

CHI OMEGA

SPRING '09 ST. LOUIS ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER™

President's Message

Can you believe that January is here already? We've had quite an exciting year as an alumnae chapter and if we had written one of those wonderful holiday letters to friends near and far, we would have had plenty of news to share. We started out 2008 with a Winter Cocktail party, we learned personal organization tips in February, celebrated Eleusinia in April, entertained National visitors in May, donated \$3500 to Sunnyhill, Inc. from our pecan sale, hosted the National Convention for over 1000 delegates in July, received a Communication Award at Convention, indulged in chocolate in September, learned a bit about yoga in October, and improved our cooking skills in November. Last, but not least, we celebrated Christmas with our 60th Annual Cookie Exchange in December. In addition to our monthly meetings, we added some smaller interest groups which meet on a regular basis and updated our communication methods with a list serve and a new website.

Many, many thanks to our Vice Presidents, Jackie Bailey and Barb Schneider, for planning our interesting programs and finding host homes for our meetings. Their tireless efforts are the backbone of our success. Special thanks to Sandra Brenner for her years of service as treasurer and as my sounding board! Kudos to all of the other board members and committee chairs that keep our chapter running smoothly. Your efforts are greatly appreciated! It has been a pleasure serving as your president.

January is a time of new beginnings. Please remember to keep your alumnae chapter in mind as you make your New Year's Resolutions. If you have resolved to get your finances in order, have you paid your dues yet? If you have resolved to get more involved in the community, can you sell a few pounds of pecans for a purpose? And most importantly, can you give the chapter the gift of your time by serving on the board? Our chapter's ongoing success depends on competent leadership so I encourage you to consider taking an office or committee chairmanship. Further details on slating and our election are inside this newsletter. We have more great programs planned for the spring of 2009. Please join us!

We Invite You to Connect with Us!

Marcia Schmitz
President



2009-2011 Board of Officers

With our country's major election over, our alumnae chapter must prepare for slating the 2009-2011 Board in January. Voting will take place during February and the new board will be installed at Eleusinia the end of March. The first step is to appoint a Nominating Committee. This committee consists of 3 sisters in good standing (i.e. dues paying members). The task of the Nominating Committee is to come up with a list of potential candidates (more on that later) and then draw up a slate of officers. It is a short time commitment (January) and involves a few meetings with fellow committee members and some phone calling. If you would like to help your

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Social Groups!

Lunch Bunch: Join your sisters for lunch on the fourth Friday of the month—great food and conversation. Contact Sandra Brenner at saudrabrenner@yahoo.com

Wise Owls: Join our new book club for lively discussions. We meet the third Thursday of every other month. For January, we are reading *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan; and for March, *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and *David Oliver Relin*. Contact Sandra Brenner at saudrabrenner@yahoo.com

Make-A-Wish

Please help us support our National Chi Omega Philanthropy Make a Wish Foundation. This will be our first year to support the St. Louis Make a Wish Foundation. Since 1980, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has given hope, strength and joy to children with life-threatening medical conditions. The foundation works to enrich the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions through its wish-granting work. The St. Louis Make-A-Wish chapter recently experienced extreme flooding which depleted their toy supply. This year we have decided to help support the new client program and collect small toys and gifts for both males and females ages newborn to 21 years old. These gifts will be used as ice breaker gifts that are given to the wish child and their

siblings when the team member makes the initial visit. Therefore, we will be collecting new toys from \$6-10, which will give to children and their siblings with life threatening conditions. Some examples can be found below:

baby toys: rattles, small toys

little boys: coloring books, puzzles, Lego's, toy cars/trucks

little girls: small games, dress up stuff, dolls, stuffed animals

teenage girls: jewelry sets, perfume sets, bath sets, nail polish sets, books

teenage boys: DVDs, sporting hats, balls, outdoor toys, books

Please bring these gifts (unwrapped) to any of our monthly meetings

beginning in December through May! Any and all help will be much appreciated and is definitely going to a worthy cause!

Another way to support the local Make a Wish foundation: Coming up in February is their Walk for Wishes event. It might be a great idea for our chapter and our friends and family. We will discuss the event, general information, and how to sign up at the next couple of meetings. We will be passing out brochures when they are received from Lauren (our Make a Wish contact). Let us know if you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to participate or if you have any questions. Feel free to reach either Aleeza Granote at agranote@yahoo.com or Liz Lammert at elizabeth.lammert@gmail.com

2009-2011 Board of Officers continued...

alumnae chapter in this capacity, please let me know as soon as possible.

The second thing that will greatly help the Nominating Committee is for the members at large to help provide that



'09 Chi Omega Cookie Exchange Holiday Party at Katherine Kercher's home



previously mentioned list of candidates. If you remember reading your Eleusis earlier in the year, there was a nomination form for sisters to nominate one another for the Governing Council. I thought we could use the same idea, but in a less formal way. There is no form to fill out, just contact me and tell me if you are interested in a particular position or if you would like to nominate someone. A description of the duties of each office is posted on our Yahoo group (just log on and check under "Files") or contact me and I will send you the document.

I am happy to say that each and every time I asked for a volunteer to accept a task or responsibility, someone in our chapter stepped forward. I am confident that I will have a good response to this request as well. A big thank you to everyone in advance! I can be reached by phone at 636.639.1320 or email: schmitz80@gmail.com.

Visit our Website for more information & updates!

Mark your calendars!

****Sunday**, January 25, 2009 2 p.m.**

White Elephant and Tea Party at Tau Mu

Start the new year with a cooperative adventure by joining us at Washington University's Tau Mu Chapter suite. We are invited to attend an afternoon tea and "white elephant" event. See the back page for more information.

Location: 1 Brookings Drive, St Louis, MO 63105 (on Washington University campus)

****Wednesday**, February 18, 2009 7 p.m.**

Diets never last... and neither do French Pastries

Join us at the French Bakery and Restaurant called La Bonne Bouchee. Watch and enjoy a demonstration by the pastry chef making wonderful delights of various pastries and other delectable treats. Stay for the meeting and enjoy a sampling of French desserts and coffee, compliments of our very own Chi Omega group. Calories not included in discussion.

Location: La Bonne Bouchee, 1889 Craig Rd, Creve Coeur, MO 63141 Telephone: 314-576-9770

<http://www.theauthenticfrenchbakery.com>

Tuesday, March 10, 2009 7 p.m.

Ahner's, digging and dishing dirt

Spring is right around the corner and it's time to begin thinking about plants and gardening. What plants work together on your patio? How many plants should be placed in a pot? Do you go for color or durability? Why do some people have a green thumb and you can't grow weeds? Come listen and learn! Ahner's is providing a plant specialist and expert to lecture on container gardening. Send your gardening questions with your online rsvp or contact Jackie Bailey.

Location: The home of Lisa Holley, 2019 West Oak, Des Peres, MO, 63131. Telephone: 314-965-1277
<http://ahners.com>

Saturday, March 28, 2009 10:30 a.m.

Eleusinia

The annual Eleusinia Luncheon will once again be held at the Algonquin Country Club. Brunch will be served at 11:00 a.m., so please be sure to arrive around 10:30.

Location: Algonquin Country Club, 340 North Berry Road, St. Louis, MO 63122. Telephone: 314-962-3700
<http://www.algonquingolfclub.com>

Tuesday, April 14, 2009 7 p.m.

Women, wine and wonder !

What are the best wines to serve in spring? How do you choose summer wines for outdoor picnics? Do the most expensive wines taste the best? How does wine help your heart? All questions can be answered to make you "wine knowledgeable". The meeting will include a lecture and beverage tasting component to enhance your ability to comfortably serve guests the appropriate drink. An appearance and party planning and tips will be shared by a member of the Dierberg's staff.

Location: The home of Trish Willey, 2709 Joyceridge Dr., Chesterfield, MO 63017 Telephone: 636-519-9886

Tuesday, May 12, 2009 7 p.m.

TBD

Join us for a social evening of Chi Omega fun!

Location: The home of Debbie Stewar, 303 West Jackson, Webster Groves, MO 63119. Telephone: 314-968-3999.

Don't forget to RSVP! We need your help. Please RSVP your intentions to attend a meeting by email to jackieb@siu.edu or 314-909-4879 by the Saturday before the meeting.



Chi Omega Fraternity

St. Louis Alumnae

Marcia Schmitz
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St. Louis Chi Omega Alumnae 2008-2009 Board

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White Elephant & Tea Party at Chi-O Suite

****Sunday**, January 25, 2009 2 p.m.**

Start the new year with a cooperative adventure by joining us at Washington University's Tau Mu Chapter suite. We are invited to attend an afternoon tea and "white elephant" event to help raise money for a charitable donation to be given to a local St. Louis children's organization as part of the Thurtene carnival that has taken place at Washington University since 1935.

If you are unable to attend the tea, but would like to donate an item for the auction, please contact Cheryl Gamache at 636-394-4952 or ctgamache@charter.net. She will assist you in making arrangements to drop off your item with one of the chapter advisors.

For directions please visit the web site.

<http://www.chiomega.com/alumnae/stlouismo>