



The Drexel Society, Inc.

Houston Chapter



2026
September-October



Drexelaire Elise Lenoir Morris
October 25, 1916 – July 31, 2016

NEWSLETTER

From the Desk of

President Elizabeth Owens

Proudly serving our community for 48 YEARS and still going strong THE DREXEL SOCIETY, INCORPORATED – FACTS

- **Founded by Elise Lenoir Morris, October 14, 1978;** chartered the first Chapter in Houston, Texas, December 1, 1982.
- The first Drexel Society Convention was held in Houston, Texas, in 1986 and has continued in alternate years since.
- October 4, 1986, an affiliate group, The Squires, joined The Drexel Society, Incorporated
- The colors of The Drexel Society are Silver and Gold.
- The official flower is the pink rose.
- Service to church and humanity is rendered through Sacrifice, Dedication, Love, and Devotion in memory of mentor Saint Katharine Drexel.
- Charter members: *Consuella Broussard, Rosemary Coreathers, Monica Morris Delphin-Wilson, *Gertie Guidry, *Josephine Egby, *Ethel Fleming, Delores Henny, *Winnie Reid, *Rose Thibodeaux and *Isadora Wills.

Our Founder's vision started it all, and although she is no longer physically with us (7/31/2016), her legacy lives on, fueled by that same original passion. Let's come together at the National Convention to champion the mission she started and ensure her legacy burns brighter than ever. (*) deceased

HAPPY LABOR DAY HOLIDAY



What does Labor Day mean to African Americans?

The purpose of Labor Day should be to honor workers' contributions and labor victories. "Labor Day has a different meaning for African-Americans. One day off can never compensate for the hundreds of years of unpaid work, and the chance, forever lost, to pass on the value of labor for generations". (taken from an article by the Grio Staff, 9/3/2012).

HALLOWEEN – DID YOU KNOW?

A holiday that marks the evening before the Western Christian feast of All Saints, or All Hallows, and hence it initiates the season of Allhallowtide. In much of Europe and North America, the celebration of Halloween is largely nonreligious, celebrated with parties, spooky costumes, and pumpkin carvings called jack-o'-lanterns, and trick-or-treat. Halloween marks the beginning of Allhallowtide, a Christian triduum dedicated to remembering the dead that begins with All Hallows Eve (October 31), and is followed by All Hallows, or All Saints, Day (November 1) and All Souls' Day (November 2).





Drexel Society, Inc. Convention Information

Time is ticking! With less than 30 days remaining to secure your spot, now is the time to act!!!

Our National Convention is the absolute highlight of this year – a powerful moment to gather, connect, and celebrate our hard-earned successes together. Leaving your registration to the last-minute risks missing out on preferred hotel blocks, key event sessions, and exclusive networking dinners. Don't let this landmark event pass you by. Lock in your attendance today so we can celebrate everything we've achieved as a community!

25th Biennial National Convention: Lafayette, Louisiana

October 2 - 4, 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel-Hotel Lafayette

1521 West Pinhook Rd., Lafayette, Louisiana

Phone: 337-235-6111



Hosting Chapter: Breaux, Bridge

CONVENTION UPDATES @ 9/4/2026

Key Schedule Adjustments (October 2, 2026): Formal

Opening Plenary Session 1

- Rescheduled to 3:00 p.m.
- Open Induction Ceremony: Rescheduled to 4:00 p.m. Candidates are to arrive at the designated area by 3:30 p.m.
- Marksville Casino Bus Trip: Officially Cancelled. BINGO games are on as scheduled. Chapter Presidents are asked to donate a gift for Prizes.

Required Convention Attire:

- Formal Opening: Members are asked to wear the official chapter shirt paired with slacks/skirts on Friday for Plenary Session 1. Jeans are strictly prohibited.
- Open Induction: Attire is a black dress or black suit, black hosiery, official medallion, and black accessories. No chapel veil or gloves.

Required Action Items:

- 24th Biennial Convention minutes were emailed to chapter members. Members are strongly encouraged to read minutes before meeting. Note any questions or corrections to be presented before formal acceptance.
- Health Review Form: Registered members must complete the Health Review Form (pg.12) in the Call to Convention packet. Chapter Presidents may collect and submit the forms, or members may submit them individually to the National Financial Secretary. All forms must be completed and submitted prior to attending convention.

Vendor Fee:

- The vendor booth fee is \$50.00 per booth. Please mail/send payment to National Financial Secretary Earline Castex.
- Giveaway! Houston Chapter Registration assistance offered at the September meeting. Must be there!

Convention Donations: Silent Auction & Bingo Night

The Houston Chapter is requested to donate four (4) items to the convention Silent Auction. Please bring your item(s) or a picture to the meeting so we can select the four items to donate. The Breaux Bridge Chapter has also asked Houston to donate one (1) Bingo prize, which may include gift cards, themed gift baskets, or other new items suitable for adults.

Convention Bus Seat Deadline - Lafayette

Convention month is quickly approaching. Please reserve your seat as soon as possible. Round-trip seat cost is \$125.00. Reservation deadline is September 14, 2026. Contact Drexelaire Geneva Charles at 713-729-9292 or via email: geneva-charles@sbcglobal.net for more information.

PRINCE AND PRINCESS SUPPORT NEEDED

It is not too late to support our Prince and Princess Candidates attending the Convention. Each candidate is responsible for raising funds for this effort. Please support them by purchasing an ad and keeping the candidates and their families in your prayers. See Chairperson Drexelaire Gloria Griffin for additional information.

OUR 2026 QUEEN CANDIDATE

It is with a heavy heart that I announce Drexelaire Kim Charles-Salinas, our candidate for queen, has decided not to continue competing for the coveted position at this year's National Convention. While we are saddened by this decision, we fully understand, respect, and support her choice. We are incredibly grateful for her dedication and leadership to this point. Thanks to everyone who offered support to her campaign. This is not the end of the road – there is always 2028.

Election – September 2026

September marks election month for the positions of Chapter President and Treasurer, giving every eligible member the vital opportunity to cast their vote and help shape our future. Make your voice count and be heard this month, and vote. Every vote counts!



THANKSGIVING BASKET DRIVE



Please remember to start gathering non-perishable food items for our Thanksgiving Basket Drive. Please bring items to the **November** meeting. We will again attempt to accommodate five families. The Chapter will provide meats and baskets for this drive. Chairperson Drexelaire Joyce Tyler-Williams will coordinate the drive and has provided a table-scale standard of grocery items to avoid excessive duplication of goods (see below). Please bring your items to the November meeting at St. Dominic Center, Morkovsky Hall, where we will assemble and distribute the baskets. Please bring the names of one or more needy families (up to five) for consideration.

Grocery Item	Quantity Per Basket	Total needed - 5 Baskets	Assigned to: (fill in groups)
Turkey	1 whole turkey	5	Houston Chapter expense
Cornbread mix	3 boxes/packages	15	
Mashed potatoes	1 box/bag-large (instant)	5	
String beans	3 cans	15	
English peas	3 cans	15	
Sweet potatoes	2 cans	10	
Carrots	3 cans	15	
Macaroni and cheese	3 boxes	15	
Chicken broth	1 carton/box/can	5	
Cranberry sauce	2 cans	10	
Cake mix	1 box	5	
Cake icing	1 can/box	5	
Dinner rolls	1 package (12 pack)	5	
Marshmallows	1 package (small)	5	
Basket(s)	1	5	Houston Chapter expense



SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS GALA



Please remember to start gathering items for male and female residents for our next Senior Citizens Christmas Gala. We are working to find and secure a senior facility/location. Suggested items include:

Gifts for women:



Plush throw blankets, non-slip slipper socks, silk-like scarves, footies, hairbrushes, combs, Kleenex, toothpaste/toothbrush, deodorant, activity books, playing cards with holders, keychains, travel mugs, lip balm, puzzles, chewing gum, etc.



Gifts for men:

Slippers, travel mugs, caps, t-shirts, socks, throw blankets, hairbrushes, combs, key chains, brain game packs, lip balm, deodorant, activity books, puzzles, games, playing cards, chewing gum, notepads, disposable masks, toothbrush/paste, etc.

Note: Avoid the following: lotion, shaving cream, razors/blades, multi-purpose tools, as some may be harmful to residents. Once a location is determined, we will, as members, deliver wrapped, bagged, and boxed gifts to the facility during the first or second weekend in December 2026.

BATTERED/HOMELESS AND ABUSED

Thank you, Chairperson Leenieque Dugas, for spearheading the Battered/Homeless and Abused drive in July. An on-site visit was made to Angela house (a Houston based nonprofit transitional house), and it was a huger success. Donations were graciously received, appreciated, and made a meaningful impact. Your support is directly helping women find safety and hope. During our visit, the staff advised a critical, urgent need is women's sleepwear to provide dignity and comfort during a deeply vulnerable time. With your help, we can target our next to meet this need. See Drexelaire Leenieque Dugas to find out collection deadlines, what to donate, and the drop-off location.



WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - HALLELUJAH SOULFEST!!!

Our live Gospel Concert is scheduled for October 11, 2026, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Parish Hall, 4600 Reed Road, Houston, Texas 77051, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The Theme, "An Afternoon of Sacred Expression," carries a beautiful, magnetic weight and sounds like an immersive, soulful invitation. It's sure to be a place where creativity connects with the divine. There is no admission fee, and everyone is invited. Love offerings will be accepted. Please come out and enjoy an evening of gospel music and entertainment. For additional information, please see Chairperson Drexelaire Josephine Session.

FISCAL YEAR END - CHAPTER DUES



Chapter dues for 2026-2027 are \$47.00 and should be paid at the September 19, 2026, meeting or no later than September 30, 2026, to avoid a \$2.00 late fee. Chapter dues must be paid at September's meeting date if planning to attend Convention 2026. Dues can be paid in cash. Make checks or money orders payable to The Drexel Society, Incorporated, Houston Chapter, and mail them to Financial Secretary Leenieque Dugas, 866 N. Victory Street, Houston, Texas 77088. Contact email is: leenieque3@gmail.com

Next Meeting Location/Refreshment Dates 2026/2027

Date	Time	Location	Address	Room	Refreshments
9/19/26	9:30 a.m.	St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church	4600 Reed Rd. Houston, Tx. 7751	Harris Hall Bldg.	Our Mother of Mercy, St Rose of Lima; St. Monica
11/21/26	9:30 a.m.	St. Dominic Center-Morkovsky Hall	2401 Holcombe Blvd-Houston, Tx.	Room 104	St. Philip Neri; St. Peter the Apostle
1/16/2027	9:30 a.m.	TBA	TBA	TBA	St. Francis Xavier; Sacred Heart Church

Important Dates to Remember

September 2026	October 2026	November 2026	December 2026	January 2027
9/19 Chapter mtg.	10/2-4-National Convention	11/19 Chapter mtg. & Thanksgiving baskets	TBA-Senior Citizens Christmas Gala	1/16-Chapter mtg.
9/26-Mass for Jubilee Yr. of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 9:00 a.m.	10/11-Gospel Concert 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	11/26 Thanksgiving Day	12/25 Christmas Day	1/17-Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Mass-3:00 pm
9/27 - Blue Mass for Law Enforcement	10/11- Mass for Firefighters 11:00 a.m.			01/01 New Year's Day
	10/31 Halloween			



Sr. Odessa Stanford
Cecilia Nelms
Carolyn Garrison
Alicia Anthony
Earline Castex
Sonya Pichon
Clara Donatto



Sandra Murray
Karen Grey
Dorothy Allen
Donna Pearson
Ollie Duplechain
Phaedra N. Bonin

Prayer for the Sick/shut-in and Families of the Deceased

Please continue to pray for our members and their family members who are sick and/or shut-in. Also pray for the consolation of the families of deceased members. *[May the Souls of their loved ones and the Souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.]*

Houston Chapter

September Meeting

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

Father Harris Building

4600 Reed Road

Saturday, September 19, 2026

9:30 a.m.

AGENDA

- I Call to Order**
- II Opening Ceremonies**
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Opening Prayer
 - c. Roll call/Sign-in
 - d. Adoption of Agenda
- III Minutes**
- IV Correspondence**
- V Report of Financial Officers**
 - a. Financial Secretary
 - b. Treasurer
- VI Unfinished Business**
 - a. Presentation Charity Ball Report – Amendment
 - b. Convention Bus Trip
 - c. Convention updates
 - d. Ways & Means -Hallelujah Soul Fest
 - e. Breast Cancer Awareness
 - f. Operating Budget
 - g. Members Dues - Option
- VII New Business**
 - a. Thanksgiving Baskets
 - b. Senior Citizens Christmas Gala 2026
- VIII Good of the Order**
- IX Announcements**
- X Closing Prayer**
- XI Adjournment**