



## **The Divine Nine: The History of African-American and Sororities in America**

*Lawrence C. Ross*

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America's black fraternities and sororities are a unique and vital part of 20th century African-American history. Since the creation of the first fraternity in 1906 at Cornell University, they have provided young black achievers with opportunities to support each other, while serving their communities and the nation. But never before has information about African-American fraternities and sororities been published for the general public. Now, "The Divine Nine," a meticulously researched history, tells the story of how these organizations have played a major role in shaping generations of black leaders. Today, America's nine black fraternities and sororities are two and one-half million members strong and among the most powerful and influential groups in African-American society -- with chapters at major universities and colleges across the country. Many of America's most prominent business leaders, scientists, politicians, entertainers, and athletes took their first steps toward making a difference in the world in a fraternity or sorority. This extensive yet very accessible book celebrates the spirit of excellence shared by these and other renowned African Americans in brief, inspiring profiles.

"The Divine Nine" includes interviews with people like: ABC-TV's "The View" co-host Star Jones, Los Angeles Laker Shaquille O'Neal, Weather anchor Spencer Christian, Historian John Hope Franklin, Poet Nikki Giovanni, and more, and features inspiring profiles of: Hank Aaron, Maya Angelou, Toni Braxton, Bill Cosby, W.E.B. DuBois, Duke Ellington, Martin Luther King, Jr., Toni Morrison, Coretta Scott King, Dionne Warwick, and many others.

Fully illustrated with photographs, "The Divine Nine" chronicles an important yet previously neglected subject in African-American history, making it the first book of its kind, and one to be treasured for generations to come.

## **The Divine Nine: The History of African-American and Sororities in America Details**

Date : Published November 1st 2001 by Kensington (first published 2000)

ISBN : 9780758203250

Author : Lawrence C. Ross

Format : Hardcover 528 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, History, Cultural, African American



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## From Reader Review The Divine Nine: The History of African-American and Sororities in America for online ebook

### David Ward says

The Divine Nine: The History of African American Fraternities and Sororities by Lawrence C. Ross Jr. (Kensington Publishing Corp. 2000) (371.85). This volume focuses on the histories and ideals of the African-American fraternities and sororities whose members self-identify as being members of one of "The Divine Nine." The volume never makes clear whether there are any other black Greek fraternal organizations in addition to these nine. The "Divine Nine" consists of five fraternities and four sororities. Each of these organizations provided information to the author about what sets their group apart and what makes them unique and special. What follows is a list of the names of the "Divine Nine" as well as what each organization reported to be their "common call" (among members) and their organization's symbol. In the order in which they are listed by the author, here are the Divine Nine fraternities and sororities with the five fraternities listed first:

**Alpha Kappa Alpha**, common calls "A-PHI" or "Ice Ice Baby," symbol "Alpha Ape";

**Kappa Alpha Psi**, common call "Yo Yo!!", symbol "Playboy bunny symbol";

**Omega Psi Phi**, common call is "a dog's bark", symbol "any fierce dog";

**Phi Beta Sigma**, common call "Blue Phi!", symbol "blue and white striped cane";

**Iota Phi Theta**, common call "OW-OW!!!", symbol "centaur";

**Alpha Kappa Alpha**, common call "Skee-Wee!", symbol is "pearls and ivy";

**Delta Sigma Theta**, common call "OOO-OOP!", symbol is "elephant with upraised trunk";

**Zeta Phi Beta**, common call "EE-I-KEE!", symbol is "a dove"; and

**Sigma Gamma Rho**, common call "EE-YIP!", symbol is "a French toy poodle."

This is interesting stuff which I knew very little about. My rating: 7/10, finished 3/27/15.

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### Gwendolyn Mayo says

My Dad is a member of Omega Psi Phi, my Godmother is a Zeta and my cousins are AKA's. The Divine Nine was suggested to me by my Dad when he became a Q. The book is well written and complete.

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### Jessica Davis says

excellent textbook with a great deal of interesting information.

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### Tanisha says

This was like the must read in college!! haha...because everyone wanted to join a sorority!! But it was informative and really helped me understand what the sororities were really about...and it wasn't just what I was seeing on campus!

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### **Shannan says**

As a member of one of the D9 sororities (Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.), I found this book to be an insightful and unbiased resource for those interested in the historical perspective behind the Black Greek Letter Organizations.

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### **Winona says**

This is an excellent book that gives you the history of the African American Greek organizations.

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### **Kevin Chik says**

Very informative, great to learn the history of people changing other peoples lives in college.

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### **Laurie says**

Loved it and learned a lot.

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### **Shana says**

I wish there would have been more information about the Black fraternal movement generally, and also about why the organizations do the things they do (e.g., rationale behind their intake process, why they call new member classes “lines,” etc). But, maybe that’s not for outside minds to know! Lawrence Ross is an incredible author and I appreciate his commitment to furthering knowledge about this topic.

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### **\*Dee's Reading Time Matters says**

"The Divine Nine: ..." focused on the history of African-American fraternities and sororities in America. It was rich with the origin and culture of these historical frats/sororities.

If you like learning about the founding members along with the men and women who joined these rich traditions, then you will really enjoy reading this thought-provoking book.

5 HISTORICAL STARS \*\*\*\*\*

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### **Vanessa says**

It provides a great knowledge on the Africian American Greek System. They go thru the history, challenges, service and mention notable members.

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