

Mile-High AOTT

HOME OF THE DENVER ALUMNAE CHAPTER

SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER



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Founders' Day 2024

Letter from the President

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the 127th Founders' Day at The Ranch. It was a beautiful day with nearly 50 sisters, including Epsilon Gamma, celebrating our founding and sisterhood. We raised over \$550 for the Ruby Fund to assist sisters in need and collected 30 stuffed pandas for the Arthritis Foundation's JA Summer Camp and recognized two sisters for their dedication to AOII: Emery Smith received the Edith Cope Lockard Life Loyal Scholarship and Jean Nelson received the DAC Sisterhood Award.

At Founders' Day, I was thrilled to announce that the DAC has formed a national committee to create a Tracy Maxwell Let Your Light Shine Scholarship. Our goal is to establish an endowment fund that will allow the AOII Foundation to award an annual scholarship in Tracy's honor. \$2500 will be awarded to a sister who embodies Tracy's drive to shine a light on world issues (like hazing) and endeavors to create change in the future. The DAC has made an initial pledge of \$1000 and a matching gift of \$750. Look for more details in your inbox when the fundraising campaign officially kicks off on February 20th.

Shout-outs of our amazing sisterhood events and community involvement from the Summer/Fall:

- 👉 Bookies is in our 20th season!
- 👉 In addition to volunteering at Newborns in Need with Panhellenic and our trail cleanup, we actively supported other initiatives:
 - 👉 Raised \$750 for the Arthritis Foundation at the Strike Out Arthritis Rockies Baseball
 - 👉 Raised \$750 in November with our Butter Braids campaign, which has been dedicated to the Tracy Maxwell Let Your Light Shine Scholarship Fund
 - 👉 Team Panda raised \$2000 at the Jingle Bell Run

As usual, we have exciting Spring programming planned: the usual Bunco, Bookies, Thirsty Thursday Happy Hour, and Lunch Bunch as well as a trip to the Denver Center of Performing Arts to see Hairspray, the ever-popular 50-Year Tea and a visit to Coors Field to Strike Out Arthritis at the Rockies Game.

Upcoming DAC Board Elections will be held on May 4th at the 50-Year Tea. Debbie Tam will serve as the Nominating Chair for the 2024-26 Board. Please reach out to her at aoiidebbie@gmail.com or a current board member for information if you'd like to be considered for a board position.

Thank you to the board who has served the DAC over the last two years: Ginger, Holly, Julie, Amelia, Clara, Jen, Micayla, Jessica, Angela and Tracy. In addition to giving their time and financial support to the DAC, this group of women makes the events and activities happen.

I often hear stories about how our group has a little something extra here. I'd like to thank each of YOU for that - it is your participation and support that creates the sisterhood experience we are so fortunate to have here in Denver. Thank you!

Roses,
Lisa.



2022 - 2024 Board Members

President - Lisa Poché
Secretary - Angela Baker
Treasurer - Clara Tomsula
VP Programming - Amelia Thomas
1st Panhellenic Delegate - Ginger Swift
2nd Panhellenic Delegate - Holly Vogel
Membership Chair - Tracy Maxwell
Philanthropy Chair - Julie Eck
Founders' Day Chair - Jen Ballard
Public Relations / Archivist Chair - Micayla Bellamy Adams
Ways & Means - Clara Tomsula

If you are interested in joining the Board contact Debbie Tam at aoiidebbie@gmail.com



Sister Shout Outs

Jean Nelson - Jean is always an adventure of many talents, never a dull conversation. Her experiences far and wide give her the versatility to bond with sisters of all generations. Over the past year, she has gone above and beyond to support one particular sister: Tracy Maxwell. Jean has hosted movie/ keto weekends, gone out of her way to bring Tracy to AOII events, helped Tracy shop for a new phone, and encourages others to help Tracy.

Jean was the recipient of this year's Sisterhood Award.

We want to know about all the incredible things our members do! Tell us about a sister and why she is so great so we can share the news! Fill out the form at milehighaoii.com.

Chapter Goals Update

- ❁ Have 100 Dues-Paying members by our 100th anniversary in 2027 - We currently have 53 dues-paying members! Registration for the 2023-24 season is due February 26th. Learn more below.
- ❁ Fill a table at the 2024 Panhellenic Scholarship Luncheon - RSVP info coming soon.
- ❁ Raise \$1,000 at Strike Out Arthritis - June 4th - Tickets available now!
- ❁ Increase connectedness with Epsilon Gamma chapter through networking, mentorship, and coordinated philanthropy events. EG is hosting an alumnae tea event on February 2nd! Check our Facebook group for more info.



Membership

Our chapter's 100-Year Anniversary is in 2027! Become a dues-paying member this year, and each year following, for free entry to our celebration event!

Our membership packages are tiered. All include international and chapter dues and To Dragma subscription.

For new alumnae, we offer a This Year's On Us membership, where the chapter covers your dues for the year!

Join the DAC at

<https://www.milehighaoii.com/plans-pricing>

Get involved with the Denver Alumnae Chapter

- ❁ Make sure your dues are paid
- ❁ Reach out to a few sisters you haven't heard from in a while and invite them to a DAC event!
- ❁ Follow our Instagram [@milehighaoii](#) and join our Facebook Group [Alpha Omicron Pi, Denver Alumnae Chapter](#)
- ❁ Sign-up for emails through our website www.milehighaoii.com or join our text chain by texting [@stella1897](#) to 81010
- ❁ Attend events like Strike Out Arthritis!
- ❁ Volunteer to host a Lunch Bunch or Thirsty Thursday in your area
- ❁ Write a Sister Shout-Out!

2024 FOUNDERS' DAY MESSAGE

ALPHA OMICRON PI *Fraternity*

Sisters,

Recently, we had a unique opportunity to focus on our past. We celebrated the 125th anniversary of AOII's founding by conceptualizing, creating and opening our new Archives Museum. Through this commemoration of our history, we have also been given a glimpse into the potential of our future. Our founders themselves often thought about the future they were creating for each of us, and we are all better for their vision. In Stella's words, "I will say that, if we did not foresee the future, neither did we fear it."

As we celebrate Founders' Day and the legacy left by these four ambitious women, let us emulate their bravery and foresight and look toward the Fraternity's future. By their example, we are shown the possibility of what our Fraternity could be if we continue to progress into our future, as one sisterhood bonded by friendship and fueled by love.

Rather than thinking of Founders' Day as happening only once a year, let us imagine that AOII is founded in small ways every single day. Every time you welcome a new member into our sisterhood, AOII is founded. Every time you gather together to support a sister, AOII is founded. Every time you participate in a philanthropy event, celebrate a milestone in a sister's life or embrace a friend in need, AOII is founded.

Stella said, "You are all founders of Alpha Omicron Pi today, quite as truly as we were in the beginning." So, on this day when we honor our founders, let us honor each other as well, as sisters, as women and, most importantly, as the ongoing founders of Alpha Omicron Pi!

Fraternally,

2023-2025 Executive Board

Susan Bonifield, Nu Beta, International President

Lacey Bowman, Chi Delta, International Vice President of Finance

Jaynellen Behre Jenkins, Phi Beta, International Vice President

Ashley Barnes Dumat, Rho Omicron, International Vice President

Dr. Shokooh Miry, Sigma, International Vice President

Ally Rodriguez, Xi, International Vice President

Chantel Schieffer, Alpha Phi, International Vice President

Carey Unger, Nu Omicron, International Vice President



2024 RUBY FUND MESSAGE

ALPHA OMICRON PI *Foundation*

Sisters,

As we enter a new year, we have new reasons to unite as AOII sisters to support those in need. Our sisterhood is a safe space where we bring our best and support each other at our worst. Just as we have pledged ourselves to serve Alpha Omicron Pi forever, we have pledged to serve one another forever. Our common bond assures us that we will always have a friend when we are in need.

When you think of the Ruby Fund, think of a sister who shared the following: “Your kindness and generosity have had a profound impact on my life. Receiving the Ruby Fund aid has relieved a significant burden and allowed me to focus more on my academic pursuits and personal growth. I am committed to giving back to the community and helping others just as you have helped me.”

For more than 75 years, the Ruby Fund has provided a lifeline to sisters in need with emergency grants to help them in times of desperate hardship. From our first ever recipient, Founder Stella George Stern Perry, to recipients of past, present, and future, sisters have been granted hundreds of thousands of dollars to help them through times of struggle and uncertainty. In 2023 alone, more than \$33,000 was granted to help sisters to persevere through critical illness, natural disasters, crisis situations and beyond.

As our membership grows, so does the need to remember and grow our Ruby Fund. It is our hope that as AOIIs, we can lean on one another and the Ruby Fund as a reminder of our commitment to serving others. This Founders’ Day, we ask you to remember the Ruby Fund and give to sisters in need to afford them help and hope during the most difficult seasons of life.

Thank you for spreading Alpha Love through your support of the Ruby Fund.

Sincerely,

2023-2025 Ruby Fund Committee

Samantha Buente, Chi Lambda

Becky Gamble, Gamma Sigma

Amanda Gary, Delta Beta

Vicki Menna, Theta Pi

Beth Anne Merida, Kappa Chi

Barbori Streibl, Kappa Lambda



Sisters – if you would like to give to the Ruby Fund, scan the QR code to donate today!



SPRING CALENDAR

February 2nd - Epsilon Gamma Alumnae Tea

(visit our FB group for info)

February 9th - Bunco

February 15th - Thirsty Thursday

February 25th - Lunch Bunch

March 8th - Hairspray!

Purchase tickets by Feb 14th

March 16th - Bookies: *Lessons in Chemistry*

March 21st - Thirsty Thursday

March 31st - Lunch Bunch

April 5th - Bunco

April 18th - Thirsty Thursday

April 21st - Trail Clean Up

April 28th - Lunch Bunch

May 4th - 50-Year Tea & Elections

May 16th - Thirsty Thursday

May 26th - Lunch Bunch

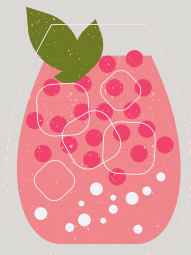
June 4th - Strike Out Arthritis

June 7th - Bunco

June 8th - Bookies: *Remarkably Bright Creatures*

DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Make sure to check the events page for updates!

<https://www.milehighaoii.com/programming>



Thirsty Thursdays and Lunch Bunches rotate around the greater Denver area.

Want to host? Let Amelia know!

millythomas185@gmail.com



Fall Fun!

