

THE SCROLL

The Official Sigma Alpha Iota Newsletter of Tulsa Alumnae Chapter and Sigma Gamma Chapter at the
University of Tulsa | Region 2, Zeta A Province

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Stay Connected!

📢 If you are an SAI Alumna but not yet affiliated with our Tulsa Alumnae chapter, please let us know! We'd love to stay connected with you and let you know a little more about what we do and what's coming up for us this year.

Also be sure to get on the *Scroll* list by emailing the editor at saitulsaalumnae@gmail.com or visit *Scroll* issues at our website, listed below, to stay up to date on what both of our Tulsa SAI chapters are up to!

Happy Fall!



Be sure to take a look at what our Tulsa SAIs have been up to and save the dates for our exciting upcoming events!

Tulsa Alumnae:

Website: saitulsaalumnae.com

Sigma Gamma:

Website: saisigmagamma.org

Twitter: @SAI_SigmaGamma

Instagram: @saisigmagamma

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Chapter Communications

Sigma Gamma Chapter

Iris Ramirez

Our Sigma Gamma chapter has had a phenomenal start to the semester! We recently held our recruitment week starting on September 7 and ending with formal recruitment on Friday, September 10. Our theme for recruitment this semester was “Cottagecore” which inspired our activities throughout the week. Our informal recruitment events consisted of flower-crown making, s’mores and music, and a game/movie night. In total we have seven in this semester’s pledging class; the most we have had during a fall recruitment in a very long time!

As we continue to walk the soon-to-be MITs through their journey into Sigma Alpha Iota we also have some future plans for our chapter individually and in collaboration with Phi Mu Alpha. Our Sigma Gamma chapter has been invited once again to sing the University of Tulsa’s alma mater at our traditional homecoming bonfire alongside Phi Mu Alpha. We have also recently been approved to hold a joint recital with PMA towards the end of this semester.

Though this semester will be a busy one, we are very excited to be back in person and continue serving our community through music.



Tulsa Alumnae Chapter

Patty Mandrell

Welcome. I hope this finds all of you well and secure.

Fall is bringing in cooler weather and a new year for us in SAI. Due to the pandemic still lingering the board has scheduled another abbreviated but meaningful and fun calendar for 2021-22.

We will be affiliating some new sisters, printing a new yearbook, memorializing Jim Cohn, our 1998 National Arts Associate, and past chapter president Joan Hatley, awarding the Cindy Harmon Memorial Scholarship, a service project and possibly preparing for convention/ Palmer Scholarship in summer 2022. And get ready to go down memory lane when we recognize three members with 50-year certificates!

We have scheduled an in-person meeting for October 30, here's hoping the covid environment will allow it and we can enjoy some sisterhood. If we are all vaccinated it will go far in keeping us, our sisters, our families and our community all healthy.

Hope to see you soon.

Fraternity Education: Memorable Convention Moments

“Prelude: Memorable Convention Moments”

With SAI's National Convention scheduled for Summer 2022, in North Carolina, it would be helpful to look back at conventions of bygone years and to reflect on the importance of these gatherings. Therefore, for our SCROLL Fraternity Education columns for Fall 2021 through Spring 2022, we will examine for the first four issues, Milestone Conventions: the First, the Silver Anniversary, the Golden Anniversary, and the Centennial Anniversary. The final four will consider Tulsans and their experiences at Conventions held in the 1947-1953 decade, at the 1959 Convention, followed by happenings at Conventions held in 1990 and finally in 1993.

“SAI's First National Convention—1907”

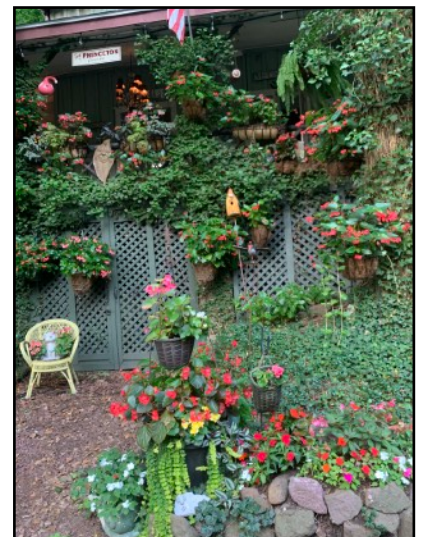
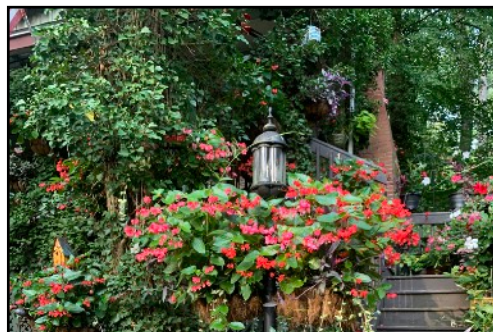
The first National Convention of Sigma Alpha Iota was held June 4-5, 1907, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The delegates represented the first four Active (collegiate) chapters: Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta. Edna Lowry, Alpha Chapter's president, chaired the two-day event held in the home of Elsa Stanley. Business was conducted in two morning sessions, with social activities occupying the afternoons and evenings, such as the final evening Formal Reception and Dance.

Business conducted involved much time devoted to procedural and organizational matters. These included work on the new National Constitution; defining four levels of membership — Active (which in deliberations of later years would become Collegiate), Associate, Honorary, and Patroness); decisions on National Officers and their roles (President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian); finances (initiation fees, chapter assessments, and member dues); insignia (Member Badge and Ring of Excellence); procedures for admitting new chapters and application methods; and Ritual updating and refining.

Edna Lowry was elected National President during deliberations at the final business session on June 5. In the early days of the Fraternity, conventions in the years 1907-1924 were held annually, the term of each officer was one year.



Pictures from Mt. Gretna, the Flower House - a place visited by Jim Cohn that he wrote about to some of our chapter members.



Upcoming Events!

September SAI Performances

Symphonic Masterpieces

**Saturday, September 25 at 7:00pm,
free**

Holy Family Cathedral, Eighth and
Boulder, Tulsa

Beethoven's Choral Fantasy for Orchestra
and Piano will feature pianist and SAI
Alumna **Cathy Venable** and the Saint-
Saëns Symphony No. 3 ("The Organ"), with
organist **Ernest Neal**. This concert will
also feature singing from Tulsa Alumna
Karen Gingrich.

Tuesdays at Trinity

**Tuesday, September 21,
12:05-12:35pm**

Trinity Episcopal Church, 501 S.
Cincinnati Ave

Featuring **Anna Norberg**, pianist.

Concert at Trinity Woods

**Thursday, September 30 at 7:00
pm**

Trinity Woods, 4134 East 31st Street
(formerly Methodist Manor)

Meray Boustani, soprano, and
Joseph Arndt, piano, will present
sacred classics and music of Sondheim
and Gilbert and Sullivan.

2021-2022 Chapter Events

2021

25 September: Tulsa Alumnae Chapter dues due to
Sherye Halliburton (see more information on next page)

30 October: Tulsa Alumnae Formal Chapter Meeting,
chapter affiliations, 50-year membership honourees, Jim
Cohn Memorial, and yearbook pickup, 1:00pm,
University United Methodist Church (UUMC), 2915 E 5th
St, Tulsa, OK 74104

6 November: Yearbook pickup at Sherye Halliburton's
home

16 November: Hideaway Pizza Benenight Fundraiser

11 December: Christmas Caroling, Location TBD

2022

29 January: Tulsa Alumnae Virtual Chapter Meeting,
1:00pm

26 February: Tulsa Alumnae Formal Chapter Meeting,
1:00pm, Church of St. Mary, 1347 E 49th Pl, Tulsa, OK
74105

8 March: Taziki's Benenight Fundraiser

11 March: Cindy Harmon Memorial Scholarship
Applications due

20 March: Cindy Harmon Memorial Scholarship Virtual
Committee Meeting, 4:00pm

2 April: Senior Farewell, 11:00am, Location TBD

7 May: Tulsa Alumnae Salad Luncheon, 11:00am,
Location TBD

13 or 20 May: Mayfest, specific dates TBD

Dues Reminder for Tulsa Alumnae

Recently a flyer was emailed to each current Tulsa Alumnae member explaining how dues would be collected this year. Since we aren't meeting in person in September it will be up to each member to send in their dues. **NO** reminder notices will be sent this year. If you are planning to continue your affiliation with Tulsa Alumnae Chapter, now is the time to mail in your dues (**active \$25 or associate \$10**). Since we are unsure if there will be an October meeting where you can pick up your yearbook directory you have two other options to receive your copy. First, a drive thru will be held *Saturday, November 6th*....details to be announced later OR second, if you would like your directory mailed to you, you can *include an extra \$1.50 for postage* in your dues check and it will be mailed to you. Checks should be made out to Tulsa Alumnae Chapter SAI and mailed by **September 25th to Sherye Halliburton 4305 E. 87th St. Tulsa, OK 74137.**

A special THANK YOU to those of you who have already responded by sending in your dues after receiving the dues flyer. Your continued commitment to the chapter is very much appreciated.

SAI Tulsa Alumnae Chapter

Dues News

Welcome to the beginning of another SAI year,
Just how we'll proceed is a bit unclear
Due to the Delta variant's untimely surge,
The covid pandemic has become quite the scourge!

Although the membership gathering has been cancelled again,
It's time for the yearly dues collection to begin.
Once again that responsibility will be up to you
To send in your payment of what is now due.

Check information and instructions listed below,
Take heed, do it now, and don't be slow,
Since the yearbook editor awaits the news
Of who to include that have paid their dues.

This email announcement has come to an end,
Now take time, do your part and send
In your dues so our chapter will be able to rely
On your being a part of Tulsa Alumnae SAI!

Dues Information

- ❖ **Active** dues with voting privileges: \$25
- ❖ **Associate** dues with non-voting status: \$10
- ❖ Checks should be made payable to **SAI Tulsa Alumnae Chapter** and mailed by **September 25**.
Mail checks to:
 Sherye Halliburton
 4305 E. 87th St.
 Tulsa, OK 74137
- ❖ Your National Alumnae Association dues of \$35 are **paid directly to National** on the anniversary of your affiliation date.

Yearbook Directory Information

Yearbook Directory distribution may be a "drive by" event again this year. If you would like your directory mailed to you instead of picking it up, please include an additional \$1.50 in your dues payment and it will be sent to you.

IN MEMORIAM

James Cohn

James Cohn, eminent composer, long-standing board member of The Quintet of the Americas and Tulsa Alumnae 1998 National Arts Associate initiate passed away June 12, 2021 in Queens, NY after a long illness.

Born February 12, 1928, in Newark, New Jersey, Mr. Cohn was a resident of Douglaston, New York, along with his wife Eileen who survives him. A funeral service was held June 13, at Schwartz Brothers-Jeffer Memorial Chapel in Forest Hills, followed by a committal service at Beth El Cemetery in Paramus, New Jersey.

After pursuing lessons in piano, violin, and composition as a young man, Mr. Cohn earned two degrees from Juilliard and later pursued postgraduate studies at Hunter College.

Throughout his life he received numerous national and international honors celebrating his music and mentorship.

His catalogue includes solo, choral, chamber, and orchestral works, including nine symphonies, five piano sonatas, and three string quartets; his commissioned music for television and cinema has been used worldwide. His last composition, the commissioned *Concertino for Flute and String Orchestra*, was completed in February 2021, the month of Jim's 93rd birthday.

Jim and Eileen are exceptional friends to Tulsa Alumnae and Eileen continues to support the chapter. They were guests of honor at the chapter's 75th anniversary celebration in February 2019. A chapter ensemble premiered Jim's "SAI SONATINA" which the chapter had commissioned for the occasion. Jim will be remembered for his extraordinary kindness and his frequent mentorship of young artists and composers. R.I.P.



Eileen and James Cohn with Patty Mandrell at the Tulsa Alumnae 75th anniversary celebration.

Joan Hatley

Joan Hatley passed away in Tulsa on August 13, 2021, due to complications with cancer. Born in 1959, Joan was a lover of music, books, cats, the color green, crocheting, and especially her family. She began piano studies at age four with her mother, continued her studies with Georgann Gasaway then graduated OU with a degree in piano performance. She went on to establish a music school, teaching piano, music history and theory, choir and training intern teachers. She performed with local music groups, including serving as accompanist for Tulsa Oratorio Chorus, and directed musical comedies at Boston Avenue Methodist Church. She also took over the music program at Eisenhower Elementary in 2018.

Joan was initiated at Alpha Iota Chapter at OU and held various offices in Tulsa Alumnae Chapter, including serving as president of Tulsa Alumnae from 2000-2004. She was the national chairman of the Member Laureate subcommittee of the SAI Distinguished Members Committee. She also received the Sword of Honor award. Her mother, Dr Marilyn Carver, also an active Tulsa Alumnae for many years, survives her as well as her sons Dylan and Jonathan (Ellie) and brother David Chapman (Missie) and nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held August 25 at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church.

People of Note

♪ Tulsa Alumna Jean Wallace has been appointed to the Finance Committee of the Oklahoma State Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Jean will serve on this vital state committee for five years after having served as Treasurer of a local P.E.O. chapter and a long career as a banker. Congrats, Jean!!

♪ We extend deepest condolences to Paula Combest Unruh, long-time member of Tulsa Patroness Chapter of SAI, whose daughter, Jilda Unruh, died suddenly at her home in Florida on July 9, 2021. Jilda was an Emmy-winning broadcast investigative reporter and anchor who worked at KOTV in Tulsa from 1979 to 1984 before continuing her career at stations in Florida. Sympathy cards may be sent to Paula Combest Unruh, 18181 Northeast 31st Court, Apt, 703, Aventura, Florida 33160.

♪ SAI is saddened to learn of the death on July 18 of Dr. Robert E. Howard, brother of Vernon D. Howard, SAI National Arts Associate and University of Tulsa School of Music faculty member. Robert Howard was a professor of chemistry at TU from 1982 to 2015, including ten years as chairman of the chemistry department. Sympathy cards may be sent to Vernon D. Howard, 2707 East 14th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104

♪ Congratulations to Tulsa Alumna Dr. Megan Whitley on her appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma!

♪ Harry Todd, husband of Tulsa Alumna Aileen Todd, passed away in Houston on June 26. Harry had attended SAI and other music events that Aileen was involved in since the 1970s. If you would like to write Aileen, her Houston address is: Aileen Todd, 1015 S. Shepherd Drive, Rm 501, Houston, TX 77019. Our thoughts and prayers, and sincere condolences, are with Aileen and her family.

PIONEER WOMEN UPDATE FROM DEBRA RUE

• The musical I wrote, PIONEER WOMEN, which was performed at the historic Poncan Theatre in April, was a hit and exceeded all my expectations. This was the major project of the Ponca City Federated Music Club celebrating its 100th anniversary and also the 90th anniversary of the unveiling of the Pioneer Woman statue in Ponca City. We received some wonderful grants and ended up clearing over \$10,000. This money will be donated to the Poncan Theatre & the Pioneer Woman for educational and music projects. Quite a fundraiser!

• With a great cast under the direction of Cara Kem Cassens, over 300 costume pieces & music performed by a talented group of young ladies - Prairie Fire - the community got behind it and we all had a great time! The PCFMC sponsored a celebration party after the Saturday night performance complete with champagne fountains and piano-shaped cake!