

RE-DEDICATION CEREMONY

INTRODUCTION

Returning to Gamma Gamma Chi Sorority as an active soror entitles a sister to enjoy many privileges and responsibilities, and the Re-dedication Ceremony (also known as the Returning to the Hive Ceremony) re-establishes the special relationship between individuals who come together to promote Islam and to unify Muslim women. As established for the future the Re-dedication Ceremony is an important occasion for current, active sorors and inactive members of the sorority who are seeking to return.

It is the culmination of a sisterhood re-building process, and it is to be approached with solemnity and celebration. The Re-dedication Ceremony marks the transition to full membership into the Sorority once again, which carries rights and responsibilities to advance the mission of the Sorority and to become ambassadors for the organization locally, nationally, and internationally. During this stage, the inactive soror is referred to as a Gamma Nahl (bee).

A Gamma Nahl is encouraged to approach the Re-dedication Ceremony having given serious thought to the work ahead. She should reflect on the mission, purpose, and vision of the Sorority that first attracted her to the Sorority. If, in her heart, she does not wish to become a full and active part of Gamma Gamma Chi Sorority and to adhere to its policies, procedures, and principles, despite the fact that she has gone through the Sisterhood Re-Building Process activities successfully, a Gamma Nahl must not participate in the Re-dedication Ceremony. Instead, she should provide a letter resigning from the process to one of the Co-founders.

QUALIFICATIONS TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY

In order to be able to attend the ceremony, each Nahl is required to meet the following requirements:

1. Be a current, active soror who is currently a part of the Gamma Brainstorming WhatsApp group
2. Successfully have completed the established Sisterhood Re-building Process
3. Provide a written letter of re-commitment to the members in which she states (1) at least three reasons for her desire to re-commit to the sorority, (2) what she expects to give to the sorority, and (3) what she expects to receive from the sorority. The letter should be at least two pages and it should not exceed three pages.

DRESS CODE

This is a formal sorority function and is to be approached with decorum befitting such. Members and prospective members are to wear clothing that is appropriate for non-casual events that have been designated by the Sorority.

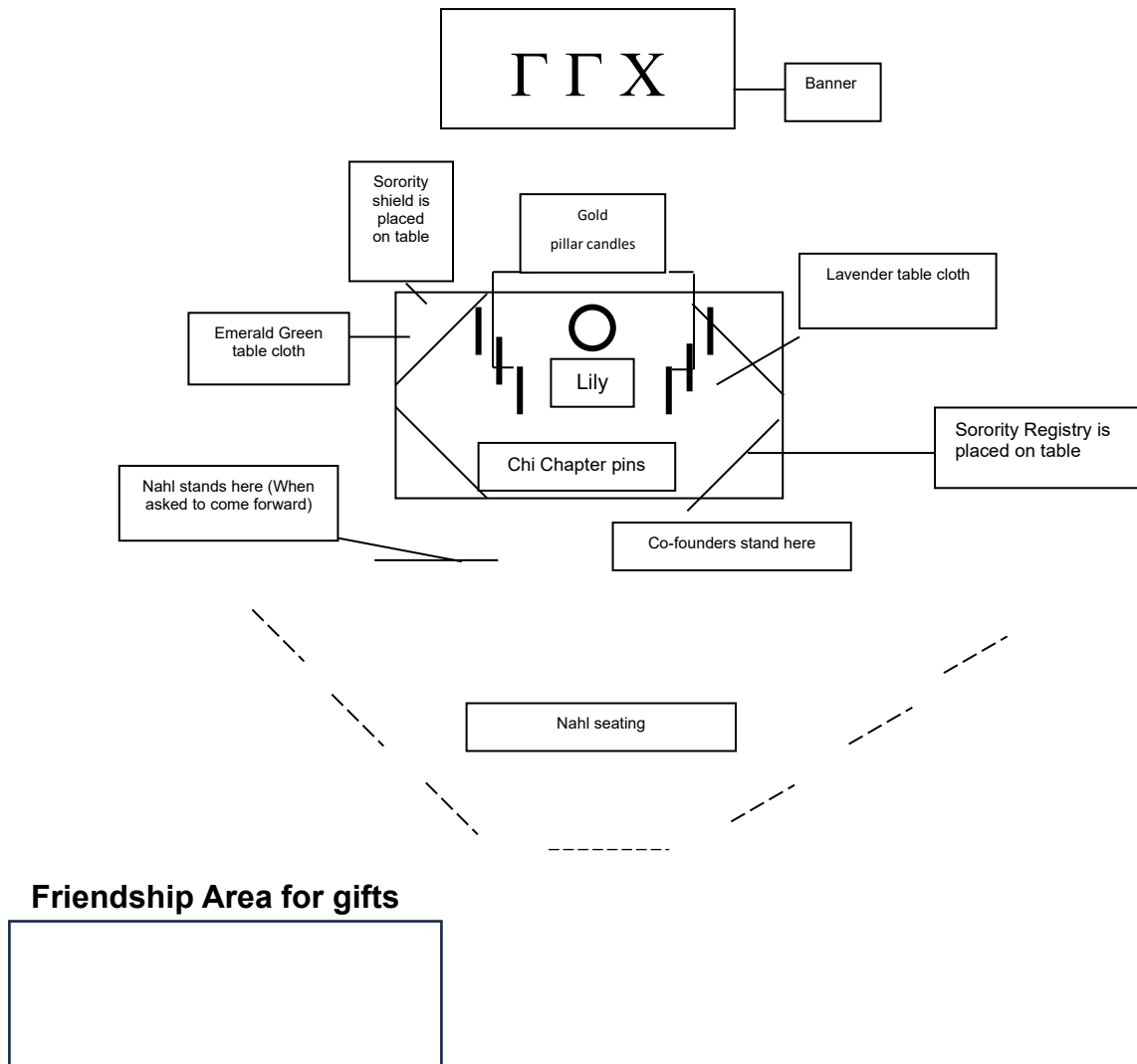
For the Re-dedication Ceremony, those to be re-dedicated into the Sorority wear a pure white blazer over a white garment (top and bottom) with gold scarves, a white under scarf/cap, and gold shoes. On the white blazer are the sorority pin in its proper place (over the heart) and the sorority patch that shows important elements of the sorority (the shield, water lily, bee and tiara). (see page 8)

ROOM SET UP

The room is set up to reflect an important occasion in the life of the sorority. It is to be prepared according to the following guidelines:

- ❖ **Officiating Station**— The room will have a table at the front where the Officiating Soror, Dr. Ali, stands. The Sorority Banner is hung on the wall behind the table which is draped with two table cloths, emerald green on the bottom and lavender on the top. A water lily (silk or live) is placed in the center of the table with six gold pillar-type candles, three on each side of the lily. The candles are lit before the ceremony begins. The co-founders conduct the ceremony although they, too, are considered Gamma Nahls at this stage.
- ❖ **Seating**— Chairs for sorors are placed in a semi-circle in front of the table.
- ❖ **Nahl**— The Gamma Nahls will stand at their seats for the beginning of the ceremony. Once directed, they will be seated.
- ❖ **Friendship Area**—A table draped with a white tablecloth and any desired table top embellishments holds gifts for each soror to receive at the end of the ceremony.

The following diagram shows the manner in which the room should be set up.



SORORITY REGISTRY

During the Re-dedication Ceremony, each returning member signs the Sorority Registry when directed to do so. The registry is retained by the Co-founders.

CONDUCT OF THE CEREMONY

The Co-founders conduct the Re-dedication Ceremony. Once they are to be re-dedicated, the most senior soror conducts the ceremony.

THE CEREMONY PROCEEDINGS

Soror Althia gives the signal to Soror Imani to start the procession.

Processional: She escorts the Nahls into the room. Once inside, the Gamma Nahls go to their seats and stand. Once all Gamma Nahls have reached their seats, everyone sits.

Soror Althia: Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem. Assalamu Alaikum, everyone. Al-humdulillah, we are here today to re-dedicate these (state number) sisters to our beloved sorority.

As you know, our Sisterhood Re-building Process begins with the intention of welcoming back members who became inactive for any number of reasons. Since we re-organized, we had several opportunities to observe our sisters in the deen to determine how they will likely act as sisters in the Sorority as well. During each step of the Sisterhood Rebuilding Process, they showed dedication to Gamma and they show promise to re-build a strong sisterhood. We now welcome them, once again, with open arms and open hearts as full members of Gamma Gamma Chi Sorority. Gamma Nahls, please be seated, inshaAllah.

We are here today to re-dedicate the first group of Gamma Nahls into our beloved sorority. As we go through the Re-dedication Ceremony today, we start by considering our sorority's beginning.

Our sorority was founded in 2005 by us, a mother-daughter team who aspired to create a vehicle that would unify Muslim collegiate women and Muslim professional women. We envisioned an organization that would serve Allah (SWT) through Sisterhood, Scholarship, Leadership, and Community Service. May Allah accept our efforts to serve and please Him as Sadaqah Jariah, and may we continue to achieve what was envisioned through our sorority. May we be strengthened by not only this group, but by any growing numbers of members we may be blessed to have, and may we all receive Allah's pleasure in this life and in the hereafter. (*Everyone says "Ameen"*).

Our sorority is the first Islamic-based sorority. We take this distinction as an honor and as a challenge to have a sorority experience that is second to none. Our purpose is not to emulate organizations that do not honor and celebrate the oneness of God. We do not attempt to put ourselves on undue display as we go about the work of our beloved sorority. We have not come to this sorority experience so that we can put ourselves above others who are not a part of our membership. While we are proud of our sisterhood, we are not to become puffed up with pride because we are Gamma Ladies. We are first and foremost servants of Allah, and we honor Him in all and above all that we do.

As you know, Gamma Gamma Chi Sorority recognizes all aspects of the Sunnah and follows the guidance of the Qur'an. Islam is a perfect religion, and we embrace it fully, making no innovations in the conduct of our religion but using our sorority as a way of helping to spread our religion. We ask Allah for refuge from Shatan, and to keep us on the straight path in all that we do with, through, and for the Sorority. (*Everyone says "Ameen"*).

Our sorority has six gold pillars. At this time Soror Imani will present each pillar as a reminder to us today of why we are a part of this noble organization. As she discusses each pillar, I ask you to consider what you have done to promote the work of our sorority through each pillar. If you find that you may need more activity to advance and support some of the pillars, I ask that you will use this as a reminder of where you might direct your efforts. May Allah bless you in this life and in the hereafter. Ameen.

Soror Imani: Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim. Assalamu Alaikum. Gamma Gamma Chi Sorority proudly proclaims our foundation built on six gold pillars. Please use this candle lighting ceremony to remind yourself of what you have done and what you need to do to advance the work of the Sorority.

Our first pillar is—

(Lighting the first candle, Islamic Awareness and Involvement. This pillar recognizes starting at the right) the fact that we are an Islamic-based organization, and that we must learn all aspects of our deen and be involved in the advancement of Islam on this earth.

Our second pillar is—

(Lighting the second candle) Educational Development. This pillar relates to the fact that our sorority seeks to unify collegiate and professional Muslim women. We know that education is something that cannot be taken away from us once we have gained it. Education enables us to help ourselves develop as professionals and to help us take care of our families. Through education, we come to understand more fully our responsibilities as women who are rightly guided.

Our third pillar is—

(Lighting the third candle) Economic Development and Indigent Support. This pillar reminds us of the requirement that we have to help those who need it most. It is our responsibility to help our ummah by developing and sharing economic gains for the good of all.

Our fourth pillar is—

(Lighting the fourth candle) Environmental Awareness and Involvement. This pillar focuses on the earth that we have been given to live on and to enjoy. We have also been given the responsibility to protect this gift from Allah.

Our fifth pillar is—

(Lighting the fifth candle) Physical and Mental Health. Similar to our responsibility to take care of the gift of the earth, this pillar reminds us that we must take care of our bodies by being mindful of what we put in them. Where mental health is concerned, we have special empathy for those who suffer with mental health issues, and we reach out to them to help them resolve these issues through service, education, and treatment.

Our sixth pillar is—

(Lighting the sixth candle) Social Awareness and Involvement. This pillar focuses on our responsibility to be attuned to the world around us and to be involved in addressing social actions that help mankind.

May Allah give us the guidance and success in our work for these six pillars. (*Everyone says "Ameen"*).

Soror Althia: The Sisterhood Re-building Process was developed to re-educate already inducted members about the Sorority. In some ways the Re-building Process began a year ago when we came back together. In other ways, we have augmented that experience during our time together here for our 20th Anniversary Celebration. The purpose of the process was not to engage you in meaningless activities, but to present opportunities that remind you about the Sorority, our traditions, the deen, and yourself. We have had this past year to establish new relationships and to bond with a new set of people who will be a part of our lives for many years to come, inshaAllah. InshaAllah these relationships will continue in an ongoing fashion.

As you went through the Sisterhood Re-building Process it was our goal that you would have added value to our organization while working together as a group of Gamma Nahls. You developed original works that were designed to increase our capacity to serve as a sorority and to strengthen our legacy. We thank each of you for your work, and we ask Allah that it will weigh on your scales as Sadaqah Jariah. Ameen.

Will everyone please rise? Please take a moment to give each other salaams, embrace each other and do anything that you feel moved to in the spirit of Gamma Sisterhood. [*Allow a couple of minutes for this.*]

Thank you. Everyone, please return to your seats. Our deen makes it such that we are all sisters from the start, and this is a wonderful blessing to enjoy. The beauty of being sisters in the deen is that we know that when we come together in religious settings, or in passing, we have people who "speak the same language." This is particularly enabling and empowering when we live in a culture that is not predominantly of our faith.

When we go about our daily lives, the fact that we are parts of not only one but sometimes two or three minorities can be stunning for some of us. As individuals, we recognize the importance of honoring our religion, but being minorities brought on by

our religion can sometimes force us to compromise our religious beliefs in order to “fit in” if we feel unsupported, marginalized, or ostracized by doing so. Al-humdulillah, through Gamma Gamma Chi Sorority, we share a two-fold sisterhood—we are sisters in the deen and sisters in the Sorority. As a result, we are even more empowered to achieve our goals, aspirations, and dreams.

Now that the Sisterhood Re-building Process has been completed, it is time for us to take the final step toward full membership once again, this time as members of a new chapter, Chi Chapter.

By proclamation, Chi Chapter is a new chapter that was established with the expressed purpose of returning our beloved sorority to active status. This chapter is the governing body of the sorority, and we rely on each of you to give us guidance that will enable us to rebuild our beloved sorority. We will rely on you to be a member who communicates with everyone, not just with those who you feel most comfortable with. We need for you to be present at all business meetings and to give free and open ideas. We will count on you for transparency, telling us things that might be difficult to say and hear but doing so because it is for the good of the sorority. Above all, we want you to honor our sorority’s traditions and protect each one of them as you would protect your own child.

Soror Imani, will you please read aloud the names of the sisters who have completed the Sisterhood Re-building Process? As your name is called, please stand until all names have been called.

Soror Imani: Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim. Assalamu Alaikum. It is my pleasure to present our sisters in the deen who are re-dedicating themselves to our twofold sisterhood.

Al-humdulillah, each sister has achieved all of the educational objectives of the Sisterhood Re-building Process, and by her presence here today, she indicates her continued interest in returning to the hive that is our sorority.

(Soror Imani calls each name. As each name is called, the Gamma Nahl stands and remains standing until all names have been called.)

Soror Imani: Gamma Nahls, this completes the roster for Chi Chapter of Gamma Gamma Chi Sorority.

Soror Althia: Al-humdulillah. Gamma Nahls, it is my pleasure to direct our attention now to the culmination of this Re-dedication Ceremony by reciting our Sorority Creed. Our Sorority Creed was written by the sisters of the National Grand Chapter in 2005 as a part of their Probationary Process. This is the kind of contribution that each intake line can make for the advancement of the Sorority. Gamma Nahls, please stand and recite the Sorority Creed, Insha’Allah.

THE GAMMA CREED

(Both take a moment of silence for personal recitation of the shahada.

Then they recite together:

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim. We are a band of women on earth for a period of time inviting all to what is good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong, seeking to attain felicity.

We, as Gamma Ladies, are part of the first Islamic-based sorority, striving for the pleasure of Allah (SWT) through Sisterhood, Scholarship, Leadership and Community Service.

We stand in truth upon the following six Gamma pillars: Islamic Awareness and Involvement, Educational Development, Economic Development and Indigent Support, Environmental Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health and Social Awareness and Involvement.

We ask that Allah accept our efforts to serve and please Him and give us success in this life and in the hereafter. Ameen

Developed by National Grand Chapter members
Sorors Kimberly Harper and Christine Ortiz (November 2005)

Soror Althia: Mashallah! Gamma Nahls, now that you have recited the creed, you are also re-dedicated, full members of Gamma Gamma Chi Sorority, Inc., and you are a part of our governing body that will determine the future of our beloved sorority, with the permission of Allah (SWT).

You have returned to the sisterhood that strives for the pleasure of Allah (SWT) in all that we do. Each of you is an ambassador for our beloved Sorority, and we warmly welcome your return to our sisterhood. All that you do publicly and in private will reflect on our Sorority, and this is a reminder that all that you do in this life will be considered when you stand before Allah (SWT) on Yawm al-Qiyam, the Day of Resurrection and Judgment. Please protect our Sorority, and keep us close in your hearts always.

May Allah guide you and keep you on the straight path. May He give you refuge from Shatan each day. May you have success in this life and the hereafter, and may Allah bless our sorority for you and through you. *(Everyone says "Ameen")*.

PINNING

We are now ready for the pinning ceremony.

The Co-founders will pin their respective Nahls with the new Chi (X) pins as shown (see page 9): (Note: The Co-founders randomly draw the names of each Gamma Nahl during the Re-educational process).

Each newly re-dedicated Gamma Lady's name is called, the respective Modaresa moves to pin her, the re-dedicated soror signs the Sorority Registry, and she receives a new membership certificate. She then takes her seat.



At the end of the pinning, all are seated, including the Co-founders.

RE-DEDICATION OF CO-FOUNDERS

The most senior soror will conduct this part of the ceremony:

Senior Soror: Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim. Assalamu Alaikum. It is my pleasure to officiate over this portion of the ceremony as the most senior soror in our group, next to the Co-founders.

Al-humdulillah, we are ready to have our Co-founders re-dedicate themselves to our sorority. Each sister has achieved all of the educational objectives of the Sisterhood Re-building Process, and by her presence here today, she indicates her continued interest in returning to the hive that is our sorority.

(The soror calls each name. As each name is called, the Gamma Nahl stands and remains standing until both names have been called.)

Senior Soror: Al-humdulillah. Gamma Nahls, it is my pleasure to direct our attention now to the culmination of this Re-dedication Ceremony by having you recite our Sorority Creed as your sorors have done. Gamma Nahls, please recite the Sorority Creed, Insha'Allah.

Co-founders recite the Gamma Creed (see page 8)

Senior Soror: Mashallah! Gamma Nahls, now that you have recited the creed, you are also re-dedicated, full members of Gamma Gamma Chi Sorority, Inc., and you are a part of our governing body that will determine the future of our beloved sorority, with the permission of Allah (SWT).

You have returned to the sisterhood that strives for the pleasure of Allah (SWT) in all that we do. As you have been from the start, each of you is an ambassador for our beloved Sorority, and we warmly welcome your return to our sisterhood. All that you do publicly and in private will reflect on our Sorority, and this is a reminder that all that you do in this life will be considered when you stand before Allah (SWT) on Yawm al-Qiyam, the Day of Resurrection and Judgment. Please protect our Sorority, and keep us close in your hearts always.

May Allah guide you and keep you on the straight path. May He give you refuge from Shatan each day. May you have success in this life and the hereafter, and may Allah bless our sorority for you and through you. (*Everyone says "Ameen"*).

Senior Soror: We are now ready for the pinning. Once you have received your pin, please sign the Sorority Registry, which will become a part of our permanent records held by you. Once you have done these things and received your new membership certificate, please return to your seat.

The Senior Soror pins each Co-founder, they sign the registry, and receive a new membership certificate.

Senior Soror takes her seat.

Soror Althia resumes officiating from this point.

CLOSING DUA

(Soror Althia reads the following while others read along)

Impromptu comments if desired.

We are now ready for our closing dua:

Oh Allah, we ask that you open our hearts in re-dedication to Gamma Gamma Chi Sorority. Nothing happens without Your permission, and you have given Your permission for us to be here. O Allah, we ask You with Your protection and mercy, to shield us from the evils of this world and its afflictions, and protect us from every harm and evil, O Most Merciful of the merciful, O Allah, make us among those who choose goodness for their sisters, strengthen our hearts, and establish our sisterhood in Your obedience and love. Always make us a support for one another. O Allah, protect our sisters from all harm and grant us blessings in our lives and relationships. O Allah, make our love for each other sincere for Your noble sake, and grant us pure intentions and clean hearts as we strive to include each member in all that we do, leaving no one to feel marginalized or unappreciated. O Allah,

enable us to remember the importance of our sorority's traditions as we seek to protect them each day from innovation or unwarranted removal. We seek refuge in You from the evil of the devils and the evils we are unaware of, and we ask You for wellbeing in this world and the Hereafter. (*Everyone says: Ameen.*)

As our final activity of the Re-dedication Ceremony, we will sing our sorority song.

(*Everyone forms a circle with arms encircled, making the sign of Gamma, and sings the sorority song.*)

SORORITY SONG

—*To be sung in a vibrant, fun manner*—

Gamma Gamma Chi, because of you it's I
Who stands here with my sisters all
In service to Allah.

We joined this dear sorority
With hopeful hearts and praise.
Our duty to fulfill our deen
Our joy, His many names.
And as we strive this day and all
For none except Allah,
The gold pillars so brightly shine
For Gamma Gamma Chi.

(Hum melody of first two stanzas)

And as we strive this day and all
For none except Allah,
The gold pillars so brightly shine
For Gamma Gamma Chi.

G-A-MM-AG-A-MM-AC-H-I, My Gamma Gamma Chi! (repeat at least three times)

Lyrics by co-founders and National Grand Chapter members
Sorors Dr. Althia F. Ali and Imani Canty (September 2005)
(November 2005)

Melody by National Grand Chapter members
Sorors Kimberly Harper and Christine Ortiz

Soror Althia: It is now time to declare that in this room are all active sorors who have re-dedicated themselves to our beloved sorority. They strive for the pleasure of Allah (SWT) through Sisterhood, Scholarship, Leadership, and Community Service. May Allah bless Chi Chapter of Gamma Gamma Chi Sorority.

(She proceeds to extinguish the candles)

I extinguish the candles on our six gold pillars, but each of you lights them every day that you do the work of the Sorority.

(Once all candles are extinguished, the President continues-)

This ceremony is now adjourned.

CONCLUSION

Re-dedicated sorors will give and receive gifts before inviting into the room family, friends, guests and community members.

Since a dinner follows immediately, it will serve as the reception.