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In Search of Sisterhood: Delta Sigma Theta and the Challenge of the Black Sorority Movement

By Paula J. Giddings



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This history of the largest black women's organization in the United States is not only the story of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (DST), but also tells of the increasing involvement of black women in the political, social, and economic affairs of America. Founded at a time when liberal arts education was widely seen as either futile, dangerous, or impractical for blacks, especially women, DST is, in Giddings's words, a "compelling reflection of black women's aspirations for themselves and for society."

Giddings notes that unlike other organizations with racial goals, Delta Sigma Theta was created to change and benefit individuals rather than society. As a sorority, it was formed to bring women together as sisters, but at the same time to address the divisive, often class-related issues confronting black women in our society. There is, in Giddings's eyes, a tension between these goals that makes Delta Sigma Theta a fascinating microcosm of the struggles of black women and their organizations.

DST members have included Mary McLeod Bethune, Mary Church Terrell, Margaret Murray Washington, Shirley Chisholm, Barbara Jordan, and, on the cultural side, Leontyne Price, Lena Horne, Ruby Dee, Judith Jamison, and Roberta Flack. *In Search of Sisterhood* is full of compelling, fascinating anecdotes told by the Deltas themselves, and illustrated with rare early photographs of the Delta women.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Marking the 75th anniversary of the largest black women's organization in the United States, this history of the college-based movement is an account filled with incidents of the emergence of the Deltas as a force in our national life. Giddings (*When and Where I Enter*), a graduate of Howard University, the birthplace of the movement, acknowledges the ambivalence that membership causes some, but focuses on the strengths of the sorority whose members typically remain active after college years. A sense of racial obligation permeates the sorority, which comprises women who are largely professional and upper-class, and who see their role as agents of change in a variety of social and political issues. Included among recent luminaries are Barbara Jordan, congresswoman from Texas, and, from the arts, Lena Horne, Leontyne Price and Ruby Dee. Photos not seen by PW.

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About the Author

Paula J. Giddings is the Elizabeth A. Woodson 1922 Professor in Afro-American Studies at Smith College and the author of *When and Where I Enter* and *In Search of Sisterhood*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Yvonne Tetrault:

As people who live in the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or facts even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era which is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know which you should start with. This *In Search of Sisterhood: Delta Sigma Theta and the Challenge of the Black Sorority Movement* is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Donna Eldridge:

The publication untitled *In Search of Sisterhood: Delta Sigma Theta and the Challenge of the Black Sorority Movement* is the reserve that recommended to you to study. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to anyone. The language that author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The author was did a lot of exploration when write the book, hence the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also might get the e-book of *In Search of Sisterhood: Delta Sigma Theta and the Challenge of the Black Sorority Movement* from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

Alan Archuleta:

In Search of Sisterhood: Delta Sigma Theta and the Challenge of the Black Sorority Movement can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to set every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing In Search of Sisterhood: Delta Sigma Theta and the Challenge of the Black Sorority Movement although doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial thinking.

Annie Fowler:

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