

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.
NATIONAL ARTS & LETTERS COMMISSION
PRESENTS



Delta Authors on Tour



IN THE MIDWEST REGION
HOSTED BY CHARLESTON-INSTITUTE (WV) ALUMNAE

"A Jazzy Book Affair"

Author's Guide

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024

2:00 PM - 4:30 PM

FREE ADMISSION

Kanawha County Public Library
123 Capitol Street, Room 311
Charleston, WV

FOR MORE INFO: CIACArtsandLetters@gmail.com

www.ciacdeltas.org

Table of Contents

- 3 GREETINGS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
- 4 GREETINGS FROM THE NATIONAL ARTS & LETTERS COMMISSION
- 5 GREETINGS FROM THE MIDWEST REGION
- 6 EVENT FLIER
- 7 GREETINGS FROM CHARLESTON-INSTITUTE (WV) ALUMNAE
CHAPTER
- MEET THE AUTHORS
- 9 LaKeisha Barron-Brown
- 10 Jessica Childress
- 11 Michelle Mickle Foster
- 12 Sanya Whittaker Gragg
- 13 Kirstyn Mayden
- 14 Candice McField
- 15 Barbara Keaton Stubblefield
- 16 Leslie Copeland Tune
- 17 TOUR STOPS
- 18 THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

A Service Sorority Founded in 1913

1707 New Hampshire Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20009 | (202) 986-2400 | Telefax (202) 986-2513



Greetings to the Sorors of the Midwest Region, Regional Director Brittani N. Blackwell, and Regional Representative Aleyah Oliver.

I write to you with immense gratitude and pride as we reflect on the success of the Delta Authors on Tour events hosted across our various regions. It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your unwavering dedication and commitment to showcasing the literary talents within our sisterhood.

Delta Authors on Tour serves as a testament to our collective passion for literature and the arts, providing a platform for Delta authors to share their work and engage with our diverse membership. Through your tireless efforts and meticulous planning, this tour has not only celebrated the boundless creativity of our

sorors but has also fostered a spirit of camaraderie and intellectual exchange that enriches the fabric of our sisterhood.

As we continue to uphold the legacy of scholarship and cultural enrichment that defines Delta Sigma Theta, it is initiatives like Delta Authors on Tour that remind us of the transformative power of literature and the arts in the shaping hearts and minds. Your dedication to organizing and hosting this event speaks volumes about your commitment to our shared values and ideals.

On behalf of the entire Sorority, I extend my deepest appreciation to you for your invaluable contributions to the success of Delta Authors on Tour. Your passion, creativity, and support have truly made a difference in promoting our literary heritage while working to promote literacy in our communities.

As we look forward to future endeavors and opportunities to celebrate the richness of our literary tradition, let us continue to stand united in our pursuit of excellence.

Yours in Sisterhood and Service,

Elsie Cooke-Holmes
International President
Chair, National Board of Directors

Elsie Cooke-Holmes
International President and
Chair, Board of Directors

Cheryl W. Turner
National First Vice President

Sade' Ried
National Second Vice President

Joi L. Moore, Ph.D.
National Secretary

Rosalyn L. Glenn
National Treasurer

Dorcas E. Washington
Executive Director

National Arts & Letters Commission



Marcia Butler Holt
Co-Chair



Canara S. Price
Co-Chair

Greetings Sorors!

We are delighted to extend a warm invitation for you to explore the enchanting world of literature through our Delta Authors On Tour (DAOT) Author's Guide. Whether you are an avid reader, a book club enthusiast, or someone in search of the perfect gift, DAOT Season IX offers a carefully curated selection of books that has something for everyone! What makes this endeavor even more special is that it brings you the literary creations of talented sisters of our beloved Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

As we continue to promote Delta authors, not only will you enrich your own literary journey, but you will also contribute to our commitment to promote literacy in our communities. Additionally, your support contributes to improving our economy by endorsing the works that Delta authors have created.

We extend a special Thank You to our dedicated regional leadership teams for once again supporting DAOT. We commend this season's talented authors for generously sharing their literary gifts. We applaud the diligent Host Chapters for creating vibrant and creative spaces for our literary explorations. And we appreciate each and every soror for always supporting the opportunity to discover new literary treasures and expand your reading horizons.

Artistically Yours,

Mary C. Baker and Stephanie Perry Moore
Sub-Chair, Delta Authors on Tour

Marcia Butler Holt and Canara S. Price
Co-Chairs, National Arts and Letters Commission

Daphne Maxwell Reid
Advisor, National Arts and Letters Commission

Greetings from the Midwest Region



Aleyah Oliver
Regional Representative

Brittani N. Blackwell
Regional Director

Greetings Sorors,

On behalf of the Mighty Midwest Region, I extend a warm welcome to the National Arts & Letters Commission's Delta Authors on Tour! We are excited to have you in the Wet, Wild and Wonderful state of West Virginia and congratulations to the Charleston Institute Alumnae Chapter on Chapter on hosting this years Midwest Region Delta Authors on Tour stop. We are excited to celebrate over 50 years of Arts and Letters and eager to support this national initiative.

Our Delta authors are so impressive and their literature is captivating! It brings us great joy to showcase the wonderful works of amazing and talented Delta Authors; we are in for a treat. We are inspired and motivated by the literature shared and we urge sorors if you have considered writing a book or develop any creative works, that you move your thinking into action and join the marvelous Delta Authors in our sisterhood, sharing your craft and embarking upon a great accomplishment.

As we gather, we keep in mind the mission of the National Arts Letter Commission, to promote a positive image of African Americans and other minoritized individuals through the mediums of music, dance, drama, poetry, and other literary works. We are proud in the Midwest Region to participate in this opportunity through hosting such a historical event! There's great anticipation that we will glean from the knowledge of our soror authors.

Please enjoy this literary affair, we hope this event inspires and ignites your creative self, and welcome you to the Mighty Midwest Region where we go above and beyond!

In Delta love and dedication,

Brittani N. Blackwell
Midwest Regional Director

Aleyah Oliver
Midwest Regional Representative

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.
NATIONAL ARTS & LETTERS COMMISSION
PRESENTS



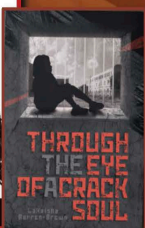
Delta Authors on Tour



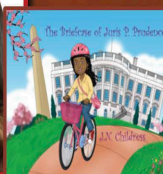
IN THE MIDWEST REGION

HOSTED BY CHARLESTON-INSTITUTE ALUMNAE CHAPTER

"A Jazzy Book Affair"



LAKEISHA BARRON-BROWN
"THROUGH THE EYE OF A CRACK SOUL"



JESSICA CHILDRESS
"THE BRIEFCASE OF JURIS P. PRUDENCE"



MICHELLE FOSTER
"MAXIMIZING IMPACT"



SANYA WHITTAKER GRAGG
"IN CAHOOTS WITH MY BOOTS"



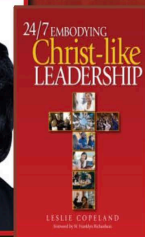
KIRSTYN MAYDEN
"MERCIFUL MOMENTS: A DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL
FOR MOVING FORWARD WITH GRACE EACH DAY"



CANDICE MCFIELD
"AS FOR ME AND MY BODY"



BARBARA KEATON STUBBLEFIELD
"NIGHTS OVER EGYPT"



LESLIE COPELAND TUNE
"24/7 EMBODYING CHRIST-LIKE LEADERSHIP"

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM
FREE ADMISSION

KANAWHA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
123 CAPITOL STREET, ROOM 311
CHARLESTON, WV 25301

FOR MORE INFO: CIACArtsAndLetters@gmail.com

CIACDeltas.org

Greetings from the Charleston-Institute Alumnae Chapter



Michelle Mickle Foster, PhD
Chapter President

Greetings!

The Charleston-Institute Alumnae Chapter is thrilled to extend a warm welcome to sorors and all guests of the Delta Authors on Tour in the Midwest Region. We express our gratitude to our esteemed Regional Director, Madame Brittani N. Blackwell, for entrusting us with this special occasion. It's an honor to host our Regional Representative, Soror Aleyah Oliver, and our National Arts and Letter Commissioners, Soror Robyn Hughes and Soror Canara Price, in Charleston.

Our event promises an array of literary delights catering to all tastes, from gripping fiction to thought-provoking non-fiction, captivating memoirs, and engaging children's books. Moreover, don't miss the opportunity to meet and interact with our talented authors during the book-signing session while indulging in refreshments and the soothing sounds of jazz.

Beyond being a mere gathering, this event represents a celebration of diversity, the art of storytelling, and the richness of African American literature. Let's unite to pay homage to these voices that not only entertain but also educate and inspire, fostering positive change in our communities.

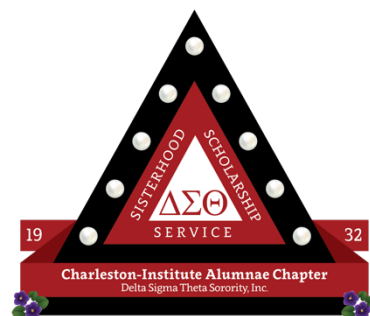
In Sisterhood and Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Mickle Foster".

Michelle Mickle Foster, PhD
Chapter President

About the Charleston-Institute Alumnae Chapter

The Charleston-Institute Alumnae Chapter, established in the Mighty Midwest Region, was originally chartered as Phi Sigma Chapter in 1932 by eight women: Alice Curtis Forte, Lurnetta Davis, Mary Louise Strong, Elaine Tancil, Louise Harper, Midge Green, Edna Clowen, and Mary Eubank. The chapter currently has 47 members.



Chapter Leadership

President: Michelle Mickle Foster, PhD	Vice-President: LaKeisha Barron-Brown
Treasurer: Consandra Leonard	Financial Secretary: Kristy Lyles
Recording Secretary: Tamara Eubanks	Corresponding Secretary: Dondel Moorman, PharmD
Audit Committee Chair: Tamara Smith, PhD	Nominating Committee Chair: Luciana Britton

2023-24 Delta Authors on Tour Committee Members

Eva Jones, Arts and Letters Committee Chair	Michelle Mickle Foster PhD, Chapter President
LaKeisha Barron-Brown, Technology Chair	Carolyn Tillman, Committee Member
Kivita Allen, Author Shadow	LaToya Davis, Author Shadow
Anita Dyer-Walker, Author Shadow	Tamara Eubanks, Author Shadow
Stephanie Semple-Perreia, Author Shadow	Dondel Moorman, PharmD, Author Shadow
Wendy Lewis, PhD, Author Shadow	Julia Minor, Author Shadow



Chapter Members

Leadership Team



DELTA AUTHORS ON TOUR PRESENTS

LaKeisha Barron-Brown



As a native of Detroit, Michigan, LaKeisha uses her life experiences to help others understand the importance of preserving. She holds a MA in Correctional Counseling from Marshall University. She has over 25 years' experience as a community and professional advocate. LaKeisha is a dedicated mother and grandmother. LaKeisha has a passion for uplifting and empowering those who are in need.

Currently, LaKeisha is the Program Manager for INROADS College Links. This position allows LaKeisha the opportunity to help foster personal, educational and leadership development skills among traditionally underserved minority high school students.

LaKeisha is the founder and president of Heart's United, Inc., a non-profit organization that promotes, educates, and empowers the Kanawha County Region and beyond by improving, advocating, educating, advancing, and delivering quality health and wellness programs. In her downtime, she serves as founder and CEO of Turning Sorrow Into Service®, an organization that strives to help individuals become their authentic self. As an author, life coach, therapist and motivational speaker, LaKeisha focuses on inspiring and motivating others to find self-love through thoughtful engagement, holistic wellness, and through dialogue on resilience and healing. As a grieving mother, LaKeisha understand the importance of healing. LaKeisha uses her creative outlets to share her Determination -N- Ambition™ (DNA) through writing and media to dissipate stigmas and build community through her words. LaKeisha is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. having been initiated into Charleston-Institute Alumnae Chapter.

DELTA AUTHORS ON TOUR PRESENTS

Jessica Childress, Esq.



Ms. Childress holds a Bachelor of Arts in Government and African American Studies from the University of Virginia and a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law. Ms. Childress graduated Phi Beta Kappa and with High Distinction from the University of Virginia in 2007. Ms. Childress is the managing attorney of the Childress Firm PLLC, a law firm based in Washington, D.C., focusing on employment law. Additionally, Ms. Childress is the Chief Executive Dreamer of Juris Prudence LLC, a children's content company that produces educational products and services, teaching children about the law. Juris Prudence LLC is based on Ms. Childress' first children's book, *The Briefcase of Juris P. Prudence*, a fictional book about an eleven year-old lawyer who fights for children's right to vote.

Ms. Childress has served as an attorney at the United States Department of Justice and two global law firms. Ms. Childress is active in multiple civic organizations. She has served as the chair of the Scholarship Committee for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Alumni Association's Board of Directors, as a co-chair of the Membership Committee of the National Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division, and as a member of the Legal Aid Justice Center Advisory Council. In 2016, Ms. Childress was invited to attend the White House's United State of Women Summit, focusing on issues of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Ms. Childress is a 2022 graduate of the Aspen Institute's Justice and Society program. Ms. Childress serves as a contributor for Arianna Huffington's international media outlet, Thrive Global. She has been featured in numerous publications, including *Good Morning America*, *Forbes*, *Essence*, *the Huffington Post*, *Success*, *Entrepreneur*, and *Newsweek*.

DELTA AUTHORS ON TOUR PRESENTS

Leslie Copeland Tune, PhD



Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland is a faith leader, public theologian, consultant, strategist, writer and justice advocate. She is currently the Chief Operating Officer for the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Ordained into the Gospel ministry more than 20 years ago, Dr. Copeland has worked for a number of faith-based organizations and has used her gifts to serve local congregations. Her passion and work for social justice and advocacy has been nationally recognized. Dr. Copeland was appointed to be on the Faith-Based Security Advisory Council for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and is the author of *24/7 Embodying Christ-like Leadership*. She has a chapter on Christian leadership in the book, *Church on Purpose: Reinventing Discipleship, Community and Justice* edited by Adam L. Bond and Laura Mariko Cheifetz, and has published numerous articles on faith and justice issues.

Dr. Copeland earned a bachelor's degree from the Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University, an MBA from the University of Maryland with a concentration in marketing, and a Master of Theological Studies from The Divinity School at Duke University. In addition, she has a doctorate in metro-urban ministry from New Brunswick Theological Seminary and attended the Summer Theology Programme at Oxford University in England. She was bestowed an honorary doctorate by Ursinus College in 2023.

She is blessed to have two wonderful, justice-minded, young adult children. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., having been initiated at Kappa Lambda chapter at Syracuse University, and is now a member of Montgomery County Alumnae Chapter.

DELTA AUTHORS ON TOUR PRESENTS

Michelle Mickle Foster, PhD



Michelle Mickle Foster is an engineer, nonprofit leader, philanthropy executive and public speaker. Born in Guyana, South America, Michelle immigrated to New York at 17 to pursue the American dream. After completing her chemical engineering degree, Michelle moved to Cleveland, Ohio, to start her career. Moving to Charleston, West Virginia, she discovered her purpose and passion while volunteering at a local church. This discovery led to Michelle leaving corporate America for the nonprofit sector, developing a faith-motivated nonprofit organization.

Michelle transformed the organization into one of the most impactful and enterprising community-based initiatives in West Virginia. For this achievement, Michelle was recognized as a Champion of Change by President Barack Obama. A lifelong learner, Michelle completed master's and doctorate degrees in community economic development while running the nonprofit full-time.

Michelle is currently the President and CEO of The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, the largest community foundation in Central Appalachia. In addition, she is a sought-after speaker on leadership, nonprofit operations, diversity, equity and inclusion.

Michelle enjoys spending time with family, attending musical and theatrical productions, candle making and soul line dancing in her spare time. You can find Michelle's podcast, *Fostering Solutions*, wherever you get your podcasts. Michelle published her first book, *Maximizing Impact: Success Strategies for Dynamic Nonprofits*, in February 2023.

She was initiated at the Charleston-Institute Alumnae Chapter and currently serves as Chapter President and as the Program Planning and Development Liaison on the WV State Leadership Team. Connect with Michelle at www.drmmichellemfoster.com

DELTA AUTHORS ON TOUR PRESENTS

Sanya Whittaker Gragg



Sanya Whittaker Gragg has always had a passion for working with and inspiring kids. Born and raised in Nashville, TN, she earned degrees from the University of Memphis (B.A. Marketing), Georgia State University (M.S. Sports Administration) and the University of Southern California (M.S.W.). She has worn many hats including nearly 10 years in marketing/PR and athletics working for NIKE, the Detroit Pistons, and the University of Michigan Athletics. Sanya also worked as an assistant to best-selling author, E. Lynn Harris.

While living in Ann Arbor, she served on the board for a homeless shelter for families and advocated in the courts for foster children as a CASA. Her work in the community and with families prompted her to pursue her master's degree in social work. This led to her working in Tulsa Public Schools as a school-based therapist and social worker. Raising two black sons (now young adults) prompted her to write her debut children's book on interacting with police. Featured in Essence's "10 Things We're Talking About", Huffington Post and The Undeclared, this picture book spent several weeks as #1 on Amazon's Hot New Releases in Children's Prejudice & Racism. It also received a starred review from The School Library Journal and Kirkus Reviews called it "a heartbreakingly, necessary work". Her follow up titles address bullying, self-empowerment, and picky eaters. Sanya and her husband, Derrick reside just north of Chicago with their daughter, Saniyah.

DELTA AUTHORS ON TOUR PRESENTS

Barabara Keaton Stubblefield



A native Chicagoan, Barbara holds a BA in Communications from Columbia College Chicago and a MS in Journalism from Roosevelt University. With over 30 years in Community Outreach and Intergovernmental Affairs, Barbara currently is a Sr. Manager of Community Outreach at Ardmore Roderick, a fast-rising, minority owned engineering firm. Barbara currently lends her talents to the Chicago Transit Authority's Red Line Extension Project, assisting with outreach and workforce development. In addition to outreach, Barbara is an accomplished author with fourteen works— both traditionally published and self-published. Barbara belongs to several boards and organizations, namely the National Council of Negro Women-Chicago Central Section, Planned Parenthood of Illinois Action & Black Maternal Health, Adult Literacy Tutor for D'Estee, Inc., Volunteer/members of the DuSable Museum of African American History, and the Chicago Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., where she serves as 1st Vice President/Chair of Membership Services. Married to a minister, Barbara has no children of her own, but she considers her niece and nephew, Stephanie and Matthew, and her stepdaughter, Candice, as her “babies.” In addition, she's a grandma and a great-aunt. Barbara lives by a personal credo: I ANSWER TO TWO—MY GOD AND MYSELF!

DELTA AUTHORS ON TOUR PRESENTS

Kirstyn Mayden



Kirstyn Mayden is an author, ministry coach, and speaker whose mission is to help women in ministry recover from burnout. She is a wife and mom who loves Jesus with all her heart. She is also a writing contributor for Bible Study Tools, iBelieve, and YouVersion. She has a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University. For the last 20 years, Kirstyn has served in several ministry roles serving with children, youth, and women.

She has been a featured guest on the Rooted and Overflowing and the Path podcasts.

Currently, she serves alongside her husband in ministry in West Virginia. She is the author of *Merciful Moments: A Devotional Journal for Moving Forward with Grace Each Day* and *Merciful Moments Activity Guide*. Kirstyn is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She was initiated in the Baltimore Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter in Fall 2020. She is a current member with the Eastern Panhandle Alumnae Chapter. In her free time, she enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

Connect with Kirstyn at www.kirstynmayden.com

DELTA AUTHORS ON TOUR PRESENTS

Candice McField



Candice McField is the founder of Candice McField Fitness and As for Me and My Body. She is an ACE Certified Health Coach, fitness educator, and serves on the Kansas Governor's Council on Fitness.

Candice received her Bachelor of Science in Economics from Loyola Marymount University, and an Executive MBA in Global Management from Thunderbird School of Global Management. A natural competitor at a young age, Candice excelled in basketball and softball, but later fell in love with figure competing. Candice's accomplishments include a feature in Oxygen magazines', Future of Fitness section, earning her professional card, and securing the 2010 World Natural Bodybuilding Federation "Ms. Figure Universe" title upon her first-place finish in Barbados.

Currently, Candice resides in Kansas City where she works with clients internationally and is the host of "Conversations with Candice" on the Fox 4 Kansas City Morning Show.

Delta Authors on Tour

2023-2024 TOUR STOPS

To highlight authors within the sisterhood at each region, we are pleased to announce the following tour stops for the 2023-2024 sorority year.

FARWEST REGION • 3/23/24
GREATER SALT LAKE ALUMNAE

EASTERN REGION • 4/06/24
BALTIMORE ALUMNAE, BALTIMORE COUNTY ALUMNAE
& BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN ALUMNAE

CENTRAL REGION • 4/13/24
KANSAS CITY (KS) ALUMNAE & KANSAS CITY (MO) ALUMNAE

SOUTHERN REGION • 4/20/24
MIAMI ALUMNAE

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION • 4/27/24
CHARLESTON (SC) ALUMNAE

MIDWEST REGION • 5/04/24
CHARLESTON-INSTITUTE (WV) ALUMNAE

SOUTHWEST REGION • 5/18/24
SHREVEPORT ALUMNAE

Thank You!

