



*Caring Makes a Difference*

# GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN

## “LET’S G.A.B”

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### Meeting Reminders

If you have not already done so mail dues to Cindy Dietz or bring your check to the October 18 meeting.

- \$58 Retirees
- \$73 Working Members

Bring your candidate to the meeting for orientation.

Rosalie Zuber will speak to our group about the Tanzania Education Project.

We will meet for dinner at G. Subu’s Leather Bottle at 5:00. Dinner begins at 5:30 and the meeting will begin at 6:30. The Leather Bottle is located at 20300 Farmington Road just south of 8 Mile in Livonia on the east side of Farmington . See you there!

## BREAST CANCER

### Early Detection: Do You Know the Facts?

The Breast Cancer site is having trouble getting enough people to click on it daily to meet their quota of donation at least one free mammogram a day to an underprivileged woman. It takes less than a minute to go to their site and click on the pink box (pink window in the middle) which donates a mammogram for free to underprivileged women. This doesn't cost you a thing. The site’s corporate sponsors/ advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate mammograms in exchange for advertising. Here is the address. Click on the www. [thebreastcancersite.com](http://thebreastcancersite.com) Pass it along to people you know.

Here is some information provided by the breast cancer site. Each year, 182,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer and 43,300 die. One woman in eight either has or will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. In addition, 1,600 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 400 will die this year.

If detected early, the five-year survival rate exceeds 95%. Mammograms are among the best early detection methods, yet 13 million U.S. women 40 years of age or older have never had a mammogram.

The National Cancer Institute and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommend that women in their forties and older have mammograms every one to two years. A complete early detection plan also includes regular clinical breast examinations by a trained medical professional. Monthly breast self-exams are suggested in addition.

On a personal note, please include Sue Briody in your thoughts and prayers. Sue had a mastectomy and reconstructive surgery in July. She is undergoing chemotherapy until December. Sue is not supposed to be around groups of people and won’t be able to attend any meetings until the first of the year. We miss you, Sue. [www.sfbriody@hotmail.com](mailto:www.sfbriody@hotmail.com)

### Mission Statement

*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
promotes professional and personal growth  
of women educators and excellence in education.*



## *Minutes in a Minute*

September 13, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by President Jackie Smart. Members present were: Judi Fisher, Cindy Dietz, Carol Palk, Donna Colaianne, Helen Mate, Esther Loskowske, Mary Jo Dreffs, Amy Wainwright, Fran Saenz, Carol Holland, Marianne Reinhard, Danielle Jopek, Chris Smith, Marge Braun, and Lynne Elsesser. State President Marilyn Mitchell and driver were our guests. Carol Palk and Mary Jo Dreffs started our meeting with a clever personality icebreaker.

### *Email Announcements*

#### Membership:

- Sandy Becher is on a cruise.
- Carol Anderson is in Germany.
- Grace Morgan is on an Elder Hostel trip do the Lewis & Clark tour.
- Barbara Broadley was out of town.
- Bonnie Franka was still “up north” with a friend preparing for chemo.
- Sherry Green sends her apologies, but she is in the “sandwich” generation caring for 93 year old mother and children.
- Colleen Retherford is teaching on Wednesdays for the new several weeks.
- Sue Briody is recovering from recent chemo treatments.
- Nancy Chiasson has physical therapy treatments on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays for a few more weeks. She will see us in October.
- Others are going to have their picture placed on a milk carton.

#### Other:

- Judi Fisher will bring the Seedlings Christmas card packet back in October. If you ordered cards, please be prepared to pay her for them. Again, this is a tax deductible donation.
- Chris Smith promises to bring the music!

### *Committee Reports*

Committees met briefly to discuss upcoming meetings. In October, we will meet at 5:00 at The Leather Bottle. Dinner will begin at 5:30. After the meal we will have a brief orientation if any new members are being consid-

ered for membership. Amy and Marge have arranged for Rosalie Zuber to speak about the Tanzania Project. This is an educational program for children in this impoverished country. Rosalie’s son is involved with the program. There will be a chance to make a tax deductible donation to the project, if desired.

Mary Jo recruited volunteers for the Holiday Auction. The restaurant manager said we could have the large room for this event. We will have a buffet that will include beverage, salad, two entrees (one is vegetarian), vegetables, breadsticks and dessert. Cost will be \$20 per person including tax, tip and gratuity. Firm RSVPs will be needed. BRING GUESTS! Initiation of New Members will be held at 5:00. Dinner at 5:30. Auction will begin at 6:30. All proceeds go to the Grant-in-Aid.

Colleen had the Yearbook ready for the September meeting, but we decided to update phone and email information before printing it. You should have it in your hands for the October meeting. Calendar information will be updated as well.

The other committee information will be in future newsletters.

Cindy Dietz presented the new budget and financial report. We have 35 dues payers. Out of your \$58 (retired) or \$73 (active) dues, \$41 goes to State and International. We donate one dollar for each member to the Educational Foundation. We cover Abby’s State and International fees and keep her as a reserved member. The auction money goes directly to Grant-in-Aid or World Fellowship. Because of a decline in membership our budget has been pared down. The remainder of our dues assessment covers, postage, printing, initiation supplies, retirement gifts, cards, flowers, speakers’ fees and meals, Service Projects and conferences. Prompt payment of dues is appreciated.

Carol Holland reports that the World Fellowship Auction raised \$110. Donna Colaianne and Cindy were big winners. Thanks to all the members who shared their vacation souvenirs to make the auction a success.

Adjournment: 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Loskowske for

Carol Anderson, Recording Secretary

## *State & International Tidbits*

### *International*

[www.deltakappagamma.org](http://www.deltakappagamma.org)

**2006 International Convention workshop "Clues to Solving the Membership Puzzle" generated solutions to these important questions:**

1. What are the important "selling points" for becoming a member of the Society?
2. What are creative ways to nurture members?
3. Where do you look for new members other than in mainstream schools?
4. How do you attract young professionals to membership?
5. How do you respond to "I don't have time"?

This month's President's Message addresses question 1.



### *Alpha Iota State*

[www.deltakappagamma.org/MI](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/MI)

Fall Workshop (October 13-14) at Soaring Eagle has many opportunities for members to pick up needed CEUs at a nominal cost. You can still register. Go to the state website. Some of the interesting sessions are:

- Little House in the Elementary Classroom
- Make Community Forums Work
- The Value of Arts in Education
- Teacher Induction program
- Wildlife Refuge Project– Including All Students
- Making Note Cards
- Teacher Leadership– Tapping potential in School Communities
- Plus the usual ΔΚΓ Strategic Planning, Parliamentary Procedures, U.S. Forum & Legislation, Membership and Communication sessions.

Drop in on a session or two before you hit the slots!

## October 18th Agenda

- A. Welcome– Jackie
- B. Attendance Sheet– Amy W.
- C. Opener– Bonnie F., Joan M. & Carol P.
- D. Quickies-
1. Approval of September 13, 2006 Minutes
  2. Dues Reminder– Cindy
  3. Correspondence– Jackie
  4. Committee Announcements:  
~**November 29– Barbara, Mary Jo & Amy**  
Holiday Auction & Initiation of New Members  
~**December 13– Esther & Colleen R.**  
Holiday Stockings for the Family Center
- E. Orientation of Candidates for Membership- Amy
- F. Tonight's Program **Marge & Amy-**  
Professional Affairs presents Rosalie Zuber and her chapter's Tanzania Education Project. Rosalie will share information about the school and work her son does in Tanzania. Rosalie will provide brochures about the personal information about the project and those wishing to may make a tax deductible contribution for education scholarships for the Tanzania students.
- G Delta Kappa Gamma song– Chris Smith!
- H. Adjournment

### *The Sunshine Committee Sends October Birthday Greetings To...*



*21 Alice Duke                      21 Laura Oliver*  
*26 Mary Lou Flynn              30 Joan Lyon*

## President's Message



### *Get Smart!*

Many thanks to my Gamma Alpha friends for the support after my announcement about Hannah's stay in rehab for heroin addiction. She is doing fine (touch wood) and working the recovery program. Rest of the family are attending Al-Anon meetings. I don't think this is what I envisioned retirement would be like.

Membership is still a hot topic for  $\Delta K \Gamma$  and Gamma Alpha. During the 2006 International Convention workshop "Clues to Solving the Membership Puzzle" attendees generated solutions to some important questions brought up on page three of the newsletter. Below are some clues for solving the membership puzzle.

#### **What are the important "selling points" for becoming a member of the Society?**

- *Genuine spiritual fellowship*
- *Mentoring new educators*
- *Professional growth*
- *Scholarships*
- *Personal enrichment*
- *Travel to conferences and conventions*
- *Forefront of education*
- *Movers and shakers*
- *Emergency fund – disaster relief and support*
- *Opportunity to be published*
- *Networking*
- *Mini grants*
- *Leadership training*
- *Leadership opportunities*
- *Helping others in the Society and in the community*
- *Support system*
- *A place where you get to show / practice your expertise*
- *World-wide diversity in experienced educators*
- *Insurance (in U.S.)*
- *When moving to new area, built-in support group and assistance in finding a position in education.*

## *Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International*



### *MEA DeBunks DeVos*

Every pro-public education voter who goes to the polls this fall will mean a greater level of success for Proposal 5 and MEA's recommended candidates- Governor Granholm and Senator Stabenow. Dick DeVos has spent millions of dollars on ads trying to convince Michigan's voters that he has a record of creating jobs. But the facts speak louder than his checkbook.

Last spring, DeVos sent a letter to all of Michigan's school superintendents that "applauded" the decision to outsource the jobs of 225 Grand Rapids bus drivers. He encouraged more school districts to privatize support staff and offered the help of his right-wing group, the Great Lakes Education Project, to assist districts in handing over more school jobs to for-profit companies.

DeVos also has a record of outsourcing jobs when he was in charge of Amway, where he laid off more than 1,400 Michigan workers in order to invest more than \$200 million in China.

You can learn more about DeVos's record on jobs and other issues — and get a good laugh — by watching a new cartoon called "See Dick Run," at [www.michigandems.com/seedickrun.html](http://www.michigandems.com/seedickrun.html).

The results of this fall's election will rely heavily on voter turnout. It is critical that all public education supporters exercise their right to vote on or before Nov. 7.

*Source: MEA Votes E- Newsletter, September 7, 2006*

### *Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committee Chairmen 2006-2008 "Caring Makes a Difference"*

<i>Jacquelyn Smart:</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Judi Fisher:</i>	<i>First Vice President</i>
<i>Amy Wainwright:</i>	<i>Second Vice President</i>
<i>Carol Anderson:</i>	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
<i>Cindy Dietz:</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Barbara Broadley:</i>	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
<i>Judi Fisher:</i>	<i>Past President</i>
<i>Jacquelyn Smart:</i>	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>

#### **Committee Chairmen**

<i>Barbara Broadley:</i>	<i>Personal Growth</i>
<i>Esther Loskowske:</i>	<i>Service Projects</i>
<i>Marge Braun, Amy Wainwright:</i>	<i>Professional Affairs</i>
<i>Lynne Elsesser:</i>	<i>Research</i>
<i>Cindy Dietz:</i>	<i>US Forum/Legislation</i>
<i>Chris Smith:</i>	<i>Music</i>
<i>Mary Jo Dreffs:</i>	<i>Grant-in-Aid</i>
<i>Helen Mate:</i>	<i>Birthday</i>
<i>Carol Holland:</i>	<i>World Fellowships</i>
<i>Colleen Retherford:</i>	<i>Yearbook</i>
<i>Sherry Green:</i>	<i>History</i>
<i>Carol Anderson, Donna Colaianne &amp; Nancy Chiasson</i>	<i>Sunshine</i>
<i>Grace Morgan</i>	<i>Finance</i>
<i>Bonnie Franka, Joan Murray &amp; Carol Palk:</i>	<i>Ice Breakers</i>
<i>Open:</i>	<i>Nominations</i>



## Good Reading

### Better Than Chocolate

By Susan Waggoner

Annie Wilkins is a food writer who was stuck writing mundane walleye-on-a-stick articles for *Minnesota Menus*. Now she is on a fast track to fame and fortune. Her husband Tom is a research scientist for a food company and has come up with a remarkable product: fat-free, carb-free, calorie-free chocolate that tastes *better* than the real thing!

Annie and "America's Sexiest Scientist" Tom happily accept their new status as the nation's most happening Fabulous Couple. Annie becomes the high-profile spokesperson for the product. But the corporation wants to change her hair, her style, and have her lose twenty-five pounds so that she projects the right image.

Annie juggles sudden fame, corporate America, weight loss, a teen deemed "suspiciously well-adjusted" by his teachers, a four year old Francophile, and her own self-doubts with a driving wit that will make you laugh out loud.

But Annie discovers that fame and fortune aren't really that great. Her kids are becoming *too* worldly *too* fast and Tom's in demand for a lot more than just his candy. Annie needs to wake up from this American dream; because all of a sudden her marriage *and* her sanity are in jeopardy.

Waggoner's book is a fun read with amusing characters.

**Note:** If you want to let members know what you are reading, send me a short "book report" and I will include it in a future newsletter.

*It's not that chocolates are a substitute for love. Love is a substitute for chocolate. Chocolate is, let's face it, far more reliable than a man.*

Miranda Ingram

## Good Eating

### Baked Stuffed Pumpkin

#### Ingredients:

- 1 medium pumpkin
- 6 Granny Smith apples - peeled, cored and chopped
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 (16 ounce) can whole berry cranberry sauce
- 1 (20 ounce) can pineapple chunks, drained
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup golden raisins
- 1/2 cup dark rum (optional)
- 2 teaspoons minced fresh ginger root
- 1 tablespoon freshly grated nutmeg

#### Procedure:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Position rack in the center of the oven.

Cut out top of pumpkin, and set aside. Scoop out seeds with a metal spoon. Rinse the inside of the pumpkin.

In a large bowl, stir together the apples, walnuts, cranberry sauce, pineapple, brown sugar, raisins, and rum. Season with ginger, nutmeg, and cinnamon, and mix well.

Spoon the mixture into the cleaned pumpkin, and replace top. Set pumpkin directly on a baking stone or a thick baking sheet. Cover the bottom of the pumpkin with foil in case of leakage. Bake for 1 hour in the preheated oven, or until pumpkin begins to soften. Remove from heat, and stir, scraping the sides gently, so that some pieces of pumpkin fall into the apple mixture.

This recipe is wonderful as a side dish and it is very impressive when you bring the whole pumpkin to the table! It may be served spooned over pound cake or pumpkin bread, and garnished with whipped cream.



**Note:** Send me your favorite recipe and I will include it in a future newsletter.

## 2006-2007 Gamma Alpha Chapter

Put these dates in your planner now and check out our website for future newsletters, forms, links, photos and more at: [www.migammaalpha.org](http://www.migammaalpha.org) RSVP to Judi Fisher five days before the meeting date at [judifisher@yahoo.com](mailto:judifisher@yahoo.com)

### **October 13-14, 2006**

*Fall Workshop/Executive Board*

*Soaring Eagle Resort, Mt. Pleasant Registration and hotel information are in the Summer Wolverine and on the State website under "Forms" [www.deltakappagamma.org/MI](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/MI) You can attend a few sessions before you hit the slots!*

### **October 18, 2006**

*Orientation of New Members and Tanzania Education Presentation. Membership and Professional Affairs Committees are hostesses. Amy and her committee will lead a discussion regarding our chapter and Delta Kappa Gamma with candidates for membership. After the orientation, we will listen to a presentation regarding an educational project in Tanzania. We can help break the cycle of poverty through education. Financial donations will be accepted. Members arrive at the Leather Bottle at 5:00 for conversation and cocktails, dinner at 5:30. Meeting will begin at 6:30.*

### **November 29, 2006**

*Initiation of New Members and Annual Holiday Auction. Membership and Personal Growth Committees are hostesses. November's meeting is devoted to fundraising for the Grant-in-Aid for women seeking a degree in education. Application for the Grant-in-Aid is on the website under "Forms." Members donate items to be auctioned off. If you cannot attend, please try to drop your item(s) off for the auction. Here are a few ideas for items that you could donate:*

- *A certificate from businesses you frequent*
- *Homemade baked goods or canned goods*
- *Massage*
- *"Theme" baskets (genre books, coffees, teas, cookies, jams, etc)*
- *Teacher gift baskets*
- *Holiday crafts or decorations*
- *Theater or game tickets*
- *Best Seller Books*

*Please be prompt. Members arrive at the Leather Bottle at 5:00 for the Initiation Ceremony. Dinner will be at 5:30. Holiday Auction will begin at 6:30. Be sure to invite relatives, friends, colleagues, potential members, etc. This way, we will raise more funds for the Grant-in-Aids and we will not be the only ones spending money!*

### **December 2, 2006**

*Zeta-Alpha Holiday Brunch and Silent Auction at Holiday Inn at Laurel Park. More information later.*

### **December 13, 2006**

*Holiday Stockings for the Wayne County Family Center. Service Projects Committee are the hostesses for this meeting. Esther and her committee will purchase Christmas stockings and members will donate small items and treats to fill the stockings. We will make 50 stockings so keep this number in mind when purchasing items. More information in future newsletters.*

**January 10, 2007** *Executive Board beginning at 4:30 at Jackie Smart's Home.*

**February 7, 2007**

*Dream Dinners— All the Ingredients for a Great Meal.*

Legislation and Research Committees are the hostesses. Gamma Alpha has booked a two-hour session at *Dream Dinners*. You will meet at store and assemble three meals (or more if you share meals) that you can take home and store in your freezer. The meals portions are for six. All you have to do to enjoy a delicious family meal is to thaw and cook. Dream Dinners provide all of the ingredients with easy-to-follow instructions and freezer containers. The planning and preparation are done for you, as well as the clean up. All you have to bring is a bag to carry your dinners home and pop them in the freezer until your are ready to use them. Coffee and snacks will be provided by Dream Dinners.

**Procedure:**

1. Visit [www.dreamdinners.com](http://www.dreamdinners.com)
2. Members will pre-register, pay by credit card on Dream Dinners' secure website and choose three dinners. Our group name is *Delta Kappa Gamma* and the password is *gammaalpha* (one word no spaces or capitals).
3. Our session time for Dream Dinners is February 7 from 5:00-7:00.
4. Arrive and assemble your meals.
5. Freeze your dream Dinners at home.
6. Cost per member is \$49.50.
7. If you don't feel comfortable registering online, call Jeannie (248) 477-8300 for help. More information and reminders will be available in future newsletters.

Livonia Dream Dinners

33591 Seven Mile Road

(Just 1/4 mile west of Farmington Road in the Stamford Plaza, next to the Italian Bakery.)

**March 7, 2007**

*Preventing Identity Theft*

Finance and Music Committees are hostesses for this meeting. A speaker from the State Attorney General's office will speak to us about the fastest growing crime, identity theft and some steps to help prevent this from happening to you. Members arrive at the Leather Bottle at 5:00 for conversation and cocktails, dinner at 5:30. Meeting will begin at 6:30. More information in future newsletters.

**April 25, 2007**

*Birthday Dinner* The Birthday Committee members and Sunshine Committee are the hostesses for this meeting. More information regarding cost and location in future newsletters.

**May 4-6, 2007**

*Alpha Iota State Convention 2007*

Detroit Marriott Pontiac at Centerpointe. Judi and Jackie are co-chairs for the state Convention.

Details regarding the convention will be in future newsletters, the *Winter Wolverine* Alpha Iota State website: [www.deltakappagamma.org/MI](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/MI)

**June 2, 2007**

*Planning Meeting for 2007-2008*

Join us for breakfast at Five at St. John's at 10:00. Come armed with program ideas for 2007-2008. After breakfast and program planning we can be refreshed with a walk through The Gardens of St. John's Center for Youth and Family. The Gardens have been created to inspire spiritual reflection for all who visit. More information in future newsletters.