

**Gamma Alpha Bulletin
"The G.A.B."**

2004 CALENDAR

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March 24

March is Reading Month. Service Projects will sponsor Reading Month activities with the residents from the Wayne County Family Center. See Service Project report on page 2.

April 21

Birthday Dinner Details will be mailed to you by the committee. No April Newsletter.

April 30, May 1 & May 2

Alpha Iota State Convention will be held in Kalamazoo. Many fine sessions are being offered at this convention. For those teachers who need CEUs, sessions are being offered to fulfill those requirements. The city of Kalamazoo has many wonderful museums and excellent shopping, too.

May 22 (Saturday) Metro Council Birthday Luncheon celebrating the 75th anniversary of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. It will be held at the Holiday Inn on Six Mile and I-275. The Holiday Inn is located next to Laurel Park. We want a good turnout, so mark your calendars. Cost is \$24 for American Harvest Buffet. Flyer will be mailed directly to you. No May Newsletter.

June 3 (Thursday) Planning meeting for **2004-2006** biennium at Hayes Elementary. Everyone should try to attend this important meeting since we will be setting our calendar and forming new committees for the next biennium. Bring your school calendars, if available, your bowling dates, your cruise dates, and your personal diary so the calendar can be arranged with a minimum of conflict. Also, bring meeting ideas, suggestions for field trips, cultural outings, or speakers you would like to hear to this meeting. A small snack will be provided by the Executive Board.



Reminders

- Check out our website at: www.migammaalpha.org
- Please send your current email address to Jackie Smart so you can read the newsletter as soon as it is posted on the website. jackie@mysmartfamily.com
- Remember your books and fresh fruit for the March meeting.

Judi's Gems

Dear Gamma Alpha Sisters,



"I Got a Gal in Kalamazoo" is a big band song from the 40s. The weekend of April 30-May 2 will see many ΔΚΓ gals heading towards Kalamazoo for the annual State Convention. I have gone to Convention every year since I was initiated in 1997. You are able to see and feel the magnitude of the *Society* when you attend ΔΚΓ functions other than your chapter meeting. Come and join us in Kalamazoo-zoo-zoo! Convention Registration materials are included in the newsletter or you can download them at the State website.

March is Reading Month so we have included information about Oprah's Book Club for you on page 8 and a look at the Dr. Seuss stamp.

Judi Fisher

Service Project Report

Our annual March reading activity with the residents from the Wayne County Family Center is in full swing. The Wayne County Family Center offers both a temporary home and the help families need to make permanent changes in their lives.

Members should meet at Elliott School at 4:30. We need lots of members present to make this a successful project.

When the residents arrive, members will "pick up" a family at the door, escort them to the table. We will provide nametags. Make a nametag for the members of the family.

Chat a few minutes with the residents until dinner. Many of the residents have not had positive school experiences. Perhaps we can build some bridges. Please eat with your family. Dinner will be pizza, salad, chips, cookies and macaroni and cheese. Some finish eating faster than others. Having a teacher at the table seems to calm things down. Helen Mate is in charge of the kitchen crew.

After dinner, we will divide into groups. Teens go the computer room. Joan Murray and Sandy Becher will assist teen residents with computer games. The children's stories were not their "thing" last year.

Elementary and pre-school children will go to the designated classrooms. Members will read to the children, make a bookmark and help them select books. Jackie Smart, Sue Briody and Karen Dodds will be leaders in three classrooms.

Some of you may be brave and take the "wee" tikes for a while so their parents can have a break. Parents will remain in the gym and decorate a canvas bag with fabric pens. Esther Loskowske will be in charge of this activity.

Bring new or gently used books for children and adults. Magazines are welcome, too. The Family Center has requested fresh fruit again, so pick up a bag of "something" that can be donated

Wayne-Westland transportation will provide a bus for the residents. They will be dropped off at Elliott at 5:00 and picked up at 7:00.

Directions to Elliott:

Drive south on Merriman.

Turn left on Parkwood.

(Parkwood is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile south of Cherry Hill Road.)

Stay on Parkwood until you come to a stop sign.

You can see the school from the stop sign.

Turn left on Bennington.

Enter the school at the gym door.

Address:

30800 Bennington

Westland, MI

734-419-2610

* See Grace delivering the blankets to the Family Center and Judi and Grace with the bears in our chapter photo album at www.migammaalpha.org

Legislative Update



Education Insider

A weekly review of progress on the Quality Public Schools Agenda and other Legislation that impacts our students, classrooms, and public education.

February 24, 2004

Secretary Paige, you owe ME an apology. I am the NEA.

On Monday, February 23, the same day President George W. Bush launched the opening salvo in his re-election campaign, his Secretary of Education, Rod Paige, called the National Education Association a "terrorist organization."

These events were no accident or coincidence. Demonizing America's public school teachers and education support professionals has been a longstanding practice of public education's opponents.

In 1996, Senator Bob Dole accepted his presidential nomination saying, "To the teachers unions I say, when I am president, I will disregard your political power, for the sake of the parents, the children, the schools and the nation."

While Secretary Paige has since called NEA

President Reg Weaver and has issued a statement saying he used an "inappropriate choice of words," his behavior cannot be countenanced. Moreover, he continues to inflame the situation, referring to our efforts to improve ESEA/NCLB as "obstructionist scare tactics." He continues to demean our organization; to attempt to drive a wedge between our organization, our members, and the public; and to try to silence any dissent regarding the Administration's misguided education policies.

Is this what George W. Bush meant in 2000 when he said he wanted to come to Washington, D.C. to "change the tone"?

Let Washington know how you feel about being called a terrorist. Send a message today to **President Bush, Secretary Paige**, and your **U.S. Representative and Senators**.

NEA President Reg Weaver's News Release

February Birthdays

13 **Susie Miller**

29 **Marge Braun**

March Birthdays

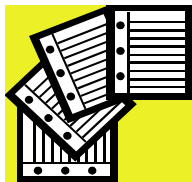
11 **Nancy Chiasson**

13 **Esther Loskowske**



Minutes in a Minute

Minutes for February 18, 2004



Meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m. at Hayes. Nineteen members were present in addition to State President Judy Foster and Visitation Chairman Lola Wilson.

Judy Foster opened with a welcome from the State and encouraged all to attend the Convention and 75th Diamond Jubilee in July.

Barb Broadley corrected January's minutes regarding the purchasing of a gift certificate. She sent a \$100 gift certificate to Annah and her daughters from Gamma Alpha. You may continue to send cards to the World Fellowship recipient. Her address will be in the hard copy of the newsletter.

Twenty bears were made for the dialysis patients. Turnout was light because of the weather conditions. Those present had a wonderful time and would like to build-a-bear again. We received a thank-you letter from Mott.

Grace delivered blankets to the Family Center in December. She said the Family Center also needs furniture and kitchen items to help families get a start when they find new housing. The Family Center will pick up heavy items.

Slate was presented and accepted for 2004-2006.

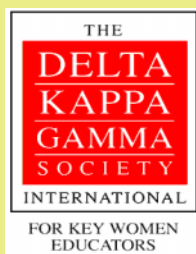
President	Judy Fisher
1st Vice President	Lynne Elsesser
2nd Vice President	Marie Canzoneri
Recording Secretary	Chris Smith
Corresponding Secretary	Jackie Smart
Nominations Chairman	Judy Kolassa

Service Project report is included in the newsletter.

No word yet from Gina and her committee on the Birthday Dinner. We will install officers, initiate two new members and honor retirees. Colleen Retherford announced she will retire in June. If anyone else is retiring, please let Gina and Jackie know.

Metro Council Luncheon information will be

(Continued on page 7)



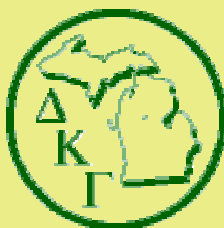
International Dates

July 27-31 -75th Diamond Jubilee

"From the Sparkle of the Past To the Brilliance of the Future"

Greater Minneapolis Convention Center
Minneapolis, Minnesota

The goal is to have one member from each chapter present at the convention in Minneapolis. Interested travelers should see Judi Fisher or www.deltakappagamma.org for more information regarding the convention.



State Dates

April 30, May 1 & May 2-

The State Convention will be held in Kalamazoo. We will be staying at the newly renovated Radisson in downtown Kalamazoo. The registration information is in the Winter *Wolverine* and also on the State website. I have enclosed a registration form for your convenience. Go to www.deltakappagamma.org/MI for further information.

Registration Form

Alpha Iota State Convention

**“Bridging the Gap”
Radisson Plaza Hotel
Kalamazoo, MI
April 30 – May 2, 2004**

Please Print: Use one form for each person

Name: _____

(Last, First, Title)

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

Nametag should read: _____

Chapter: _____ City: _____

Present Office: Chapter: _____ State: _____

International: _____

Are you participating in the President's Procession? (Check One) Yes No

As incoming Chapter President: As outgoing Chapter President:

As my chapter's substitute: Explain: _____

Is this your first DKG Convention? (Check One) Yes No

Years of Membership: _____

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND

Registration Fee:

Postmarked by March 15, 2004 \$40 (nonmember: \$60) \$ _____

Postmarked after March 15, 2004 \$10 late fee, plus above \$ _____

President's Banquet on Saturday \$40 \$ _____

Awards Breakfast on Sunday \$25 \$ _____

Certified Educational Units Registration Fee: \$10 \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to Delta Kappa Gamma

Dietary Needs:

Requirements must be listed with this registration form to avoid duplicate costs.

Special tickets will be provided in the registration packets of those who indicate the following needs:

Vegetarian: ____ Diabetic: ____

Handicap Assistance:

There is elevator service to guest rooms. There is elevator service and an escalator to all convention functions. If you require special guest room accommodations, please notify the hotel staff directly when you make your reservations.

Please mail this form and payment to:

Ms. Jody Pratt
2984 5th Street
Shelbyville, MI 49344
(269) 792-0481
prattj@wayland.k12.mi.us

Cancellation:

A person having to cancel will receive a refund provided her written request is postmarked by April 17, 2004. (Standing rule 7:01 of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.) Requests for cancellations must be sent to the same person to whom the registration form was sent.

**Radisson
Plaza Hotel
At
Kalamazoo
Center**



(Continued from page 4)

handed out at the Birthday Dinner. The luncheon will be on Saturday, May 22 at the Holiday Inn on Six Mile and 275.

Yearbooks were passed out. Jackie is toying with the idea of putting the yearbook on our website.

Alex Murray, son of Joan, is a student at Michigan. He is participating in a 30 hour Dance Marathon March 20-21 in order to raise money and awareness for pediatric rehabilitation programs at C.S. Mott Hospital and William Beaumont Hospital.

Alex needs to raise a minimum of \$250 in contributions. He is asking our support. He provided a letter for us explaining the particulars. If you are interested in assisting Alex in his fundraising goal, send a check payable to:

Dance Marathon
c/o Alex Murray
@Joan Murray's address
(See Yearbook)

Questions? Check out the Dance Marathon website at www.umdm.org

Grant-in-Aid applications need to be sent to Mary Jo Dreffs by the middle of April. Applications for the grant can be obtained at next month's meeting or from Mary Jo at:

dreffsm@wwcsd.net

Last year the winners came to our Birthday Dinner. Meeting ended at 5:25.

Chef Larry Janes cooked and entertained us for the next hour. He prepared risotto, salmon with roasted red pepper sauce, navy bean and tomato salad, apple pecan streusel cake, and a breakfast in a glass shake. The aroma was divine and everything tasted delicious!

Chef Larry shared some shopping tips. Only buy first cold pressed olive oil. Don't buy fish that smells fishy. Mrs. Dash (or a cheaper generic from the Eastern Market) is a great seasoning. He gave us a tip on how to remove the garlic and onion smells from your hands. He said to rub them on your stainless steel faucet. It leeches the scent from your hands. Weird-but effective.

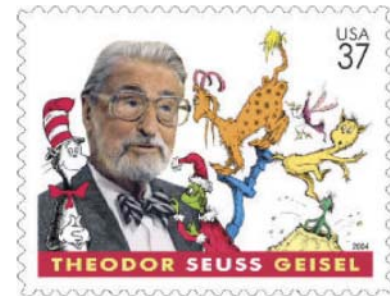
Respectfully Submitted,
Jackie Smart, for Chris Smith

Theodor Seuss Geisel Stamp Announced!

Theodor Geisel will soon be seen on letters everywhere with the launch of the Dr. Seuss 37-cent postage stamp.

The new Ted Geisel Stamp was unveiled by the USPS on October 27th, 2003 at the Dr. Seuss National Memorial in Springfield, MA. The stamp is part of a yearlong "Seussentennial celebration, as Theodor Seuss Geisel would have been 100 on March 2, 2004.

The stamp features some of the children's author's most memorable characters, including the Grinch, the Cat in the Hat and the Grinch (of *Oh Say Can You Say fame*). The stamp will become available nationwide on March 2, 2004.



Chef Larry Janes and Judi Fisher chat after the February meeting. Judi was caught going back for seconds on the salmon and risotto.

Oprah's Book Club

Since March is Reading Month, I thought this might be of interest to our members. Oprah's book club is back and she is on a mission. Her mission is to make this the biggest book club in the world and get people reading again. Not just reading, but reading *great* books!

For the first time ever, you can become an official member online. Her goal: to have a club of 1,000,000 readers! When you join Oprah's free book club you receive:

- A weekly e-mail from Oprah herself!
- In-depth, interactive information about each book
- Tools to help you find clubs in your neighborhood—or invite members to join you
- Expert study guides to make your discussion more meaningful
- Exclusive access to a world of other readers just like you!

To join Oprah's Book Club, you must first be a member of Oprah.com. If you're not a member, join Oprah.com now. It's free and easy!

The club is currently reading One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Oprah encourage you to read the book the New York Times calls "The first piece of literature since Genesis that should be required reading for the *entire human race*."

"Books gave me the idea there was a life beyond my poor Mississippi home." — Oprah

Gamma Alpha Executive Board

2002-2004

Empowerment Through Literacy and Numeracy

Judi Fisher:	President
Lynne Elsesser:	First Vice President
Joan Cady:	Second Vice President
Chris Smith:	Recording Secretary
Jackie Smart:	Corresponding Secretary
Cindy Dietz:	Treasurer
Grace Morgan:	Past President

Gamma Alpha Newsletter and Archives can be found online at:
www.migammaalpha.org
Contact Jackie Smart, with information for future newsletters.



Address Label