

Jan/ Feb E-Edition of the Beta Journal

Inside this issue:

Published Reality	2
The Gift of Children	2
The Gift of a New Year	3
The Wright Family Sagas	3
The Gift by Jack Ross	4
Patch/Beta Shoppe	4
2005 & 2006 Conventions	7

The Gift of Beta Sigma Phi

I got a great gift the day my girlfriend announced that a) she had met a cute guy at a wedding and b) that she was running away to Colorado with him, and would I like her job? That's how I got introduced to Beta Sigma Phi, and became the editor of The Torch for 23 years, and got to know and love thousands of sorority sisters all over the world. No job is perfect and mine was frustrating at times, but what kept me at it so long was the feeling, just about daily, that I was a

Force For Good in this world, through you all. Over the years I challenged Beta Sigma Phi s to do big things through our international magazine. And every time, you met that challenge --- and flew beyond it, to greatness. You gave me the gift of inspiration just about daily at that desk as you told me of countless ways to reach out to others in need, to raise tons of money for just about every charitable cause, to believe in miracles -- - in short, to Keep the

Dream Big. There's no better gift than that. Thanks, girlfriends!

*Linda
Preceptor Alpha
Kansas City, MO*



"There's no better gift than that. Thanks, girlfriends!"

Special points of interest:

- Newly Revised Membership Application
- 4 New Beta Shoppe Items (Canadian T-Shirt)
- 6 New Strawberry Patch Items— Includes the "Gift of a New Year"
- 2005 & 2006 Conventions posted Online!

The Gift of a Kinara

I was doing some research about Kwanzaa an African American Holiday. I was telling some of my sisters about it. My secret sister did some research on her own. I was surprised when I opened up my secret sister gift and it was a Kinara (candle holder) and the

colored candles. The candles where the colors that represent the colors of Kwanzaa. Seven to represent the principles. She wrote that this was the first items to start me off in doing my Kwanzaa celebration. I was so moved that I cried right then and there at the meeting. Its so

great that sister really listen and go that extra mile. And sisters really surprise you, even when you least expect it.

*Crystal
Gamma,
Oakland, CA*



A Sister's Hobby Becomes Published Reality

What do you do when you love to read but can't afford to buy books? As a young, single mother, sorority member Toni Sweeney often found that, after paying the bills, there was nothing left to buy her beloved novels. So, she wrote her own books! Eventually, a friend dared her to send one to a publisher. It wasn't accepted but she kept trying, and 12 years later, *SPACE-DOGS' BEST FRIEND*, was published. Since then, Toni has had two Westerns and a science fiction novel published, as well as several

short stories, both in print and Online. Next March, her poem "Dark Lover" will be featured in the anthology *VINTAGE MOON*, and her fifth novel, *THE ROSE AND THE DRAGON*, an adventure-romance, will be released this December, and is listed on the Internet at www.Amazon.com, www.barnesandnoble.com, and www.PublishAmerica.com.

A native of Georgia, Toni has been in Beta Sigma Phi since 1962, joining while a sophomore in college, and is presently a

member of Preceptor Omicron Alpha chapter in Orange County, California, where she is presently serving as chapter Program Chairman.

Looking for those much needed gift bag patterns or outlines online?

Go to:
<http://www.geocities.com/cutoutsplus>

"This gift took months of work and preparation before I received it. "

The Gift of Children

When I saw this item immediately a gift came to mind. This gift is not a material thing but it's the most meaningful and rewarding gift I've ever been given. This gift took months of work and preparation before I received it. This gift was the precious gift of my 2 children. My children entered my home for the first time on December 23, 2001 - the most wonderful Christmas gift in the world. Here is there story. My daughter and Beta Sigma Phi Legacy Tanya was born in 1997 to an unemployed mother who lived in a rural area outside of Voronezh, Russia. Tanya spent most of her young life living at the Voronezh City Orphanage. The orphanage houses approximately 100 children up to age 4. In March of 2001 Tanya's younger brother Brian entered the same orphan-

age just a few days after his birth. Brian lived in the orphanage from birth until the age of 9 months. Across the ocean Ann Rosati and her husband Jeff began a journey of a lifetime in their quest to be parents. After lots of soul searching they decided to adopt 2 children from Russia. Their desire was to adopt a boy and a girl who were biological siblings. In April of 2001 (just one month after Brian's birth) their journey began. After many months of paperwork, classes and interviews Ann and Jeff received word that 2 children in Voronezh, Russia were available for adoption. The first glimpse of the children came in the form of pictures and videos (along with medical history) of both children. After asking many questions and looking at

the pictures we decided these were meant to be our the end of November children. Now the real waiting began as we were only told that they would be ready to be adopted sometime after November of 2001. At ber a final meeting was held to prepare for travel. Within 24 hours of that meeting Ann and Jeff were told they needed to be ready to leave for Russia in 2 weeks. After a long plane ride, ten days in freezing temperatures, and trying to talk with the locals, Ann and Jeff became the proud parents of Tanya Leigh and Brian Nicholas Rosati, what a wonderful Christmas gift to have, a happy new family.

*Ann
Xi Delta Gamma
Tempe, Arizona*

The Gift of a New Year

Soon in your hand will be placed a priceless gift. Look at it closely. There is no price mark stamped on it. It cannot be weighed, because no scale can balance its value. A king's ransom in comparison is as nothing, yet it is given to beggar and prince alike. The giver asks only that it be used wisely and well. This jewel, rare and unique, is not displayed in any shop window. It cannot be purchased, cannot be sold. No other treasure holds the possi-

bilities this gift offers—none can surpass its golden splendor. Of all gifts, this is one of the most precious. It has been offered many times before; today, from the depths of a limitless love it will be given again. It will be left to you to find the golden thread running through it. Only with great care will the jewel retain its luster. Carelessness, ingratitude and selfishness will tarnish the brilliance, break the unspoiled thread, mar the perfection.

Guard it closely, lest through weak fingers it slip from the hand. Look often at its faultless beauty. Accept it as it is offered from the heart of the giver. Consider it the most treasured of possessions, for of all gifts it is by far the greatest. It is the gift of a New Year.

Author Unknown

[Patch_300.htm](#)



“Come Take the Train to Clarksville, TN

Greetings from beautiful Clarksville, Tennessee!! Good Evening from uckey (don't you just love my word) overcast Clarksville, Tennessee. As usual, it rained lightly today. We have an average of over 50 inches of rain every year. For this Arizona-

California girl, that's a lot of rain!!

We are hosting the 2005 BSP State of Tennessee Convention and would love for you to visit us. Our convention is scheduled for June 3-5, 2005 with special tours beginning on June 1st.

To say that we were thrilled would be an understatement.

“Take the Train to Clarksville” —

See further details at:

<http://www.betajournal.com/conv1.htm>

“As usual, it rained lightly today. We have an average of over 50 inches of rain every year.”

The Wright Family Sagas

These are three versions of the Wright Family's dilemmas that can be used to play a game. Each member is to bring a new cup — coffee, tea, mug or whatever. Everyone sits in a circle and a narrator reads the story and each person passes their cup, one place, to the RIGHT or LEFT according to the story.

When the story ends, whichever cup each person is holding is the one that they get to keep. You can always substitute some other exchange gift for the cup.

Please see the 3 sagas on page 5...



The Gift by Jack Ross— Torch, 12/1964

"All over the world this month, at some time in some way, every Beta Sigma Phi program will touch upon Christmas. There will be programs on gift-wrapping and home decorations, and programs on holiday entertaining; there will be programs on the Holy Land, and programs on the birth of Christ. There will be exchanges of gifts and discussions of gifts, and, I hope, discussions of **THE GIFT**.

"Gift" is an easy word to say, and it has a wonderful, warm connotation. Yet, as you strip it of all the tinsel and glitter, and the wrappings and the ribbons, it takes on greater and greater meaning. In all the world, the two most important gifts are **gifts from life** and **gifts to life**. Each of us enjoys each day many gifts from life. Such gifts are love and understanding, insight and appreciation. We also may give gifts to life each day, and those gifts are love, understanding, insight, and appreciation. They are the same, but between them there is one tremen-

dous difference.

The **gifts from life** flow to us each day, awaiting only our willingness to receive them. The **gifts to life** we must learn to give in our own ways according to our capacities, and with the understanding that it is a gift to life—whether those through whom we have given it are grateful or not, and even if they are unaware.

All of this may seem to be related to Beta Sigma Phi's programs only by the thinnest thread, but consider a moment. The greatest gift you can give to life is yourself—**your best self**, warm with understanding, cultivated by knowledge, polished by experience, and wrapped in the golden garment of friendship. This is the gift that we all want to make to life.

How often have you heard, "*She has a gift for being kind*," or "*She has a gift for making friends*," or "*She has a gift for this talent or that one*"? The talent is, of course, a gift, but if it is that noticeable in the world, there is little doubt that the original gift has been accepted with gratitude, and

polished and practiced and perfected with care and perseverance. These talents are gifts from life, and it is these talents perfected that should be our gifts to life, and this is how they are related to Beta Sigma Phi programs.

Beta Sigma Phi programs constitute one of the greatest opportunities to polish and perfect ourselves. Each month in some way they can polish a new facet of our existence so that our lives shine more brilliantly, and proclaim the bit of divinity that is in each of us.

The first Christmas gifts were gold and frankincense and myrrh. How insignificant they are beside your gift—the gift of yourself, your very best self.

Merry Christmas!"



Additional Pages in the Strawberry Patch

New Strawberry Patch Pages ---
Online for Print Out (6 New Pages)

http://www.betajournal.com/patch_297.htm
The Gift By Jack Ross

http://www.betajournal.com/patch_298.htm
To My Husband From Mrs. Walter W. Ross

http://www.betajournal.com/patch_299.htm
Legend of the 5 Kernels --- Great for Thanksgiving

http://www.betajournal.com/patch_300.htm
Member Protocol

http://www.betajournal.com/patch_301.htm
The Gift of a New Year

http://www.betajournal.com/patch_302.htm
A Husband's View Point

"Gift" is an easy word to say, and it has a wonderful, warm connotation. —Ross

New Beta Shoppe Items

Yellow Ribbon Magnets

\$5 each

Yellow Rose Aprons

\$15.85 each includes shipping & handling

Set of 12 Recipe Cards

\$5

BSP Canadian T-shirts

\$20

These Items and More can be found in the Beta Shoppe online at:

http://www.betajournal.com/main_shoppe.htm
http://www.betajournal.com/main_shoppe2.htm



THE WRIGHT FAMILY'S CHRISTMAS

For the WRIGHT family, Christmas is the best time of the year.

Papa WRIGHT finds the biggest and prettiest tree in the forest and Jimmy WRIGHT

and Kelly WRIGHT always yell: "That tree is just RIGHT" when they see it.

Mama WRIGHT bakes lots of yummy butter cookies and lets Jimmy WRIGHT

and Kelly WRIGHT lick all the dough LEFT in the bowl.

One Christmas, Papa WRIGHT LEFT in his RIGHT trusty old pick-up truck, to

pick just the RIGHT tree. After he LEFT, Mama WRIGHT found that

he had LEFT his LEFT mitten.

Mama WRIGHT yelled, "Quickly Jimmy WRIGHT and Kelly WRIGHT, Papa WRIGHT LEFT his LEFT mitten! He will catch an awful cold without it." So Jimmy WRIGHT ran to the RIGHT and Kelly WRIGHT ran to the LEFT with both of them trying to catch Papa WRIGHT before he LEFT town. Luckily, Jimmy WRIGHT ran RIGHT into

Papa WRIGHT before Papa WRIGHT turned LEFT onto the road that goes RIGHT into the forest. Papa WRIGHT was sure glad to get that LEFT mitten before

he LEFT town.

When Papa WRIGHT got home with the tree, Jimmy WRIGHT and Kelly WRIGHT yelled as always: "That tree is just RIGHT!"

The tree was quickly set RIGHT up and decorated. Then they all sat down, ate all the cookies that were LEFT, and laughed about the lost LEFT mitten.

THE WRIGHT FAMILY OF BETA SIGMA PHI

Let me tell you what I've heard about the WRIGHT family.

The WRIGHT family goes way back in Beta Sigma Phi. I heard a rumor from International that the WRIGHT family helped the Ross family establish Beta Sigma Phi way back when. Rumor also has it that Bill Ross himself has a picture of the WRIGHT family next to his WRITing pad on the LEFT side of his desk.

There was Mabel WRIGHT, Marcy WRIGHT, Mindy WRIGHT who is now Mrs. WainWRIGHT, and then there is Mark WRIGHT who is affectionately called LEFTy junior because he dances with two LEFT feet just like his father, Matthew WRIGHT, LEFTy senior.

Marcy WRIGHT supposedly knew the Ross family and when Beta Sigma Phi was first formed, Marcy WRIGHT was one of the first members. At the time, these people had no idea how large their idea would become, but they did know they had to do things the RIGHT way. Therefore, the RIGHT way is the way they did everything.

They wore their pins and badges RIGHT above their hearts. They created the RIGHT rituals, and used the RIGHT colors. They created the Beta Sigma Phi handshake, and used their RIGHT hands. It seemed all they created was centered around

being RIGHT.

Marcy WRIGHT loved Beta Sigma Phi so much that she brought her mother, Mabel WRIGHT. Mabel had so much fun that she brought her other daughter Mindy WainWRIGHT into the group. Since Marcy was a member of Beta Sigma Phi longer than Mabel WRIGHT, and Mabel WRIGHT was a member longer than Mindy WainWRIGHT, it followed that they would belong to different levels.

This was how degrees were formed. Mindy WainWRIGHT became a pledge.

Mabel WRIGHT was a Ritual of Jewels. Marcy WRIGHT, at that point was an Exemplar.

Her best friend, Mary CartWRIGHT, who was a niece of the Ross family, was a Preceptor. It wasn't until several years ago that Beta Sigma Phi introduced the Laureate and Master degree. I've heard that the WRIGHT's had something to do with that also.

LEFTy Sr. and LEFTy Jr. saw what the WRIGHT women were doing and became a little jealous. They did not think it was RIGHT that they be LEFT out of the fun. So, the WRIGHT men created Envoy membership. Thanks to the WRIGHT men, men can share in the joy of being Beta Sigma Phi.

Now, all the WRIGHTs were able to share the experience of Beta Sigma Phi amongst themselves. All was RIGHT with the world until one day Mindy

WainWRIGHT announced that she was having a baby WainWRIGHT.

A few months later, Mindy WainWRIGHT gave birth to Molly WainWRIGHT. Molly was such a big part of the WRIGHT family, but was too little to be part of Beta Sigma Phi. All the WRIGHT's, even LEFTy Jr. and LEFTy Sr. were terribly sad about how little Molly WainWRIGHT would be LEFT out of the Beta Sigma Phi

experience. So, the WRIGHT family sat down with the Ross family and pondered how to o make this tragedy RIGHT.

This is how the Legacy membership was formed. It was originally created so that little Molly WainWRIGHT could be involved in Beta Sigma Phi just like the rest of the WRIGHT family.

So, this is the rumor of how the WRIGHT family was instrumental in helping the Ross family form Beta Sigma Phi as we know it today.

Now, this rumor may not necessarily be RIGHT, but you never can tell.



THE WRIGHT FAMILY BAKES COOKIES

This is a story about Mr. and Mrs. WRIGHT. One evening, RIGHT before Christmas, Mrs. WRIGHT was baking cookies. Mrs. WRIGHT called from the kitchen, "Oh, no, there is no flour left! Mr. WRIGHT, you will need to go to the store

RIGHT away." "I can't believe you forgot to check the pantry," grumbled Mr. WRIGHT. "You never get anything RIGHT!"

"Don't be difficult, Mr. WRIGHT," replied Mrs. WRIGHT. "It'll take only twenty minutes if you come RIGHT back. Go to 51st street and Peoria, and turn LEFT at the stop sign. Then go to 61st Street and turn RIGHT, and the store will be on your LEFT," declared Mrs. WRIGHT.

Mr. WRIGHT LEFT immediately and found the store RIGHT where

Mrs. WRIGHT said it would be. When Mr. WRIGHT entered the store, he asked the clerk, who was standing RIGHT in the entrance, where he could find the flour.

The clerk pointed and said, "Go to aisle four and turn LEFT. The flour and sugar will be on your LEFT."

Mr. WRIGHT made his purchase and walked RIGHT out the door. He turned LEFT and then RIGHT, but he couldn't remember where he had LEFT his car. So he turned to the RIGHT. Suddenly he remembered that he had driven Mrs. WRIGHT'S car and that his car was in the driveway at home RIGHT where he had LEFT it.

Eventually a weary Mr. WRIGHT found his way home. Mrs. WRIGHT had been waiting impatiently by the stove RIGHT where she had been stand-

ing when Mr. WRIGHT LEFT for the store.

"I thought you would be RIGHT back," Mrs. WRIGHT said. "I LEFT all the ingredients out on the kitchen counter, and the cats got RIGHT up on the counter and into the milk. You will just have to go RIGHT out again!"

Mr. WRIGHT sighed. He had no energy LEFT. I am going RIGHT to bed," he said. "Anyway, I need to go on a diet, so I might as well start RIGHT now. Isn't that RIGHT?" And he LEFT the room RIGHT before Mrs. WRIGHT could say anymore.

"Please make sure your chapter has a copy of the newly revised membership application"

NEWLY REVISED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please make sure your chapter has a copy of the newly revised membership application.

Beta Journal
<http://www.betajournal.com>
Look for the BSP Membership Application link.

Updated 12/20/2004

Look for the application online at:

http://www.betajournal.com/newmember_app1204p.pdf

Or,

It is also in the File Cabinet For registered members

Or,



2005 & 2006 CONVENTION LISTINGS ONLINE

=====
2005 & 2006 Land Conventions Listed and Linked (11 with information/websites/links to hotels and contacts) I will begin dating when I post the convention information, so you will know when and if it has been updated currently.

List Your convention by filling out the form online!

<http://www.betajournal.com/conv1.htm>

1.) Alberta

Location:

The Coast Terrace Inn - Edmonton South <http://www.coastterraceinn.com/>

Identify yourself when contacting the Inn as a BSP, so you may receive the convention room rate. Edmonton June 3 - 5, 2005 zoeaf@shaw.ca

Zoe Afaganis

Convention forms, information and other details are available on the website <http://www.centennialmagic.com/>

2.) British Columbia

(Conclave)

Location Link:

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre Parksville/Qualicum Beach http://www.qualicumbeach.com/civic_index.asp

"It's Bloomin' Lovely" April 16, 2005 bspconclave2005@shaw.ca

Caryl Wylie

Registration forms will be available for download January 1, 2005. We hope to see you at our Garden Party.

3.) Carolinas (SC) Charleston April 22 - 24, 2005 cherylam@earthlink.net

Cheryl A. McVey

Contact Cheryl if you are in need of a convention packet. Packets will go out in 2 weeks (Posted: 12/15/04)

4.) Florida

Location Link:

Riverfront Adams Mark Hotel <http://www.adamsmark.com/jacksonville/index.asp>

(maps, brochures & video of hotel available on this site) Jacksonville

"Southern Charm on the River" May 20 - 22, 2005 baileydebbie@excite.com

Debbie Bailey http://home.att.net/~bsp_jax_fl/Convention.htm

5.) Idaho

Location Link:

Shilo Inn Twin Falls http://www.shiloinns.com/Idaho/twin_falls.html

"Get Roped and Tied in Beta Sigma Phi" June 24 - 26, 2005 o2bme@myexcel.com

Sunny Jensen

Website will be up and running soon!

6.) Kansas

Location Link:

Doubletree Hotel Overland Park <http://www.doubletree.com/en/dt/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhcn=MCIMSDT>

"Beta High 75th Reunion" October 13 - 16, 2006 benrog@everestkc.net

Diane Benson

Website for this convention is under construction and will be added as soon as it is done. Come celebrate with us the Silver Anniversary of our glorious sisterhood.

7.) Michigan

Hotel Link:

Detroit Marriott Pontiac at Centerpoint Sterling Heights <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/dtwp0>

"Celebrations" September 23 - 25, 2005 Mills64463@wowway.com

Robin Mills

Click on Michigan to your left and see further information on the website. <http://bspmichigan2005.tripod.com/>

8.) Ohio

Location Link: Wyndham Hotel Toledo <http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/TOLHT/main.wnt#>

"A Woman's Fantasy" May 20 - 22, 2005 katie1@accesstoleado.com

Kathy Rich

9.) Panama Canal Cruise http://www.betajournal.com/panama_cruise2006.htm

Galveston, TX January 21 - Feb. 2, 2006

Contact Virginia Lee to post a deposit or make reservations

800-360-4774 and/or fax at 713-682-4839

10.) Tennessee

Hotel:

Riverview Inn, Clarksville Clarksville

"Take the Last Train to Clarksville" June 3 - 5, 2005 PbsSunshine@aol.com

Sharon Murray Black, Convention Secretary

11.) Virginia

Hotel:

Marriott - Williamsburg Newport News <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/PHFCW>

"School Daze" October 27 - 29, 2006 jkelly@vase.org

Jenny Kelly

(Please note this information is for 2006! The website has been established and is under construction. Information will be posted as events are firmed up.)