

### **History of the Delta Delta Delta Baltimore Alumnae Chapter**

This was read by Mary Linkous at Founder's Day-Nov. 22, 2008 (100th Anniversary)  
Tarks Restaurant, Greenspring Station, Lutherville, MD

Our Chapter was founded on May 30, 1908. It was the 20<sup>th</sup> Alumnae Chapter (or "Alliance" as they were called at that time) of Delta Delta Delta. Elizabeth Leutscher, who was an immediate past national President, was our first Chapter President. Included among the 11 charter members were 2 former Trident Editors, and the editor of Tri Delta's very first songbook. These, along with a small group of girls who recently graduated from Goucher, were the founders.

As you might expect, we were a small group in the early years but we had a lot of fun. As you know, in the early 1900's, very few women even attended college and only a select few of these became Tri Deltas. Consequently, the early members of our group were very intelligent, well-rounded, and forward thinking women ... the "liberated women" of the time. During those days, people weren't as transient as they are today so most of the Chapter activities involved support of the old "alma mater", Goucher. Those early members are no longer with us, though many were active for many, many years. Under their guidance, the Chapter worked to support the Nursery and Children's Hospital. The members were very proud of the 6 sweaters and 14 pairs of rompers made by members for the Hospital.

In 1922, Janet Tome, then President, was chosen as our first delegate to the National convention in Ithaca, NY. Since then sending a delegate to every Tri Delta Convention has been a goal of the chapter. In 1923, the Fraternity Alumnae groups in the area were forming a Panhellenic group with 2 members from each Greek group. Tri Delta, of course, became a charter member of this group and has been an active participant ever since.

By 1928, our Chapter was thriving with 20 active and 20 inactive members. Work for the Children's Hospital continued and we presented the Goucher Chapter with a \$25 to help refurbish their house (today's value of that amount would be about \$600, so this was a sizeable donation at the time.)

In 1929, the depression hit this country. The Chapter, however, continued to thrive, perhaps because during difficult times, friendships and traditions are especially important. In 1930, our membership totaled 24. With money raised through sales and parties, we bought the Goucher Chapter draperies, a piano, rugs and lamps ... the following year, the chapter repaid us by getting the highest grades in 8 years, an 80.76 average!

In 1933, National Vice President, Mrs. Ellsworth visited Baltimore and announced that a charter would be granted to the local Alpha Lambda Chi at the University of Maryland. Later that year, the Alpha Pi chapter of Delta Delta Delta was installed.

Year 1935 found Chapter members selling chances for a trip to Bermuda. The chapter made \$400 (which would be over \$7,000 by today's standards, so that was a lot!). Pot Luck Suppers were in big demand at that time, and members were still, of course, busy with the Goucher Chapter. We gave them a kitchen shower, and also set up a fund to help worthy Tri Deltas at Goucher pay their dues.

Our first By-Laws were drawn up in 1938. Then in 1941, Tri Delta left Goucher and we were kept busy selling furniture. These were the war years and our support turned to the war effort. We bought 2 ping pong tables for the USO and slippers were made for soldiers at the members' expense. We gave a party for the service men and invited the Alpha Pi chapter to participate.

From 1943 to 1946, Muriel McFarlin, who was well known in our group, was President. She organized the supper meetings and under her able leadership, our first yearbook was published. Three years later, Ruth Musser, a Goucher Alum who was very active for many years, became President. Ruth, by the way, not only served as President twice, but also helped install the Maryland Chapter. During these years, Christmas parties at Hilltop to cheer the children were enjoyed by all. The Chapter once had a fashion show of our rummage that was later sold. Theater parties were frequent and fun. Convention was in Banff, Canada, and 11 attended from Baltimore with the help of funds raised by a bridge party. Attention was turned to the Maryland Chapter and money was raised to buy a stove and lamps for the chapter house.

Florence McKenny, another active member, took office in 1950. Florence, who went on to become a National Director, had the distinction of being one of the first Alpha Pi initiates. She was initiated the year the chapter was installed. During these years, the auction was a very popular meeting. We sold homemade foods and handicrafts contributed by members. There was the annual filing job. We were paid \$100 for this job and we all enjoyed the fellowship, and grew closer because of it. (For those who don't remember, we filed cards annually for a local criss cross directory published by a member's husband. Does anyone recall who that was? We met at various homes and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We had grown quite large by this time and had nearly 50 active members.

In 1960, Irma Harrington, came into office. Under her leadership, our membership increased to 70 dues paying members and many others who were active. The Afternoon Group was born. This group was responsible for making a set of 40 luncheon mats and hot plate mat covers, which we presented to Univ of Maryland for their Founder's Day.

Ah, the 60's ... with such a large active membership, we accomplished so much. Does anyone remember the Vanishing Bridge System or the afternoon luncheons that we held downtown in order to accommodate the members who worked and were on their lunch

hour? Remember the food tasting at the research center? We didn't earn that much doing it but had a lot of fun. In the 60's our meetings were so large that we had a set of trays that we would use when refreshments were served as most of us didn't have enough dessert plates to serve everyone. Betty Lou Anderson was a President during the 60's and is with us today. We no longer had the Filing job and earned money instead by selling ribbon, perfume and used clothing. We presented the Alpha Pi Chapter with the Silver Service from the Goucher Chapter ... and initiated the annual pot luck/white elephant auction which became a tradition and was very popular.

Ginny Spittel was president as we entered the 70's. The Greek system in general was having a difficult time during this period and the number of young alumnae was on the decline, which was starting to affect our chapter. Under Ginny's able leadership, we started our booth at the Towsontown Fair ... this was in 1970 and Gail Mosher, (who also served as our trusty Treasurer for 30 years) was the first chairperson of the Fair event. It continued as our major money maker into the 90's, for a total run of 23 years! Our profit some years was over \$1,000. We decided to eliminate the Fair Booth as the vendors changed to be more commercial, and it became more expensive to participate, as well as patrons becoming more "diet conscious" and not so quick to enjoy baked goods and Mosher fudge at the fair. The Mosher's made 100 lbs of fudge for the Fair in it's peak years and Sara Potter would trek to the Eastern Shore for our inventory of beaten biscuits. [Ask Gail and Sara to say a few words or share a story or two about the Fair.]

Also in the 70's, we held a successful drive to obtain a kidney machine for a local hospital in order to benefit one of our member's sons. We collected thousands of Betty Crocker coupons with the aid of Washington, DC and Northern Virginia chapters and these were used to help purchase the machine.

Many of the Chapter Presidents from the 70's are still active today... Sara Potter (formerly a District President), Barbara Weaver (who served in many positions) ... and Janet Hogle. Remember the Christmas party at Marty Grill's when we raffled off the autographed football from the Baltimore Colts? Tom Mitchell, a Colt player whose wife is a Tri Delta, was there to present it to the winner. These days saw a number of our members doing in-store market research for JoAnne Bates, a Tri Delta in Northern Virginia. Our membership had declined at that point but members worked hard.

At the 1982 Convention, we received 2 awards ... one for chapter programming and one for Outstanding Achievement for an Alumnae Chapter. In 1983 our Chapter celebrated it's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Sandy Watkins was President. Barbara Hoover (now Weaver) read the Chapter history in costume as if she were the "spirit" of the chapter. The early 1980's proved the Chapter's strength. Having weathered the anti-Greek movement of the early 70's, our membership was again on the rise ... we set up a network of Deltas helping Deltas which not only helped to provide housing and job counseling for collegiates coming into the area for job interviews, but was a resource for us all to use. We annually gave \$250 to the Alpha Pi Chapter, and through various fundraisers, contributed to cancer research efforts. We often planned Chapter events to take place where members lived since they could not get out easily and join us elsewhere. For instance, for many years in

the 80's, Founders' Day was held at Roland Park Place, a retirement home, with Alice Sundberg as our hostess.

In April 1985 Jocelyn Cenna chaired the Potomac Regional Meet at the University of Maryland for the "Tri Delta Triad" attended by 174 Deltas from the area.

In 1986, Barbara Hoover (now Weaver) was honored at the Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona, as 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up for the Ernestine Block Grigsby Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions as an Alumnae. We were super proud of Barbara then and continue to be and thank her for her dedication to Tri Delta.

Also in 1986, the chapter earned \$526 for our Sleighbell philanthropy by selling tickets to "A Night on the Town". A check for \$400 was given to the Joanne Rockwell Memorial House, a temporary home for patients and families undergoing treatment at the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center. Another fundraiser we organized for the benefit of the Rockwell House was the "Soiree on the Bay" silent auction. This actually took place as an Inner Harbor cruise on the Bay Lady in '89 & '90, then moved to the deck of the Bay Café in Canton until 1994. We continued our silent auction expertise for a couple more years by holding one in conjunction with racquetball tournaments at Merritt Athletic Clubs benefiting the Children's Cancer Foundation

In 1987 members attended the PA-NJ- DE Regional Meet hosted by the Wilmington, DE alumnae.

In 1988, I (Mary Linkous) had the privilege of representing the Baltimore Alumnae chapter at the National Convention in Boston celebrating 100 years since our national fraternity founding. I carried the Goucher College flag at Convention and was very proud to do so. Our Chapter President at the time, Jocelyn Cenna, was attending as a Collegiate District Officer. We won the Newsletter/PR Award at the convention. That event was a huge celebration that will be forever remembered by those of us who attended.

Beginning in 1990, we began the tradition of holding our fall "kick-off" event at the home of our very gracious host, Sara Frances Shay in Linthicum. Hard to believe it's been 18 years -- and Sara has weathered them well.

In April, 1991 we took a "road trip" to the Potomac Regional Meet at William & Mary -- 7 of us went with Sandy Watkins, our trusty driver. Of course we couldn't leave Williamsburg without a stop at the pottery factory!!

In the 90's we held events at various places including: the Hampton Mansion, Ladew Gardens, Babe Ruth House, and Boordy Vineyards. We had pool parties, game nights, ice cream socials, wine tastings, cookie swaps, pottery and scrapbook nights. We had speakers on the subjects of: gardening, pearls, wine, cooking, massage therapy, and fashion. We attended baseball and hockey games.

To celebrate our 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday at Founders' Day in 1998 Jayne May Miller reprised the role of our founder, dressing in the same 1888 garb worn by Barbara Weaver 15 years earlier and reading our Chapter history.

Since the turn of the century we've had pansy sales, pound auctions, and consignment shop fundraisers. We decorated pumpkins with the kids at Ronald McDonald House and built stuffed bears to donate to the children. More recently we have had parties with residents of the House of Ruth and helped prepare suppers with the families staying at the Children's House at Johns Hopkins. Our support of the collegiate chapter at University of Maryland includes attending Pansy Brunches for graduating seniors, making graduation gifts and sending care packages. Several members have served as advisors for the chapter over the years.

Since the mid 1980's several members have been Tri Delta volunteers on a National level – Sara Potter, Sandy Watkins, Jocelyn Cenna, Stacey Carroll, Amy Woodward, Nancy Teich, Jennifer Schwartz, Mary Linkous, and Jenn Nyland have all given of their time to help the Fraternity.

We worked hard on membership in year 2000 and with the guidance of Membership Chairperson, Leigh Samsel, our chapter broke through the 50 dues paying membership ceiling. Today, in 2008, we have 36 dues paying members and welcome **all of you** to join and help our chapter by paying dues.

We have had many devoted leaders of our chapter over the years – many serving as Chapter President (you may see that list in your program), many holding other officer positions, and many others just participating in events, working on projects and supporting one another to make us successful. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your love and devotion to Tri Delta and to our Baltimore chapter.

As for 2008, you can view our Chapter Activities in our newsletter and some of our events are even listed in today's program. We're doing lunches and dinners all over town, as well as fundraisers and philanthropy events – and having just “for fun” get-togethers. We welcome **you** to join in and become a part of our great tradition and sisterhood bonds in Baltimore. Remember – Tri Delta is for a lifetime. Being a part of our alumnae chapter makes that happen.

Thank you for allowing me to share our 100 year history with you today! Let us continue and keep it going! We want to have lots more to add to the history for the 200<sup>th</sup> celebration!!!

Note: Keynote speaker for today's event was Sarah Coons Lindsay, past National President of Delta Delta Delta. Thirty-one ladies attended.