

FEATURED STORY: A TRIBUTE TO OUR FOUNDERS

by Jennie Boswell, Courtney Buffington, Kandy Crump, Mary Ellen Elkins and Jane Anne Sutphin

November is a special month of reflection for Sigma Kappa. Not only do we celebrate Thanksgiving and a Week of Giving, but we also pause to celebrate Founder's Day. It is a time to remind ourselves of our blessings and to be thankful for what we have. Have you ever stopped to thank one of your sisters? Perhaps you've thanked your Big Sister for being such a good listener, or an alumna for writing a recruitment introduction form. You might have thanked a sister for remembering your birthday, or an advisor for their hard work with a chapter.

There are five very special women for whom every Sigma Kappa should be thankful. These five women stood together in a time of adversity for female leaders. Five women who worked together, without the use of technology, to research and create beautiful ceremonies. Five women who created something so special that it has lasted 136 years, has spread across the globe, and remains strong today. Mary Caffrey Low Carver was dedicated to building such an organization. With the support of Elizabeth Gorham Hoag, Ida Fuller Pierce, Louise Helen Coburn, and Frances Mann Hall, our five founders created something so brilliant and extraordinary that it extended far beyond the walls of Colby College.

While you are reflecting upon your time as a Sigma Kappa member, ask yourself, "Where would I be today without my Sigma Kappa sisters?" Whether you are a new alumna or a 50 year member, almost any Sigma Kappa would probably share the same answers:

- My time in Sigma Kappa has helped to foster lifelong friendships.
- My time in Sigma Kappa has taught me how to be a leader.
- My time in Sigma Kappa has challenged me to be a better servant to others through philanthropic endeavors.
- My time in Sigma Kappa has taught me to be a loyal friend, sister, peer, student, and employee/r.
- I'm so glad I found Sigma Kappa.

Please take a moment to thank a certain Sigma Kappa in your life and remember that none of this would be possible without those five very special women from Colby College. Reflect on everything they accomplished and the amazing gift we each cherish today. Not only did they lay the groundwork for fond college memories and life-long friendships, but their ideals and diligence continue to provide an example for which we all strive to live by today. We all have them to thank for giving us our beloved Sigma Kappa Sorority.



FEATURES

WELCOME

Happy Founders' Day! *November is the month we celebrate the five courageous women that founded our sisterhood. When I think about our Founders, I often wonder what they would think of us today. I can't help but think how proud they would be of our philanthropic endeavors through the Sigma Kappa Foundation.*

I'm sure they would love spending time together singing recruitment songs, making goodie bags for collegians, and meeting for dinner as an alumnae chapter. Sharing an Initiation ceremony with new members being embraced into our bond would probably evoke emotions that we can't begin to comprehend.

What strikes me most when reading about our Founders is how much fun they had being together. The legacy of sisterhood they left to us is unbreakable.

FEATURES (CONT.)

In this issue of the *Virtual Violet* you will read about one group of alumnae that meet monthly for food, books, and sisterhood. The Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter shares their Founders' Day plans by focusing on our ritual. You will also read a tribute to our Founders from some of our alumnae. Founders' Day is about honoring five amazing ladies. Let's honor them by embracing our sisterhood and the simple joy of being together.

Mary Caffrey Low, Elizabeth Gorham Hoag, Ida Fuller Pierce, Frances Mann Hall, and Louise Helen Coburn: Thank you for inspiring us to live with Voices Strong and Hearts United.

~ Loyally,

Amy

SIGMA KAPPA BOOK CLUB, NINE MONTHS AND GOING STRONG



Reconnecting on Facebook has been one of the great joys for Sigma Kappas all over the world. In one corner of southern California, alumnae from the Theta Epsilon chapter are not only reconnecting on Facebook but in person. Every month for the last nine months, sisters come together to discuss the latest read of the "Sigma Kappa Book Club." The group is made up of 12 alumnae from different new member classes but all Sigmas from UC Riverside. The ladies meet at various houses every four to six weeks over food inspired by the book, wine, and sisterhood to talk about their latest selection. It's been a very exciting nine months and they are looking forward to celebrating their one year anniversary this January.

Book Club Stats

Number of Sigma Kappas: 12

Places traveled: Riverside (our hometown), Venice, Corona, Studio City, Moreno Valley, Rancho Cucamonga, and Culver City.

Books Read: 7

Calories Eaten: Not Counting

Laughs and Great Conversation with Sisters: Endless

SIGMA KAPPA SPIRIT

by Bobbi Wilson

Each year as alumnae we come together on Founders' Day to remember the five young women who founded our sorority back in 1874. These women, who ranged in age from 17-22 years old, had left their homes to venture into the male world of higher education and university life. They did not have telephones or email to keep in contact with family. The three women not from Waterville probably received, at most, a letter from home once a week. So they were truly looking for other women with whom to form a bond of mutual support. These young women knew they were blazing the way for generations of women who would follow them. They were committed to both their academics and their encouragement of one another.

Detailed records were kept of our new Sorority's business meetings and activities. Among the most inspirational of the Sigma Kappa writings are the verses and solemn vows of our ritual which was written by our Founders during their first year together at Colby College. In early 1875, two more young women entered Colby College and they, too, were initiated into Sigma Kappa Sorority. While college life has changed dramatically since 1875, our ritual has remained untouched. Our Initiation ceremony symbolizes the ideals of Sigma Kappa, expressing them in a way they can be remembered. The language is formal and beautiful, yet simple.

Sigma Kappa Initiation provides all members an experience to hold in common no matter how distant our chapters or our homes. This ritual enhances the depth and breadth of the ties that bind us as members of our Sorority. Our members are diverse, but our ritual is the same.

This Founders' Day each one of us should take a few minutes to remember not only our five Founders but also the values on which our Sorority was founded and the inspirational ritual that we all participated in that formed us into "One Heart, One Way."

For many of our members it has been a long time since they've attended an Initiation. Some of us may have forgotten the details of the stories and meaning behind our symbols and traditions. This year, the Philadelphia Alumnae chapter has decided to become reacquainted with our Sigma Kappa customs and lore by holding a Model Meeting as part of our Founders' Day Celebration. We hope this inspirational session will be a time for our members to renew their commitment to Sigma Kappa and remember the ideals on which we all came together.

THE SPIRIT OF SIGMA KAPPA

"Like a gleam of light through the years
runs the silver thread of Sigma Kappa.
Time does not dim the wonderful impression
made on the imagination and on the heart.
when the meaning of Sigma Kappa was first revealed;
nothing else has ever given just the same thrill
as the mystery of that Initiation."

Sara Mathews Goodman, Alpha,
national president 1907-08

SIGMA KAPPA IS INVITED TO COLONIZE AT THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

National Council is pleased to announce Sigma Kappa has been chosen to become the newest sorority at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) in Ewing, NJ. Sigma Kappa was selected to colonize after presenting with two other National Panhellenic Conference groups in September. A special thank you to the presentation team, area alumnae and members of the Kappa Iota chapter, University of Pennsylvania; Theta Delta chapter, University of Delaware and Zeta Phi chapter, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, who represented Sigma Kappa with enthusiasm and professionalism.

The colonization is scheduled to take place in late February on the TCNJ campus. More details on the colonization event are forthcoming and will be posted on SigmaKappa.org > For Sisters Only. To send a Recruitment Introduction Form for an unaffiliated woman attending The College of New Jersey, go to SigmaKappa.org > DISCOVER > Forms & Policies > Recruitment Introduction Form. You can also contact Melinda Mettler, collegiate extension specialist, mmettler@sigmakappa.org or 8733 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Lambda Chapter of Sigma Kappa is celebrating its 100 year anniversary this year! They will be having a Centennial Celebration and Founders' Day Luncheon Sunday, November 14, 2010 at the Claremont Hotel Club & Spa in Berkeley, CA. For Additional information or questions, please contact sklambda100@yahoo.com or Christine Bondurant at 415-830-0963

COMING SOON!

Keep an eye out for the next *Virtual Violet*. The Alumnae Team will be kicking off two exciting programs for Sigma Kappa Alumnae. The first, a legacy registration program where alumnae can register their legacies (daughters, sisters, nieces and granddaughters) with the director of alumnae recruitment. The second, an online bill payment program for alumnae per capita.

SHOP SIGMA KAPPA

Herff Jones is featuring the Sigma Kappa Hearts United Ring on sale in time for the upcoming holidays! The Hearts United Ring in Sterling Silver (normally \$123.00) is on sale for \$95.00 and the Hearts United Ring in 10k gold (normally \$302.00) is on sale for \$250.00!

Also, Herff Jones is offering complimentary shipping and handling on orders over \$50.00. Use the promo code [0000] when you check out!

For more information, please contact Pamela Levy, associate director of finance, at plevy@sigmakappa.org, phone (317) 381-5508 or the Herff Jones website.

HAVE A LEGACY?

Recommend a New Member: Have a potential new member to recommend? Go to the Recruitment Introduction Form on SigmaKappa.org > Discover > Forms & Policies > Recruitment Introduction Form

OUT & ABOUT

Has your chapter raised more for the Foundation than they've ever done? Has a sister had a great accomplishment that your entire chapter is proud of? Announce it in the Sigma Kappa Out and About section on the website.

To view the announcements, kudos, etc. that are already there, head to SigmaKappa.org > DISCOVER > The SK in You > Out and About.

To submit an announcement, just click the "Submit to Out and About" button on the right hand side of the page.