



YOU'RE AMONG FRIENDS

Beta Sigma Phi International Theme for 2012-2013 Year



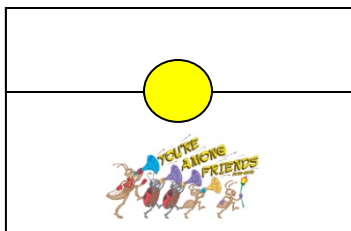
What better way to start off the year, than on the 2nd Sunday in August known as "Friendship Day." Why not have your BEGINNING DAY a bit early considering the Day will also kick off the new theme. Of course there are endless themes to be had using this year's theme. Note: Food and drink always invites people to gather, so start planning.

Ideas to Excite the Imagination Are:

- Spa Day – Make-Over Party
- Bag Lady Party-Come in Comfy Attire
- Come As You Are in Bath Robe and All
- Road Rally - Fun Events (show your power of Friendship throughout the town)
- Bake Off – Bring Breakfast Items to Exchange and Make Your Own Breakfast to Go
- Progressive Brunch Munch between Members Homes
- Host a Friendship Tea and Serve What Else? – "Friendship Tea" and scrumptious tea sandwiches and finger foods (recipes are @ the end of this handout)
- Host a Garden Party – See Ideas Below
- Have a Facebook Social if you are online and enjoy a day in Farmville
- Have a Words w/ Friends Challenge on your cell phones or electronic devices (there are now 6 billion mobile users. Now we have come up with more terms to have to learn. Mcommerce – Mobile Commerce (buying and advertising for your business) bongoflashers

Use <http://www.punchbowl.com/> E-vites or use your e-mail or facebook page to save on postage. Or, simple send a text message.

Make at least one invitation to go in the scrapbook if you still do one.



FRIENDSHIP TEA

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup instant tea powder
- 1 cup sweetened lemonade powder
- 1 cup orange-flavored drink mix (e.g. Tang)
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves

Directions

- 1 The only rose without thorns is. . .friendship!
Madeleine de scudery



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1. In a large bowl, combine instant tea, lemonade powder, orange drink mix, cinnamon and clove. Mix well and store in an airtight container.
2. To serve, Put 2 to 3 teaspoons of mix in a mug. Stir in 1 cup of boiling water. Adjust to taste.



Our friends come in all shapes and sizes of which we truly form a bond with. Some are here for a short time, others are merely passing by while others (like our sisters) last a lifetime.

Host a Garden Friendship Party or use the ideas below in a creative ritual or installation this year.

Tools of My Friendship Garden (by Alda Ellis)

The Wheelbarrow - to bear a load when it is too much for us to carry alone.

The Trowel - to break up the soil, encouraging the roots of friendship to grow deeper. It separates the weeds so they can be tossed and friendship's flower nurtured.

The Rake - to make tidy and neat our friendship gardens and help gather up what needs to be carried away.

The Watering Can - to replenish and nurture as it spills out on friendship's plantings."

Tools for gardening include:



- shovel
- gloves
- hoe
- clippers
- watering can

Tools for life include:

- Grace
- Gratitude
- Faith
- Love
- A Friend like YOU!



A SPRINGTIME GARDEN OF BETA SIGMA PHIS

A garden in which nothing grows but *yellow roses*, while lovely at first glance, would lack interest and the onlooker would soon grow tired and turn her attention to something else.

Select your flowers for their various attributes, let their variances guide you in making your Chapter membership a "garden" of interest--one that will pique your curiosity and challenge your attention to the point you feel you can't afford to miss a single moment of enjoying it!



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In every Chapter garden there should be the sturdy **ZINNIA** Colorful and dependable, and requiring very little nurturing. . . .

The tall and graceful **POPPY**, flamboyant in bright red, adding excitement in the garden, but wilting quickly when taken away. . . .

The shy little **VIOLET** that comes back to you year after year, but shares its loveliness only if you seek it out. . . .

The happy **DAISY**, pure in its glistening white, dancing in the wind and seemingly laughing aloud. . . .

Then there is the **SWEET PEA**, delicate and sweet, but clinging to the support of another.

Of course, no garden would be complete without the "**LATE COMERS!**" The shaggy **CHRYSANTHEMUM** and the lovely **ASTER** that blooms late and revives interest in the garden all over again.

Busy, chattering little groups of **NASTURTIUMS** with their heads close together;

dependable **FOUR-O'CLOCKS** that never miss lending their uniform beauty exactly on schedule;

and the **SNAPDRAGON** with its snapping little jaws that amuse but do not bruise;

and of course, the **ROSE** whose "touch-me-not" thorns may frighten away the timid, but who is soft and lovely and friendly once the thorns are removed.

All these, and many more, you should seek for your Garden of Friendship. April is the month for planting your garden.

Don't leave any "lonely little **PETUNIAS** in an onion patch." Transplant them to your garden and watch them bloom!

"The beauty of friendship is like the beauty of flowers. . .
There are many kinds, and yet each has unique beauty to offer.
There are friends who share our paths during certain stages of our lives,
while others stay close to us year after year.
Some are vibrant, admired for their strength,
While others are delicate whispers of color
whose gentleness has a special place in our hearts.
We meet many different kinds of friends along life's journey,
Each adding color, joy & beauty to our days."

- Author Unknown



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LETTUCE ENTERTAIN YOU:

A Sisterhood Salad

Prepared by

(Name of Your Chapter)

Setting: A table, spread with a plain cloth. A large salad bowl is centered on the table.

Cast: In order of appearance -

- Vice President
- President
- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary
- Treasurer
- Social Chairman
- Program Chairman
- Service Chairman
- Ways and Means Chairman
- Telephone Chairman
- Member (representing the Membership)

Vice President:

Welcome to "Lettuce Entertain You: A Sisterhood Salad,"
as
Prepared by the members of _____
(Chapter name)

In making any recipe, we all know that if you leave out any one ingredient, your recipe can be a flop! And the same is true in our sorority. Each member adds something unique to our group, and without any one of us, the Chapter might not work as well. So we are glad to have you join us tonight, because you, too, add a new and different dimension to our chapter!

President:

(Adding the first ingredient, *lettuce*, to the bowl) - Ever heard of A "honeymoon" salad? Lettuce alone? But seriously, a chapter's success is based on a blend of good planning and leadership that provides each chapter member opportunities to pursue her goals of social and cultural enrichment.



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- Vice President:** (Adding sliced tomatoes) - Add the enthusiasm of new members, and mix gently with the established membership until smooth relationships and friendship are achieved.
- Recording Secretary:** (Adding chopped hard-boiled eggs) - Add egg-citement! Contact with Beta Sigma Phi International keeps us informed about sisters around the world, and our recorded minutes and attendance at each chapter meeting help to do the same for them.
- Corresponding Secretary:** (Adding bacon bits) - We flavor all our social correspondence with the warmth and friendliness that reflects who we are - and what we are about.
- Treasurer:** (Adding grated cheese) - Our chapter members are always grateful for financial sense that coordinates an accurate and stable account to fulfill obligations, serve others, and set aside a bit for our social enjoyment.
- Social Chairman:** (Adding pinch of salt) - Without a dash of fun and happy times, we'd be a dull group. Our activities with one another and our loved ones add the spice to our friendship.
- Program Chairman:** (Adding cup or two of croutons) - We put in something for each member - enlightening, entertaining programs that stretch us - that give us something to chew on.
- Service Chairman:** (Adding cup of broccoli or other green vegetable) - We all feel satisfied and good about ourselves when we help others through our service projects.
- Ways/Means Chairman:** (Adding a splash of lemon juice) - A little zip added to our chapter's treasury provides what we need to cover our needs - and be able to give to others, too.
- Telephone Chairman:** (Adding salad dressing) - We want to spread the good word about Beta Sigma Phi - so we keep all members informed about each activity and opportunity.
- Member:** (Tossing the salad) - When we mix all these ingredients together, we create a wonderful blend of different tastes and talents. Each member contributes her personal 'flavor.' We want you to get to know and enjoy us all!



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Vice President:

Each of has added the special touch of our own personalities and gifts to this Sisterhood Salad. But we think it needs one more ingredient to be perfect - and that's why we're glad you're here with us tonight. (Passes out carrot mementoes). We want each of you to take home these specially grown carrots. A pledge agreement for you is attached. To become a part of our Sisterhood Salad, open the pledge agreement just above the section where I've signed as your sponsor, fill out the information, choose the payment plan most convenient for you, and return the form to me. We're planning to make this salad again on _____ (date of ritual). That's the date of the ritual that will make your entrance into Beta Sigma Phi a memorable event, a day you will always remember. On behalf of all the members of _____ (Chapter name), I invite you now to be a part of our Sisterhood Salad. And now, let's eat!

Tips to serve up your party food with **trowels and mini-shovels**, wearing bright, flowery **garden gloves** as you serve the food. Pour the punch from a **large watering can** (be careful it's not a sprinkler). Add lemon to tea from a **spray plant mister**. – Courtesy of the Strawberry Patch

MAKE A FRIENDSHIP QUILT AND ATTACH THE POEM BELOW

I met you (or you met me) The very first stitch was sewn,
And through the years these common threads
Into a quilt have grown.

As I look back, I'm not quite sure
Just how our quilt was made
Or when it was that its foundation
Was to simply laid . . .

Where were those times when I was sad
and you were always there
To fix those threads that had come loose
And patch my quilt with care.

The joyous days seem better still
Fond memories were built
And we could bask in grateful times



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Inside our comfortable quilt.

and once or twice (though I'm not sure)
Our lives were growing apart
But loosened threads cannot be broken
When sewn with love from the heart.

You met me (or I met you)
Our sewing is finally done
And through the years our friendship quilt
Will bind our hearts as one.

Author - Kelly Kenny-Edwards

OUR MAGIC

Written by Lynn Terry

Mrs. Terry, the author of many of the Beta Sigma Phi rituals and program books, is largely responsible for the sorority's cultural program. Here she examines friendship, perhaps the most precious single thing that can be offered to pledges.

"THE WORLD OR MY OWN ISLAND? The circus of life, or the ivory tower? Where does my choice lie?"

Reading these words from the pen of an excellent writer, I paused to think about them, to consider the meanings they imply. Immediately I thought of Beta Sigma Phi and the answer it has given to all of these questions for all of us who are members.

I thought of it in terms of friendship, where indeed our choice is made. I thought of friendship in its many stages from the simplest liking of our fellow being and on to that most lasting and loving devotion which friendship may become.

Would the dweller in the ivory tower, or the insular person, take the time or make the effort necessary to acquire friends? Yet, the wise of all times have told us that friendship is one of the best rewards of life; and our own experience proves it is so.

I thought especially of the value of friendship in the later years of life, when to be friendless seems to me the worst of all possible fates, and where it is so difficult to find or make new friends.



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"Friendless" is among the saddest of words. And no item printed was ever sadder than that small item which tells of someone who died - friendless and alone.

I asked myself, "Do we in Beta Sigma Phi, who are so blessed with friendship, sometimes forget how much was 'given' to us when we were given a bid to membership?" The word "gift" is important, for something was "given" to us, not something achieved by us.

So our concern should be with the gift and with the service of it. In another sense it doesn't belong to you at all. It has been entrusted to you. You are its steward.

How do we merit such a gift? The answer is obvious. To deserve such a gift, to be truly worthy of it compels us to show our gratitude by doing our utmost to give it to others.

Members participating in a forum on rushing and pledging were asked why they had pledged. "Because someone asked me to join," was the most popular answer.

Because someone asked me to join!

What a revelation this is, and what an inspiration it should be. Someone asked me to join. As simple as that. Only that.

Reading the phrase, I felt, as I had often felt before, that whatever it has been my privilege to do for Beta Sigma Phi, the finest and most fruitful thing I ever did was to ask some hundreds of women to join.

Without new members, the rituals I have written, or the programs prepared, would have been as nothing, and it was in asking those women to join and in that alone I feel some sense of deserving the munificence and multitude of the friendship given me.

With each prospective pledge I invited to join, and doubly so with those who accepted, I truly and for all times gave to myself a gift, a gift to add to all the others Beta Sigma Phi has given to me.

After more than 25 years, I still receive messages . . . "So-and-so sent her love--you pledged her at such and such a time in such and such a place." Rich rewards that never cease. My only possible regret is that I could not have asked more women to join.

Someone asked me to join - the key to friendship in action. You remember that in Drummond's essay he tells that Jesus learned love as He learned carpentry, by practicing.

We must do the same with friendship. What better way can we practice our friendship and show our gratitude to Beta Sigma Phi than by making it possible for another new



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member to say "Someone asked me to join." For your own sake, as a gift to thyself, I urge you to be that "someone."

We have all observed that those members who truly love Beta Sigma Phi and feel most grateful for what it has given them are the ones who are most generous and most eager to offer it to others.

Did you ever know anyone who had too many friends? Have you ever taken into account of how many new friends you make in a year? Two new friends a year will mean twenty friends in ten years. Often a woman coming into a Beta Sigma Phi chapter gains that many friends in one evening - the evening of her installation ceremony. What a gift to her and what a gift to that "someone" who asked her to join.

This is our "magic." We must never forget it. We must never neglect to offer it to others. And most important of all, we must remember and realize in joy that in giving to another the privilege of becoming a Beta Sigma Phi, we have surely and certainly given to our own selves and to each of our Chapter sisters, as great a gift as many to be had in life, the gift of a new friend.

Enjoy this year and embrace the love and know that "YOU'RE AMONG FRIENDS."

Karen M. Ing

Editor of the Beta Journal On Line