Carter G. Woodson and the History of Omega Psi Phi
Saturday, September 26, 2020, 2:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. EST

On November 17, 1911, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was founded on the hallowed grounds of Howard University. It was founded as the first Black Greek-lettered fraternity on a Black college campus. For years, scholars who are both members of Omega Psi Phi and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History have expressed concerns that no official history book of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity has been written by historians. Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the father of Black history, founded the Association in 1915 and was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Several books have been written on the Fraternity such as Herman Dreer’s *History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity* and Robert Gill’s *The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity…1911-1961*. However, a team of historians with memberships with both Omega Psi Phi and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History was assembled and commissioned to write a definitive history of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

This roundtable presentation has several goals. The first focuses on the impact and influence of Omega Psi Phi by weaving in the larger narratives of Black experiences. Second, this roundtable will use historical themes to demonstrate how Omega Psi Phi asserted its might to help Black people. Third, we seek to engage trends and tensions that surround writing such a vast history. And lastly, in an era where the primary sources and memorabilia of Black civic organizations and social clubs are being bought up by institutions and organizations who are detached from Black communities, this roundtable will demonstrate how we craft our own histories; for us, by us, drawing a line in the sand by putting these institutions and organizations on notice, deeming that creating sanitized versions of Black histories only to fulfill quests for cornering diverse markets as unacceptable.

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