic Beaumonte ((2011-18) and Virgil Torrence (2018-22), were honored. Also, Brother Allan Gordon (70 yrs. In Alpha) was honored as the oldest living Brother of the chapter.

### A NEW Era for ZETA BETA Lambda

There is a lot of information for 2023. With the new fraternal year beginning, 2023-24. Brother President Antonio Johnson made some new changes to Zeta Beta Lambda and the way it conducts business.

Firstly, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Fraternity and the Chapter.

Secondly, the Alpha Academy is going to be in conjunction with the City of Sacramento at the Natomas Community Center.

Thirdly, under the leadership of Bro. Robert Brothers, Vice President of the new fraternal year, is leading the charge for the Founder's Day event.

In a side note, Brother Semion Gant, made at Theta Eta Chapter at U.C. Davis, created the first charging station in the neighborhood that I grew up in, Del Paso Heights.

Tonight (10/23/2023) was again one of many Alpha Smokers. This Smoker unlike many of the other Smokers that this author has attended was very formal. It was held in a professional manner. Brother Kareem Anderson, Dean, brought in 5 Candidate to introduce to the Brothers in attendance. These individuals exemplified the kind of men that we need in our chapter and in Alpha.

### Past Presidents of Zeta Beta Lambda Chapter

1954--Don Nance	1970--Kenneth Ponder	1886--Ed Lang	2002--Ed Lang
1955--Arthur Johnson	1971--Curtis Woodard	1987--Ed Lang	2003—Ed Lang
1956—Don Nance	1972--Arunious Gay	1988--Allan Gordon	2004—2010 John Taylor
1957--Winston Bolden	1973--Ernie Scott	1989—Allan Gordon	2011-2018 Domico Beaumonte
1958—Arthur Trent	1974--Marcus Crowder	1990--Robert Denmark	2018-2022 Virgil Torrence
1959--William Hight	1975--Marcus Crowder	1991--Robert Denmark	2022- Antonio Johnson
1960--Milton McGee	1976--Clifton West	1992--Irvin Gibson	
1961--Augustus Fairfax	1977--Clifton West	1993--Irvin Gibson	
1962--William Height	1978--Heman B. Smith	1994--Samuel F. Bellow	
1963--Arthur Johnson	1979--Heman B. Smith	1995--Vernon Freeman	
1964--Bill Redmond	1980--Herman Sanders	1996--Herman Sanders	
1965--Leon Woods	1981--Herman Sanders	1997--Wilbur Beckwith	
1966--Leon Woods	1982--Wilbur Beckwith	1998--Wilbur Beckwith	
1967--Alvis Mack	1983--Wilbur Beckwith	1999--Ed Lang	
1968--Alvis Mack	1984--Jacques Barber	2000--Ed Lang	
1969--Kenny Ponder	1985--Jacques Barber	2001--Ed Lang	

### Guest Speakers for the Zeta Beta Lambda Chapter

1954-Bro. Byron Rumford	1970-Wilson Riles	1986-Marion Woods	2002-Herb Wesson
1955- Panel discussion	1971-Bro. Ron Dellums	1987-Bro. Willie Brown	2003-Bro. Robert Flowers
1956- “	1972-Bro. Willie Brown Jr.	1988-Lt. Gen. Frank Peterson	2004-Terrance Roberts
1957- “	1973-Dr. James Bond	1989-Bro. Dr. Cornel West	2005-Thomas W. Hopkins MD
1958- “	1974-Dr. Julian Bond	1990-Bro. Willie Brown, Jr.	2006- Meadowlark Lemon
1959- “	1975-Richard Marriot	1991-Barbara Lee	2007- Dr. George J. McKenna, III



1960-	“	1976-Bro. Leo Brooks	1992-Adm. Benjamin Hacker	2008- Michael Eric Dyson
1961-	“	1977-Bro. Andrew Young	1993-Bro. Dr. Henry Ponder	2009- Alice Huffman
1962-	Bro. Don Nance	1978-Coretta Scott King	1994-Maj. Gen John Phillips	2010- Dr. Michael Drake
1963-	Bro. Dr. James Garner	1979- Maj. Gen Thomas Clifford	1995-Dr. Michael Lucien	2011- Mayor Kevin Johnson
1964-	Bro. Dr. James Garner	1980-Bro. Dr. Henry Ponder	1996-Bro. Dr. Cornel West	2012- Margaret Fortune
1965-	Bro. Milton McGee	1981-Bro. Dr. Walter Washington	1997-No Speaker	2013- Author Terri McMillan
1966-	Bro. August Fairfax	1982-Mayor Tom Bradley	1998-Bro. Tony Brown	2014- Dr. Robert Franklin
1967-	Bro. Bill Redmond	1983-Joe Singleton (AD UCD)	1999-Bro. Dr. Cornel West	2015- Dr. Boyce Watkins
1968-	Br. H. Calvin McMillan	1984-Norma Jean Tucker	2000-Bro. Dr. Sly Shannon	2016- Rev. Jonathan Augustine
1969-	Mayor Lionel Wilson	1985-Bro. Earnest” Dutch” Morial	2001-Sgt. 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Kevin Douglass	2017- Rev. Bro. Donte Quick
2018-	Dr. Gary May (UCD PRES)	2019-Dr. Jason Johnson	2020-No Speaker	2021- Taianna Ali (Actress)
2022-		2023	2024	

### Zeta Beta Lambdas’ “Alpha Man of the Year”

1990--	2000--	2010--		
	1981--	1991--	2001--	2011—Samuel Walton
	1982	1992	2002—Theodore F. Hayes	2012—Marvin Speed
	1983--	1993	2003—Theodore F. Hayes	2013—Greg Berry
	1984	1994--	2004--	2014—Edward Jones
		1995--	2005--	2015--- Virgil Torrence
	1986--	1996--	2006--	2016---Rev. Claude Odom
	1987--	1997--	2007--	2017-
	1988--	1998--	2008--	2018-
	1989	1999--	2009--	2019-Bro. Eddie Lang
	2020-	2021-	2022	2023