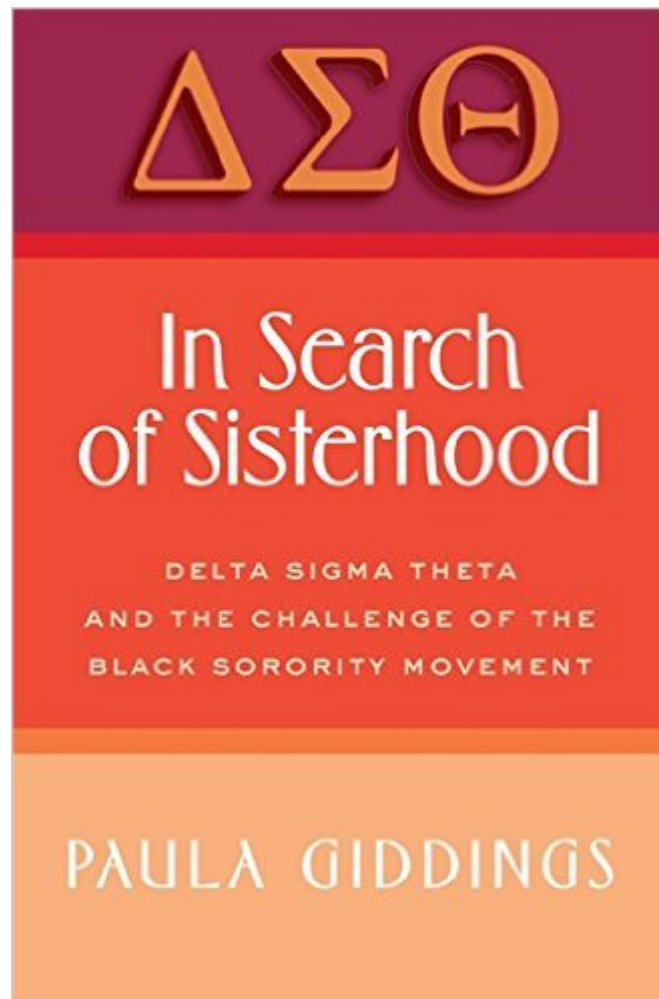


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# In Search Of Sisterhood: Delta Sigma Theta And The Challenge Of The Black Sorority Movement



## Synopsis

This history of the largest black women's organization in the United States is not only the story of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (DST), but also tells of the increasing involvement of black women in the political, social, and economic affairs of America. Founded at a time when liberal arts education was widely seen as either futile, dangerous, or impractical for blacks, especially women, DST is, in Giddings's words, a "compelling reflection of black women's aspirations for themselves and for society." Giddings notes that unlike other organizations with racial goals, Delta Sigma Theta was created to change and benefit individuals rather than society. As a sorority, it was formed to bring women together as sisters, but at the same time to address the divisive, often class-related issues confronting black women in our society. There is, in Giddings's eyes, a tension between these goals that makes Delta Sigma Theta a fascinating microcosm of the struggles of black women and their organizations. DST members have included Mary McLeod Bethune, Mary Church Terrell, Margaret Murray Washington, Shirley Chisholm, Barbara Jordan, and, on the cultural side, Leontyne Price, Lena Horne, Ruby Dee, Judith Jamison, and Roberta Flack. *In Search of Sisterhood* is full of compelling, fascinating anecdotes told by the Deltas themselves, and illustrated with rare early photographs of the Delta women.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I purchased *In Search For Sisterhood* prior to joining Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. I knew why I wanted to be a Delta however, I realized that at first it was for reasons not significant. This book

enable me to see the strides the Sorority had made in regards to women's rights, African American's rights, etc. It was from this book that allowed me to truly understand the depths of my twenty-two founder's accomplishments. If you are buying this book thinking that Soror Giddings is going to give you info. in regards to our Sorority that's confidential, then this book isn't for you. However, if you are reading this book to find the basis of Delta Sigma Theta founding, it's founders, and its progress through the years, it will provide you with that. Hopefully through reading this text, a potential member will be able to decipher whether or not Delta Sigma Theta is suited for them. I know it sealed the deal for me. OOooh oop to Soror Giddings and to all the Sorors of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. especially those with Theta Omega and Alpha Delta. Yours In Delta....

Got this book with "Everything to know about Delta: an unlicensed historical factbook of Delta Sigma Theta" and both books were informative. I like the secret little things "Everything to know about delta" book better because it is more along the lines of stuff I have to learn. It goes into the founders and their background, traditions, and info on what all the greek language and jargon they speak. I like both books but highly recommend "Everything to know about Delta: an unlicensed historical factbook of Delta Sigma Theta"

I am a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and this is actually considered required reading for new members. It is a factual history of the founders of Delta Sigma Theta and the evolution of the sorority in its 100 years of existence.

I was never a Greek, but I read this book because I am familiar with Delta Sigma Theta from their activities at my alma mater, and have enjoyed Paula Giddings's other research about black women's history. Unsurprisingly, I also enjoyed this book. It explains how Delta Sigma Theta provided a critical organizing space for collegiate black women in an era trying to make them choose between the identities and at a time when their being in college itself was a rarity. In addition to the social events, this sorority also had explicitly political events. From inception, DST worked for civil rights, reflecting their steadfast belief in community progress through community service. While other Greek organizations do community service here-and-there, this is the backbone of DST according to Giddings. Their first public act was participation in a women's suffrage march (pp. 55-60). Unfortunately, some of the white suffragists they marched with were not grasping the importance of opposing racism (pp. 56-57, pp. 59-60) while opposing sexism. Before 'intersecting identities' became a buzz word in feminist research circles, DST members already understood they

could not choose between being a woman or a black. The social justice they embraced and advanced consequently had to recognize them as being both. The list of Deltas who were in public service is inspiring. Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Betty Shabazz, Barbara Jordan, Shirley Chisholm, and Marian Wright Edelman are only a few. Even though the organization also faced charges of elitism, DST ultimately comes across as one of the most accessible service organizations. In addition to supporting suffrage, the organization opposed lynching and reached out to single mothers (pp. 300-302) in eras when those activities were politically (if not culturally) dangerous. This book is (of course) a must get for people who were a part of DST. I'm also convinced it is mandatory reading for people interested in community organizing studies. Giddings explains how women's collegiate organizations can and do play empowering roles in communities throughout the nation in great detail to her readers.

I am not a member of this sorority but after reading this book I definitely want to be a part of something so powerful as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. "In Search of Sisterhood" is a very informative and well written book. It is a good book for ladies doing research and deciding on sororities or just good for a history lesson. Lots of history in this book about Delta and the movement that it was involved in. A definite must read!

The first time I read this book was Sophomore year of college at Clark Atlanta University. Once I began reading this book I realized that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is an excellent example of what a sorority should be. The foresight of the founders to chart their own course and to consistently strive for excellence shines through even in the modern day activities of the sorority. Paula Giddings put her heart and soul into this book and it is a must read for anyone who wants to learn about sisterhood at its best. Although I am not a member, I will certainly make Delta Sigma Theta my first and only choice. Kudos to Ms. Giddings for a job well done!

I read this book one year ago, while doing research on this sorority because I planned on pledging in the near future. I found it extremely informative and exciting, tracing back the inception of this sorority, its dedication to community service and sisterhood. I would recommend this book to any sister interested in becoming a member of Delta Sigma Theta.

I am a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. I read this book the Summer before my Sophomore year at Texas A&M University-Commerce for enrichment. I was interested in Delta and

wanted to know the background, history, and legacy. As a Delta I feel this book spreads more knowledge than you anticipate. It's informative, interesting, and beautifully written. I recommend this book to everyone who is a Delta and anyone aspiring to become one, because this will broaden your horizons and give you an extended perspective and appreciation.

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