

# New York (NY) Alumni

February 20, 1937

New York Alumni Chapter of **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.** was chartered February 20, 1937, under the sponsorship of the Province Polemarch, Brother I. T. Donaldson, with the cooperation of a number of brothers, including Brothers Ernest L. Dimitry, Thomas Hocutt, Ernest Wood, H. Taft Thompson, Robert "Si" Jones, Othello Broadnax, William Bryant, Samuel Walker, James B. Hardy, J. Douglas Serrell, John Perry, Marion Griffin, James "Chum" Reid, Walter I. Delph, Anthony G. Featherston, Rudolph Scott, Nathaniel Scott, Enzel Smith, Leroy Payne, Robert H. Watson, Harcourt Tynes, George "Pat" Tynes, C.L. Heyliger, Laurence Hunt, Miguel Houchen, Floyd Mourning, Chauncy Cox, Thomas Gorgas, Roosevelt Hammond, Robert Stevens, Von Dickerson, Frank Wheeler, William Atkinson, E. K. Jones, Leroy Lowery, G. Victor Cools, Elihue Packard, Hubert Carter, John Silvera, Roy Ferguson and Irving Hamer. Many of these brothers were the original sponsors of the Kappa Costume Karnival which became the unique and outstanding NY Fall Ball, now called the Annual Krimson and Kream Ball. New York Alumni's first Polemarch was Brother Irving Hamer. The Keeper of Records was Brother Robert "Si" Jones and the Keeper of Exchequer was Brother H. Taft Thompson. In the early stages of the chapter's incorporation there was no regular meeting place. Brothers met at local YMCA's, Elks Home, basement room at 135<sup>th</sup> Street and also at the homes of Brothers Dimitry and Delphi. The most prominent issue on the minds of Brothers was the longing desire to have a Kappa Kastle. Brother Donaldson put up the first five dollars. This was the start of the fund to buy a house. Brother Donaldson encouraged the chapter to allocate a portion of their dues for this fund as well. The fund received its greatest impetus from the Annual Kappa Kruike began in 1950. In 1952 the boat ride netted \$12,500, which was placed into the bank along with each subsequent net profit. In 1959 the brothers' hard work and dreams paid off. With a loan from Carver Federal Bank of \$12,500 the deal was solidified and the purchase of a four-story brownstone at 472 W. 141 Street in Harlem, New York was made. The mortgage was burned during the administration of Brother Oliver Parsons; thus, the title of Polemarch Emeritus was bestowed upon him. The Kappa Kastle suffered a major fire in the early 1990s. The first and second floors were severely damaged. With the support of the brothers, however, the chapter has completely refurbished and renovated the property.

Reclamation has always been an important issue for the chapter. Under Brother R. Duke Marshall, the fourth Reclamation Committee reclaimed more brothers than at any other time. The chapter received recognition for this at the Detroit Conclave in 1982. There is an ongoing Guide Right program. The chapter sponsors a tutorial program at Salem Methodist Church. In the spring of 1996, the Fredrick Douglass Kappa League made the first Historically Black College Tour, visiting schools such Hampton University, Howard University, and Morgan State University. During Halloween and Christmas there are children's parties given which are anticipated by the neighborhood the entire year. Brothers also donate gifts to the children during the Christmas party. Under the state's Not-For-Profit laws, New York Alumni established the Reginald Lewis

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Scholarship Foundation in 1992. The Scholarship Foundation gives at least five scholarships to college bound young men every year at its annual scholarship luncheon. Since its inception, the Foundation has given away more than \$250,000.



*New York Alumni Honors Dr. Calvin Butts – 2001*