

NY DELTA DOINGS

NY Delta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi at Cornell

Fall 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Chapter House Corporation
"Our Home Is Getting a Facelift"
- ◆ Senior Spotlight
- ◆ My Sisters
- ◆ Celebrating
Susan H. Murphy '73,
PhD '94
50 Years of Service
- ◆ Pi Phi Passions
- ◆ Alumnae News



LEADING AND LEARNING WITH PI PHI

by Jenna Chiarella '24

Hi everyone! My name is **Jenna Chiarella**, and I am serving as the president of the NY Delta Chapter this fall. I am honored to have the opportunity to give back to the chapter that has given me so much during my time at Cornell, and I am grateful for the unwavering commitment that I have received from my alumni advisory committee, my executive board, and each member of the chapter. During my term as president, I hope to embody Pi Phi's core values and to encourage every sister to do the same. I want to foster the building of sincere friendships, ones that will last long after our time above Cayuga's Waters.

I went through recruitment over Zoom in January of 2021, in the midst of the pandemic. I knew I had wanted to join a Panhellenic organization since I was accepted to Cornell, but I never imagined my experience beginning in this way. I was worried that the virtual nature of my process would prevent me from having a genuine understanding of each organization I spoke to. Yet the second I joined Pi Phi's Zoom, that

worry went out the window. It was immediately clear that the members of Pi Phi have diverse passions and talents; there is no clear mold of a NY Delta. No matter what they care about, whether that be mental health issues, environmental studies, the arts, or athletics, Pi Phis commit themselves wholly. There is always something new I can learn from my sisters. I fell in love with that three years ago through my computer screen, and it continues to be my answer when asked "Why Pi Phi?"

As a senior, I have been reflecting heavily on my time here at Cornell. As I walk through campus, I remind myself to take in every sight: the sunsets falling over the slope, the fall leaves transforming our campus into a sea of burgundy and orange, and the morning flurries on my walks to class. That being said, it is clear to me that what truly made my time here special is the people that I have come to know, most especially my Pi Phi sisters. I will never forget my chance encounter meeting **Taisa**, who has taught me what

(Continued on Page 3)

CHAPTER HOUSE CORPORATION

Our Home Is Getting a Facelift

Starting in early June, we installed new energy-efficient sliding windows on the second and third floors. This improvement will moderate the heat exchange between the bedrooms, floors, and outdoor elements, thus making the house more energy efficient. We gave careful consideration to increasing exterior flashing along the third floor's dormer to prevent water from damaging the new stucco and windowsills. Over time, the copper will patina and blend with the other flashing around the porches.

We had a "mighty blue" construction lift the crew used to shift around the exterior. When the old windows were removed and then boarded, our house was not a pretty sight! Once installed, the new windows, now a "cashmere cream" instead of white, blend well with the brick facade. Next summer's schedule includes installing the first floor and basement windows, along with painting the soffits and other trim to match the new window color. We will then clean



Windows being installed on the second and third floors.

the brick facade and install new gutters.

The electrical service upgrade is underway and is planned to be completed at semester break. The service will enter the house underground and provide more capacity for the facility, needed with today's electrical demand.

(Continued on Page 7)

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

by Mira Harris '24

Coming to Cornell as a freshman in the fall of 2020 was an overwhelming transition to say the least. Navigating the building of friendships through social distancing and masking protocols was difficult and isolating. Joining Pi Phi in my sophomore fall quickly became one of the best decisions I made throughout my four years at Cornell.

I was in a unique situation when I first joined Pi Phi. Just weeks shy of initiation, I was displaced from my apartment after repeated break-ins. Scared and traumatized, I reached out to Pi Phi and found out that a junior girl was looking for someone to take over her lease. In October of 2021, I moved into 209 College Avenue with five Pi Phi upperclassmen who changed my life. From the beginning, I experienced nothing but kindness as they welcomed me into the first community I had ever known at Cornell. As the oldest child, I was used to forging my own path and looking out for my younger siblings. Within our modest apartment and over the course of the year, I gained five older sisters, who have had an immeasurable impact on my life. For the first time at Cornell, I felt secure, protected, and loved. **Prameela**, currently excelling at Columbia Law school, taught me how to be a leader and advocate not only for myself but for those around me. **Jordan**, brilliant among her current class at Harvard Medical School, taught me how discipline and hard work pays off but also about humility and self care. **Sarah** taught me about independence and self-reliance, and **Chloe** demonstrated what true empathy really looks like. We hosted



Mira Harris '24 celebrating the graduation of Prameela Kottapalli '23 and Jordan Tralins '23



Sarah Boyle '23, Mira Harris '24, and Prameela Kottapalli '23 enjoying a Pi Phi date night!

barbecues, birthdays, movie nights, and late-night talk sessions. Together, we celebrated every accomplishment.

Throughout middle and high schools, whenever I struggled to connect with my peers, my mom would repeat "Don't worry, you'll find your people." Looking back, I know that the friendships I have built through Pi Phi mark the first time in my life I found my people. Although my older sisters have graduated, I could not complete this letter without mentioning the sisters within my own class who have impacted me. **Katie** and **Sydney** are two women who I know will instantly pick up the phone whether I need to celebrate or a shoulder to cry on. **Anoushka** holds me accountable and is not

(Continued on Page 8)

PHILANTHROPY



The NY Delta chapter truly prides itself on its philanthropic efforts. This past semester, our chapter volunteered the most hours compared to any other Panhellenic organization on our campus, contributing over 700 service hours. NY Delta has also received the Gold Standard Distinction among our Panhellenic community to congratulate our efforts and work in the community. At the beginning of her term, Vice President of Community Relations **Mia Federico '24** set the goal for the chapter to receive this high-level distinction and is beyond proud of the wonderful women of NY Delta for achieving this standard. With this, she is working hard to achieve this standard once again in the fall semester.



During Homecoming weekend, the NY Delta Chapter worked with a fraternity on campus to run Pie a Pi, an event truly beloved by our sisters, where we have people passing by throw whipped cream pies at our members' faces. Because this event was hosted during Homecoming weekend, we were able to talk with several NY Delta alumnae, and they were thrilled to be able to participate in the event once again, this time on the other side of the plate full of whipped cream!



In the past, NY Delta has worked with the Ithaca Childcare Center, a local preschool that is just a mile from our chapter house at 330 Triphammer Road. We set up a week where sisters go to the preschool after classes and read to the children. The members of NY Delta understand that service is just as important as philanthropy and cannot wait to return to volunteering at the Ithaca Childcare Center. Our VP of community relations is hoping to work with the Champions are Readers program to sponsor a teacher or classroom at the Childcare Center to provide books, activities, and classroom supplies.

Finally, NY Delta is once again continuing the tradition of the Arrow Bowl Powderpuff Football game against the sisters of Alpha Epsilon Phi. Whether our sisters are out on the field or cheering from the sidelines, it is an event that every member of NY Delta looks forward to. This event incorporates both philanthropy and sisterhood and is a tradition we hope to continue!

MY SISTERS

by Maria De Fex-Barraza '26 (ILR)

My best friend at home is my little sister, Isa. When I'm at Cornell, I miss her telling me jokes and coming into my room to bother me. First semester, I missed her presence more than anything else from home. Though I had one foot on the ground in Ithaca, the other was back home with her. To place both feet on the ground, I joined Pi Phi in hopes of branching out into a diverse group of friends, and though I achieved that, I gained a lot more.

Firstly, Pi Phi has led me to tap into a creative side I did not know I had. Whether it's taking pictures of my sisters by the sunset with my digital camera or decorating our house together, Pi Phi has shown me the importance of slowing down and executing an inspiring vision I might have. But, Pi Phi's never craft alone! I can always knock on my neighbors' (**Abby** and **Christina**) door and ask for someone to start a project with me.

When I have something to get off my chest or just want to watch TV with someone, I just head downstairs from my room into the living room and bump into a sister or, more typically, a whole group of them. Conversation ensues, and though homework is supposed to happen, we all get carried away with the occurrences of the week. **Katie Sestak**, a Pi Phi sister and living-room frequenter, will always be there with campus news or to tell me something hilarious that happened to her at work. Even though we love our time for casual chatter, this is different on nights before tests. You can find me and the rest of the ILRie sisters in the kitchen quizzing one another on the details of labor the night before a test.

When we get hungry, our chef **Dickyi** never disappoints. Always the most creative, she is a master in the kitchen. Every day is something new and somehow more delicious than the day before. My favorites are the breakfast burritos she makes for lunch and Sunday morning omelets. Though her menu changes, one constant is her Pi Phi-famous banana bread with chocolate chips, which all sisters mark on their calendar for once a week.

Looking at these last two months, I haven't just gained crafting time, study buddies, and delicious food but also a whole set of new sisters I can count on to cheer me up if I have had a rough day or need help with any issue I might have. I have gained girls who make me laugh and girls who will be there if I need to cry. I have gained dozens of new sisters, and though I still miss Isa dearly, every time I call her from Cornell, I tell her she'd love to be a Pi Phi.



At a sisterhood event with Abby Bates.



Getting ready for formal with Eva Egeghy.



Watching the sunset on the slope with my sisters (L-R): Ava Friesen, Abby Bates, Eva Egeghy, and Christina MacCorkle.



Celebrating with my sisters in the living room: Caitlin Neafsey, me, Emily Dyner, Ella Hartmanis.

LEADING AND LEARNING WITH PI PHI (Continued from Page 1)

it truly means to fight for your rights. I will never forget my coronavirus-ridden bid day with **Isabelle**, **Audrey**, and **Renee** dancing through the socially-distanced windows, proving that there is always opportunity for happiness in difficult times. I will never forget moving into the Pi Phi house across the hall from **Anum**, who taught me how to cherish tightly those relationships that mean the most to you. I will never forget late-night study sessions with **Mira**, who has shown me what unwavering selflessness looks like.

Finally, I will never forget **Alysha**, who has helped me to believe in myself even when faced with adversity. While I have learned a great deal at Cornell, the women of NY Delta have taught me lessons that could never be conveyed in a classroom.

Reflecting on this, I can see that my experience is not unique. From my interactions with NY Delta alumnae of all ages, there is truly something special about the way they speak about our chapter. Whether it's recently graduated Pi Phis eager to visit

during Homecoming, women bringing their children to 330 Triphammer for a tour of their former home, or even alumnae reaching out to me from afar to reflect on fond memories, the love for Pi Phi does not end after you walk across the stage. As adulthood approaches in all its true forms, it comforts me to know that I will always have this community behind me in my endeavors.

*With Pi Phi Love,
Jenna Chiarella*

CELEBRATING SUSAN H. MURPHY '73, PhD '94 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

by **Marian (Levy) Ware '83**

When I returned to Ithaca last year to work at the Statler Hotel on Cornell's campus, within weeks, **Lori Allen Utter Hamor '84** reached out to me to find if I would be interested in supporting our local Pi Phis and the upcoming house improvements. Lori and I have known each other for more than 40 years; I was her pledge mom, and as much as I would have loved to jump right in, I needed to first focus on starting my new position as the director of sales and marketing.

Once I settled in, Lori virtually introduced me to **Susan H. Murphy '73, PhD '94**. I met Susan in person a few weeks before this year's reunion. I had known of Susan's accomplishments at Cornell, but I did a little sleuthing to get to know her even better. When I typed in "Susan Murphy/Cornell" on the Internet, as you can imagine, a long list of topics came up. The one that caught my eye was her "last lecture." What an extraordinary speech! At that moment, I learned what is truly near and dear to her heart: gratitude and friendship. This explains her dedication to our house and all the sisters at New York Delta Pi Beta Phi.

Our annual reunion Open House at our beloved home at 330 Triphammer Road coincided with Susan's 50th reunion. Secretly, a letter was sent to alumnae celebrating their 45th, 50th, and 55th reunions, as well as to Pi Phis living in the nearby area, to attend the open house celebrating Susan's accomplishments. Over 50 sisters and friends joined us on June 10th for our surprise celebration. And, a surprise it was!

Lori, on behalf of CHC, AAC, and core planning committee members, including **Laura J. Clark '85, Cheryl J. Kessler '84, Laurel M. Kruke '08, and Tracy L. Stein '92**, beautifully recognized Susan's accomplishments and dedication to Pi Phi. For those who might not know of Susan's achievements, it is an incredible list:

Susan was initiated in 1970, and as an undergraduate, Susan was a house manager and received the Amy Burnham Onken Award for the chapter, which recognizes an initiated member in their senior class who has best lived up to the Pi Beta Phi qualities of excellent scholarship, outstanding campus participation, and community service.

After graduating in 1973, Susan later returned to Cornell and began her 38-year career on campus.



Susan H. Murphy '73, PhD '94

Susan worked for 16 years in admissions and financial aid, including nine as dean. She was initially the Associate Director of Admissions and then became the Ivy League's first female Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid.

After receiving her PhD, Susan became Cornell's first Vice President for Student and Academic Services in 1994 until her retirement in 2016. Over the years, Susan's service and dedication to Cornell have been recognized in many ways, including...an endowment in her name for a Cornell Tradition fellowship, the naming of the Court Hall lobby in her honor, and the naming of a floor in the University Health Services facility: the Susan H. Murphy Administration and Health Promotion Floor.

Yet all the while, Susan continued her leadership here at Pi Phi. As a graduate, Susan was New York Delta's AAC finance advisor, and then became the AAC chair in 1993 for two years.

In 1998, Susan was awarded an international Carolyn Helman Lightenberg Crest Award, recognizing alumnae who positively impact their community through professional success and volunteer service.

In 2006, Susan became the secretary of our Chapter House Corporation (CHC) for ten years and has been our CHC treasurer for seven years now and hopefully many more!

The culmination of the celebration was the presentation of a bronze plaque (pictured right) in Susan's honor, to be placed at a tree planted when our landscaping improvements are under way, that reads: *This tree is planted to celebrate **Susan H. Murphy '73, Ph.D. '94** in grateful recognition for her leadership and dedication to making New York Delta Pi Beta Phi a better place to live and learn from its roots to its blooms.*

We are so very grateful for everything Susan has done by leading the way for women in the world of academia and for the love and devotion to our house and sisters: an extraordinary woman with an impressive career but, most importantly, a lady we are proud to call our sister.



The presentation of the plaque to Susan by Lori Allen Utter Hamor '84.



A group of '83 graduates with Susan (L-R): Ann Jennifer Post '83, Lisa K. (Guglielmo) Gillis '83, Marian (Levy) Ware '83, Susan H. Murphy '73, PhD '94, Laurie H. Summers '83, and Anna Eileen (Esaki) Esaki-Smith '83.



Susan reading the memory gift book with Pi Phis (L-R): Robin A. Driskel '79, Lori Allen Utter Hamor '84, Siu-Sing (Wong) Shantur '77, Susan H. Murphy '73, PhD '94, and Marjorie "Marj" (Nelson) Smart '57.

NEW MEMBERS FALL 2023



**LUCY
LANGHART**

Hometown: Westfield, NJ
Major: Industrial and
Labor Relations



**CATHERINE
GELBER**

Hometown: Mamaroneck, NY
Major:
Information Science



**EMMA
LaMOUNTAIN**

Hometown: Miller Place, NY
Major:
Biological Sciences



**KATHERINE
WANG**

Hometown: Newport Beach, CA
Major:
Economics



**HOLLY
ARCHER**

Hometown: Orlando, FL
Major:
Environmental Engineering



**SRIJA
ATLURI**

Hometown: Orlando, FL
Major:
Environmental Engineering



**YASHVI
KUMAR**

Hometown: Seattle, WA
Major:
Hotel Administration



**ANNIKA
SCHON**

Hometown: Wayzata, MN
Major:
Landscape Architecture



**YOO
LAE RHO**

Hometown: Northbrook, IL
Major:
Industrial and Labor Relations



**CLAIRE
SHA**

Hometown: Pleasanton, CA
Major: Human Biology,
Health, and Society



**MEGAN
LAU**

Hometown: Hong Kong
Major:
Hotel Administration

PI PHI PASSIONS



Alexis Anderson '24

Ocean-Science Working Group Lead, Bee Club President

As the lead for the ocean-science working group at Cornell, Alexis has helped gather almost 250 signatures from students and faculty who want to see more ocean-science opportunities on campus. Her working group is writing exciting proposals and ocean projects to be carried out in the years to come. She loves being an oceanography teaching assistant, being involved in different project teams, and conducting research that create healthier oceans and a happier planet.

As bee club's president, Alexis has been able to organize a more-than-115-person event, harvesting approximately 550 pounds of honey, with donations to Anabel's, to organize speaker events with original founders of the bee club, to host beeswax-candle making and hive-box painting events, and to actively help manage our five hives at Dilmun Hill. She loves creating bee-friendly environments and promoting sustainability through hands-on events.



Eva Egeghy '26

High Road fellow

Eva is an ILR High Road fellow, studying labor through the lens of sustainable economic development and community-engaged learning. She interned this summer with 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers, specifically working with nursing home employees at more than 30 facilities in Western New York. This summer, Eva worked to bring justice and dignity to healthcare workers by participating in collective bargaining, negotiating contracts, and handling grievances.



Anum Chotani '24 and Anaisa Cespedes '24

Pictured Left: Anum Chotani (Far Left) and Anaisa Cespedes (Far Right) with the Rho Psi Eta executive board.

Anum and Anaisa are a part of Rho Psi Eta, Cornell's first prehealth academic sorority. They both joined their freshmen year and are currently president and external vice president, respectively. In Rho Psi, they have had experience organizing and planning events that pertain to the medical field, such as professional panels, CPR training classes, and standardized-testing preparation. Their favorite part is getting to know more prehealth girls at Cornell and learning about everyone's diverse interests outside of STEM.



Kaycee Arias '24

Sabor Latino Dance Ensemble cocaptain

Kaycee is one of the cocaptains on the Sabor Latino Dance Ensemble, the longest-standing performing Latin dance group on campus. Kaycee's goal is to educate the Cornell community about Latine culture through various styles of dance, including salsa, merengue, bachata, reggaeton, and cumbia.



Emma Dow '25

Thread Magazine fashion codirector

Emma is the fashion codirector for *Thread Magazine*, a fashion magazine completely made and run by Cornell students. In her position, she comanages a fashion team of more than 30 general-body members who work on the magazine. Along with this, she codirects a photo shoot of 20 members from various teams who bring the photo shoot to fruition and have it showcased in the magazine.



REUNION 2023



CHAPTER HOUSE CORPORATION *(Continued from Page 1)*

We also had some fun inside the house. Alumnae rolled up their sleeves and cleaned out the chapter and supply rooms! There were years of stacked dusty stuff to sort through, causing lots of reminiscing and giggling along with the cleaning. Our house director, Virginia Theta **Katie Compton** led the way, while **Susan H. Murphy '73 PhD '94**, **Nancy B. Potter '73**, **Lucy (Hertel) Staley '73**, and **Lori Allen Utter Hamor '84** created piles and piles of metal, plastic, and glass recyclables, furniture reuse, clothing and library-book donations, and a large heap of trash. It was daunting at first, but after a few days, it was agreed well worth the effort.

If you lived in the house, you remember the second-and-third-floor dresser built-ins! Included in the original design of the house, they are a part of our heritage. They've outlasted 67 years of use and almost as many coats of paint! With serious sanding and

a complete facelift, including shiny chrome drawer knobs, they now are an attractive element in the rooms.

While we have had reserves to cover this first phase, we will need new funds to continue. Our fundraising Campaign Committee is newly formed and will be led by **Marian (Levy) Ware '83** and **Elizabeth Ann "Beth" (Sullivan) Walkenbach '00**. The planning phase is underway for a campaign that will support our continued house improvements and hopefully add some wow factor to the inside and out. Your support always is appreciated and needed to keep us strong. If you have suggestions or wish to make any gifts, you may contact the Chapter House Corporation and our Campaign Committee by reaching out to alumnaerecords@pibetaphi-cornell.org.



Dresser drawers getting ready for a facelift.

Stay tuned for more updates in our spring/summer issue, or when you stop by the house, let us know how you like the improvements!

ALUMNAE SHARE THEIR NEWS

Virginia Pumphrey '55: Seems so long ago and far away! Great memories! Love Texas, and enjoying life as the years go by quickly. Pi Phi hugs to all-Ginnie.

Nancy Dean '56: Just celebrated my 89th birthday. Battling non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma for more than three years. Still able to live at home. Husband died three years ago.

Ann Coyne '58: Enjoyed reunion in June. Hard to believe it has been 65 years since graduation. The Pi Phi open house was great, with the class of '73, a 50-year reunion, and disclosure of a plaque dedicated to **Susan Murphy '73** that will go on a new tree. During the year, I enjoy walks with Pi Phis who live in Ithaca.

Natasha Green '65: Dear Pi Phi sisters: This past January, my son, Dr. Josh Green, was elected governor of Hawaii. As you know, the island of Maui suffered a fire hurricane catastrophe in August. The destruction is devastating. If you would like to help, you could donate to the Maui Community Fund or Red Cross. FYI, President Biden immediately issued a disaster proclamation and checks in with Josh frequently.

Elisabeth Boas '71: We continue to enjoy life just a few blocks from the DC/MD line. Art works full-time but still largely remotely. I am as busy as ever with leadership in community organizations and those Cornell-related. As in previous years, I'll go to CAU (Cornell's Adult University) for its full residential session in July for our HQ is in RBG Hall, and I'll plan to stop by 330 Triphammer for old times sake. The kids are grown and married, and the grandchildren are doing

well in Japan and Manhattan. During these years of COVID isolation, I've been lucky to have friendships endure via phone, Zoom, and even USPS! I have tried to follow National's examination of our ritual with an eye to possible modifications.

Catherine Baldwin '76: So excited to welcome our first grandchild, Grace Catherine Howlett. Our daughter, Cassie, and her husband, Matt, live in Houston, and we visit as often as possible to watch this little darling grow up. Meanwhile, our move to Bluffton, South Carolina, puts us within two hours of our daughter, Lisle, and her husband, Ben. Adam remains in Finland, loving his research and speaking opportunities.

Sheryl McSherry '82: Had a fun weekend with **Valerie Duffy '82** and Sue Ressetar up in Mystic, Connecticut. Toured the Connecticut College's arboretum and campus and shared great meals and laughter.

Lisa Rapetti '83: My husband, Steve Tyminski, and I moved to Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, from Devon, PA, a few years ago. We are officially empty-nesters; my youngest graduated from Vanderbilt this past May. I did not manage to get even one of my three children to attend Cornell! I am a yoga therapist and work through my LLC, Four Chime Yoga Care. I work with all ages but concentrate on the 55-and-older cohort. A yoga therapist works one on one with clients, addressing each client's particular needs through postures, breath work, meditation, etc.

Carolyn Mary Call '86: I'm living in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, now, and in my job,



deceased

We regret to announce the deaths of:

M. Friend Downey '53

January 26, 2023

Lois Gosse '64

July 19, 2022

Marcia Helbig '49

December 31, 2022

Elizabeth Howell '51

April 22, 2023

Mary Ann Kane '54

April 3, 2022

Henrietta Mahoney '47

September 1, 2010

Sally Mills '55

April 6, 2023

Patricia Stewart '50

August 10, 2022

Priscilla Waltz '44

February 14, 2017

Mary Woodcock '61

May 15, 2023

I oversee 175 churches in central PA. I'm happy to connect with sisters in the Harrisburg area!

Monica Pham '04: On March 8, 2023, my husband, Jon, and I welcomed our daughter Emmaline DiBartolomeo. She is the happiest baby and loves to smile. At six months old, she's trying to crawl but mostly just pushes with her legs and uses her head as a snowplow. I hope everyone is doing well.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT *(Continued from Page 2)*



Celebrating a birthday with Sarah Boyle '23, Prameela Kottapalli '23, Katie Elbert '24, Sydney Wan '23, Mira Harris '23, Chloe Solon '23, and Jenna Chiarella '24.

afraid to tell me I'm wrong but will always stop by my apartment when I'm sick to make sure I'm okay. My big **Jenna**, who is also in member class '21, has shown me what it looks like to build a community driven by empathy and kindness. Through my member class of Pi Phi, I have constructed enduring relationships that have taught me the true meaning of best friendship. We take care of one another and drive each other to succeed. As a senior, I reflect with gratitude on the ways my sisters have shaped me into the best version of myself so far. Being surrounded by the most passionate, driven, and kind women I have ever known inspires me every day. Ultimately, my sisters equipped me with the tools to build a community at Cornell, and I am confident they changed my worldview for the better.