

## **Beta Sigma Hosts a Five-Boulé Christmas Celebration**

Beta Sigma Boulé, Springfield, MA, hosted 250 Archons, Archousai and other guests at the Springfield Marriott Hotel on December 11-13, 2015, during a weekend-long Christmas celebration with the four member-boulés in neighboring Connecticut – Alpha Psi (Hartford), Beta Iota (Farmington Valley), Delta Nu (Fairfield) and Beta Tau (New Haven). Upon arrival, guests were greeted with a welcome gift that included a pair of specially-designed champagne glasses and a gift bag of assorted items just for the Archousai.

The weekend festivities began on Friday, December 11th, with a scrumptious dinner at The Colony Club in downtown Springfield. Following dinner, guests returned to the Marriott for “A Night of Smooth Grooves,” a cabaret-styled jazz set featuring pianist and vocalist Christina Colón, soul-jazz flutist Althea Rene, and saxophonist Elan Trotman & Band. The evening of jazz was presented by WEIB 106.3 FM, the only locally-owned, independent, commercial FM radio station in the Springfield metro market, owned and operated by Archousa Carol Moore Cutting. Special guest Grand Grammateus-Executive Secretary Samuel Bacote III attended the Friday night dinner and jazz concert.

A trip to Springfield, the birthplace of basketball, would not be complete without a visit to the prestigious Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, where Beta Sigma hosted the official welcome reception on Saturday afternoon, December 12th. Sire Archon H. Brooks Fitch extended warm greetings on behalf of Beta Sigma Boulé, followed by a brief overview of the museum by Paul Lambert, VP of Programming & Guest Experience.

The highlight of the weekend was the celebrated splendor and joyful spirit of the “Christmas Is for the Archousai” black-tie gala. For special remarks, Sire Archon Fitch was joined at the podium by fellow Sire Archons (Alan Butler of Alpha Psi, Richard Alleyne of Beta Iota, Greg DeMar of Delta Nu, Kevin Myatt of Beta Tau). Each spoke eloquently in sharing holiday salutations that reflect the core values and sentiments of The Boule: “gratitude” and thanks to our beloved Archousai; “giving back” to honor those who helped us along the way; “remembrance” to pay tribute to those who came before us; and “hope” for the future. To celebrate their charm, elegance, beauty and grace, Archons honored the Archousai and female guests with a heartfelt toast and dazzled them with an exquisite gift—a one-of-each-kind, three-piece set of hand-blown glass perfume decanters trimmed in 24-carat gold. Each Archousa also received a commemorative Christmas ornament. The excitement and camaraderie continued for the rest of the evening as guests danced to the old-school and soulful sounds of the Jus Us Band.

On Sunday morning, December 13th, several Boulé families gathered for a delicious breakfast to close out a wonderful weekend of “getting to know the best of one another.” Special thanks to the Gala Committee, chaired by Archon Jeffrey Johnson, who worked tirelessly to provide a cherished experience. Tremendous gratitude also goes to Archon Johnson’s lovely Archousa, Adrienne, who created the wonder and merriment of the welcome gift bags and Archousai gifts.