

# KEYping Up with Kappa

FALL



2023

## Continuing Our Commitment

### WHY THE HOUSE CORPORATION BOARD IS WORTH YOUR TIME

**W**hen Kerstin Berg Harper '00 and her family moved back to Tucson about three years ago, she decided to get more active as a Gamma Zeta alumna. She reached out and found herself on the House Corporation Board, where she now serves as vice president.

"Kappa brought me my best girlfriends, and 20 years later we're still there for each other," she said. "I wanted to help today's sisters have the same great experience in the chapter house."

**Leah Sullivan Evans '96**, fellow board member and president, is passionate about giving back, which made joining the board an easy choice as well.

"High school taught me the importance of philanthropy, and Kappa allowed me to continue that on a large campus," she explained. "When you give back, you grow as a person and learn what's important about life."

Both alumnae agree that they've had an "awesome" time on the board, working with our

younger sisters and communicating with alumnae. "It's refreshing to see the new generation learn our traditions and find out what they're capable of," Leah said. "I grew so much as a Kappa in my four years, and I can see them grow too."

"It's an honor to provide guidance and a safe living environment, and we hope one day they'll look back as fondly as we have," Kerstin added.

#### What's the Board Like?

Right now, the House Corporation Board has five members, including a treasurer and two members at large. Leah and Kerstin are the active chapter's main points of contact for any day-to-day needs. All members share a goal of keeping the facility safe and secure for our undergraduate sisters.

**The board is currently seeking a secretary to take notes during meetings as well as a few more members at large.** "Anyone with the desire to give back and make an impact is welcome to apply," Kerstin said.

"As they say, many hands make light work," Leah added.

The time commitment isn't huge: although the board stays in close contact should issues arise, official meetings are approximately once a month during the school year (August through May). Living in the Tucson area is a plus, but long-distance applicants are encouraged as well if willing to join meetings virtually.

"I've been on boards where you just sit around and talk, but there's something different about this one," Leah said. "We're active and we get to make meaningful decisions for an organization that we love. It's fun to reflect on your youth while getting things done."

"The sisters notice the work we do, and it's nice to be involved and appreciated," Kerstin shared.

**To apply for the board or learn more, contact Leah at [leahs65@comcast.net](mailto:leahs65@comcast.net)!**

## Upcoming House Projects

If you aren't able to volunteer your time, financial contributions are always welcome! Like any home, our chapter house has various maintenance needs and costs to take care of. You can lend a hand with a gift. Instructions are on the back or the enclosed envelope. **Any amount will help with our needed projects!**

- » Paint living spaces (approx. \$50,000)
- » Upgrade air conditioning in main house (approx. \$75,000)
- » Reupholster living room furniture (approx. \$5,000)
- » Update mini kitchen (approx. \$40,000)
- » Revamp landscaping in front yard (approx. \$60,000)

## Get to Know Leah and Kerstin!

#### Profession

Kerstin: Project manager for an interior designer  
Leah: High school counselor and therapist

#### Favorite movie(s)

Leah: "The Notebook and My Best Friend's Wedding."  
Kerstin: "Clueless!"

#### Favorite food

Kerstin: "Mexican!"  
Leah: "Mine's gotta be pizza from Chicago."

#### Favorite sports team

Both: "Arizona Wildcats, obviously!"

#### Favorite hobby

Leah: "Tennis and scrapbooking."  
Kerstin: "Do moms have hobbies?! Just kidding—tennis."





# A Passion for Land and Wildlife

## Bar T Bar Ranch Owner-Operator Judy Chilson Prosser '73 Shares Her Story

**W**hen looking for the right sisterhood during recruitment, **Judy Chilson Prosser '73** felt most at home at Kappa Kappa Gamma and the most comfortable with the Gamma Zeta women she met. That remained the case for all four years of college.

As an only child, Judy admits she was shy at first. Gamma Zeta provided a great way for her to ease into the college experience without trepidation. The diverse group of women who made up the chapter shared similar values and ambitions, and Judy felt supported by them.

Judy appreciated that Kappa had high expectations of the members while also providing a fun environment. She has many fond memories of her collegiate years, including the Kappa rituals and pledge retreat.

“And I will never forget operating the antique switchboard phone system at the house!”

Kappa Kappa Gamma also provided Judy with a network of lifelong friends.

The influence Gamma Zeta had on her college experience was so great that when the opportunity to support the *Kappa Kampain* came along, she was proud to do so.

“I wanted to give back to the organization that supported me so soundly during my college



years, and I wanted to help ensure other women would have the opportunity I did,” she said.

In Kappa, Judy gained skills that she believes she would not have learned through a non-Greek college experience, including courtesy and respect for others, responsibility to others, teamwork, and an understanding of philanthropy—all of which have prepared her well for her position as the third-generation owner and operator of Bar T Bar Ranch, a cattle ranch in northern Arizona.

Judy is passionate about stewarding the land the ranch sits on and ensuring the cows and wildlife thrive in the arid environment.

“It is important to me to keep this large acreage an open space and not succumb to covering it with houses or ranchettes,” she shared. “It has

always been a family value to protect the land resource as well as provide good and diverse wildlife habitat.”

Judy and her family take pride in producing a wholesome protein product. They produce about 450,000 edible pounds of beef annually which, by national standards, will feed 6,716 people per year. They sell their beef through a natural beef cooperative, Country Natural Beef, and through their local direct marketing partner, Diablo Beef.

Bar T Bar will continue through the generations to Judy’s sons and seven grandchildren; to Judy, being able to pass down the ranch is no small feat.

“Agriculture is not an easy field (no pun intended) to navigate,” she said. “Being at the mercy of mother nature and commodity market prices are not for the weak of heart. I am proud of that.”

In her free time, Judy enjoys hiking, viewing scenery, reading, spending time with friends and family, and flower gardening. She is proud of her twin sons, two wonderful daughters-in-law, and seven terrific grandchildren who “are a great source of laughter.”

**You can connect with Judy at [info@bartbar.com](mailto:info@bartbar.com).**

## Always Pursuing Excellence

**O**ur fall semester has been one for the books! As a chapter, we attained a GPA of 3.32 this spring, ranking third in UA Panhellenic. **Grace Emery '21** organizes study parties every few weeks to promote both sisterhood and scholarship. The rest of the semester has been filled with sisterhood events, date dashes, and outreach within the Tucson community.

## Growth and Support

Members have played a vital role in community outreach in many ways. This includes volunteering at the Villas at Wilmot weekly, joining philanthropy events within the Greek community, and the Philanthropy Day we organized with the gentleman of Zeta Beta Tau during Homecoming Week. Our main fall philanthropy, Krispy Kreme with KKG, took place on November 30 and was a huge success! All funds raised go to support the Jed Foundation, which provides emotional and mental health support for teens and young adults in the U.S. With the leadership of **Karina**

**Isayev '21**, it was a joy to make an impact on a foundation that helps so many people.

## Sisterhood Engagement

**Avery Fletcher '22** organized a sisterhood event at a local pumpkin patch in Tucson! Members spent the afternoon on hay rides, taking pictures with their sisters, and picking pumpkins. Avery did an outstanding job getting us all in the fall spirit!

**Peyton Lothrop '22** organized a pop-up thrifting event at the chapter house; a portion of the sales was donated to our philanthropy!

**Cambria Swanson '22** attended a Kappa National conference in Ohio, meeting and networking with sisters from all over the country! Attendees enjoyed various group sessions on the importance of vision, grit, strong relationships, confidence, and adaptability. Discussions like these made Cambria even prouder to be a Kappa, and her trip reminds us just how strong and unique our sisterhood is.

## Sisters Grow through Shared Bonds

## Alumnae Connections

On October 11, **Ellie Warning '21** organized our annual Founder’s Day event at the chapter house. A large group of our wonderful alumni were in attendance, and they were honored (some even awarded) for their commitment to Kappa! It’s always helpful and appreciated to learn from their Kappa experiences as we reflect on ours.

## What's Ahead?

Lastly, we are excited to install an all-new chapter council and see what they deliver in the spring. We are determined to maintain our strong grades, philanthropic outreach within the community, and unbreakable sisterhood bonds to make an impact like no other.

Loyalty,

**Carlie Hermann '20**

Chapter President

[ua.kkg.president@gmail.com](mailto:ua.kkg.president@gmail.com)

# WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

After a successful and fun recruitment in which we welcomed 137 new members into Gamma Zeta, **Maggie Crist '21** led the new members through their first semester in Kappa with multiple sisterhood events and weekly new member meetings. Over UA's Family Weekend, Maggie organized Pledge Presents, where the new members were "presented" to their families by their Bigs! This annual event is always an exciting and positive event to welcome our new members. Before fall initiation, the final new member event was their "sleepover" at the chapter house, where they continued to bond before becoming active members of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

**Megan Acosta** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Jozie Alter** | West Hartford, CT  
**Kylie Armstrong** | Marana, AZ  
**Lillian Ash** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Darby Beddome** | Rosemary Beach, FL  
**Cameron Bender\*** | La Canada, CA  
**Lauren Benner** | Castle Pines, CO  
**Amelia Bennett** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Emma Bennett** | East Wenatchee, WA  
**Elsa Bernhardt** | Portland, OR  
**Madison Beyl** | San Diego, CA  
**Peyton Boice** | Medford, OR  
**Megan Borland\*** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Hannah Borland\*** | Northbrook, IL  
**Zoe Bowles** | Seattle, WA  
**Aspyn Bowman** | Billings, MT  
**Carly Brei** | Tucson, AZ  
**Emma Brown** | Fountain Hills, AZ  
**Marina Brown\*** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Bree Browning\*** | Chandler, AZ  
**Paige Burr** | Gig Harbor, WA  
**Jemma Burstein** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Lauren Cahill** | Shawnee, KS  
**Christine Carmody\*** | Murrieta, CA  
**Ginny Castille** | Las Cruces, NM  
**Gracie Chester** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Riley Christner\*** | Tulsa, OK  
**Annalisa Conca** | Carlsbad, CA  
**Kennedy Cook** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Shea Damolaris** | Naperville, IL  
**Kianna Davis\*** | Mill Valley, CA  
**Tatum Decker** | Huntington Beach, CA  
**Angelena Del Carpio** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Alyssa Denaro** | Tampa, FL  
**Amanda Dowling** | Denver, CO  
**Ella Empasis** | Medford, OR  
**Becca Fahrner** | Fort Collins, CO  
**Sheridan Farlin** | Carlsbad/San Diego, CA  
**Payton Farris** | Tulsa, OK

**Samantha Ficano** | San Diego, CA  
**Cate Finn** | Anthem, AZ  
**Ellory Fishman** | Northbrook, IL  
**Talia Foti** | Bothell, WA  
**Anna Fox** | San Diego, CA  
**Emilie Gates** | Santa Clara, CA  
**Trinity Gomez** | Yuba City, CA  
**Cecilia Groch** | Woodbury, MN  
**Burgan Guterman** | Garden City, ID  
**Lexie Hannon\*** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Jayden Hart** | Surprise, AZ  
**Savannah Heath** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Teagan Heller\*** | Albuquerque, NM  
**Kate Hooper** | Seattle, WA  
**Lola Houser** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Elle Isfan** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Kaitlyn Iwall** | Monument, CO  
**Carly Johnson** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Audrey Jones** | Tucson, AZ  
**Sarah Karcher** | Yorba Linda, CA  
**Melissa Karpel** | Fairfield, CT  
**Jennifer Keegan** | Granger, IN  
**Kaitlin Kimpton\*** | Mukilteo, WA  
**Rylie Kruse** | Portland, OR  
**Nancy Langmade\*** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Lyla Laprade** | Seattle, WA  
**Olivia Liesman\*** | St. Louis, MO  
**Jordan Lindner** | Bloomfield Hills, MI  
**Ali Lindsay** | Ridgefield, WA  
**Haylee Lopez** | Broomfield, CO  
**Evalyn Lotta** | Verona, WI  
**Lizzie Lowe** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Elsa Lund** | Goshen, IN  
**Makayla Mackey** | Westlake Village, CA  
**Bella Makowski** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Maddy Malatesta** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Anna McCarthy** | Berlin, WI  
**Nicole McGee** | Spokane, WA  
**Morgan McMahon** | Madison, CT  
**Amelia Mersiowsky\*** | Scottsdale, AZ

**Brynn Miller\*** | Paradise Valley, AZ  
**Dylan Miller** | Mesa, AZ  
**Ella Miller** | Golden, CO  
**Kate Miller\*** | Leawood, KS  
**Taylor Mohr** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Julia Montgomery\*** | Timnath, CO  
**Dominique Morris** | Hawthorne, CA  
**Avery Murphy** | Los Gatos, CA  
**Deana Nguyen** | Omaha, NE  
**Elena Nonemaker\*** | Leawood, KS  
**Brianna Oberfield** | Hawthorn Woods, IL  
**Jazlyn Ortega** | Alamogordo, NM  
**Alexa Ortiz** | Peoria, AZ  
**Hallie Pack** | Kirkwood, MO  
**Caroline Paradies** | Cave Creek, AZ  
**Maya Passell\*** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Jensen Pedry** | Fort Collins, CO  
**Emma Peters** | Chandler, AZ  
**Lorna Pierie** | Prescott, AZ  
**Chloe Poore** | Tucson, AZ  
**Hannah Powell** | Issaquah, WA  
**Eva Ranalli** | Mars, PA  
**Halle Reifsnyder** | Aurora, IL  
**Arden Ricotta** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Trinity Roberts** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Raegan Robison** | Sammamish, WA  
**Amy Rogers** | Huntington Beach, CA  
**Elena Sabow\*** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Celeste Saenz** | Tucson, AZ  
**Nadia Sanderson** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Megan Schell** | Bozeman, MT  
**Taylor Scott** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Piper Seberg** | Oro Valley, AZ  
**Anika Sister\*** | Phoenix, AZ  
**Reagan Sister\*** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Izzy Smieja\*** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Breck Smith** | Chandler, AZ  
**Cameron Smith** | Coeur D'Alene, ID  
**Emily Snyder** | Leawood, KS

**Brooklyn Soto** | Los Alamitos, CA  
**Ellie Stevenson** | Edmonds, WA  
**Randi Szemplenski** | Omaha, NE  
**Madison Tabler** | Queen Creek, AZ  
**Piper Taylor** | Fremont, NE  
**Ella Thomsen** | Sherwood, OR  
**Isabelle Totaro** | Centennial, CO  
**Maddie Van Hollebeke** | Seattle, WA  
**Madeline Van Orman** | Westminster, CO  
**Railey Vandenberg** | San Jose, CA  
**Samantha Vavra** | Columbia, MO  
**Valerie Vogan** | Las Vegas, NV  
**Daniella Vogel** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Sydney Wesolowski** | Gilbert, AZ  
**Maggie White** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Isabella Will** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Olivia Witherell** | Kennett Square, PA  
**Macey Wollheim** | Scottsdale, AZ  
**Bree Yerington** | Huntington Beach, CA

\*Legacy



New Members Payton Farris '23 and Riley Christner '23 are all smiles after choosing Kappa!

## Sisterhood Snapshots!



These six Kappa roommates celebrate fall move-in!



Seniors looking beautiful before preference round in September.

# In This Issue

- » Hear from **Kerstin Berg Harper '00** and **Leah Sullivan Evans '96** about serving on the House Corporation Board (and find out how to join them!).
- » **Judy Chilson Prosser '73** shares her ranching career.
- » And many fall semester highlights from our youngest sisters!

LIKE THIS ONE!



New member Ginny Castille '23 celebrates meeting her Big, Natalie Reif '22, alongside Sasha Sanderson '21 and Alexa Sell '20.

## Celebrating Our Kappa Memories

Recently, Gamma Zeta installed a display cabinet in the Chapter Room in our house. Do you have photos, letters, or other Kappa memorabilia you'd like to donate to the cause? Let us know!

For questions and inquiries, please contact **Pennie Harcus '72** at [pennieharcus@gmail.com](mailto:pennieharcus@gmail.com).



Celebrating a slice of Gamma Zeta history with our new display cabinet!

# KEYping Up with Kappa



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## Still Time to Support Gamma Zeta!

Whether it's housing maintenance or scholarships for deserving sisters, alumnae support makes a world of difference in Gamma Zeta's future. If you weren't able to join the *Kappa Campaign* or are ready to give again, please consider a contribution within your means!

To contribute directly to the House Corporation, visit [tinyurl.com/GammaZetaAZ](https://tinyurl.com/GammaZetaAZ) or scan the QR code.



If you prefer to mail a check, just follow the instructions on the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your support!

To make a tax-deductible contribution, visit [donate.kappakappagamma.org/GammaZetaHouse](https://donate.kappakappagamma.org/GammaZetaHouse) or scan the QR code.



## Chapter Eternal

**Carolyn Wilcox Kemmeries '54** entered Chapter Eternal on June 24, 2023. Throughout her life, Carolyn was just someone you wanted to talk to. She made everyone feel seen, heard, and safe. She used this superpower in her esteemed career as a mom, beloved teacher, counselor, assistant principal, and principal in the Tucson Unified School District. Carolyn loved being alive and relished life's beautiful aspects—travel, music, literature, movies, art, good food and, above all, sharing them with loved ones.



**Edith Sayre Auslander '58** entered Chapter Eternal on July 19, 2023. As a journalist with the *Arizona Daily Star* and later a University of Arizona assistant professor of journalism, Edie mentored numerous journalists at the start of and during their careers. She was instrumental in developing national journalism training programs for minorities and was a founding member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists in the early 1980s, receiving numerous awards and acknowledgements throughout her career.

