



Gamma Phi Beta

TRUE AND CONSTANT

150th Ritual Celebration Service

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Overview

About this Service

This service was created in 2024 for celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Gamma Phi Beta.

This service may be performed if uninitiated members or guests will be present and can be performed in a public venue.

Timing

This celebration service may be performed alone at any time or may be performed at the November Founders Day celebration if accompanying the Founders Day Carnation or Candle Services in the presence of guests or uninitiated members. This celebration service can also be performed with the Founders Day Symbol Service, when only initiated members will be present. This service is not to be a substitute for the Founders Day Services.

Location

This celebration service may be held in a public venue that can accommodate the number of participants. It is recommended that the room be darkened or dimly lit, if possible. This celebration service may be held outdoors, preferably in the evening at dusk or shortly thereafter.

If this celebration service is performed with the Founders Day Symbol Service, it must be held in a large private room that can accommodate the number of participants, with a door that can be locked or closed.

Participants

- Celebration Director
 - The International Ritual Chairwoman or collegiate chapter ritual chairperson (or their designee) or any alumnae representative shall act as the celebration director.
- Choir or soloist(s)
- Four collegiate or alumnae members to serve as color readers (one to represent each of the four colors: blue, green, pink, and yellow)
- Seven collegiate or alumnae members to serve as creed readers
 - It is suggested that these seven readers at collegiate chapter celebrations be the current executive council members or their designees.
 - It is suggested that these seven readers at alumnae chapter celebrations include alumnae chapter officers (as available) or their designees.
 - For smaller chapters or gatherings, a single creed reader or a lesser number of creed readers is acceptable.
- Collegiate and alumnae members
- Uninitiated new members and guests may attend



Attire

Collegiate and alumnae members wear business casual attire (dresses, skirts or dress pants – no jeans, sweatpants, cut-offs, flip flops or similar attire.) Membership badge or new member pin should be worn.

Additionally, the four readers representing the colors wear ribbons in their designated color (blue, green, pink, or yellow) draped over their shoulders with ends hanging in the front over their clothes.

Properties

- Tea lights (for each attendee)
- Small table
- White tablecloth for small table
- Wide ribbons (preferably 3-4 inches in width)
 - One in each of the following colors: dark brown, light brown, pink, green, blue, and yellow
 - The length of the brown ribbons should span the length of the small table with ends draping slightly over each side of that table (approximately 2 - 4 yards, depending on table size)
 - The length of the remaining ribbons (blue, green, pink and yellow) should span the width of the small table with ends draping slightly over the front and back of that table (approximately 1-2 yards, depending on table size)
- Replica of historical ornament
 - Alternatively, an image of the historical ornament may be projected on a screen behind the table or printed and attached to the front of the white tablecloth which covers the table.
 - The image can be found on Page 15.
- A bud/small vase (if an image or projection of the historical ornament is used)
- One pink carnation (silk/fabric or live), preferably long-stemmed
- Cue Cards (optional) may be printed for use by the color readers and creed readers. Cue cards can be found on Page 16.
- A copy of the lyrics to the song “One Fifty Years of Gamma Phi”
 - The lyrics can be projected on a screen to be viewed by all at the end of the ceremony or printed and separately provided to each attendee.
 - The lyrics can be found on Page 14.

Songs

- “One Fifty Years of Gamma Phi” (sung to the tune of “Remember”, but at a more lively, celebratory tempo)
 - The lyrics have been created for purpose of this ritual service.
 - The music can be found at GammaPhiBeta.org/Songs



General Instructions

1. Place a small table at one end of the room and cover it with a white tablecloth. Place the brown and mode ribbons horizontally across the table, parallel to each other, with lengths draping down table ends. Place a single carnation, preferably long-stemmed on the table horizontally, parallel to, and between, the dark and light brown ribbons. See Diagram #1.
2. Replica of historical ornament should be hung from the front of table or an image can be projected in background or attached to the front of the white tablecloth covering the table. If an image of the historical ornament is used, a small bud vase should be placed behind/under the table in a safe location accessible to the color readers during the ceremony.
3. The Celebration Director should be positioned in a location off to the side or in the back of the room, where her voice can project from behind or across the audience. She should hold an unlighted tea candle.
4. The four collegiate or alumnae members (representing the colors) each wearing a wide ribbon of her assigned color around her neck and draping over her shoulders and down the front of her clothes should be positioned at or near the back of the room (or audience), standing side by side and each holding an unlighted tea light.* Alternatively, the four color readers can be positioned at the four corners of the room (or audience) each holding an unlighted tea light.

*If microphones or a large room is used, it is best to position the color readers together.

5. The choir or soloist(s) should be positioned near the Celebration Director so to be readily heard by the audience. Each should be given an unlighted tea candle to hold until the ceremony begins.
6. Attendees should be given a tea light to hold unlighted at their seats.
7. The seven (or less) creed readers should be positioned at or near the back of the room (or audience), side by side and in numerical order, behind the color readers.* Alternatively, the creed readers may be seated scattered throughout the audience. Each creed reader should hold an unlighted tea light. If scattered throughout the audience, the creed readers in turn will stand as able and speak in numerical order.

*If microphones or a large room is used, it is best to position the creed readers together.



Diagrams

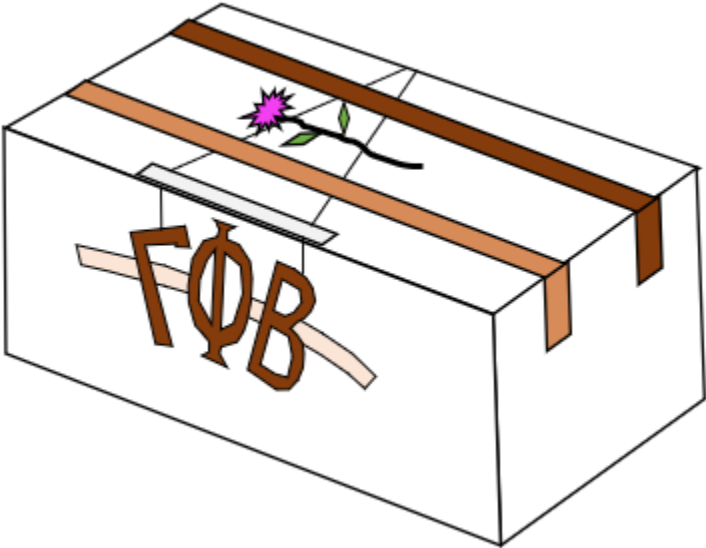


Diagram #1

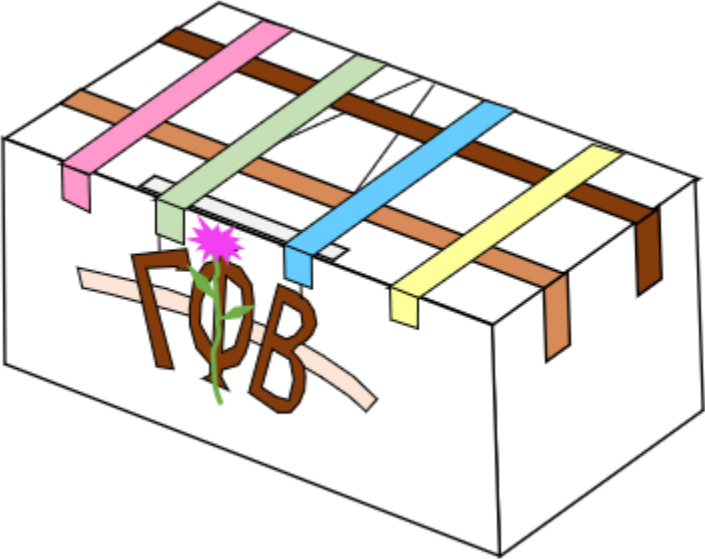


Diagram #2



150th Celebration Service

A soloist or choir turns on her tea light(s), then softly hums one verses of “One Fifty Years of Gamma Phi”, to quiet the audience and set the mood for the ceremony. The tempo of the song should be increased slightly for a more celebratory mood.

Celebration Director: *Turns on her tea light, then says:*

On November 11, 1874, an idea was formed.

Page 1, Alpha Chapter Meeting Minutes, November 1874:

An informal meeting was held by the Misses Dodge, Bingham, Curtis and Haven, on the 16th of November in order to make some arrangements for forming a new College Literary Society. Miss Dodge was chosen to preside, and Miss Haven was called upon to act as Secretary.

It was moved and seconded that our names be registered as the Founders of said Society.

The merits of the six mottos suggested by Chancellor Haven were then discussed and the motto Gamma Phi Beta unanimously accepted.

Years later, Helen M. Dodge said...

Reader (Blue): *Turns on her tea light, then says:*

My heart goes out to each and every sister, and how I crave for them the best and noblest in this life.

Celebration Director: **Mary Bingham once said...**

Reader (Green): *Turns on her tea light, then says:*

...To give the best of ourselves and our talents, loyally and faithfully to Gamma Phi Beta is the fulfillment of our pledge.



Celebration Director: Frances E. Haven reflected...

Reader (Pink): *Turns on her tea light, then says:*

...It is a constant and overwhelming wonderment to me how such a grand organization has grown from a little society by four young inexperienced girls.

Celebration Director: And E. Adeline Curtis said...

Reader (Yellow): *Turns on her tea light, then says:*

I wish I could make you realize how proud we are of your achievements and how great is our trust in you for the future.

Readers (Blue, Green, Pink and Yellow) move with lit tea lights to front of room and are positioned at the sides of the table, each next to the end of one of the brown ribbons, while the soloist/choir sings first verse of "One Fifty Years of Gamma Phi", humming a second time, if needed.

Soloist/Choir: **One fifty years of sisters, one fifty years of friends.**

One fifty years of growing we will treasure beyond life's bends.

One fifty years of learning, of love and loyalty,

To keep truly ever with us our most dear sorority.

Readers (Blue, Green, Pink and Yellow) working together with their partner on the other side of the table, slightly lift the dark and light brown ribbons a few inches off the table for the audience to see, while the Celebration Director says:

Celebration Director: **On the table before you, in honor of Dr. John J. Brown, who offered his study at Syracuse University for those early afternoon sessions, our colors of light brown and dark brown, representative of the bond that binds us in Gamma Phi Beta. Atop it the pink carnation, our forever flower.**

Readers (Blue, Green, Pink and Yellow) working together with their partners then set the light and dark brown ribbons back on the table, then move and are positioned/stand behind table facing audience.

As the Celebration Director speaks, Reader (Blue) removes her ribbon, and places it vertically on the table, perpendicular to the ribbons of brown and mode, but leaving room for other ribbons to be placed vertically next to it. See Diagram #2.

Celebration Director: **As sisters in Gamma Phi Beta, we also recognize and share the blue of trust and commitment, of constancy and truth.**

Reader (Blue) remains positioned (standing as able) behind the table with her lit tea light.



As the Celebration Director speaks, Reader (Green) then removes her ribbon and places it vertically on the table, perpendicular to the ribbons of brown and mode, but leaving room for the other ribbons to be placed vertically next to it. See Diagram #2.

Celebration Director: **We recognize and share the green of springtime which comes year after year, of life and the hope of immortality.**

Reader (Green) remains positioned (standing as able) behind the table with her lit tea light.

As the Celebration Director speaks, Reader (Pink) then removes her ribbon and places it vertically on the table, perpendicular to the ribbons of brown and mode, but leaving room for other ribbons to be placed vertically next to it. See Diagram #2. After placing her ribbon on the table, she picks up the pink carnation from the table and holds it vertically but discretely at waist level.

Celebration Director: **We recognize and share the pink of our forever flower, the carnation, that of enduring love.**

Reader (Pink) remains positioned (standing as able) behind the table, still holding in her hand vertically (at waist level) but discretely, the pink carnation. She should place her tea light on the table.

As the Celebration Director speaks, Reader (Yellow) then removes her ribbon and places it (the final color) vertically on the table, perpendicular to the ribbons of brown and mode, next to the other ribbons. See Diagram #2.

Celebration Director: **We recognize and share the yellow of hope and optimism, that of goodness, love, faith, and warmth.**

Reader (Yellow) remains positioned (standing as able) behind the table with her lit tea light.

Celebration Director: **Our colors of light and dark brown on a table of white with the pink of our forever flower, the carnation; the green of life and springtime; the blue of trust and commitment; and the yellow of hope and optimism nourished the way to 150 years of sisterhood which we celebrate here today/tonight.**

Before you - the colors of a strong and vibrant sisterhood spanning 150 years.

Pause

Our creed continues to guide us.

Reader 1*: *Stands as able, turns on her tea light, then says:*

Gamma Phi Beta from the past has given a heritage that makes a fuller life.

[If less than seven creed readers are used, the seven parts should be divided among the number of creed readers used. A creed reader can read more than one part.]*

Reader 2: *Stands as able, turns on her tea light, then says:*



Gamma Phi Beta in the present bids us strive for lasting values and ideals.

Reader 3: *Stands as able, turns on her tea light, then says:*

Gamma Phi Beta in the days to come will prove that fundamentals can endure.

Reader 4: *Stands as able, turns on her tea light, then says:*

Therefore, we shall embody in our lives the truths that make for finer womanhood.

Reader 5: *Stands as able, turns on her tea light, then says:*

Once more we pledge a loyalty that means adherence to all true and noble things. A learning that enriches all our days.

Reader 6: *Stands, turns on her tea light, then says:*

A labor that each hour will glorify the simple, common task, the common cause.

Reader 7: *Stands, turns on her tea light, then says:*

A love that will be strong and great enough to compass and to pity all the world.

Creed Readers 1 through 7 remain in their original places for the remainder of the ceremony. The soloist/choir sings the second verse of "One Fifty Years of Gamma Phi".

Soloist/Choir: **Oh, Gamma Phi, we love you, the colors brown and mode.**

We do love the pink carnation and won't forget the crescent moon.

What started with four women, continues to this day,

And looks boldly ever forward to sisters along our way.

While the choir/soloist is singing, Reader (pink) moves forward and positions herself (standing as able) in front of the table, continuing to hold the pink carnation at waist level with her eyes focused down at the carnation. As the singing concludes, she raises the pink carnation with two hands (as able) in front of her forehead level for the audience to see. Her eyes should continue to focus on the pink carnation. She remains in this position until the Celebration Director reads the following poem. While the poem is read, one of the remaining color readers should discretely retrieve the bud vase behind/under the table and place it in the center of the table.



Celebration Director: The pink carnation is Gamma Phi Beta.

Its roots are the heritage and traditions of the Sorority.

The stalk is the growth of our organization and the spiritual, mental, and social growth of each member.

The shoots which branch out of the stalk are the chapters and the individual contributions each member has to offer.

And the flower. It is everything - the international organization of Gamma Phi Beta with each member a petal of this flower.

The pink carnation is a symbol of the life of this sisterhood. Our history lives in the roots of this flower. Whatever will be in the future is the nourishment from which the flower will gain new strength for further growth.

[adapted from a quote from Nancy Johansen (1967), Gamma Pi Chapter]



A soloist or choir softly hums one verse of “One Fifty Years of Gamma Phi” while the Reader (Pink) places the pink carnation in the historical ornament on the table or in a bud vase placed on the table discretely during the song (if an image of the ornament is used), then walks back and takes her position behind the table, holding her lit tea light.

Celebration Director: Page 34, Alpha Chapter Meeting Minutes, October 1875:

A committee was appointed to prepare a program for Gamma Phi Beta’s birthday celebration consisting of Misses Dodge, Curtis and Haven.

Page 37, Alpha Chapter Meeting Minutes, November 11, 1875:

The celebration of the organization of the Gamma Phi Beta Society took place.

...

In the evening all repaired to the residence of Miss Addie Curtis who had issued many invitations to friends far and near, to join in celebrating Gamma Phi Beta’s birthday.

One of the most interesting features of the entertainment was a beautiful monogram of the letters of Gamma Phi Beta suspended by the society colors above a mantle and on either side the dates 1874-1875.

[Tonight/Today] in 2024, we celebrate 150 years of Gamma Phi Beta, a sisterhood made strong and lasting by all of us.

Please rise (as you are able) and light your tea light.

All attendees (not already standing), rise and stand in place as able holding a lit tea light as the soloist/choir sings with the audience the first verse of “One Fifty Years of Gamma Phi”.

Soloist/Choir: One fifty years of sisters, one fifty years of friends,

One fifty years of growing we will treasure beyond life’s bends.

One fifty years of learning, of love and loyalty,

To keep truly ever with us our most dear sorority.



Celebration Director: The minutes concluded:

That first birthday celebration ended in the wee small hours. The guests scattered, all averring that a happy day had been passed.

And on this happy day of celebration, I wish a warm and special 150th birthday to you my dear sisters in Gamma Phi Beta!



One Fifty Years of Gamma Phi

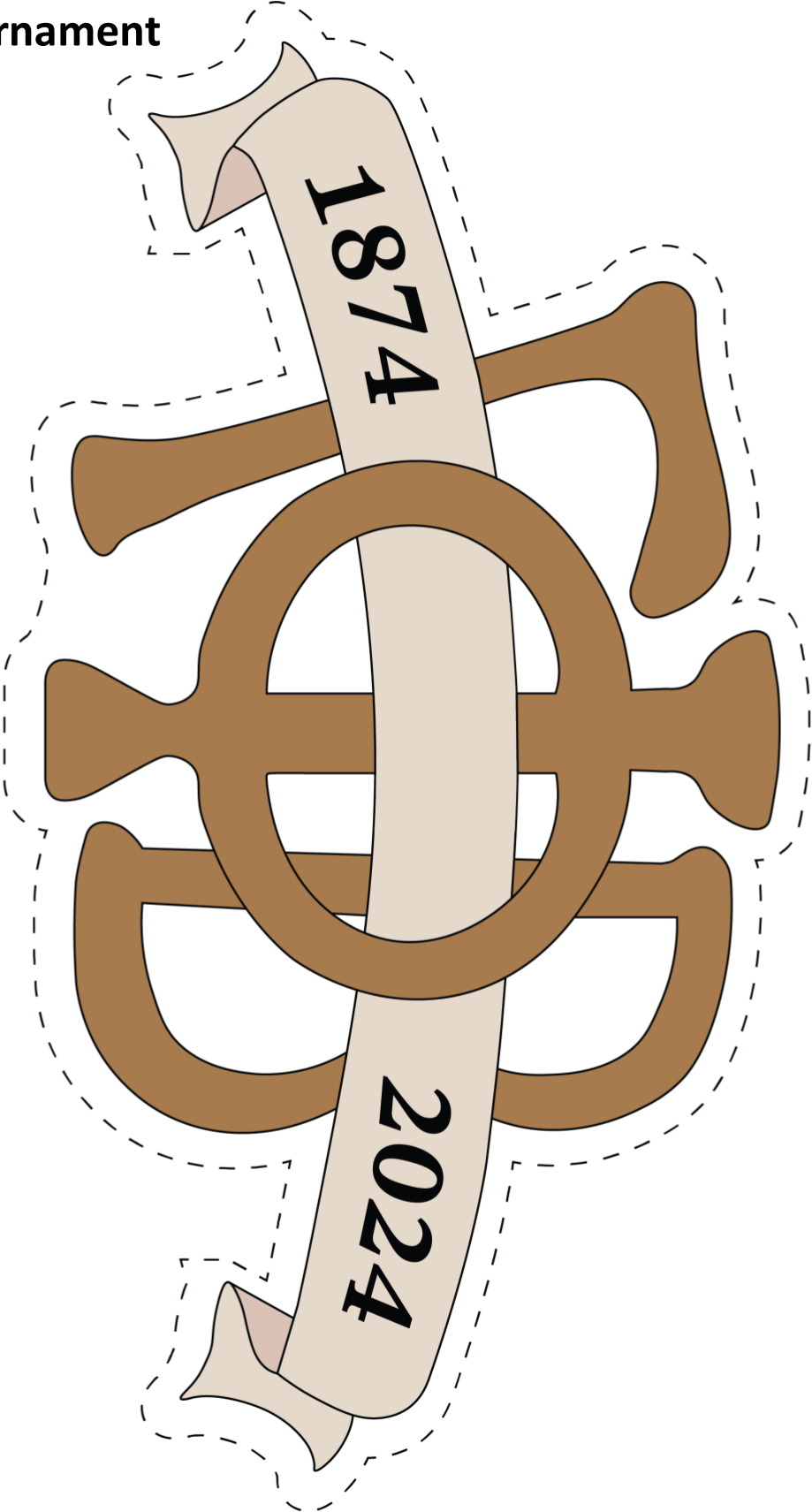
(Sung to the tune of "Remember")

One fifty years of sisters, one fifty years of friends.
One fifty years of growing we will treasure beyond life's bends.
One fifty years of learning, of love and loyalty,
To keep truly ever with us our most dear sorority.

Oh, Gamma Phi, we love you, the colors brown and mode.
We do love the pink carnation and won't forget the crescent moon.
What started with four women, continues to this day,
And looks boldly ever forward to sisters along our way.



Historical Ornament



Cue Cards

Reader (Blue 1st): *After the Celebration Director says: “and the motto Gamma Phi Beta unanimously accepted”*

Turns on her tea light, then says:

My heart goes out to each and every sister, and how I crave for them the best and noblest in this life.

Reader (Green 2nd): *After the Celebration Director says: “Years later was said by Helen M. Dodge”*

Turns on her tea light, then says:

To give the best of ourselves and our talents, loyalty and faithfully to Gamma Phi Beta is the fulfillment of our pledge.

Reader (Pink 3d): *After the Celebration Director says: “Once said Mary A. Bingham”*

Turns on her tea light, then says:

It is a constant and overwhelming wonderment to me how such a grand organization has grown from a little society by four young inexperienced girls.



Reader (Yellow 4th): *After the Celebration Director says: “said Frances E. Haven.”*

Turns on her tea light, then says:

I wish I could make you realize how proud we are of your achievements and how great is our trust in you for the future.

Reader 1: *After the Celebration Director says: Our creed continues to guide us.”*

Stands, turns on her tea light, then says:

Gamma Phi Beta from the past has given a heritage that makes a fuller life.

Reader 2: *After Reader 1 ends with “fuller life”*

Stands, turns on her tea light, then says:

Gamma Phi Beta in the present bids us strive for lasting values and ideals.



Reader 3: *After Reader 2 ends with “for lasting values and ideals”*

Stands, turns on her tea light, then says:

Gamma Phi Beta in the days to come will prove that fundamentals can endure.

Reader 4: *After Reader 3 ends with “fundamentals can endure”*

Stands, turns on her tea light, then says:

Therefore, we shall embody in our lives the truths that make for finer womanhood.

Reader 5: *After Reader 4 ends with “that make for finer womanhood”*

Stands, turns on her tea light, then says:

Once more we pledge a loyalty that means adherence to all true and noble things. A learning that enriches all our days.



Reader 6: *After Reader 5 ends with “that enriches all our days”*

Stands, turns on her tea light, then says:

A labor that each hour will glorify the simple, common task, the common cause.

Reader 7: *After Reader 6 ends with “the common cause”*

Stands, turns on her tea light, then says:

A love that will be strong and great enough to compass and to pity all the world.

Reader 7 then begins walking forward, leading the group up to the altar forming a line behind the four color readers.



