



The Boston Pearl Foundation, Incorporated &
The Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

Precious Pearls Cotillion

Debutante & Parent Orientation



December 8, 2025



2025-2026 Precious Pearls Cotillion Co-Chairmen

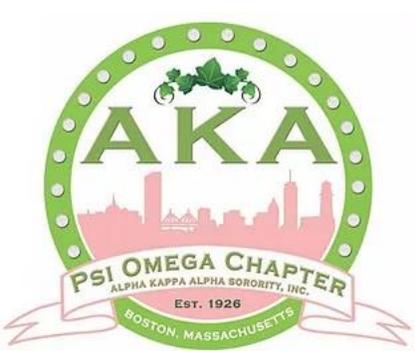


*Daphney Pacouloute
Events & Programs*



*Robin Johnson
Finance & Program Logistics*





Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. *Psi Omega Chapter*



*Kristy Anderson Magras,
President*

Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated was established in 1926 and is the oldest graduate chapter of the sorority within the New England states. The Psi Omega Chapter, soon celebrating its 100th anniversary, has maintained an ongoing commitment to promote leadership development among Black women, support scholarship awards to promising young women, and provide financial and in-kind assistance to initiatives important to the welfare of Black people.

The Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has sponsored debutante programs in Boston for 50 years. The first program was offered in 1973. This Program is currently identified as the Precious Pearls Debutante Program.

Through the Precious Pearls Debutante Program, Psi Omega Chapter and The Boston Pearl Foundation, Inc. foster the development of young women by providing mentoring, educational enrichment, and community service opportunities.

For more information about the Psi Omega Chapter, please visit www.akaboston.org.





The Boston Pearl Foundation, Inc.



Kimberly Bowdre, President

The Boston Pearl Foundation, Incorporated was established in August 2005 by the members of the Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. as a vehicle to expand the scope of scholarly assistance and community enrichment available in the Boston area. This organization has enjoyed a rich history of service to the Boston area for over 80 years.

One mission of the Foundation is to advance and support education by providing underserved students with the financial assistance needed to attend college. Specifically, the focus of the Foundation is to further the education of young Black women who enroll as freshmen in a four-year college or university.

The second purpose of the Foundation is to support charitable community programming in the greater Boston area.





2025-2026 Precious Pearls Sub-Committee Chairmen

Debutante Activities	Camille Martin
Debutante Dance Coordination	Chassity Coston
Debutante Tea	Nicole Gilmore
Escort Chair	TBA
Tea Rose Chair	Sharon Watson Beck Melton
Marketing Chair	Essence Souffrant
Booklet Coordination	Kathy Lucas
Seating Coordination	TBA
Fundraising Liaison	TBA





2025-2026 Precious Pearls Debutantes

Amelia Jean Jones-Downing

Ariana Rachel Jolly

Avery Charlton

Blake MacNeal

Emery Sloane Williams

Jasiri Cash

Kai Porter

Kelsie Barrack-Anidi

Kira Levin

Madison Aleece Garrett

Nia Warren

Olivia Simone Brown

Samaria Christine Theodore

Savannah Njonjo

Zoie Arlyce Porcher

Zuri Gonzalez





Agenda

Welcome

- Daphney Pacouloute and Robin Johnson, Precious Pearls Cotillion Chairmen
 - Kristy Anderson Magras, President – Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
 - Kimberly Bowdre , President -Boston Pearl Foundation
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- **Cotillion Sub-Committee Chairmen Introductions**
 - **Debutante Introductions**
 - **History of Debutante Season**
 - **Attendance Expectations**
 - **Program Calendar**
 - **Attire**
 - **Fundraising**
 - **Upcoming Events**
 - **Communication / Debutante & Escort Portal**
 - **Q & A**





History of Debutante Season



- Began in Europe in the 1700s as Court of the Kings and Queens of England
- “Debutante” – derived from the French word, “debuter” which means “to lead off”
- 1778 - First black Debutante Ball as recorded by a newspaper in New York
- 1895 - First official African American Debutante Ball in New Orleans
- Provided an opportunity to:
 - Showcase the achievements of young Black women
 - Demonstrate cultural refinement & social etiquette skills
 - Support educational and career goals
 - Combat stereotypes
 - Prepare debs for a world outside of their existing circles

Source: Black Debutante Balls: Curtsying with Pride since 1778 by Shannon Rodgers September 9, 2021





Debutante Expectations & Rules

Attendance

- Debutantes must participate in all monthly activities unless excused
- More than two unexcused absences disqualify the Debutante for a title opportunity
- Three unexcused absences will require the Debutante to discontinue the program and relinquish all funds raised in the name of The Boston Pearl Foundation, Inc.
- Please direct attendance issues to the attention of Daphney Pacouloute/ Robin Johnson Co-Chairman, at or via email at preciouspearls2026@gmail.com





Debutante Financial Commitment

Estimate

Participation Fee	\$ 300.00
Dress & Shoes	\$ 300.00
Miscellaneous - Hair, Make-up, etc.	\$ 250.00
Fundraising Ads / Sponsorships Minimum	\$ 1,500.00
Precious Pearl Cotillion (4) Tickets Minimum	<u>\$ 600.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,950.00

*Please be advised that the estimate mentioned above is solely for illustrative purposes and should not be considered as the final cost.





Debutante Attire

- White formal ball gown and white shoes & accessories. Gown selection will be made by the Precious Pearl Cotillion Committee.
- White Satin Gloves (mid-elbow length), and a pearl necklace (single strand). These items will be provided by the Boston Pearl Foundation, Inc.
- Nails and makeup must be natural tone
- Hair must be neat, clean and well groomed.
No adornments or unnatural color hair pieces/tracks (i.e. red, purple, yellow, blue, etc.)



Date	Activity / Event	Time / Location
Monday, December 8, 2025	Virtual Orientation	7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Saturday, December 13, 2025	Debutante Group Mixer & Kick Off	Beaver Country Day School, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Monday, January 19, 2026	Debutante MLK Day of Service	Boston Latin Schools 10:00am-12:00pm
Sunday February 8th, 2026	Cotillion Rehearsal	TBD
Saturday February 28th- March 1st	Debutante Sleepover & Etiquette Workshop	TBD
Saturday March 7 , 2026	Debutante & Escort Photo Shoot	Beaver Country Day School 12:00pm-3:00pm
March	Morehouse College Annual Glee Club Concert	TBD
Saturday March 28th, 2026	Cotillion Rehearsal	TBD
March	Cotillion Rehearsal	TBD
April	Career Readiness Workshop: Debs & Escorts	TBD
April	Greek Stepfest	North Eastern University
April	Cotillion Rehearsal	TBD
May	Mental Health Workshop: Debs & Escorts	TBD
May	Cotillion Rehearsal	TBD
Saturday, May 9, 2026	Debutante Mother/Daughter Tea	Time & Location TBD
Saturday, June 6, 2026	Precious Pearls Cotillion Ball	Four Points Sheraton, Norwood, MA

***Dates are Subject to Change as we finalize Calendar**





Debutante Expectations & Rules

Fundraising

Each Debutante is required to:

- Raise at least \$1,500 through Debutante sponsorships or advertisements for the souvenir journal
- Sell a minimum of four (4) tickets to the formal Debutante Ball

A fundraising web page will be created for each Debutante to publicize the 2026 Cotillion, featuring her accomplishments, interests, and community service to aid in reaching the fundraising goals. Sample letters for solicitation may be found in the digital handbook located in the password-protected section of the BPF website at <https://www.bostonpearl.com/>

Debutantes are discouraged from creating additional fundraising pages. However, should you choose to use alternative platforms, any self-created fundraising web pages/sites must be submitted for review and approval by the Debutante Committee and state that collection is being done in your name on behalf of the Boston Pearl Foundation, Inc.





Fundraising Levels

Boston Pearl Foundation and Psi Omega of AKA - Corporate Partnership Opportunities (levels) will be included in all Press Releases

- Pearl Sponsorship \$5,000 includes One (1) Full-Page Ad & Four (4) Cotillion Tickets & Special Recognition
- Ivy Sponsorship \$2,500 includes One (1) Full- Page Ad & Two (2) Cotillion Tickets
- Tea Rose Sponsorship \$1,250 includes One (1) Full-Page Ad

Debutante Sponsor Opportunities (levels)

- Platinum (Full Page) \$1,000 (above)
- Pink Diamond (Full Page) \$ 750 (above)
- Gold (Full Page) \$ 500 (above)
- Silver (Full Page) \$ 250 (above)
- Emerald (Half Page) \$ 150 (above)
- Pearl (Quarter Page) \$ 75 (above)
- Tea Rose (Patron)..... \$ 25 (above)

Debutante Advertisements in Souvenir Journal

Family, friends, and/or companies can place an advertisement.

- Maximum four (4) pages of ads per Debutante
- Full Page.....\$250
- Half Page.....\$150
- Quarter Page.....\$75



Fundraising Considerations to Get Started

- Set a fundraising goal
- List out all the names of family and friends you would like to solicit for sponsorship opportunities
- Consider the best method of communication for everyone on your list (ie. SMS, email, mail, phone call etc.)
- Use the email/SMS templates and photo cards provided in the Debutante & Escort Portal in the BPF.org for all communications (assets will be available in January)
- Don't wait to ask for donations. Remember you will also want to invite some friends and family to the Cotillion.
- Any monies sent through PayPal should also cover transaction fees.





Fundraising – Awards

Miss Precious Pearl

Debutante Elect with the highest fundraising

First Runner-Up

Second Runner-Up



Fundraising – Awards

Debutantes will receive a percentage of monies fundraised in excess of \$1,500.00 upon confirmed acceptance and enrollment at a 4-year institution of higher learning. The percentage awarded is as follows:

- **Miss Precious Pearl 40%**
- **First Runner-Up 35%**
- **Second Runner-Up 30%**
- **All other Debutantes 25%**



Specialty Awards



Award

Description

Miss Congeniality

Debutante voted by her peers as most congenial

Miss Ivy Scholar

Debutante with highest overall cumulative GPA (most recent report)

Miss Pearls of Service

Debutante who volunteers the most community service hours throughout the program





Fundraising – Collection Dates

Collection Timeline: Sponsorship/Ads/Tickets

Saturday January 31, 2026	1st Collection Sponsors/ Ads/ Tickets
Saturday February 28, 2026	2nd Collection Sponsors/ Ads/ Tickets
Saturday March 28, 2026	3rd Collection Sponsors/ Ads/ Tickets
Saturday April 25, 2026	4th Collection Sponsors/ Ads/ Tickets
Saturday May 9, 2026	5th Final Collection Sponsors/ Ads/ Tickets
Saturday May 16, 2026	6th Ticket Sales only

All Debutantes are expected to adhere to timeline. No Debutante will be presented if all fees are not submitted.





Upcoming Event

Debutante Mixer

- Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- Location: Beaver Country Day School @ 791 Hammond St, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
- Attire: White Button-down top.
 - No sweats or ripped jeans. Sneakers are acceptable.
- What to expect:
An unforgettable, fun time with your fellow Debutantes!





Communication Expectations & Contacts

Methods of Communication:

- Group Me/ Text/ Email (Debutante/Parent communications)

Contacts:

- Email: preciouspearls2026@gmail.com
- Cell: Daphney 617-980-9114
Robin 617-319-0769





Debutante and Escort Website Portal

Website:
bostonpearlfoundation.org
Portal Launch Date:
January 2026
Password:
preciouspearl26

The screenshot displays the website's layout. At the top center is the Boston Pearl Foundation logo, which includes a globe and a city skyline. To the right of the logo, a green-bordered box highlights two buttons: 'Debutantes & Escorts >' and a green 'Donate' button. Below the navigation menu is a large photograph of a group of young women in white gowns. Underneath the photo, the text reads 'WELCOME' followed by a thank-you message: 'Thank you for visiting the website of The Boston Pearl Foundation, founded in 2005 by the initiative of women under the Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.' A green 'DONATE TODAY' button is positioned above three main content blocks. The first block is 'SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM' with a 'LEARN MORE >>' link. The second is 'DEBUTANTE COTILLION' with a 'LEARN MORE >>' link. The third is 'SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION' with a 'LEARN HOW >>' link.



Fill out Forms

Allergies Form

Availability Form





Q & A

