

VOLUME TWENTY-THREE

2024 National Reading Circle

The DREF National Reading Circle is designed to engage women throughout America in reading classic works and scholarly literature by and about women of color. Each year, a book is chosen for discussion during a virtual book talk.

This year's book is the New York Times Bestseller, *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. The historical fiction selection tells the story of friendship between First Lady of the United States, Eleanor Roosevelt and Founder of the National Council of Negro Women, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, often called "The First Lady of Negro America" or "The First Lady of The Struggle".

The intergenerational book discussion is open to persons of all backgrounds. In the rich tradition of collaboration, it is jointly sponsored by the Sister Scholars Advisory Council of the Delta Research and Educational Research Foundation and

the National Council of Negro Women. Speakers include Rev. Shavon L. Arline-Bradley, President and CEO, NCNW; Renee Harper, President, DREF Board of Directors; Dr. A. Lois Keith, Chair, NCNW Board of Directors; Dr. Tchicaya Robertson Brooks, Chair, DREF Sister Scholars Advisory Council; and others. The discussion will be facilitated by Patricia Hurlock of Hurlock Marketing Enterprises.

This free event will take place during Women's History Month and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Inc.'s Sisterhood Month, and celebrates universal sisterhood.

Join us, via Zoom at 8pm EST on March 26, 2024. To register, scan here



The First Ladies is available as a hard copy, e-book and audiobook at all major booksellers and online.

Financial Health and Wellness Program

The Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) Financial Health and Wellness Program was a 10-week, interactive learning experience for more than 1,000 participants throughout the United States and Caribbean Islands. The program launched in September and ended in November 2023.

The objectives of the initiative were for participants to:

- Understand how financial success can lead to accomplishing major goals, i.e. getting an education, purchasing an automobile, purchasing a home, and saving for retirement.
- Learn how to establish credit and maintain good credit.
- Gather knowledge about financial institutions such as banks, loan companies, check-cashing facilities, investment firms, and insurance companies.
- Understand the concepts of saving and spending.

The program was facilitated by financial expert Dr. Lynn Richardson and her team
(Continued on page 4)

DREF Sister Scholar The Historical Consultant for Shirley

Dr. Zinga A. Fraser is the Director of the Shirley Chisholm Project on Brooklyn Women's Activism. She is also an Assistant Professor in the Africana Studies and Women's and Gender Studies at Brooklyn College. Dr. Fraser is a foremost expert on Shirley Chisholm and Black Congressional Women's politics. For over 18 years, Dr. Fraser has devoted her time to preserving a legacy of Chisholm, both in the academy and public.

Dr. Fraser served as the Historical Consultant to the feature Netflix Film, *Shirley* chronicling her groundbreaking run for president of the United States. She worked closely with Regina King and John Ridley, who wrote and directed the film that premieres March 22. To commemorate the centennial



of the birth of Shirley Chisholm, Dr. Fraser is the co-curator of the first major museum exhibition on the life and legacy of Chisholm, opening at the City of New York Museum in June 2024.
(Continued on page 2)

Greetings from the DREF President

Dear DREF Supporter:

Thank you very much for supporting the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF). On behalf of the DREF Board of Directors, I extend warm, appreciative greetings to you.

Since commemorating the Foundation's 55th Anniversary last year at the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s national convention, we have been forging ahead with an impactful agenda in this current program year.



Renee L. Harper

We were excited and very pleased to present the 10-week series on financial literacy: "Empowering Families Through Financial Health and Wellness" held last autumn. We offer a huge note of gratitude to financial expert Dr. Lynn Richardson, a Delta member who presented the sessions, and to all of you who logged on each week to participate in the life-changing series. Her webinar presentations covered topics related to money management, home ownership, credit health, charitable giving, home-based businesses, and more. The Financial Health and Wellness series was made possible by funding from Toyota.

At this year's Delta Days in the Nation's Capital, DREF looks forward to presenting its annual Stephanie Tubbs Jones Social

Justice Institute Forum, where we will focus on the desegregation of education by revisiting the landmark decision, *Brown vs. Board*. This year marks the 70th Anniversary that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that separating children in public schools based on race was unconstitutional. Later this month on March 26, our Sister Scholars Advisory Council will collaborate with the National Council of Negro Women and Hurlock Marketing Enterprises to present this year's National Reading Circle book

selection: *The First Ladies* co-authored by Delta member Victoria Christopher Murray and Marie Benedict. If you have not yet read this enthralling work of historical fiction, start doing so now...you don't want to miss what promises to be a lively book discussion.

In this coming spring and summer, we look forward to interacting with you at the DST Regional Conferences. Until then, we encourage you to follow DREF on our social media platforms to stay informed of our program endeavors and fundraising initiatives.

Sincere regards,

Renee L. Harper
DREF Board President

Sister Scholar

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Fraser's book, *Shirley Chisholm: In her Own Words*, an edited volume of Chisholm's selected writings and speeches, introduces a new generation to one of the most impactful proponents of democracy in America will be released by the University of California this Fall. She is also currently completing her book manuscript titled, *Sister Insider/ Sister Outsider: Shirley*



Dr. Zingia A. Fraser

Chisholm and Barbara Jordan, Black Women's Politics in the Post-Civil Rights Era.

Fraser holds a doctorate in African American Studies from Northwestern University, and a Master's of Arts from the Institute for Research in African American Studies at Columbia University. She is a former Vivian A. Ware fellow and member of the North Manhattan Alumnae Chapter, - initiated in Epsilon Delta Chapter - Temple University 1997.

Delta Research and Educational Foundation Board of Directors

Officers

Renee L. Harper
PRESIDENT

Constance Y. Ross, Esq.
VICE PRESIDENT

Tina Fernandez
SECRETARY

Nicole Lindsay
TREASURER

Nigel W. Long, Esq.
PARLIAMENTARIAN

Members

Elsie Cooke-Holmes
INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT AND CHAIR,
National Board of Directors
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Sade' Ried
NATIONAL SECOND
VICE PRESIDENT
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Tchicaya e.r. Brooks, PhD
Doris Gray Brown
Lori Jones Gibbs
Teresa Harmon, CPA
Steven Hunter, Esq.
Sandra Phillips Johnson
Gwendolyn Mason
Vonetta C. Mickens
Yanique O. Moore
Kristan Murray
Frederic Navarre
Pamela E. Smith
Karen Stanley
Cristel Turner
Angela M. Williams
Soraya Williams Farver
Annie Whatley
Anjanette Wyatt, PharmD

Ex-Officio Members

Karla M. Green
DREF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dorcas Washington
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

All of Us

The All of Us mission is to accelerate health research and medical breakthroughs, enabling individualized prevention, treatment, and care for all of us. The 2023-2024 fiscal year marks the sixth year that Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) has been selected by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for



the health initiative, Research Matters for All of Us Program. The NIH has awarded funding to DREF to focus on community engagement, empowerment, research, and enrollment. DREF is leading the national effort to educate African Americans about the significant role biomedical research plays in addressing health disparities.



Brown v Board of Education of Topeka (1954) Commemorative Artwork

DREF is pleased to announce that Dr. Kathi Earles Ross, an Atlanta-based physician and artist has been commissioned to create commemorative artwork in honor of the 70th anniversary of the landmark *Brown v. Board* (1954) Supreme Court decision.

The mixed media piece depicts the legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education*, utilizing

historical imagery and a variety of materials to capture the struggle and hope for a more equitable future. At the heart of the composition is imagery that tells the story of numerous epic moments of that period. The artist sets the framework by using a backdrop reflecting many of the historical moments including the grandeur of Thurgood Marshall following the decision and young Linda Brown as she walked through the angry crowd and into the doors of the school. The vintage classroom is displayed with a patchwork of newspaper clippings, photographs, and legal documents that assist in telling the story of the time. The monochromatic backdrop is contrasted with an array of colors and materials used to depict the presence of excitement and hope, seen through the new student's eyes. The piece is not merely a tribute to the pivotal moment of American history but a call to reflect, prepare and rise up for the ongoing journey towards equality.

Copies of the print will be sold at Delta Days in the Nation's Capital and may also be ordered.

Sister Scholars Advisory Council (SSAC) Launches 3rd Research Project Focused on Healthcare Access and Utilization in the Black Community

Recognizing the stark disparities in health outcomes in our community and the ever-growing unmet mental health care resources, the Sister Scholars Advisory Council (SSAC) is tackling this very important issue through research and advocacy. Our goal is to increase awareness of the issues and to provide solutions for closing health care gaps. We depend on our followers and friends, donors and interested parties to help us spread the word about our findings in hopes to forge partnerships and collaborations with other organizations whose mission aligns with those of DREF.



DELTA RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION Announces 2024-2025 Internship, Scholarship and Program Grant Opportunities

- ▲ **The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Summer Internship (STI)** for applicants in a college or university with a demonstrated interest in public service, governance, and policy-making process. Students will gain experience in the office of a member of the United States Congress, receive a stipend and be provided room and board at a local university.
- ▲ **The Eula Dean Roby Scholarship** for students currently enrolled in a college or university. All applicants for the Roby Scholarship MUST major in education.
- ▲ **The Oleta L. Crain Scholarship** is awarded to female students graduating from high school and will enroll at a Historically Black College and University (HBCU). The applicants must reside in one of the following states: Colorado, Oklahoma, or Missouri.
- ▲ **The Ruby Dee Legacy of Sisterhood Scholarship for the Arts** is made possible by a generous donation from Dr. Francene Breakfield and L. Denise Wells, longtime members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Co-Authors of *An Anthology of Sisterhood*. The \$1,000 merit-based scholarship will be awarded annually to a deserving African American female student who is either a junior or senior collegiate or a graduate student majoring in English, Literature, Drama, Art, Music, African American Studies, Communications, Education, Fine Arts, Performing Arts, Visual Arts.
- ▲ **Community Empowerment Grantmaking** encourages collegiate and alumnae chapters to apply for a grant in one of the following areas: Civic Engagement; Educational Development; Financial Literacy for Youth; Health and Wellness; or International Awareness. A program can be conducted by a Delta chapter or a program sponsored in partnership with a community-based organization that has a similar mission and goals as those of DREF or the Sorority. The community-based organization partner must have a 501 (c) (3) non-profit status. Grant awards will range from \$500 to \$1,000 based on score received.

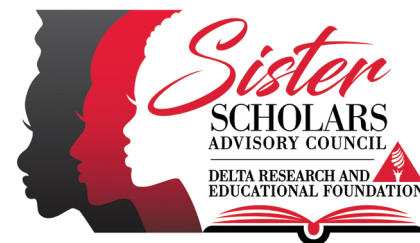


The application deadline for all internship, scholarship and grant opportunities is **April 1, 2024**. Visit www.deltafoundation.net for guidelines and to submit your on-line application.

Delta Research and Educational Foundation ▲ 1703 New Hampshire Ave., NW ▲ Washington, DC 20009
 info@deltafoundation.net ▲ www.deltafoundation.net ▲ (202) 347-1337

Follow us and Like our page! | Delta Research and Educational Foundation @DREF_1967 | #DREF

The Sister Scholars Advisory Council was established in 2009 to provide to counsel and lead research for The Center for Research on African American Women.



2023-2024 SISTER SCHOLARS ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Carolyn Lewis
- Constance Y. Ross, Esq.
- Debra Bond, PhD
- Jennifer Payne Parrish, PhD
- Kaitlin Blakeney, MS
- Kimberley Freeman, DrPH
- Marlena Brown, PhD
- Marilyn M. Brown, PhD
- Mary Howard-Hamilton, PhD
- Mary Redd, PhD
- Sharon Barnett-Starks, MSW
- Sonya Y. Ramsey, PhD
- Takeia Anthony, PhD
- Yarbrah T. Peoples, PhD
- Zinga Fraser, PhD
- Tchicaya e.r. Brooks, PhD, *Chair*
- Antoinette M. Rogers, PhD, *DREF Staff Liaison*

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Who creates possibilities and helps to improve lives? **You do!** Thank you for generously supporting the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF). In the face of the challenges, resulting from the pandemic, you have kept our mission alive as we have assisted over **300 chapters and special fund accounts** since March 2020 as well as provided more than **\$3,000,000 in academic scholarships to over 1,400 students.**



Karla M. Green

Our goal is to provide programming, scholarships, and research that will impact the lives of the African-American community, individually and collectively, for generations to come. One example, DREF conducted a 10-week national awareness campaign entitled **Empowering Families through Financial Health and Wellness**, which informed and engaged individuals on how to achieve financial goals that spanned a lifetime, facilitated by Dr. Lynn Richardson, a proud member of Delta

Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Powerful testimonies from program participants included:

"It was very educational, I left with a lot of value. Not only value that I can use for myself but value I can teach my children and others. We need a lot more teachings on wealth and building generational wealth, especially for our African American population."

"Since completing the course I've eliminated \$200 of monthly unnecessary expenses. With those funds I was able to apply those savings towards credit card debt. The tools learned during the courses have impacted how I think about my earnings and savings!"

As a result of **5,000 registered program participants**, it is our hope that the **more than 1,000 persons** who took part in the program will improve their lives and financial health by continuing to engage in best practices. Based on need and responses from participants, DREF hopes to continue the work of promoting Financial Health and Wellness.

Additionally, as DREF prepares to return to a hybrid in-office schedule, we are currently improving our information technology to ensure that better business performance is provided to you, our customers by: (1) Providing higher quality service, (2) Enhancing customer service to our chapters, and (3) Reducing waste. Several 2024 First Quarter goals also include: improving the Scholarship & Community Empowerment Grant online application process, providing an electronic back-up plan for Microsoft 365, as well as hiring new staff members to increase organizational capacity.

Again, on behalf of the DREF staff, we appreciate your generosity and continued support for DREF. Your tax-deductible donation makes you an important part of our village, changes lives, and makes the work of our Foundation possible. You will forever change lives of the African-American community with your support today. Thank you.

Yours in gratitude,

Karla M. Green
Karla M. Green

Financial Health

(Continued from page 1)

from W.E.A.L.T.H. University, who challenged and changed mindsets as well as groomed participants to be proactive in understanding financial vocabulary, common practices and developing savings and investment plans. Participants received tools



that will help them continue their journey to financial wellness. The program is archived and housed on the DREF website and on YouTube so that it can be viewed in perpetuity. DREF plans to continue

to utilize the video series as a training option for members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, community groups, individuals and other entities wishing to become more fiscally empowered. DREF is grateful to The Toyota Foundation for funding the project.

For more information, visit the DREF website at www.deltafoundation.net

The **FRONT Page** is published periodically by the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) to report news and information about its programs, activities, and fundraising efforts. The newsletter is distributed nationally to donors, partners, and supporters of the Foundation. DREF is located at 1703 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009; 202-347-1337; www.deltafoundation.net

DREF Staff

Karla M. Green
Executive Director

Cheryl M. Thomas
Principal Investigator
Research Matters for All of Us

Antoinette M. Rogers, PhD
Director of Programs

Freda Brown
Donor Database Consultant

Adina Walker
Program Associate

LaShawn Cook
Donor Manager and
Financial Assistant

Cynthia Glenn-Cotton
All of Us Collegiate
Engagement Coordinator

Larmender Davis
All of Us Community
Engagement Coordinator

Imani Drew
Office Manager

Damarcus Haywood
All of Us Collegiate
Engagement Associate

Mandy Hill, DrPH, MPH
All of Us Researcher Specialist

Joyce E. Kilgore
Charitable Engagement Consultant

Josephine Spurlock
Financial Consultant

Payton Terrell
All of Us Social Media and
Communications Coordinator

Ken Weinberger
IT Consultant

Dr. Kay Williams-Dawson
All of Us Program Director

BriDé Key
All of Us Program Associate

Rosali Quinones
Senior Accountant

Follow us and Like our page!



Delta Research and Educational
Foundation @DREF_1967

#DREF

DREF CFC NUMBER IS 11213