

# CARDINAL + STRAW

CHI OMEGA ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON  
WINTER 2022-2023



## SAVE THE DATE FOR DERBY

Fluff your hats and join your sisters in the park to support Kaleidoscope

## KALEIDOSCOPE SCHOLARSHIP

Houston Area Collegiate's, you don't want to miss this!

## HAPA CALLING ALL SISTERS!

Houston Area Panhellenic Association is looking for the right sister to co-chair



## To Chi O, With Love:

Come Along,

We were asked recently why we stay connected to Chi Omega. To answer that question, we probably need to explain why we were not always active in the Alumnae Association. After leaving college there were many things keeping us away, starting with working full time jobs, attending graduate school at night, having babies, raising children, taking care of ailing mothers (yes, both of us), navigating a health crisis, and many other things. Sound familiar? But through it all, we always knew Chi Omega was there on the sideline, patiently waiting for us.

When we met, we were sitting in the bleachers watching our then second-grade sons play flag football. Over time we met other Chi Omegas, and each time there were always ladies we had an instant connection with and wanted to get to know better. We tested the waters at first, attending a few things, but always keeping in touch. We realized that the alumnae association was something we wanted to do for “us” at a time when it seemed we were always doing for others.

So, here we are serving our second year as Co-Presidents. We have loved meeting new people, networking, serving others, and most importantly, having fun. If you know someone who has not yet joined, give them a little nudge, and tell them, “Come along.”

Fondly,  
Sandy and Angela



# S I S T E R S





**Oh what fun it was to have Chi O's, Cookies and Cocoa on December 17th at the lovely home of Susan Litts.**

**Alumnae and legacies, along with collegiate and Mothers Club members, joined together to celebrate the season with cookie decorating, lively conversation, and delicious refreshments.**

**Three lucky attendees also received a raffle item donated by Magpie Gifts and Beth Davitte Designs.**

**Susan, with the help of Mothers Club Co-chairs, Karen Edmonds and Christy Mobley, organized the event.**





CHI OMEGA

# Kaleidoscope

## Chi Omega Alumnae Association of Houston Kaleidoscope Scholarship

The Chi Omega Alumnae Association has a strong commitment to education. Did you know through our membership and fundraising efforts, we have been able to award over \$240,000 in scholarships to assist Houston-area Chi Omega collegiate members with their tuition?

**Houston-area Chi Omega collegiates, you don't want to miss out on this incredible opportunity!**

### Scholarship Eligibility Requirements are as follows:

- Applicant must be an initiated, active chapter member in good standing in the semester that the award is announced.
- All required documents (aside from the Chapter Advisory Board questionnaire) must be submitted electronically in one application packet, on or before the application deadline. Multiple emails of application information will not be accepted.
- Applicant must have a minimum CUMULATIVE GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 grade scale, be a full-time student and have completed a minimum of 30 college credit hours (must also be an active member of the chapter for the next school year).
- Applicant must have graduated from any high school located in Harris County or a contiguous county.

**The scholarship application can be found here:  
[www.chiomegahouston.com/scholarship](http://www.chiomegahouston.com/scholarship)**

Once on the site, click on "Collegiate Life" followed by "Scholarship Opportunities." Download the Scholarship titled 2023 Chi Omega Alumni Association of Houston Kaleidoscope Scholarship. The application deadline is Friday, February 24, 2023.

If you have any questions, please email [scholarship@chiomegahouston.com](mailto:scholarship@chiomegahouston.com).

# WHAT'S NEXT FOR **Kaleidoscope**.

By now, we hope you've heard about and already marked your calendar for Kaleidoscope's next iteration – a Derby Day Celebration on May 6th .

Though it hasn't happened yet, this event is already bringing Chi Omega sisters together. Not only are our planning committee members here in Houston working on the event details, but special Chi Omegas from across the country are also making contributions. We are so lucky to have such sisters making their mark on our upcoming Derby party and fundraiser!

Have you heard of Laura Wright, Amy Jo Traylor or Elyce Arons? Let us introduce you to these special sisters...Laura Wright (Omicron-Illinois) is the founder and artist behind the fine paper goods company LOinLONDON (@loinlondon) Like so many of us, Laura loves the sentiment of a hand-written note. We discovered Laura and her whimsical designs while shopping at Chi O Creations. After reaching out to share how much we loved her Chi Omega artwork, Laura shared her philanthropic spirit with us, offering her designs for our Derby event!

Amy Jo Traylor (Xi Gamma - Michigan State) resides in Florida and is a self-trained milliner. Amy Jo is the owner of Amy Jo Original Hats and is offering us her talents, designing one of her award-winning, custom design hats for our raffle, to be held on February 16th.

Elyce Arons (Lambda-Kansas) is the CEO and co-founder of Frances Valentine (@francesvalentineny), which she started with her best friend and college roommate, Kate Spade. And, if her style looks familiar, it's because she was also one of the founders of Kate Spade New York. Elyce was delighted to hear that her local boutique in River Oaks District offered to donate items from their spring collection for our Derby event, and we hope to host her in Houston soon!

# Kaleidoscope

## Down Memory Lane with Erin Packwood

Chi Omega Kaleidoscope, the philanthropic arm of the Chi Omega Alumnae Association of Houston, got its current name in 1982. However, before there was Kaleidoscope, there was Chi Omega Chautauqua.

### The 1950's, 60's and 70's

Following years of dedicated Chi Omega alumnae sisters in Houston contributing numerous volunteer hours to local charities, Chi Omega Chautauqua was established in 1956 to provide financial support to these organizations. Chautauqua events featured live shows from popular entertainers of the era. In its early years, Chautauqua contributed funds to support such timely causes as Tuberculosis and Multiple Sclerosis care and research. And, in 1963, the Chi Omega alumnae of Houston decided to dedicate its fundraising efforts to support the very worthwhile organization that is now known as The Center for Pursuit (originally the Harris County Center for the Retarded). Gifts from Chautauqua helped fund the programs and facilities at The Center, including pilot classes, classrooms, educational research and development, and construction of The Center's Residence Hall at its former campus on W. Dallas Street.

### The 1980's and 90's

As interest in Chautauqua's theater-style entertainment event format waned, the Houston alumnae identified the emerging trend of small vendor pop-up markets raising funds for charity. Seeing an opportunity to evolve with the times, a new charitable fundraising concept was born. And, perhaps with the foresight that times would continue to shift and require innovation, the Houston alumnae named the new venture "Kaleidoscope," which means "a series of changing phases or events." In 1982, as our fraternity also evolved, Chi Omega established the Chi Omega Foundation, its first national charitable endeavor to provide funding to sustain nationwide educational resources for collegiate chapter members. That same year, planning for the first Chi Omega Kaleidoscope market began. And, in 1983, the three-day "A Celebration of Texas Heritage" market to showcase Texas artists, craftsmen, antique dealers and other fine Texas merchants, including a VIP preview party, successfully raised over \$50,000 for The Center. The early Kaleidoscope "Best of Texas" markets produced substantial profits and enabled Kaleidoscope to provide financial support to several local charities in addition to The Center, including the local chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. As the markets thrived, The Center remained Kaleidoscope's primary beneficiary, and hundreds of thousands of dollars were contributed toward the construction of a new health services facility at The Center's growing campus. The building was completed in 1986 and was named the "Chi Omega Alumnae Health Services Building" in honor of the efforts of our alumnae sisters. In 1995, Kaleidoscope expanded its giving and made its first grant to the Chi Omega Foundation to support the construction of the new Chi Omega Executive Headquarters in Memphis. Around this time, Kaleidoscope began its next transition, as the successful market concept became saturated with larger and larger events competing for vendors and customers, including the Houston Ballet Nutcracker Market. For the next few years, Kaleidoscope continued to raise funds through its "Red and Gold Ball," a formal gala and elegant party similar to the VIP preview parties of the market era.

# History Continued with Erin Packwood

## The 2000's to date

After a long history of encouraging philanthropic efforts locally, in 2002 Chi Omega selected the Make-a-Wish Foundation as its first national philanthropy. Around that time, Kaleidoscope was again searching for a new fundraising event concept. After considering many new ideas, Kaleidoscope began a series of highly popular biennial luncheon events with notable authors as guest speakers, beginning with former First Lady Barbara Bush in 2004 as she released her best-selling memoir, *Reflections: Life After the White House*. Over the decade that followed, Kaleidoscope hosted many New York Times best-selling authors, including Marcus Luttrell, Frank Abagnale, Jennifer Weiner, Ali Wentworth and Christine Brennan.

These successful luncheons continued through 2014 and enabled Kaleidoscope to provide ongoing financial gifts to our longstanding beneficiary, The Center, while also benefiting the Chi Omega Foundation and granting wishes for Make-A-Wish as part of Chi Omega's national partnership. In addition, Kaleidoscope was able to grant numerous collegiate scholarships each year. In 2016, Kaleidoscope reflected on more than 50 years of impactful philanthropy in Houston at a celebratory "Boots & Bling" affair at Goode Company Armadillo Palace. The event honored outstanding Kaleidoscope Chairwomen in each of the prior five decades and, once again, raised over \$50,000 for The Center, the Chi Omega Foundation and collegiate scholarships.

Though Kaleidoscope has since continued to raise funds for these important causes through mail campaigns, was the last major fundraising event before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-2021 shut down attempts to revitalize Kaleidoscope events. Then, in 2022, after a long drought of in-person gatherings and fellowship with Chi Omega sisters, a multi-generational group of energized Houston alumnae convened to brainstorm new ideas, consider the interests of our members, and offer suggestions for Kaleidoscope's next evolution. They decided to make plans for a "Derby Day Celebration" to coincide with the 149th Run for the Roses in 2023. And, today, that new chapter is still being written.



**SAVE THE DATE**

CHI OMEGA KALEIDOSCOPE

DERBY DAY CELEBRATION | SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

MCGOVERN CENTENNIAL GARDENS & THE CHERIE FLORES GARDEN PAVILION

AT HERMANN PARK

BENEFITING COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIPS, THE CHI OMEGA FOUNDATION & THE CENTER FOR PURSUIT



# COOKIN' WITH CHI★O



## CHICKEN & WILD RICE SOUP

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 TEASPOON OLIVE OIL
- ¼ CUP RED ONION
- ½ CUP CARROTS
- 1 TEASPOON DRIED MARJORAM
- 2 TABLESPOONS FLOUR
- 1 PACKAGE LONG GRAIN & WILD RICE
- 4 CUPS LOW SODIUM CHICKEN BROTH
- 3 CUPS WATER
- ¾ CUP HEAVY CREAM
- ¼ CUP MILK
- 1 CUP COOKED AND SHREDDED CHICKEN
- PINCH OF SALT AND PEPPER

### DIRECTIONS

- Heat olive oil in a heavy bottom pot over medium heat.
- Add onion and carrots and cook until softened. Add dried marjoram, flour, and seasoning packet from the rice; stir to combine.
- Add rice, chicken broth, and water; bring to a boil.
- Cover, lower to a simmer, and let cook for 15 minutes.
- Heat heavy cream and milk in a small saucepan over low heat. Stir into the soup.
- Stir in the shredded chicken.
- Cook about 30 minutes or until the rice is cooked.
- Season with salt and pepper to taste

*From the kitchen of  
Bethany Alexander Gutterud*

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[www.ChiOmegaHouston.com](http://www.ChiOmegaHouston.com)