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The Zeta Call

September 2010

The Newsletter for the State of New Jersey

New Soror Takes the Helm

August 2010 marked the beginning for the New Jersey State Director, Soror Gina Merritt-Epps, Esq. Soror Merritt-Epps became the 13th State Director upon the appointment by Grand Basileus Underwood.

The new State Director became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. on April 3, 1987, joining Mu Eta chapter at Penn State University. Soror Merritt-Epps has been a member of Xi Tau Zeta Chapter of Atlantic City, NJ, since 1995. She served as the chapter's President from 1999 - 2003, and 2007 - 2010. Other past positions include Regional Director of Amicae Affairs, and Parliamentarian for the State of New Jersey and the Atlantic Region.

Gina has been a Life Member since 2000 and received her Zeta Organizational Leadership (ZOL) certification in 2005 as part of Cohort I.

In 2007, she was one of three sorors to be certified as a ZOL Facilitator

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Welcome Message from the State Director

It is my pleasure to represent the Sorors, Amicae and Youth of the State of New Jersey as the 13th State Director. My goal is simple – to uphold Zeta's principles and implement the programs and vision of our International President. I am honored to join the State Officers and Chapter presidents as the leaders of the Garden State, and am humbled to follow the wonderful sorors who served as State Directors before me.

The ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. are an awesome group of women who, in addition to being leaders in their personal and professional lives, have chosen to be Finer Women by giving back to the community. Serving the community through Zeta is a noble calling and a privilege, and my enthusiasm for Zeta shall never quell. I ask you to pray with me as I continue my service to Zeta.

Standing on their Shoulders: The Past New Jersey State Directors

Mildred B. Stanford 1965-1970
Catherine Johnson 1970 - 1974
Jean Harris 1974-1977
Dr. Kathryn T. Malvern 1977 - 1980
Willie Jeter 1980 - 1983
Irene Solomon 1983 - 1986

Dolores Everett 1986 - 1988
Geraldine Johnson 1988 - 1992
Vesta Godwin Clark 1992 - 1996
Carrie Knotts-Jackson 1996 - 2000
Pauline E. Holness-Gibson 2000 - 2008
Paquita W. Henderson 2008 - 2010

When Zeta Calls...

Youth Coordinator
and
Social Action Coordinator
positions are vacant

Please Volunteer



....Regional Financial News....

Soror Carol Santos has been appointed Atlantic Regional Tamias. She can be reached at:

Soror Carol Santos
Atlantic Regional Tamias
357 Farmers Row
Groton, MA 04150
atlanticregion.tamias@gmail.com

Soror Sharae Sharp has been appointed Regional Tamias-Grammateus

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated
Atlantic Region
Attn: Sharae Sharp, Tamias-Grammateus
12138 Central Avenue - #205
Mitchellville, Maryland 20721-1932
Email address: atlregtamgram@hotmail.com
(202) 498-2625

Appointed Officers

Administrative Assistants

Jenny Allen
Xi Tau Zeta Chapter
 Kimyatta Pitts
Gamma Nu Zeta Chapter

American Cancer Society Liaisons

Jeanette Russell
Chi Rho Zeta Chapter
 Gloria Sanders
Zeta Delta Zeta Chapter

Amicae Coordinator

Sharon Suber
Omicron Omicron Zeta Chapter

Budget Chair

Janice Evans
Eta Omicron Zeta Chapter

Chaplain

Kimberly Moore-Jones
Eta Omicron Zeta Chapter

Charitable Campaign Coordinator

Sarecia Johnson
Epsilon Xi Zeta Chapter

Elections Coordinator

Gloria Wilkerson
Gamma Nu Zeta Chapter

Exhibits & Scrapbook Coordinator

Ivory Marrero
Gamma Nu Zeta Chapter

Founders' Day Coordinator

Rhonda Farmer
Xi Tau Zeta Chapter

Golden/Life Members Coordinator

Jorelle Green-Smith
Gamma Omicron Zeta Chapter

Legacy Coordinator

Pauline Gibson
Zeta Delta Zeta Chapter

Necrology & Rededication Coordinator

Deloris Solomon
Chi Rho Zeta Chapter

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Gina Merritt-Epps, Esq.,
 New Jersey State Director
 Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

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 Suite 7 PMB 144
 Galloway, NJ 08205
 Ph: 609 748-1470

Email: NJStateDir@aol.com
 State Website: zphibnj.org

Meet the New Jersey State Officers



Titessa Smith, Grammateus

Soror Titessa D. Smith is a graduate of Rowan University with a Bachelor's degree in Law and Justice. She is currently employed by the State of New Jersey Judiciary as a Probation Officer in Gloucester County, and is a member of the Probation Officers Association of New Jersey (PANJ) in which she currently serves as Vice President of Local 108. Soror Smith is currently a member of Second Baptist Church in Pedricktown, NJ and serves on the combined choir.

Soror Smith became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. on April 11, 1999 via Rho Theta Chapter of Rowan University. She has served as Undergraduate President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Soror Smith is a member of Gamma Nu Zeta Chapter and has served as 3rd Vice President of her chapter, Undergraduate Advisor, Pearllette Advisor and ZHOPE Coordinator.

Lynette Harris, Anti Grammateus

Soror Lynette N. Harris, a proud product of Camden, NJ, entered into the land of Zetadom at Montclair State College (now University) on Saturday, April 12, 1986. From a line of one, "Solo" was born.

In March 2004, Lynette joined Zeta Delta Zeta Chapter, Moorestown, NJ. Since her membership, she has worked on the following committees: Archonette, Finer Womanhood Scholarship Luncheon, New Membership, Protocol, Social Amenities, Ways & Means and Zeta/Sigma Relations. Soror Harris served as an administrative assistant for past New Jersey State Director, Soror Pauline E. Gibson and in 2005-2006, served as New Jersey State Social Action Chair.

In 2008, Soror Harris was awarded the *New Jersey State Graduate Zeta of the Year Award* and in March 2009, she was awarded *Zeta of the Year* by her chapter, and is currently in her second year in the role of 1st Anti Basileus. During her membership with ZDZ, Lynette has attended numerous national, regional and state leadership conferences. Professionally, Lynette serves as Assistant Director of The Career Center at The College of New Jersey (formerly Trenton State College). She's been a productive TCNJ campus citizen for over 15 years, serving in multiple roles and capacities. Though Lynette is a member of Bethany Baptist Church in Lindenwold, NJ (where Bishop David G. Evans is Pastor), she enjoys worshiping at other churches with her mother, sister and brother-in-law. Soror Harris is excited about her new role as Anti-Grammateus and is looking forward to working with the Sorors of this administration as well as throughout the great state of New Jersey!



Lauwana Martin, Tamias

Lauwana Martin became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. on April 8, 1983 with Rho Epsilon Chapter on the campus of Louisiana State University. She is currently a member of Gamma Nu Zeta Chapter and is the Parliamentarian and Archonette co-advisor. Her past positions include 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Amicette Advisor, and Finer Womanhood Chair. She has been married to her husband John (Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.) for 25 years and they have 3 daughters and 1 son.

One daughter is a Zeta and another one is an Archonette. She is a supervisor at the Camden County Board of Social Services.

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New chapter management materials are on the Members Only section of the National website

www.zphib1920.org

You've Got Mail.....from the State Conference

The minutes from the April 2010 Executive Board meeting and State Conference were emailed to the Past State Directors, Elected Officers, and Graduate Chapter Basilei. The Board Meeting minutes will be approved at the April 2011 Board meeting. The Conference

minutes will be approved at the April 2012 Conference. Please submit any changes to Soror Titessa Smith, Grammateus, using the minutes correction form. Graduate Chapter Basilei, should forward these documents to their undergraduates chapters.

Many thanks to Soror Smith for her hard work,



Thanks to those chapters that have already registered for the Walk in your area. If you haven't done so, please make sure that your chapter, youth and Amicae register for the walk.

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State Officers

Janice Evans, Tamias Grammateus

Janice Evans was initiated into Zeta Phi Beta Sorority on May 16, 1980 as a charter member of Theta Kappa Chapter at the State University of NY, Stony Brook. She has been active since her initiation, is a Life Member, and is currently a member of Eta Omicron Zeta Chapter. Soror Evans serves as the Tamias Grammateus for the State of New Jersey, a position she has held off and on for over 10 years. Since becoming a Zeta over 30 years ago, she has held the positions of First Anti Basileus, Tamias, Tamias Grammateus, Grammateus, Anti Grammateus, Phylacter and Epistoleus.



Soror Evans works at the Port Authority of NY & NJ as the Manager of Business Services in the Management & Budget Department. She is a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Maplewood, NJ. Soror Evans enjoys choral singing and belongs to several choral groups including the choir at St. Josephs. She is married to Neville Evans (a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.) and has two children, Idris Evans, and Anique Evans.

Sharon Pearce-Moses, Phylacter



Sharon was initiated into Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., through the Xi Iota Chapter at Montclair State University in 1985 and became a member of Gamma Omicron Zeta graduate chapter in 1990. She obtained Life and Golden Life Membership in 1997. She received her Zeta Organization Leadership (ZOL) Certification in 2006, and has served as: the Atlantic Region Representative to the National Nomination Committee, NJ State Administrative Assistant, past President of Gamma Omicron Zeta chapter, past advisors to Psi Lambda, Xi Iota and Psi Pi

undergraduate chapters, past member of Essex County Chapter Pan Hellenic Council. Sharon has over 15 years of experience in nursing and a background in hospital medical-surgical case management, and is presently Clinical Nurse Coordinator (Supervisor) at DYFS in Newark.

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Calendar of Events

2010

- Oct 17/24 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk
- Oct 23 PBS Fraternity Kappa Upsilon Sigma Chapter's Scholarship Gala
- Oct 31 State and National Dues must be Postmarked
- Oct 31 Regional Dues must be RECEIVED
- Nov Regional Executive Board Meeting in Delaware

2011

- Jan State Founders' Day Observance
- Jan National Executive Board Meeting in Washington, DC
- Feb Regional Undergraduate Retreat in Maryland
- Apr 29 State Director's Reception
- Apr 30 State Executive Board Meeting
- Aug ZOL
- Oct Regional Conference

2012

- Apr State Conference
- Jul 6-10 Boule - Chicago

Appointed Officers

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Protocol & Amenities Chair
Eunice Samuels-Lewis
Epsilon Xi Zeta Chapter

Publicity Coordinator
Deseree McFarlane
Sigma Zeta Zeta Chapter

Scholarship Coordinator
Andrea Todman
Sigma Zeta Zeta Chapter

Social Action Coordinator
TBD

Stork's Nest Coordinator
Michele Baynes
Omicron Omicron Zeta Chapter

Undergraduate Coordinator
Salaine Atkins-Little
Gamma Omicron Zeta Chapter

Webmistress
Rhonda Farmer
Xi Tau Zeta Chapter

Youth Coordinator
TBD

Zeta Sigma Liaisons
South - Ivory Marrero
Gamma Nu Zeta Chapter
North - Denise Davis-Smith
Epsilon Xi Zeta Chapter

ZHOPE Coordinator
Wanda Wilson-Little
Zeta Delta Zeta Chapter

**The State
Constitution and Bylaws
were emailed to
each chapter**

Our Zeta Doves

Sorors in the State of New Jersey with 50 years or more of service to the sorority.

Inez Brooks
Gamma Nu Zeta

Clara Bennett
Zeta Delta Zeta

Beulah Ball
Epsilon Xi Zeta

Jeanne Lewis
Gamma Nu Zeta

Viola Jones
Zeta Delta Zeta

Delores Small
Epsilon Xi Zeta

Evelyn White
Zeta Delta Zeta

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Wanda Wilson-Little, NJ Rep. to the Reg. Nomination Committee

Soror Wanda Wilson-Little became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. on November 18, 1994, as a graduate member of Zeta Delta Zeta Chapter, Moorestown, Burlington County and is a Life Member. Wanda has served as chapter President from 2006-2010 and has sat on the Executive Board of Zeta Delta Zeta Chapter in several capacities. She has also been chairperson of chapter committees as well as advising the chapter's Archonettes and Amicettes. Wanda had the honor of being the Scholarship Coordinator for the State of New Jersey under Pauline E. Gibson, State Director and New Jersey State Z-Hope Coordinator from 2008 - present.



She graduated from Trenton State College (presently The College of New Jersey) in 1976 with a dual degree in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education with a minor in Science. In May of 2003 she received her Masters Degree in Environmental Education and Conservation & Supervisory Certificate from Rowan University. Soror Wilson-Little is employed by Camden City Board of Education where she is presently an instructor at Camden City School District's Environmental Center. Most summers you will find her teaching environmental science and camping with the CHAMP/Gear-Up Program, Rowan University, Camden Campus. She is married to William Little and is blessed with two adult children, Armon & Amber Little.



Gloria Wilkerson, NJ Rep. to the Regional Elected Committee

Soror Gloria Wilkerson has been a member of this prestigious sorority for over thirty-five years, joining as an undergraduate into Omicron Epsilon Chapter during the spring semester of 1975 at Trenton State College (now referred to as "The College of New Jersey"). Soror Wilkerson has been an active member of Gamma Nu Zeta Chapter since February, 1994 and has served in several capacities, including President and First Vice President. Soror Wilkerson has also served on the State and Regional levels. Professionally, she is Highly Qualified/Certified Resource/Special Education

Teacher for the Trenton Board of Education and has been a teacher for over thirty-one years. Soror Wilkerson has two beautiful children - Tiffany and Tyler - and one granddaughter, Ta'nasha.

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New Soror Takes the Helm

in Track 4 - Leadership Training for Sponsors and Coordinators of Zeta Amicae Auxiliaries. In 2008, Grand Underwood appointed her to the National ZOL Committee.

Gina received her BA in International Politics in 1989 from Penn State University and her Juris Doctorate from Howard University School of Law in 1993. Gina is employed as the Corporate Counsel and Secretary at South Jersey Industries. She is licensed to practice law in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and admitted to practice law in the Supreme Court of NJ, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, United States District Court - District of New Jersey, and the United States Supreme Court. Gina has been married to Michael C. Epps, Esq., since 1995. The couple has one daughter, Amicette Taylor, age 12. Also a member of the Epps family is Soror Danielle N. Epps, a graduate of Kean University and member of Sigma Zeta Zeta Chapter. Gina is a member of Faith Baptist Church, Pleasantville, NJ and her interests include exercise, shopping and spa treatments.

National News

Boule Election Results

National First Anti-Basileus
Mary Breaux Wright

National Second Anti-Basileus
Scarlet Black

National Grammateus
Michelle Porter Norman

National Tamias
Michelle Joubert

National Phylacter
Emma Faulk

Graduate Member-At-Large
Jacqueline Lemon-Denton

**Graduate Member to the
Executive Committee**
Shanessa N. Ashford

**Undergraduate
Member-At-Large**
Joi Jackson

**Undergraduate Member to the
Executive Committee**
Brittany Johnson

National Education Foundation
Juanita M. Robinson
and
Katrina Wallace



**Keep in
Touch**

All State Officers
and
Chapter Basilei
must check their
email regularly!

Save the Date

December 4, 2010
Xi Tau Zeta Chapter's
Christian Women's Breakfast

January 22, 2011
Epsilon Xi Zeta Chapter's
Founders Day Luncheon

**Please support the events of
Sister Chapters!**

Introducing the Graduate Chapter Basilei...

Tiffany Harris-Greene, Gamma Nu Zeta

Soror Harris-Greene is the Basileus of Gamma Nu Zeta Chapter, Camden County. She graduated from Rowan University in 1998. She became a Zeta in the spring of 1995. She has held the positions of Grammateus, Phylacter, Luncheon Chair and Fundraising Chair for Gamma Nu Zeta Chapter. Tiffany is a special education teacher at Countryside School in Mount Laurel. She has been a teacher there for 13 years. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree in School Administration. Tiffany also owns her own business, Queen's Ice, in which she sells Premier Designs Jewelry. She is married to Ron Greene, who proposed to her at the Chapter's 2005 Annual Finer Womanhood Scholarship Luncheon.



Shelly Freytas, Gamma Omicron Zeta

Soror Freytas began her life in Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. on February 14, 1988, joining Delta Delta chapter on the campus of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. Shelly transferred her membership to Gamma Omicron Zeta chapter of Newark, New Jersey in 1993, and held the positions of Secretary and Chairperson of the Way and Means Committee until moving to Danbury, Connecticut in 1995. Shelly was reclaimed to Gamma Omicron Zeta in 2006. Shelly has served as the chapter's Treasurer, as well as Undergraduate Advisor to Xi Iota Chapter at Montclair State University. Soror Freytas received her Zeta Organizational Leadership certification in 2009. Shelly received her BA in Physics in 1989 from Lincoln University and her MS in Pharmaceutical Engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in 2008. Shelly is employed with the Actavis Group as a Project Manager, in their Product Development and Technology Transfer department. Shelly has been married to Albert Freytas, since 1997. The couple has one daughter together Leah Ciara, age 7 years who is also a Dazzling Gamma Omicron Zeta Pearlette.



Eunice Samuels-Lewis, Epsilon Xi Zeta

Soror Eunice Samuels Lewis became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority in the fall of 1990 at Epsilon Xi Zeta Chapter. She has served her chapter as Chair of the 50th Anniversary Celebration, the Annual Founder's Day Luncheon, and the Erma Jean Nicholson Tea. She served as Second Anti-Basileus before assuming the position as Basileus. At the State level, she serves as the State Protocol Chair, State Founder's Day Chair and Marshall at the past two State Conferences. Soror Samuels-Lewis is a certified Municipal Court Director and a Certified Government Financial Manager, earning her BA at Rutgers University and her JD at Seton Hall School of Law. A member of Shiloh Baptist Church, Trenton, NJ, Soror Samuels-Lewis is ZOL Certified as well as a Life and Legacy member. She is the mother of two sons, Harold and Jacob, and the grandmother five future Zetas (Kemoni & Malaysia of Napa County California and Lola, Lilly and Liv of Gothenburg Sweden).



Wanda F. Smith, Zeta Delta Zeta

Soror Smith became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. on April 25, 1992 on the campus of Rutgers University, New Brunswick (Gamma Kappa Chapter). She has been a member of the Zeta Delta Zeta chapter for the past 16 years, where she currently serves as Basileus. Throughout her 18 years in Zeta she has held various positions on the local and state levels. Professionally Wanda has worked in the field of Human Resources for over 10 years and is currently an HR Manager for a health system in South Jersey. Wanda is also an active member of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Burlington, NJ.

Anjanette Highsmith, Eta Omicron Zeta

Soror Highsmith became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. on April 25, 1992 at Gamma Kappa Chapter located at Rutgers - The State University, New Brunswick. In September, 1996 she transferred to Eta Omicron Zeta Chapter. She has held the position of First Anti-Basileus and Epistoleus. Soror Highsmith has also served as phylacter for the state of New Jersey. She teaches sixth grade science at Rahway Middle School and is also the corresponding secretary of Rahway Education Association.



The Graduate Chapter Basilei continued...

Kimberly Thavisack, Xi Tau Zeta

Soror Thavisack joined Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. in 1999 through Phi Mu chapter at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. Currently, she serves as an advisor for Xi Tau Zeta's youth groups and has also served as the chapter's First Anti Basileus and Grammateus. Soror Thavisack has been working in public education for 10 years as an elementary school teacher. She obtained her Masters Degree in Education Administration from Rowan University in 1996. She is married with four children and is an active member of Shore Fellowship Church. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, teaching Sunday school, reading, shopping and doing the work of Zeta.



Sharon Suber, Omicron Omicron Zeta

Following in the footsteps of her sister, Soror Michelle Baynes, Sharon became a member of Omicron Omicron Zeta Chapter in September 2000. Since joining Zeta she has chaired many of the chapter's committees including the Jazz Brunch and Z-HOPE. At the state level she has been Editor of the State Newsletter and Webmistress. Currently she holds the position of State Amicae Coordinator. Soror Suber is the Technology Coordinator at Mount Vernon Elementary School in Newark, NJ

Constance L. Johnson, Rho Rho Zeta

Soror Johnson, a Charter Member of Rho Rho Zeta Chapter, earned a Master of Science degree in Administration from Central Michigan University in 1985, which is supplemented by a second Master of Arts in Education, BS degrees in both Business Administration and Human Services, and an Associates Degree in Handicapped Programming which she earned from Cumberland County College. Connie began a career in human services in 1973 with the State of New Jersey, and retired in 2001 as an Executive Manager in charge of the Department of Quality Assurance. She has held numerous positions in her community and is a past president of the County NAACP. At her church, John Wesley United Methodist, Bridgeton, NJ, Connie serves as Co-Chairperson of Finance and as Education Chairperson. Family along with reading, writing poetry and computer graphics are the subjects that Connie listed as consumers of her free time.



Rachael Jones, RhoTau Zeta

Soror Rachael N. Jones, MPA, PHAM was initiated into Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, March 11, 1998 on the campus of Montclair State University. Currently she serves as the Basileus of Rho Tau Zeta Chapter based in Paterson, NJ. Professionally she is the Director of Product Management at The Trizetto Group, Inc., the largest dedicated supplier of information solutions to U.S. healthcare payers. In her role, she is focused on developing and supporting software products that automate and transform the healthcare industry. Soror Jones obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from Montclair State University and a Master of Public Administration from New York University and has completed several professional certifications in her field. Soror Jones is married to her high school sweetheart, Darryll L. Jones and they are expecting their first child.

Stacy Simmons, Sigma Zeta Zeta

Stacy Simmons became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc, on May 12, 1991 through Psi Lambda Chapter at Bloomfield College in Bloomfield, NJ. Upon graduation, she transferred into Gamma Omicron Zeta Chapter. Soror Simmons is a charter member of Sigma Zeta Zeta Chapter. She has served as State Founders Day Coordinator, and has held several positions at the chapter level, including Tamias-Grammateus, Undergraduate Advisor, Tamias, 3rd Anti Basileus, Z-Hope Chairperson, and Ways and Means Chairperson. Soror Simmons is a Legal Billing Coordinator at one of the top ten law firms in the country.



Jeanette Russell, Chi Rho Zeta

Soror Russell has been member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority since 2000, during which time she has served in several capacities, including as Tamias Grammateus and First Anti-Basileus. She is currently the Basileus of Chi Rho Zeta Chapter. She retired from the Federal Government (Internal Revenue Service) in 2005 and returned to graduate school to obtain a Masters degree. She is currently employed as a Media Specialist/Librarian in the Camden City School District. She is the mother of two and the grandmother of one, and a trustee at Kaighn Avenue Baptist Church, Camden, NJ. Soror Russell also enjoys participating in "Go On Girl," a national book club whose goal is to support authors of the African Diaspora, exercising, discussing current events, traveling, listening to National Public Radio and spoiling her granddaughter.