

# NY DELTA DOINGS

NY Delta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi at Cornell

Fall 2025

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Leading and Learning with Pi Phi
- ◆ NY Delta's Annual Open House Reunion 2026
- ◆ Philanthropy
- ◆ Senior Spotlight
- ◆ New Members Fall 2025
- ◆ Pi Phi Passions
- ◆ Alumnae News

## LEADING AND LEARNING WITH PI PHI



My name is **Catherine Gelber**, and I have had the privilege of serving as the Chapter President of NY Delta for the past year. As my term comes to an end, I feel deeply grateful for everything Pi Phi has given me. It has been an honor to lead this chapter and watch it grow into the best version of itself, and I'm so excited to see what's next for our sisterhood. Every time I walk into the house, I'm greeted by laughter and smiles around the kitchen table. Every time that happens, I'm reminded how lucky I am to call Pi Phi my home.

This semester has been filled with so many meaningful moments. We organized weekly study rooms to support our sisters through the busy weeks, brightening even the longest nights in the library. We played countless games of volleyball in the backyard, hosted our annual

Sushi on the Slope, held movie watch parties, and created memories that will last long after graduation. With a full house at 330 Triphammer, there's never a dull moment. There's always something happening, and always someone to share it with.

Our philanthropy events this fall have been another highlight. From lacing up our sneakers for Arrowbowl, our annual flag football game, to laughing through a whipped-cream pie-in-the-face fundraiser, we've continued to give back while having fun together.

I also feel especially lucky this fall to have shared such a close bond with our Executive Board. They've become some of my closest friends, and I truly couldn't have been the President I was without each of them. Their passion, creativity, and constant support have made this experience unforgettable.

In October, we welcomed a new member class of six incredible women. Watching them learn our traditions and form their own friendships has been so special. Our Executive Board did a fantastic job with making them feel at home, and I'll never forget the touching moment when one of their mothers—a Pi Phi herself—returned to initiate her daughter. It was such a beautiful reminder of the lifelong connection this sisterhood creates.

As the leaves start to fall, I find myself trying to savor every moment of my senior year. Looking back, I see how much Pi Phi has shaped me, not just as a leader, but as a person. I think of the little things: taking the long way home to see more of campus, sitting outside at the picnic tables, or swinging on our tire swing at sunset. Being President has made me more confident and empathetic, but more than that, it's given me a sense of belonging that I'll carry forever. I'm reminded of that support every day, from when **Emma O'Leary '22** returned for Homecoming, to when I see Pi Phis studying together, laughing in the library, or walking side by side across campus. These are the moments that make me pause and realize how truly lucky I am.

My time at NY Delta has been so special, but what makes it even more meaningful is knowing it's part of something much bigger. The love, friendship, and generosity that define our chapter continue from generation to generation. Meeting alumnae who return to share their memories reminds me that Pi Phi is a lifelong sisterhood. I feel so lucky to know that, no matter where life takes me, Pi Phi will always be my home.

*In Pi Phi Love and Mine,*  
**Catherine Gelber '26**



# NY DELTA'S ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE REUNION 2026

## Mark the Moment! Save the Date to Celebrate!

As the leaves turn and the semester unfolds, our undergraduate sisters are continuing the traditions we all hold dear: forming lifelong friendships, studying side by side, planning events, and sharing laughter and support in the place we still call home. The chapter house remains a beloved gathering space, now welcoming a new generation of Pi Phis with open arms and exciting updates.

This fall, our sisters returned to campus to find meaningful improvements made possible by the generosity of alumnae like you. Thanks to the **Our House, Our Legacy capital campaign**, the front entrance features a beautifully refreshed landscape and a new, sloped sidewalk from the parking area, allowing sisters and guests to feel more welcome with an easier access from the moment they arrive. Tree removals, stump grinding, and pruning of overextended branches were tackled to open the front entrance area. New shrubs and plantings were then added around the full perimeter of the house, enhancing our curb appeal.

Inside, the chapter room, where so many of us once met, dreamed, and bonded, has been thoughtfully updated. If you've visited recently, you may have felt like you had stepped back in time. But now, thanks to your support, this space is thoughtfully refreshed to serve today's sisters while honoring our shared past. There is new flooring, a fresh coat of paint, enhanced lighting, and additional outlets to serve the electronic demand loads of members today.

We are deeply grateful to our Chapter House Corporation members, whose vision in 2021 sparked the house improvements plan. By 2023, they launched a capital campaign, and alumnae volunteers rallied to bring it to life. Their leadership, and your generosity, have made this transformation possible.

This is important for our chapter's future because our house is more than bricks and mortar; it's a foundation for sisterhood, leadership, and lifelong connection. While we have always maintained a healthy financial position, continued support will help us pay down the mortgage and keep our chapter strong for years to come.

To date, we have raised **\$610,662.97** from **226** alumnae donors! To help reach our goal, we are hoping for at least 330 alumnae donors. If you have not yet made your gift, there's still time. You can make your donation at [pibetaphi-cornell.org/ways-to-give/](https://pibetaphi-cornell.org/ways-to-give/). Every gift, no matter the size, helps us get there. So, save the date! We will be celebrating this incredible milestone with a special reunion gathering at "Our House" on **June 6th**. Please come join us, whether it is your reunion year, you live nearby, or if you can add this to your summer travel schedule!

Let's come together to honor our past, celebrate our present, and invest in our future. Mark the Moment! Whether you lived in the house or simply felt its warmth during your time at Cornell, this is your moment to reconnect and rejoice.

Marian Levy Ware '83

Jennifer Berger Schatz '91



*Before house front.*



*After with front sloped sidewalk.*

**Saturday, June 6, 2026**  
**3:00–5:00 pm**  
**NY Delta Chapter House**  
**330 Triphammer Road**  
**Ithaca, New York**

# PHILANTHROPY



Pi Phis of NY Delta continue to pursue philanthropic endeavors within the chapter, support initiatives by other organizations on campus, and engage with the greater Ithaca community. This commitment to service is reflected not only in the hundreds of hours dedicated by mem-

bers each semester, but also in the many dollars raised for the Pi Phi Literacy Fund to advance our mission to promote literacy and lifelong learning.

Last semester was sweet, and not just because of our family weekend barbecue, where our newest members proudly showed their families how we work to promote literacy both locally and globally. From volunteering at Ithaca Childcare to hosting a Valentine's Day donut sale that brought smiles across campus, our sisters found creative ways to combine service and sisterhood. We also tabled on

Ho Plaza to spread awareness about Pi Phi's national philanthropic initiatives and to encourage other students to join our mission of reading, leading, and serving.

This semester, we started strong by taking part in our annual Arrow-bowl flag football tournament, an event that brings together Greek organizations across campus for a fun afternoon of friendly competition. With the late-summer sun still shining, sisters bonded on the field while raising funds for a cause close to our hearts. That same spirit of teamwork carried through the rest of the season.

As the leaves began to fall, our service projects picked up speed. We brought the community together for a "Pie a Pi Phi" fundraiser in Ho Plaza. There was whipped cream everywhere and laughter all around in support of literacy initiatives. Afterward, sisters crafted heartfelt cards for Meals on Wheels, brightening the days of local seniors who receive meal deliveries.

During our fall open house, we invited potential new members to join us in packaging period products to combat period poverty. It was a tangible way to demonstrate our values of empowerment and compassion. We also hosted a campus-wide book drive to restock

*Continued page 4*

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

As my time at Cornell draws to a close, I've found myself reflecting deeply on these past four years. Without question, joining Pi Phi transformed my college experience in ways I could never have anticipated. It connected me with like-minded women who continue to inspire me to grow into the best version of myself. These women have become not only my closest friends but also my greatest support system, guiding me through the whirlwind of college life.

When I first arrived at Cornell, I struggled to find genuine connections on such a large and unfamiliar campus. I was hesitant about Greek life at first, but the moment I walked into the Pi Phi house, I felt a profound sense of community and belonging. Suddenly, campus didn't feel quite so overwhelming. Unfamiliar faces began to feel familiar, and making new friends felt natural. That immediate sense of sisterhood was truly life-changing.

Living in the Pi Phi house during my sophomore year only deepened my love for the chapter. Being surrounded daily by intelligent, compassionate, and driven women, who also happened to be my best friends, was endlessly inspiring. Through every tough exam, difficult decision, and challenging moment, my sisters offered unwavering support. And while the big milestones matter, it's the simple moments, such as watching movies together, late-night

study sessions, or eating dinner together every evening, that I hold closest to my heart. Those simple joys are what make me eternally grateful for Pi Phi.

My experience was also shaped by the privilege of serving on



the Executive Board as VP Member Experience. That role not only sharpened my leadership skills but also gave me an even deeper appreciation for our strong sisterhood. I loved planning events like Sushi on the Slope, Galentine's Night, and our weekly Dancing with the Stars watch parties, and it was rewarding to see friendships blossom, especially among new members. Being able to help cultivate connection within Pi Phi is something I will always cherish.

I could never have imagined finding a group of women whose values and worldview align so closely with my own. Over the years, I've watched my Pi Phi sisters run marathons, publish groundbreaking research, and achieve incredible goals, all while carrying themselves with kindness and humility. Choosing to join Pi Phi remains one of the best decisions of my life; my college experience would not have been the

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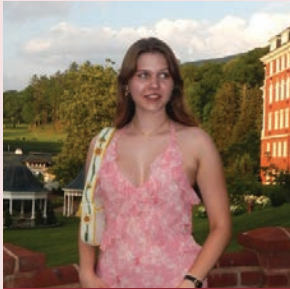
# NEW MEMBERS FALL 2025



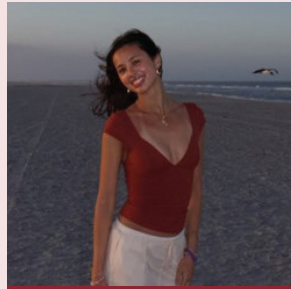
**NAYA SAKER '28**  
Human Biology,  
Health and Society  
Franklin Lakes, New Jersey



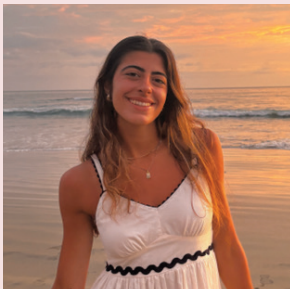
**LILY KRESSER '27**  
Human Development  
Westport, Connecticut



**RILEY AUMAN '28**  
Government and Philosophy  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina



**AUDRIANA VARNER '28**  
Electrical Computer  
Engineering  
Zionsville, Indiana



**NAIRI MASIH '28**  
Information Science  
Alexandria, Virginia



**KATIE TSAG '28**  
Hotel School  
Fremont, California



## Philanthropy *continued from page 3*

little libraries around Ithaca, ensuring children and families have continued access to reading materials that inspire learning.

Looking ahead, NY Delta is gearing up for even more hands-on impact with a campus pickleball tournament, a community-wide food drive, and volunteer shifts at Loaves and Fishes to serve warm meals to those in need.

Beyond these chapter-wide events, our sisters individually make their mark through service. Whether it's answering "Does this look infected?" texts or rushing to real emergencies, three of our members, **Sarah Bunker, Jaclyn Ellis, and Emma Chan**, help us and volunteer with Cornell Emergency Medical Services. You can spot them on campus responding to calls, always ready to lend a hand (or a bandage). Additionally, **Ariana Greenberg** and **Anna Donahue** dedicate their time to the Cayuga Heights Fire Department, ensuring the community stays safe, and making sure any smoke alarms going off in Colletown aren't coming from our kitchen experiments.

Through every event and initiative, NY Delta continues to live out Pi Phi's core values: integrity, honor, respect, personal and intellectual growth, and sincere friendship. Whether through small acts of kindness or large-scale service projects, our sisters show that being a Pi Phi means leading with heart and giving with purpose.

## Senior Spotlight *continued from page 3*

same without the unwavering love and support of this sisterhood. Though I am heartbroken to see this part of my life come to a close, I find comfort in knowing that the friendships and bonds I've built will last far beyond my time at Cornell.

*With Pi Phi Love,*

**Victoria Vlachos '26**



# PI PHI PASSIONS



## Sigrid Drefke '27

The Big Red Sports Network (BRSN) is the only student-run media organization dedicated to highlighting Cornell's student athletes and athletic programs. **Sigrid** has been a member of BRSN since her freshman year, working in the written department to craft articles that tell the stories of Cornell athletics. Last year, she served as the Vice President of the written department, leading meetings and editing the work of other writers. This year, she serves as one of the Co-Vice Presidents of the entire club, overseeing overall operations, welcoming new members, fostering community, and organizing initiatives to support women in the historically male-dominated field of sports media. Serving on the executive team has allowed her to deepen her passion for sports, strengthen her writing and journalistic skills, and help create an empowering space for women to thrive in sports media.



## Ava Rosenow '27

**Ava** is a part of the Cornell Baja Racing Student Project Team, which designs, builds, and races an offroad vehicle against more than 100 other university teams across the country as part of the Baja SAE competition. **Ava** is on the Chassis subteam, and this year is responsible for designing the engine subframes and the fixtures for the frame, drivetrain, and suspension components using CAD, as well as helping weld the car. She loves applying her classroom knowledge to real world scenarios, as well as working with a close-knit team. Last season, the team came in second overall across all of the competitions, and hopes to top that this year and finally bring home the Iron Team Award!



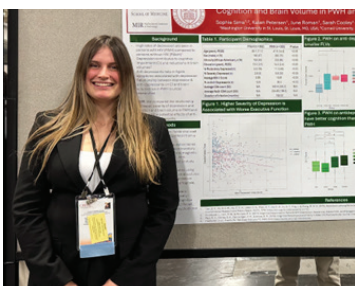
## Naya Saker '28

**Naya** is a DJ. As a jazz-trained musician, the improvisation, quick thinking, and music theory of DJing come easily to her. She loves the energy that the beats give and the depth of sound. While her love for DJing comes from the music that she plays, she also loves how it gives her the ability to bring people together. Being surrounded by her friends, people that she loves, and a supportive community is what brings her joy and encourages her to keep DJing.



## Elsa Van Der Linden and Anika Chandra '28

Running the Wineglass Marathon with a Pi Phi sister was one of the most meaningful experiences they have had at Cornell. They started training months in advance, meeting early in the mornings to log miles along Cayuga Lake and hold one another accountable through every long run and rainy day. What began as a fitness goal quickly became a shared journey of encouragement, laughter, and resilience. Crossing the finish line together, after all the hours they spent pushing one another to keep going, felt like more than just completing a marathon; it was a celebration of friendship, commitment, and the sisterhood that defines Pi Phi.



## Sophie Sims '27

In March, **Sophie** had the incredible honor of attending and presenting at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) in San Francisco. The CROI is one of the leading infectious disease conferences in the world. During the summer of 2024, she worked in the Ances Lab at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, where she gained valuable work experience, scientific knowledge, and biostatistical skills. Her final project, which examined cognitive impairment and depression in patients with HIV, was accepted for a poster presentation at CROI; she was the second youngest presenter at the entire conference. She is deeply grateful for the opportunities her research has provided and is currently working on publishing a paper based on the same topic she presented in the spring.



## Jemma Hendricks and Kate Straka '28

**Jemma** and **Kate** both really enjoy being members of Cornell's Club Field Hockey team. It allows them to continue playing a sport they have each loved for much of their lives while also meeting incredible people they might not have otherwise crossed paths with. Having an outlet to decompress, along with a supportive community both on and off the field, has been a deeply meaningful part of their college experience so far.

# ALUMNAE SHARE THEIR NEWS

**Sally Logan '55:** Went to the 70th reunion of the class of '55 in June and saw many classmates.

**Martha B. Lovell '56:** Looking forward to a family reunion on my 90th birthday and seeing my first great-grandchild. After chemo and related surgeries, I am feeling great and enjoying life.

**Carolyn A. Blake '60:** So nice to hear about the current members. My family continues to grow: three of my 12 grandchildren are now married and I will be a great-grandmother in January. It is all good news. I'm blessed to still travel to these events, even to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, last August.

**Patricia Remele '60:** All old friends have passed!! My health is exceptional at 90 years of age! Life on the Severn River is far better than Oceanfront on the Atlantic.

**Diane Baillet Meakem '61:** Still living in both Connecticut and Florida, but I favor Connecticut! I had two more grandchildren graduate from Cornell in May of 2025. That makes four altogether; I'm hoping for more. I'd be happy to help with the house renovation.

**Deborah L. Fister '74:** We finally moved into our house in Clayton in November 2023. It was a tortuous two-year process of sorting, donating, and tossing. It was necessary because we made a serious downsize from 2,100 sq. ft. with a garage and a basement to 1,400 sq. ft. with no basement. We decided to build a garage with a full second floor. When that's done, we will renovate the

kitchen. The cabinets now fill the living room; all we need to do is demolish the existing kitchen cabinets, sink, and appliances. It will be beautiful. Last Christmas was a wild and delightful time at a Virginia Airbnb with three sons, their spouses, and eight grandkids. Good food, good conversations, and then 13 of 16 people got the flu. We're all fine now, but what a ride! I heard **Sherri Keonig** is nearby and is a weaver! I am eager to set up my studio and start spinning and weaving again. We gleaned a cotton field, so I'm practicing my spinning cotton on a spindle.

**Cynthia Marion Powell '76:** I retired in October and am enjoying my free time.

**Judith Anne Doyno '85:** After nearly 40 years, the class of 1985 Pi Phi's gathered for our 60th birthday reunion. We had a great turnout for what started as an informal get together and became a fun-filled three-day weekend at my home in Chatham, Massachusetts. Attendees were: **Laura (Armstrong) Falvey, Lorah (McNally) Perlee, Laura Clark, Sue (Brode) Schwartzman, Bonnie (Reuben) Nissenbaum, Jenny (Sidell) Ellis, Anne (Westa) Cummins, Anne Snow, Molly Tschang, Kari (Pedersen) Dooley, Beth Benjamin, Betsy (Daniels) Graseck, Debbie (Reading) Leuffen, Judy Argentieri, and me, Judy (Marlinski) Doyno.**

**Jennifer Margaret Altamura '94:** My daughter is a freshman at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, and was excited to rush Pi Phi! <3.

*New York Delta Chapter*  
of Pi Beta Phi, Inc.



## deceased

We regret to announce the deaths of:

**Diane Elliott Hansen '53**

*January 8, 2025*

**Esther Corcoran Namian '54**

*December 29, 2024*

**Mary Eaby Taggart '55**

*January 31, 2025*

**Mary Peck Wolf '55**

*March 29, 2025*

**Janis Mitchelhill Leas '60**

*November 8, 2024*



*Pi Phis attending event at Barton Hall during Cornell's Trustee-Council Annual Meeting (TCAM). Meg Mitchell Weingart '78, Anne Vitullo '76, Laura Dake Roche '81, Elisabeth Kaplan Boas '71, Mary Armstrong Meduski '80, Susan Murphy '73. The day following this event, Elisabeth Kaplan Boas '71 received the Frank H.T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Award.*

On June 15, 1919,  
New York Delta was installed as a  
Greek Chapter on Cornell University  
Campus.

330 Triphammer Road  
has been home to thousands  
of women over the past  
100 years, and our sisterhood has  
grown with it.

Pi Beta Phi has become a remarkable  
group of young women on Cornell's  
campus.

We are athletes, activists, engineers,  
hoteliers, cheerleaders, singers,  
leaders in our Ithaca Community and  
much more!

In 2019, our chapter celebrated our  
100th on Cornell's campus with friends  
and alumnae.