



President's Letter

Dear Sisters & Friends,

Happy New Year to all of you!! I hope that you have a wonderful time ringing in and celebrating the start of a brand new year.

January 1st marks an important day in our chapter's history. On January 1st, 1932 our chapter was officially chartered by founding members Alice Stone Humphrey, Marguerite Waste, Mildred Tyson, Ruth Harsha, Olga Darina, Jettie Demark, Bertha Fuller, Henrietta Blackwell, Lillian Jackson, Doris Davison, Ethelwyn Martz, Evelyn Brayshaw by then National President Gertrude Evans. Thanks to these twelve ladies we have been able to encourage, nurture and support the art of music. Happy 78th Birthday to our fantastic chapter.

In honor of our chapter's 78th year of being installed, this newsletter will focus on the history of Sigma Alpha Iota and the New York Alumnae Chapter. I hope you enjoy this special "walk down memory lane" newsletter.

Love & Roses,

Michelle Ingram

Next Newsletter Deadline... Wednesday, January 20

Send submissions to the editor at quasigeek@gmail.com or 845-649-6132

Visit www.sainyac.com for a complete list of deadlines throughout the year.

January 2010

Angela Zurlo, Editor

In this Issue

Page 2

- History of NYAC
- Spotlight on People-to-people
- Inter-American Music Awards

Page 3

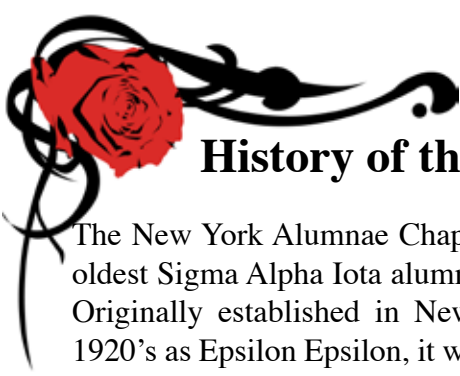
- Nucleus of SAI

Page 4

- SAI Awards

Page 5

- Upcoming Events



History of the New York Alumnae Chapter

The New York Alumnae Chapter (NYAC) is one of the oldest Sigma Alpha Iota alumnae chapters in the nation. Originally established in New York City in the early 1920's as Epsilon Epsilon, it was officially chartered under its present name in 1932. Although we are not really sure yet exactly when they first came together, earliest Pan Pipes records of Epsilon-Epsilon fraternity activities date from 1926. NYAC currently draws its membership from the greater New York metropolitan area including all five boroughs, Long Island, southeast New York State, and northern New Jersey, including associate members who reside all across the United States.

The NYAC has been honored to be the recipient of numerous National Awards. In 1986 they were awarded the Phi Province Alumnae Chapter Achievement award. In 1995 they won the Phi A Alumnae Chapter Achievement Award, in 1997, 2002, and 2003 they won the Phi C Alumnae Chapter Achievement Award, and in 2004 and 2005 they received the Phi B Alumnae Chapter Achievement Award. They were also honored with the Annelle

Chandler McAdams Community Service Award in 2003 and 2004. In 2003 and 2004 they were selected as a top 10 finalist for the National Alumnae Chapter Achievement Award, and in 2005 they received the National Alumnae Chapter Achievement Award for achieving distinction in fulfilling the National and local objectives. From September through June, the NYAC holds meetings and special events throughout the metropolitan area.

Annual special events include a holiday dinner, a special Benefit Concert, Service Projects and an American Musicale showcasing the talent of chapter members in works by American composers. Social events are held on a monthly basis for recreation and to foster sisterhood.

Committees are the heart of activity within the chapter, and currently the NYAC boasts 16 active committees committed to the advancement of the local and National objectives to further the aims of this charitable music philanthropy. With so many activities going on, there is bound to be something to match every members' talent, skills and enthusiasm in any given month.

Spotlight on People-to-People

Since 1964, SAI's influence has been felt by musicians in many areas of the world through People-to-People projects. The program promotes the welfare of music in needy countries by providing worthy but poverty-stricken or war-damaged institutions in foreign countries with instruments and accessories, scores, books, teaching materials and encouragement that they could not otherwise obtain.

Musicians in more than 75 countries – including such diverse locations as Haiti, Colombia, Belize, Botswana, China, Chile, Madagascar, Mongolia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Kenya, and Zimbabwe, to name a few – have received invaluable aid through this program. Individual chapters frequently make significant contributions to particular projects.

Inter-American Music Awards

A triennial composition competition established in 1948, the Inter-American Music Awards are open to composers residing in North, Central and South America, with no age limit.

Two major American composers are invited to judge each IAMA competition. In addition to their judging responsibilities, the composer-judges each write a work to be published in the Sigma Alpha Iota IAMA series. Current or former students of either of the announced judges are ineligible to apply.



This competition has had only three judges since being established in 1948. All three of these judges have been members of the New York Alumnae Chapter. Those judges include Eugenie Dengel and Sara Bong, who is the current director.

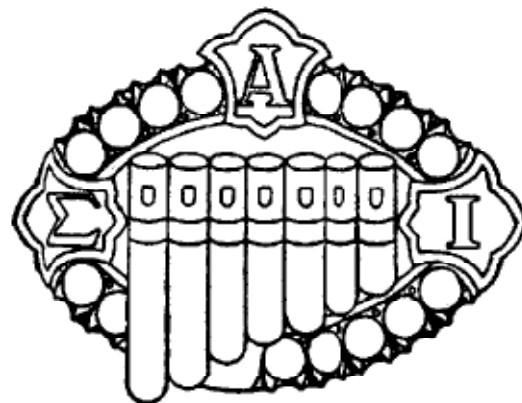
The Nucleus of Sigma Alpha Iota

We all know that Sigma Alpha Iota was founded on June 12, 1903 at the University School of Music in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The Charter Members which we refer to as our Founders today were Elizabeth Campbell, Frances Caspari, Minnie David Sherrill, Leila Farlin Laughlin, Nora Crane Hunt, Georgina Potts, and Mary Storrs Anderson. On June 12, 1903 the seven founders met in the library at the home of Elizabeth Campbell and “solemnly pledged themselves to help each other with sisterly affection, to stand for the highest musical scholarship, for nobility and uprightness of character and for the maintenance of friendly and unselfish relations among women in the musical profession.” Following that pledge, with Georgina Potts serving as secretary, the first official meeting of the new society was under way. Sigma Alpha Iota was born that day. It is unknown if the founders were themselves were initiated, but the first initiation ceremony was written by Minnie Davis Sherrill as well as presided over the first initiation.

Along with the seven founders of Sigma Alpha Iota, there were four others that made up the nucleus from which Sigma Alpha Iota was developed. The additional four people were Elsa Gardner Stanley, Albert A. Stanley, Ella Butler Babcock and Fredreka B. Howland.

Elsa Gardner Stanley was the daughter of Albert A. Stanley and Ella Bollock Stanley. She studied and taught at the University School of Music in Ann Arbor, MI. Ms. Gardner wanted SAI to maintain high standards and worked in every way possible to aid the Alpha Chapter in setting and achieving those standards. Elsa designed the sorority’s charter. She also served as the second President of the Alpha Chapter. In addition Elsa and Elizabeth Campbell took a trip in December 1904 and installed the Beta Chapter in Evanston. Although, she also declined to be listed as one of the founders, the seven founders sometimes affectionately referred to her as “the invisible pipe of Pan.”

Elsa’s father, Albert A. Stanley was the Director of the University School of Music as well as a pianist and organist. Mr. Stanley encouraged the establishment the chapter of Sinfonia (now known as Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia) at the School. In the spring of 1903, Minnie Davis Sherrill approached Mr. Stanley to seek permission to start a music sorority comparable to Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. Mr. Stanley was not immediately receptive to the idea. Once Minnie assured him that the organiza-



tion would be a “music improvement society” that would promote excellence of music he approved and offered assistance as well as support. The assistance from him proved to be invaluable. Mr. Stanley was a Greek scholar, and with his advice and guidance authentic Greek elements were incorporated into SAI, its music, its ritual, and its procedures.

Ella Butler Babcock was the first patroness member to be initiated into Sigma Alpha Iota on June 12, 1903. Mrs. Babcock participated in many of the programs of the Alpha Chapter. She virtually made her home headquarters for the chapter’s meetings and social gatherings. Joint programs with Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia were also held at her home.

Fredreka B. Howland was the second patroness member to be initiated by the Alpha Chapter. Her initiation seems to have been done under the new ritual that was written during 1903 – 1904 academic year. Although she didn’t teach, Fredreka’s husband William Howland was the Head of the Vocal Department at the University School of Music. She showed a keen interest in her husband’s students, encouraged the younger pupils, and was especially appreciative of the accomplishments of students in the Artist course of study. Throughout her life Fredreka was interested in Sigma Alpha Iota and supported its aims and endeavors. She was a member of the Alpha Chapter until the early 1940s and then transferred to the Sigma Chapter.

The future of our fraternity laid in these eleven’s hands, minds, actions and achievements during Sigma Alpha Iota’s informative years.

Sigma Alpha Iota Awards

One of the greatest privileges of the fraternity is recognizing its members and chapters for outstanding service and performance through leadership and fulfillment of the ideas of the fraternity. The awards that are given to individual alumnae members include:

Sword of Honor: a tiny gold sword given for outstanding fraternity service or for exceptional campus or community leadership, providing the member has maintained loyal support of fraternity activities.

Patroness Sword of Honor a tiny sword given to a patroness member that has given outstanding fraternity service or for exceptional campus or community leadership, providing the member has maintained loyal support of fraternity activities.

National Alumnae Leadership Award (Diamond Sword of Honor) is awarded to an alumnae chapter member. The award is based on the following criteria:

- *Outstanding or extraordinary service in all three of the following fields: fraternity, local chapter, and community
- *Fulfilled all duties in each office held in an outstanding manner
- *Made a special contribution to the program of the chapter
- *Brought honor and distinction to the chapter through exceptional community leadership
- *Must be a current member of the SAI Alumnae Association
- *Must be in good standing with the chapter financially and participate in chapter meetings and functions
- *Must have received the Sword of Honor

Rose of Honor a tiny gold rose with a ruby center, is presented to a member who has given outstanding or extraordinary service in all three of the following fields: the fraternity beyond the local level, the local chapter, and the community.

Rose of Dedication is presented to a member who has given outstanding or extraordinary service in all three of the following fields for a minimum of 25 years: the fraternity, the local chapter, and the community.

Rose of Constancy is awarded after the Rose of Dedication. It is given for continued outstanding/extraordinary service, for a minimum of 35 years following college graduation, to the fraternity (beyond the local level), local chapter, community and musical activities.

Dorothy Whinery Special Leadership Award is given for outstanding leadership in the national organization. Originally

named the Special Leadership Award, it was renamed to honor Dorothy Whinery's years of service as National Executive Secretary (from 1956-1992).

Ring of Excellence is the fraternity's highest award. It may be given by the National Executive Board or by a chapter.

Wreath of Achievement is a new fraternity award that was unveiled at the 2006 Convention Appreciation Luncheon, hosted by the NEB and the Philanthropies Board. It is awarded after the Rose of Honor and before the Rose of Dedication. It is given for continued outstanding/extraordinary service to the fraternity (beyond the local level), local chapter, community and musical activities.

National Outstanding Alumnae Treasurer's Award is given annually to one outstanding treasurer at the alumnae level. A winner is chosen from nominations submitted to the National Vice President, Finance by province officers and alumnae chapters.

There are also awards that can be given to individual alumnae chapters. NYAC has been lucky to receive national awards throughout our 78 years. They include:

National Alumnae Chapter Achievement Award is given annually to chapters whose officers and members have achieved distinction in fulfilling the following criteria

- * The National Objectives
- * Completion of the chapter's local obligations: financial good standing, support of college chapter(s) when located in the vicinity, good relationships with local patroness members, development and/or implementation of community music projects, participation in Province Day activities.
- * Completion of the chapter's national obligations: financial good standing, good relationships with province and national officers by submitting all required and especially requested reports on time, and support of national projects through participation and financial contributions.

National Music Education Awards Alumnae were first presented in 2003 to the college and the alumnae chapter with the most outstanding project benefitting music education.

Annelle Chandler McAdams Alumnae Service Project Award is given annually based on the following: the type of service, defined as something for others, not a fundraiser to benefit the chapter; the percentage of chapter members involved in the project; the originality of the project; and the financial good standing of the chapter.

Upcoming Events

Jan 10

Formal Meeting/Mini Musicale

Sunday, January 10, 3:00 p.m.

Hostess: Aimee Steele (340 W. 57th, St #4B)

RSVP: 917.575.5585 or aimieemsteele@gmail.com

January Birthdays

Dena Holland	1/3
Lucy Hook Porter	1/7
Rachelle Hoffman	1/15
Mirian Conti	1/17
Sue Landis	1/19



Feb TBA

Service Project: Valentine's Day Sing

Performance for NY Foundling Hospital
590 Avenue of the Americas

Feb 20

Informal Meeting/Mini Musicale

Saturday, February 20, 3:00 p.m.

Hostess: Kat Maresco

(110 Washington St, apt 4R)

RSVP by 2/10, kathleen.maresco@gmail.com or
732.600.0774

March TBA

NYAC Benefit Concert

Hostesses/info:

*Jenellen Fischer, jenellen@earthlink.net or
212.582.1428

*Kat Maresco, kathleen.maresco@gmail.com or
732.600.0774