



# SOUTH SUBURBAN CHICAGO CHAPTER *Newsletter*

**May/June 2017**

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## President's Letter



CLARITY, THE BEST "C" OF THE DIAMOND

As many of you know I am an avid reader or as I sometime call myself...a "Serial Reader." Often, I will read several books at the same time depending upon how I need to feed my soul. So when I picked up the book, *Prevail*, by Cindy Trimm (which was suggested from a close friend), it provided confirmation as to why I first thought of my theme as President of this chapter. "Shine Bright, Like a Diamond" had a twist and a ring to it. Yes it was the popular hit song by Rihanna. However, it was not until I began to read the Prologue to *Prevail* that it became obvious why things worked out the way they did and why "Diamonds" were so relevant to the 4-year journey that I took along with South Suburban Chicago Chapter.

Trimm starts the first chapter with a quote addressing the making of a diamond with a quote from Henry Kissinger: “A diamond is a chunk of coal that is made good under pressure.” A piece of coal is sometimes looked upon as just a little rock with little to no meaning however when that very same rock is placed under pressure, it does not crack but it becomes a diamond. Wow!!! When I take another moment and think about the women in South Suburban Chicago, when we were faced with the pressure of hosting one of the best Regional Conferences in the Mid-western Region, we delivered sheer EXCELLENCE!!! Those who initially thought the theme, “Shine Bright, Like a Diamond” was cute, soon became a believer and knew that South Suburban does in fact, “Shine Bright Like a Diamond”!!! We were pulled together after unexpectedly losing one of our dear sisters, we stood tall and forged ahead providing the family the support while setting aside our personal matters. This brings to mind another quote cited by Trimm, “A diamond...It once was nothing special, but with enough pressure and time, becomes spectacular! South Suburban Chicago is just that, “SPECTACULAR!”

I want to “Thank You” for supporting me as your President for the past 4 years. The opportunity to serve you as President “was” and “is” the best training any person can receive if you are willing to admit to your shortcomings and mistakes and learn from them. When I chose the theme, “Shine Bright, Like a Diamond,” my focus was on how I could take the 4 “C’s” of the diamond and apply them to South Suburban Chicago to take us to higher ground and let others know that we are not only “Excellent” but that we strive for “Excellence.” However just as God would do it, he also made me see how those same 4 “C”s have applied to my personal growth thanks to you.

My experience and growth while serving as President has trained me to tackle each challenge with a different approach. Instead of jumping in immediately to address the problem or to provide the solution, I now take a moment, say a quiet prayer, and ask God to give me the words and wisdom on what to do. It was in that moment that I discovered CLARITY!!! Trimm states that, “Clarity is key to reflecting light. Getting clarity in a situation will allow you to adjust and make corrections, heal from old hurts, learn from mistakes and missteps, expand your problem-solving and crisis-management skills and maximize your potential to inspire others.” The other “C”s are Cut, Carat, and Color and I could go on and on as to how each of the remaining “C’s” have applied to my personal growth and increased spirituality. It was all because I was afforded the opportunity to serve as your Chapter President for the past 4 years.

Thank you South Suburban Chicago for providing the best growth opportunity a person could ever experience. I will cherish the lessons learned and the memorable experiences we have shared during our highs and our lows.

May God continue to bless you and your family!!

Love,  
Deadra Stokes

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## JJSSCC Annual Book Giveaway!! May 13th



In accord with the Mid-Western Regional Day of Service, "The Gift of Literacy," we are holding our annual book giveaway on **May 13th from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.**

Every child should have a variety of books in the home from which to choose. To help make this a reality, our chapter has teamed up with the **Chicago Heights Library** to 2-3 books for every child/teen in Grades Pre-K through 12th. The library is located at 25 West 15th Street- (Chicago Rd/Lincoln Hwy). There will be food, games, raffle prizes and loads of books to give away! Please

come support this event and bring a friend!

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## Installation and Member Initiation Ceremony- May 21st

On Sunday, May 21st we will install new officers, initiate new members, congratulate our graduates, and say farewell to mothers completing tenure with this organization.

**8:30am** Registration for Mothers

**9:00am** Initiation, Installation of Officers & Chapter Photo

**10:00am** Guest Arrival

Entertainment provided by Saxophonist Ray Silkman

**12:00pm** Dismissal

\$45 for Adult Guests (including Associates)

\$25 for Guests (Children 10 and under)

**The committee will not collect funds on the day of the event.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION BELOW:

Mothers, teens (being installed as officers) and father of the year will have gratis reservations.

**Mandatory attendance is required for all mothers. Absences must be excused by the Vice President.**

PROTOCOL: Mothers please wear uninterrupted white suits or dresses. Armpits or shoulders should not be exposed. Pantyhose is required and should be flesh colored or white. Shoes should be closed toe. Sling back pumps are acceptable as long as the toes are enclosed. Peep toes are acceptable as long as the heel is enclosed. No colored jewelry.

Teen Installation: Young ladies should follow the mother's protocol and skirts should pass the fingertip test. Young men should wear black slacks, black shoes white shirt, and black tie. Eighth graders are welcome to participate in the Installation of teen officers and should follow the same dress code.

**RSVP: No later than May 10th**

Payment: Please mail to the chapter PO Box: 887 PO Box, Flossmoor, IL 60422 by May 10th.

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## **A Celebration of Family- Black Family Day**



Our Annual Black Family Day celebration will be held on **Sunday, May 28, 2017** immediately following 11:00 am service.

Covenant United Church of Christ  
1130 E. 154th Street  
South Holland, IL 60473

Come enjoy food, fun and games! This is a free activity!

## The JJSSCC Scholarship Ceremony

*Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present- Albert Camus*

On **June 3rd from 11 a.m.-1 p.m** we will have the honor of celebrating the recipients of the JJSSCC Merit Scholarship, the JJSSCC College Tour Scholarship, and the Bernadette Renee Sharp Scholarship. The event will be held at **Balagio's** restaurant (17502 Dixie Hwy, Homewood).



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## Featured Activity: Teen Graduation and Bridging Ceremony

On April 30, 2017 the Teen Group held its 3rd Annual combined 8th Grade and Graduating Teen Bridging Over Ceremony. This beautiful affair was held at Olympia Fields Country Club and included a brunch and keynote speech by Jac Pac Dad Dr. James Harden. Jac Pac Dads Paul Stokes, Dr. Robert Coats and Edward Adams presented our eight graduating seniors with \$100 gift cards to Bed, Bath and Beyond. Our 10 eighth graders walked across our new bridge and were welcomed to the teen group by their fellow teens.

Thanks to Mother Members Michelle Clark Betheny Ratliff-Lyke Staci Washington, Andrea Porties, DaWana Blackwell Williamson, Tina Tina McAfee-Halliman for doing an outstanding job with this program!





*JJSSCC Graduating Seniors*



*JJSSCC 8th Graders Bridging into the Teen Group*





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## Kudos Corner



Special Kudos to the 2017 JJSSCC  
Mother of the Year, Daleta Mitchell!  
Thank you for your dedicated service,  
hard work, collegiality and great attitude!

G-5 Group Member Wynton Wright was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at James Hart Junior High School in Homewood on April 17, 2017. Congrats on a wonderful accomplishment, Wynton!



Congrats to Mother Member Badia Legardy, PhD who was named "Master Teacher" by the College of Arts and Sciences at Loyola University Chicago on April 28, 2017. Recipients of the Award have in common a dynamic presence in the classroom, a willingness to try new ways of teaching, and a devotion to students that goes beyond the ordinary classroom experience.

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Do you have information or news to share with our chapter?

If you'd like to contribute to the monthly JJSSCC newsletter, please send your information to [editor@jackandjillsscc.com](mailto:editor@jackandjillsscc.com).



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