

omega psi phi brotherhood history

omega psi phi brotherhood history traces the origins and evolution of one of the most distinguished African American fraternities in the United States. Founded during a period of significant social and educational challenges, Omega Psi Phi has grown into a powerful organization dedicated to scholarship, community service, and the upliftment of African American culture and society. This article explores the fraternity's founding principles, key milestones, prominent members, and its lasting impact on higher education and civil rights movements. Furthermore, it examines the organizational structure and ongoing programs that continue to promote the fraternity's mission. By understanding the omega psi phi brotherhood history, readers gain insight into the fraternity's pivotal role in shaping leadership and brotherhood among African American men. The following sections will provide a detailed overview of Omega Psi Phi's inception, development, and legacy.

- Founding of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
- Core Principles and Founders
- Expansion and Growth Over the Decades
- Notable Members and Their Contributions
- Community Service and Educational Initiatives
- Organizational Structure and Brotherhood Culture
- Legacy and Continuing Influence

Founding of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

The inception of Omega Psi Phi fraternity dates back to the early 20th century, specifically November 17, 1911. It was founded at Howard University, a historically black university located in Washington, D.C. The fraternity was established by three undergraduate students—Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper, and Frank Coleman—and their faculty adviser, Dr. Ernest Everett Just. The creation of Omega Psi Phi was motivated by the desire to create an organization that would foster academic excellence, cultural awareness, and mutual support among African American men during a time of systemic racial discrimination.

Historical Context of the Founding

The early 1900s were marked by pervasive racial segregation and limited opportunities for

African Americans, especially in higher education and professional fields. The founders of Omega Psi Phi recognized the need for a brotherhood that would encourage scholarship, perseverance, and service. Their vision was to build a fraternity that not only provided social camaraderie but also committed itself to improving communities and advancing civil rights.

Core Principles and Founders

Omega Psi Phi's foundation rests on four cardinal principles: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. These principles guide the fraternity's mission and activities and have shaped its identity throughout its history. The founders, known as the "Four Founders," each contributed unique qualities that helped establish these core values and the fraternity's enduring culture.

The Four Founders

The fraternity's founders were distinguished men with strong academic and professional backgrounds:

- **Edgar Amos Love:** A theology student and later a prominent bishop and educator, Love emphasized leadership and moral character.
- **Oscar James Cooper:** A medical student who later became a respected physician, Cooper championed service and scholarship.
- **Frank Coleman:** A chemistry student who contributed to the fraternity's scientific and academic rigor.
- **Dr. Ernest Everett Just:** The faculty advisor and a pioneering biologist, Just provided mentorship and intellectual guidance.

Expansion and Growth Over the Decades

Following its establishment, Omega Psi Phi quickly expanded beyond Howard University, establishing chapters at other colleges and universities across the United States. This growth paralleled the increasing demand for African American organizations that promoted leadership and social justice during the Harlem Renaissance and the Civil Rights era.

Chapters and National Presence

By the 1920s and 1930s, Omega Psi Phi had formed numerous undergraduate and graduate chapters, allowing the fraternity to influence a wider demographic of African American men. The fraternity's national organization facilitated coordination of programs, conventions, and initiatives aimed at improving educational outcomes and community welfare.

Notable Members and Their Contributions

Throughout its history, Omega Psi Phi has counted among its members many prominent African American leaders, artists, athletes, and public servants. These individuals have contributed significantly to American society and helped elevate the fraternity's status.

Prominent Omega Psi Phi Brothers

- **Langston Hughes:** Renowned poet and social activist of the Harlem Renaissance.
- **Michael Jordan:** Legendary basketball player and global sports icon.
- **Jesse Jackson:** Civil rights leader and political activist.
- **Count Basie:** Influential jazz musician and bandleader.
- **Bill Cosby:** Comedian and actor known for his impact on American entertainment.

Community Service and Educational Initiatives

One of the hallmarks of omega psi phi brotherhood history is its commitment to community service and education. The fraternity has launched numerous programs targeting youth development, academic achievement, and social welfare.

Key Programs and Outreach

- **Achievement Week:** An annual celebration recognizing academic and community accomplishments.

- **Scholarship Programs:** Financial support for students pursuing higher education.
- **Mentorship and Leadership Training:** Initiatives aimed at cultivating leadership skills among young men.
- **Social Action Programs:** Efforts to address social injustice and promote civic engagement.
- **Health Awareness Campaigns:** Programs focusing on health education and preventive care.

Organizational Structure and Brotherhood Culture

Omega Psi Phi maintains a structured national organization that oversees local chapters and coordinates fraternity-wide activities. The fraternity's culture emphasizes brotherhood, mutual respect, and a lifelong commitment to its values.

Governance and Membership

The fraternity is governed by a national board and regional leadership councils. Membership is typically extended through a rigorous intake process that emphasizes the fraternity's ideals. Brothers pledge to uphold the cardinal principles and actively participate in fraternity events and service projects.

Legacy and Continuing Influence

The omega psi phi brotherhood history reflects a legacy of resilience, leadership, and service that continues to inspire generations. Today, the fraternity remains a vital force in African American communities, promoting education, cultural pride, and social justice.

Modern-Day Impact

Omega Psi Phi continues to evolve, adapting its programs to contemporary challenges while preserving its historic mission. Its influence extends into professional fields, politics, arts, and grassroots activism, making it a cornerstone of African American fraternity life.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the origin of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity?

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was founded on November 17, 1911, at Howard University in Washington, D.C., by three undergraduate students - Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper, and Frank Coleman - along with their faculty advisor, Dr. Ernest Everett Just.

Why was Omega Psi Phi founded?

Omega Psi Phi was founded to promote scholarship, community service, and uplift African American communities during a time of racial segregation and limited opportunities for Black students and professionals.

What are the cardinal principles of Omega Psi Phi?

The cardinal principles of Omega Psi Phi are Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift, which guide the fraternity's mission and activities.

How has Omega Psi Phi contributed to African American history and culture?

Omega Psi Phi has significantly contributed through leadership development, civil rights activism, community service programs, and fostering educational advancement among African Americans since its inception.

Who are some notable members of Omega Psi Phi?

Notable members include civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., athlete Michael Jordan, poet Langston Hughes, and Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, highlighting the fraternity's impact across various fields.

Additional Resources

1. *Omega Psi Phi: A Centennial History*

This comprehensive volume chronicles the first 100 years of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., detailing its founding principles, key figures, and major milestones. It highlights the fraternity's impact on African American culture, civil rights, and community service. Rich with photographs and archival documents, it serves as an essential resource for members and historians alike.

2. *The Divine Nine: The History of African American Fraternities and Sororities*

While covering all nine historically Black Greek letter organizations, this book provides an insightful chapter dedicated to Omega Psi Phi. It explores the fraternity's origins at Howard University, its cultural significance, and its role in shaping leadership among African American men. The narrative is backed by interviews and extensive research.

3. *Brothers on the Rise: The Legacy of Omega Psi Phi*

This book focuses on the personal stories of prominent Omega men who have influenced politics, education, and social justice. It delves into how the fraternity's mentorship and brotherhood have empowered generations. The author also examines the organization's community programs and their lasting effects.

4. *Anchored in Brotherhood: The Founding of Omega Psi Phi*

A detailed historical account of the fraternity's inception in 1911 by Dr. Ernest E. Just and his colleagues at Howard University. This book explores the social climate of the time and how the founders' vision shaped Omega Psi Phi's motto and mission. It includes rare documents and firsthand testimonies.

5. *Omega Psi Phi and the Civil Rights Movement*

This work highlights the pivotal role Omega Psi Phi members played during the Civil Rights era. It documents the activism, speeches, and grassroots organizing led by fraternity brothers. The book also reflects on how the fraternity balanced its social and service commitments during turbulent times.

6. *Men of Omega: Profiles in Leadership and Service*

Featuring biographical sketches of influential Omega men, this book celebrates their achievements in various fields such as education, military service, and business. It emphasizes the fraternity's dedication to nurturing leadership qualities and community engagement. Readers gain insight into the personal and professional lives of these brothers.

7. *The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity: Tradition and Transformation*

An exploration of how Omega Psi Phi has evolved over the decades while maintaining its core traditions. The book discusses changes in membership, programming, and national outreach efforts. It also addresses contemporary challenges and the fraternity's vision for the future.

8. *Omega Psi Phi: Pillars of Strength*

This publication focuses on the fraternity's commitment to scholarship, perseverance, uplift, and service. Through essays and testimonials, it illustrates the principles that guide Omega men. The book also highlights community initiatives and educational programs spearheaded by the fraternity.

9. *From Founders to Future: The Enduring Spirit of Omega Psi Phi*

Tracing the fraternity's journey from its humble beginnings to its current global presence, this book celebrates the resilience and brotherhood that define Omega Psi Phi. It includes reflections from past and present members, showcasing the fraternity's influence on identity and empowerment. The narrative is both historical and inspirational.

Omega Psi Phi Brotherhood History

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omega psi phi brotherhood history: *Leading Figures in the History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.* Judson L. Jeffries, 2025-02-04 Highlighting 21 members of this illustrious historically Black fraternity Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was founded in 1911 at Howard University to cultivate and nurture a generation of leaders who would work toward racial uplift and influence American society. In an unprecedented two volumes, Judson Jeffries brings together original works on 21 of the fraternity's accomplished and influential members. Written by a diverse group of scholars, these profiles highlight the national importance of these figures in their chosen fields of endeavor as well as the enormous impact of this great fraternity. Volume 2 discusses Brigadier General Charles Young; artist and activist Charlotte Lottie Wilson, affectionately considered the fraternity's lone female member; modern civil rights activists T.R.M. Howard, Bayard Rustin, Lawrence Guyot, Jesse L. Jackson, and Emory O. Jackson; and scholars Lewis V. Baldwin, Asa Grant Hilliard III, and Benjamin E. Mays. Jeffries concludes by celebrating the recent rise in scholarship that draws attention to the fraternities and sororities that have connected other Black trailblazers such as these. Including both widely recognized and little-known individuals and featuring people who were on the front lines of the struggle for racial equality and those whose work took place behind the scenes, these volumes show the contributions of Black leaders in the areas of science, civil rights, athletics, the arts, the military, politics, education, and more. *Leading Figures in the History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.* is a testament to the significance of Black Greek-letter organizations, whose members have made history through lives of struggle, accomplishment, triumph, and uplift. Contributors: Judson L. Jeffries | Qiana M. Cutts | Francis V. Gourrier, Jr. | Dereck J. Rovaris | Kyle Brooks | Brian G. Shellum | Kimberly Mangun | Cynthia Hawkins | William J. Southerland | Raymond Sommerville | Jeaninne D. Wallace

omega psi phi brotherhood history: *The History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. (an Update for the Period 1960-2008)* Vernon Steve Weakley, 2009-05-01 This literary work is an update of the History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. for the period 1960 to 2008. This book humbly takes up where Omega men Herman Dreer, Robert L. Gill and their outstanding committees stopped. This new update was officially sanctioned and commissioned by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. via the 38th Grand Basileus, the honorable Warren G. Lee, and the elected Supreme Council for the 74th Grand Conclave. This Omega History Book project will provide a clear and accurate history of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and its impact on America and African Americans in particular for the period 1960 to 2008. This new History update will serve to clearly demonstrate how Omega Psi Phi fraternity Inc. has, not only made a significant positive difference in the lives of Black people, but the entire world. It is this committee's fervent hope that this update will not only enlighten, be a beacon and shed light on our illustrious history but will also be an inspiration to young people, the general public at large and all Omega Men, past, present and future. This new update involved the comprehensive gathering of historical data on Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. from all across America and internationally for the period 1960 to the 2008. It endeavored to encompass all significant contributions, all noteworthy efforts and the resulting factual recordation of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and all Omega men who have had pertinent impact on America and Omega Dear during this period. This project was massive and took over two years to complete. The resulting final product will be a self perpetuating income generating source for Omega Psi Phi fraternity for many years to come. Please be clearly advised readers that this is an update of the previous history books written by the honorable Herman Dreer, Robert L. Gill and their committees. This book, with the exception of containing some basic historical information to enlighten a person who has no knowledge of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, will not routinely cover past historical information shown in the great works of Dreer and Gill occurring prior to this update period. The history rich period for this update has provided many interesting challenges for Omega and its members. The Founders of

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity did not shrink from the task, nor did they pity themselves for being given the tremendous burden to uplift the African American race. W.E.B. DuBois' talented tenth assertion must be our rallying cry in that it crystallizes the fact that Omega men must be in the forefront in lifting the Black community to higher heights. Omega men are indeed the cream of the crop endowed with the divine gift of greatness. And, our great history and our individual and unified deeds bare witness to this fact and with that our readiness to step to the fore. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. is filled with many great Omega men who have had significant positive impact on America during this update period. There are undeniable facts, inspiring legends, and exceptional Omega men who have accomplished great things in their districts and at the international level, as well as in their personal lives and in their gallant exploits across the nation. It is time that the world knows of our extraordinary contributions to the greatest country on earth and our proud race. We pray that this HISTORY OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY INC. for the period 1960 to 2008 accomplishes this goal and be a guiding light to live by and be a positive uplifting force for all that reads it.

omega psi phi brotherhood history: *Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc* Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, 1995*

omega psi phi brotherhood history: With Faith in God and Heart and Mind Maurice J. Hobson, Eddie R. Cole, Jim C. Harper, Derrick P. Alridge, 2025-01-10 When Edgar A. Love, Oscar J. Cooper, Frank Coleman, and Ernest Everett Just founded the historically Black fraternity Omega Psi Phi on November 17, 1911, at Howard University, they could not have known how great of an impact their organization would have on American life. Over the 110 years that followed, its members led colleges and universities; served in prominent military roles; made innumerable contributions to education, civic society, science, and medicine; and at least one campaigned for the US presidency. This book offers a comprehensive, authoritative history of the fraternity, emphasizing its vital role through multiple eras of the Black freedom struggle. The authors address both the individual work of its membership, which has included such figures as Carter G. Woodson, Bayard Rustin, Roy Wilkins, James L. Farmer Jr., Benjamin Elijah Mays, James Clyburn, Jesse Jackson, and Benjamin Crump, and the collective efforts of the fraternity's leadership to encourage its general membership to contribute to the struggle in concrete ways over the years. The result is a book that uniquely connects the 1910s with the present, showing the ongoing power of a Black fraternal organization to channel its members toward social reform.

omega psi phi brotherhood history: The Crisis , 1940-11 The Crisis, founded by W.E.B. Du Bois as the official publication of the NAACP, is a journal of civil rights, history, politics, and culture and seeks to educate and challenge its readers about issues that continue to plague African Americans and other communities of color. For nearly 100 years, The Crisis has been the magazine of opinion and thought leaders, decision makers, peacemakers and justice seekers. It has chronicled, informed, educated, entertained and, in many instances, set the economic, political and social agenda for our nation and its multi-ethnic citizens.

omega psi phi brotherhood history: The Divine Nine Lawrence C. Ross, 2019-08-27 This comprehensive history of African American fraternities and sororities celebrates the spirit of Black Excellence in higher education that has produced American leaders in politics, sports, arts, and culture such as Kamala Harris, Colin Kaepernick, Michael Jordan, Thurgood Marshall, and Toni Morrison, and is sure to be a treasured resource for generations to come. America's Black fraternities and sororities are a unique and vital part of 20th century African American history, providing young black achievers with opportunities to support each other while they serve their communities and the nation. From pioneering work in the suffragette movement to extraordinary strides during the Civil Rights era to life-changing inner-city mentoring programs, members of these organizations share a proud tradition of brotherhood, sisterhood, and service. Today, America's nine black fraternities and sororities are millions of members strong with chapters at HBCUs, Ivy League Schools, and colleges across the nation including Stanford University, Howard University, and the University of Chicago.

omega psi phi brotherhood history: African American Fraternities and Sororities Tamara L. Brown, Gregory S. Parks, Clarenda M. Phillips, 2012-02-29 The rich history and social significance of the “Divine Nine” African American Greek-letter organizations is explored in this comprehensive anthology. In the long tradition of African American benevolent and secret societies, intercollegiate African American fraternities and sororities have strong traditions of fostering brotherhood and sisterhood among their members, exerting considerable influence in the African American community and being in the forefront of civic action, community service, and philanthropy. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Toni Morrison, Arthur Ashe, and Sarah Vaughn are just a few of the trailblazing members of these organizations. *African American Fraternities and Sororities* places the history of these organizations in context, linking them to other movements and organizations that predated them and tying their history to the Civil Rights movement. It explores various cultural aspects of the organizations, such as auxiliary groups, branding, calls, and stepping, and highlights the unique role of African American sororities.

omega psi phi brotherhood history: A Pledge with Purpose Gregory S. Parks, Matthew W. Hughey, 2024-02-06 Reveals the historical and political significance of “The Divine Nine”—the Black Greek Letter Organizations In 1905, Henry Arthur Callis began his studies at Cornell University. Despite their academic pedigrees, Callis and his fellow African American students were ostracized by the majority-white student body, and so in 1906, Callis and some of his peers started the first, intercollegiate Black Greek Letter Organization (BGLO), Alpha Phi Alpha. Since their founding, BGLOs have not only served to solidify bonds among many African American college students, they have also imbued them with a sense of purpose and a commitment to racial uplift—the endeavor to help Black Americans reach socio-economic equality. *A Pledge with Purpose* explores the arc of these unique, important, and relevant social institutions. Gregory S. Parks and Matthew W. Hughey uncover how BGLOs were shaped by, and labored to transform, the changing social, political, and cultural landscape of Black America from the era of the Harlem Renaissance to the civil rights movement. Alpha Phi Alpha boasts such members as Thurgood Marshall, civil rights lawyer and US Supreme Court Justice, and Dr. Charles Wesley, noted historian and college president. Delta Sigma Theta members include Bethune-Cookman College founder Mary McLeod Bethune and women’s rights activist Dorothy Height. Huey P. Newton, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, who left an indelible mark on the civil rights movement, was a member of Phi Beta Sigma, while Dr. Mae Jemison, a celebrated engineer and astronaut, belonged to Alpha Kappa Alpha. Through such individuals, Parks and Hughey demonstrate the ways that BGLO members have long been at the forefront of innovation, activism, and scholarship. In its examination of the history of these important organizations, *A Pledge with Purpose* serves as a critical reflection of both the collective African American racial struggle and the various strategies of Black Americans in their great—and unfinished—march toward freedom and equality.

omega psi phi brotherhood history: Black Greek-letter Organizations in the Twenty-First Century Gregory S. Parks, 2008-06-13 During the twentieth century, black Greek-Letter organizations (BGLOs) united college students dedicated to excellence, fostered kinship, and uplifted African Americans. Members of these organizations include remarkable and influential individuals such as Martin Luther King Jr., Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, novelist Toni Morrison, and Wall Street pioneer Reginald F. Lewis. Despite the profound influence of these groups, many now question the continuing relevance of BGLOs, arguing that their golden age has passed. Partly because of their perceived link to hip-hop culture, black fraternities and sororities have been unfairly reduced to a media stereotype—a world of hazing without any real substance. The general public knows very little about BGLOs, and surprisingly the members themselves often do not have a thorough understanding of their history and culture or of the issues currently facing their organizations. To foster a greater engagement with the history and contributions of BGLOs, *Black Greek-Letter Organizations in the Twenty-first Century: Our Fight Has Just Begun* brings together an impressive group of authors to explore the contributions and continuing possibilities of BGLOs and their members. Editor Gregory S. Parks and the contributing authors provide historical

context for the development of BGLOs, exploring their service activities as well as their relationships with other prominent African American institutions. The book examines BGLOs' responses to a number of contemporary issues, including non-black membership, homosexuality within BGLOs, and the perception of BGLOs as educated gangs. As illustrated by the organized response of BGLO members to the racial injustice they observed in Jena, Louisiana, these organizations still have a vital mission. Both internally and externally, BGLOs struggle to forge a relevant identity for the new century. Internally, these groups wrestle with many issues, including hazing, homophobia, petty intergroup competition, and the difficulty of bridging the divide between college and alumni members. Externally, BGLOs face the challenge of rededicating themselves to their communities and leading an aggressive campaign against modern forms of racism, sexism, and other types of fear-driven behavior. By embracing the history of these organizations and exploring their continuing viability and relevance, *Black Greek-Letter Organizations in the Twenty-first Century* demonstrates that BGLOs can create a positive and enduring future and that their most important work lies ahead.

omega psi phi brotherhood history: Leadership in Nonprofit Organizations Kathryn A. Agard, 2011 *Leadership in Non-Profit Organizations* tackles issues and leadership topics for those seeking to understand more about this dynamic sector of society. A major focus of this two-volume reference work is on the specific roles and skills required of the non-profit leader in voluntary organizations. Key features include: contributions from a wide range of authors who reflect the variety, vibrancy and creativity of the sector itself an overview of the history of non-profit organizations in the United States description of a robust and diverse assortment of organizations and opportunities for leadership an exploration of the nature of leadership and its complexity as exemplified in the non-profit sector availability both in print and online - this title will form part of the 2010 Encyclopedia Collection on SAGE Reference Online. The Handbook includes topics such as: personalities of non-profit leaders vision and starting a nonprofit organization nonprofit law, statutes, taxation and regulations strategic management financial management collaboration public relations for promoting a non-profit organization human resource policies and procedures.

omega psi phi brotherhood history: African American Army Officers of World War I Adam P. Wilson, 2015-04-29 In April 1917, Congress approved President Woodrow Wilson's request to declare war on the Central Powers, thrusting the United States into World War I with the rallying cry, The world must be made safe for democracy. Two months later 1,250 African American men--college graduates, businessmen, doctors, lawyers, reverends and non-commissioned officers--volunteered to become the first blacks to receive officer training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. Denied the full privileges and protections of democracy at home, they prepared to defend it abroad in hopes that their service would be rewarded with equal citizenship at war's end. This book tells the stories of these black American soldiers' lives during training, in combat and after their return home. The author addresses issues of national and international racism and equality and discusses the Army's use of African American troops, the creation of a segregated officer training camp, the war's implications for civil rights in America, and military duty as an obligation of citizenship.

omega psi phi brotherhood history: Black Greek-Letter Organizations 2.0 Matthew W. Hughey, Gregory S. Parks, 2011-02-18 At the turn of the twentieth century, black fraternities and sororities, also known as Black Greek-Letter Organizations (BGLOs), were an integral part of what W.E.B. Du Bois called the "talented tenth." This was the top ten percent of the black community that would serve as a cadre of educated, upper-class, motivated individuals who acquired the professional credentials, skills, and capital to assist the race to attain socioeconomic parity. Today, however, BGLOs struggle to find their place and direction in a world drastically different from the one that witnessed their genesis. In recent years, there has been a growing body of scholarship on BGLOs. This collection of essays seeks to push those who think about BGLOs to engage in more critically and empirically based analysis. This book also seeks to move BGLO members and those who work with them beyond conclusions based on hunches, conventional wisdom, intuition, and personal experience. In addition to a rich range of scholars, this volume includes a kind of call and response feature between scholars and prominent members of the BGLO community.

omega psi phi brotherhood history: *New York State Folklife Reader* Elizabeth Tucker, Ellen E. McHale, 2013-10-01 New York and its folklore scholars hold an important place in the history of the discipline. In New York dialogue between folklore researchers in the academy and those working in the public arena has been highly productive. In this volume, the works of New York's academic and public folklorists are presented together. Unlike some folklore anthologies, New York State Folklife Reader does not follow an organizational plan based on regions or genres. Because the New York Folklore Society has always tried to "give folklore back to the people," the editors decided to divide the edited volume into sections about life processes that all New York state residents share. The book begins with five essays on various aspects of folk cultural memory: personal, family, community, and historical processes of remembrance expressed through narrative, ritual, and other forms of folklore. Following these essays, subsequent sections explore aspects of life in New York through the lens of Play, Work, Resistance, and Food. Both the New York Folklore Society and its journal were, as society cofounder Louis Jones explained, "intended to reach not just the professional folklorists but those of the general public who were interested in the oral traditions of the State." Written in an accessible and readable style, this volume offers a glimpse into New York State's rich cultural diversity.

omega psi phi brotherhood history: *Steppin' on the Blues* Jacqui Malone, 1996 Former dancer Jacqui Malone throws a fresh spotlight on the cultural history of black dance, the Africanisms that have influenced it, and the significant role that vocal harmony groups, black college and university marching bands, and black sorority and fraternity stepping teams have played in the evolution of dance in African American life.

omega psi phi brotherhood history: *Black Greek-Letter Organizations in the 21st Century* Gregory S. Parks, 2008-06-13 "A masterpiece of multidisciplinary scholarship that clearly demonstrates the contemporary relevance of black fraternities and sororities." —Hasan Kwame Jeffries, author of *Bloody Lowndes* During the twentieth century, black Greek-Letter organizations (BGLOs) united college students dedicated to excellence, fostered kinship, and uplifted African Americans. Members of these organizations include remarkable and influential individuals such as Martin Luther King Jr., Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, novelist Toni Morrison, and Wall Street pioneer Reginald F. Lewis. Despite the profound influence of these groups, many now question the continuing relevance of BGLOs, arguing that their golden age has passed. To foster a greater engagement with the history and contributions of BGLOs, Black Greek-Letter Organizations in the Twenty-first Century brings together an impressive group of authors to explore the contributions and continuing possibilities of BGLOs and their members. Editor Gregory S. Parks and the contributing authors provide historical context for the development of BGLOs, exploring their service activities as well as their relationships with other prominent African American institutions. Both internally and externally, BGLOs struggle to forge a relevant identity for the new century. Internally, these groups wrestle with many issues, including hazing, homophobia, petty intergroup competition, and the difficulty of bridging the divide between college and alumni members. Externally, BGLOs face the challenge of rededicating themselves to their communities and leading an aggressive campaign against modern forms of racism, sexism, and other types of fear-driven behavior. By embracing the history of these organizations and exploring their continuing viability and relevance, Black Greek-Letter Organizations in the Twenty-first Century demonstrates that BGLOs can create a positive and enduring future and that their most important work lies ahead.

omega psi phi brotherhood history: *Leading the Race* Jacqueline M. Moore, 1999 Moore reevaluates the role of this black elite by examining how their self-interest interacted with the needs of the black community in Washington, D.C., the center of black society at the turn of the century.--BOOK JACKET.

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omega psi phi brotherhood history: *When Colleges Sang* J. Lloyd Winstead, 2013-06-30 When Colleges Sang is an illustrated history of the rich culture of college singing from the earliest

days of the American republic to the present. Before fraternity songs, alma maters, and the raucous college fight songs became commonplace, students sang. Students in the earliest American colleges created their own literary melodies that they shared with their classmates. As J. Lloyd Winstead documents in *When Colleges Sang*, college singing expanded in conjunction with the growth of the nation and the American higher education system. While it was often simply an entertaining pastime, singing had other subtle and not-so-subtle effects. Singing indoctrinated students into the life of formal and informal student organizations as well as encouraged them to conform to college rituals and celebrations. University faculty used songs to reinforce the religious practices and ceremonial observances that their universities supported. Students used singing for more social purposes: students sang to praise their peer's achievements (and underachievements), mock the faculty, and provide humor. In extreme circumstances, they sang to intimidate classmates and faculty, and to defy college authorities. Singing was, and is, an intrinsic part of campus culture. *When Colleges Sang* explores the dynamics that inspired collegiate singing and the development of singing traditions from the earliest days of the American college. Winstead explores this tradition's tenuous beginnings in the Puritan era and follows its progress into the present. Using historical documents provided by various universities, *When Colleges Sang* follows the unique applications and influences of song that persisted in various forms. This original and significant contribution to the literature of higher education sheds light on how college singing traditions have evolved through the generations and have continued to remain culturally relevant even today.

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