



*Caring Makes a Difference*

# GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN

## “LET’S G.A.B”

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**January 10 Reminder**

*Executive Board meeting will be held at Jackie’s home at 4:00  
 20158 Southampton Drive  
 Livonia (248)476-86549*

*North on Farmington  
 Left of Seven Mile  
 Right on Gill  
 3 Stop signs Right on Navin  
 Left on Southampton  
 Last house on the right by the stop sign*

**February 7 Reminder**

*Use the information in the calendar to register for Dream Dinners.*

*Please seek out candidates for membership. Recommendation for Membership application can be found under Forms on our website [www.gammaalpha.org](http://www.gammaalpha.org)*

### *Service Project a Success!*

Esther and Colleen were sponsors for the December meeting. They were delighted with the turnout for the meeting and all of the generous donations for the holiday stockings. Members were in a festive mood as they decorated the stockings and filled them with candy, card games, small toys, crayons, coloring books, pens, erasers, glitter pens, small books, memo pads, and many other goodies. Gamma Alpha delivered forty-eight stockings for the children living at Wayne County Family Center in Westland, Michigan.



***Mission Statement***

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



## *Minutes in a Minute*

### **Gamma Alpha Minutes December 13, 2006**

The meeting was held at G. Subu's Leather Bottle in Livonia. 20 members attended. The session convened at 4:00. Esther Loskowske donated 48 stockings that members assisted in decorating and filling with a wonderful assortment of items for children at the Wayne County Family Shelter. All the crayons, pencils, books, pens, erasers, candy, toys, notebooks and other goodies were provided by the members themselves. The spirit of the season was felt by everyone who was a part of this project.

A business meeting followed the activity. Jackie announced that a final accounting of the previous month's auction revealed that \$1738.50 was raised for the chapter's Grant-in-Aid fund. Applications for the Grant-in-Aid are on our website under *Forms*.

Gamma Alpha will be responsible for handling registration at the State Convention during the weekend of May 4. The chapter has also agreed to assist the Seedlings organization by selling their fund-raising items to convention attendees. All members are encouraged to help with these activities. According to members who have attended in previous years, the state convention provides a great opportunity for fun and fellowship. As convention co-chairmen, Judi Fisher and Jackie Smart have the unique responsibility of assigning seating for the president's banquet at the convention. Jackie modestly announced that she is a candidate for 1st Vice-President at the state level of Delta Kappa Gamma. She has denied any current plans for a presidential candidacy in the future.

There will be an Executive Board meeting on January 10. All committee chairpersons are asked to e-mail their reports to Jackie before then. No general chapter meeting will be held that month.

The February 7 meeting will be held at Dream Dinners. All who wish to attend must pre-register on-line. The address and information is in the calendar portion of the newsletter.

The March 7 meeting will be at G. Subu's Leather Bottle. The annual birthday dinner will be held on April 25. De-

tails regarding time and location will be forthcoming from the Birthday Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol A. Anderson, Recording Secretary

*Happy New Year from the Alpha Iota State Leadership Development Committee. May 2007 be filled with fond memories and great joy. May you make great impressions on those around you and touch many lives.*

### **THE OLD PHONE**

When I was quite young, my father had one of the first telephones in our neighborhood. I remember the polished, old case fastened to the wall. The shiny receiver hung on the side of the box. I was too little to reach the telephone, but used to listen with fascination when my mother talked to it.

Then I discovered that somewhere inside the wonderful device lived an amazing person. Her name was "Information Please" and there was nothing she did not know. Information Please could supply anyone's number and the correct time.

My personal experience with the genie-in-a-bottle came one day while my mother was visiting a neighbor. Amusing myself at the tool bench in the basement, I whacked my finger with a hammer, the pain was terrible, but there seemed no point in crying because there was no one home to give sympathy.

I walked around the house sucking my throbbing finger, finally arriving at the stairway. The telephone! Quickly, I ran for the footstool in the parlor and dragged it to the landing. Climbing up, I unhooked the receiver in the parlor and held it to my ear. "Information, please" I said into the mouthpiece just above my head. A click or two and a small clear voice spoke into my ear. "Information." "I hurt my finger..." I wailed into the phone, the tears came readily enough now that I had an audience. "Isn't your mother home?" came the question. "Nobody's home but me," I blubbered. "Are you bleeding?" the voice asked. "No," I replied. "I hit my finger with the hammer and it hurts." "Can you open the icebox?" she asked. I said I could. "Then chip off a little bit of ice and hold it to your finger," said the voice.

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

## International Events

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

### Northeast Regional Conference

Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

Acme, MI

July 25-28, 2007



State

Events

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

### Alpha Iota State Convention 2007

Detroit Marriot

Pontiac at Centerpoint

May 4-6, 2007

Information about both events are in the *Winter Wolverine*.



Carol and Amy are busy ironing holiday phrases onto the stockings.

After that, I called "Information Please" for everything. I asked her for help with my geography, and she told me where Philadelphia was. She helped me with my math. She told me my pet chipmunk that I had caught in the park just the day before, would eat fruit and nuts.

Then, there was the time Petey, our pet canary, died. I called, "Information Please," and told her the sad story. She listened, and then said things grown-ups say to soothe a child. But I was not consoled. I asked her, "Why is it that birds should sing so beautifully and bring joy to all families, only to end up as a heap of feathers on the bottom of a cage?"

She must have sensed my deep concern, for she said quietly, "Paul, always remember that there are other worlds to sing in." Somehow I felt better.

Another day I was on the telephone, "Information Please." "Information," said the now familiar voice. "How do I spell fix?" I asked. All this took place in a small town in the Pacific Northwest. When I was nine years old, we moved across the country to Boston. I missed my friend very much.

"Information Please" belonged in that old wooden box back home and I somehow never thought of trying the shiny new phone that sat on the table in the hall. As I grew into my teens, the memories of those childhood conversations never really left me. Often, in moments of doubt and perplexity I would recall the serene sense of security I had then. I appreciated now how patient, understanding, and kind she was to have spent her time on a little boy.

A few years later, on my way west to college, my plane put down in Seattle. I had about a half-hour or so between planes. I spent 15 minutes or so on the phone with my sister, who lived there now. Then without thinking what I was doing, I dialed my hometown operator and said, "Information Please."

Miraculously, I heard the small, clear voice I knew so well. "Information." I hadn't planned this, but I heard myself saying, "Could you please tell me how to spell fix?" There was a long pause. Then came the soft spoken answer, "I guess your finger must have healed by now." I laughed, "So it's really you," I said. "I wonder if you have any idea how much you meant to me during that time?"

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## January 10 Agenda

Executive Board, Committee Chairmen and interested members should arrive at 4:00 (or as soon as you can) to Jackie's house.

- Complete reports for the State
- Select Chapter Woman of Distinction
- Obtain details about the Birthday Dinner
- Dream Dinners info is in the calendar. After you register, please let Jackie know if you are attending.
- We plan on initiating new members at the Birthday Dinner.
- The March meeting will be held at the Leather Bottle in Livonia.

## February 7th Agenda

Meet at dream Dinners promptly at 5:00. The only new business we need to conduct is to present new candidates for membership and give Mary Jo applications for the Grant-in-Aid.

## No Child Left Behind- Football Version



### New Federal Rules for High Schools

1. All teams must make the state playoffs and all **MUST** win the championship. If a team does not win the championship, they will be on probation until they are the champions, and coaches will be held accountable. If after two years they have not won the championship, their footballs and equipment will be taken away **UNTIL** they do win the championship.

2. All kids will be expected to have the same football skills at the same time even if they do not have the same conditions or opportunities to practice on their own. **NO** exceptions will be made for lack of interest in football, a desire to perform athletically, or genetic abilities or disabilities of themselves or their parents. **ALL KIDS WILL PLAY FOOTBALL AT A PROFICIENT LEVEL!**

3. Talented players will be asked to workout on their own, without instruction. This is because the coaches will be using all their instructional time with the athletes who aren't interested in football, have limited athletic ability or whose parents don't like football.

4. Games will be played year round, but statistics will only be kept in the 4th, 8th and 11th games. It will create a New Age of Sports where every school is expected to have the same level of talent and all teams will reach the same minimum goals. If no child gets ahead, then no child gets left behind.

If parents do not like this new law, they are encouraged to vote for vouchers and support private schools that can screen out the non-athletes and prevent their children from having to go to school with bad football players.

### *The Sunshine Committee*

*Sends*

*Birthday Greetings*

*To*

*January*

- |    |                 |
|----|-----------------|
| 1  | Carol Anderson  |
| 7  | Donna Colaianne |
| 13 | Mary Jo Dreffs  |
| 31 | Marie Canzoneri |

*February*

- |    |                |
|----|----------------|
| 20 | Danielle Jopek |
| 29 | Marge Braun    |

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



## *President's Message*



### *Get Smart!*

February's meeting at Dream Dinners will make you feel like you are a part of the Food Network! You can cook with someone else cleaning up after you. When we have a lull in the cooking we will conduct at least two items of business.

1. You are asked to present candidates for membership. Bring the filled out form from the website with you. If you are in a new building, you have the perfect opportunity to seek out new members. We had several guests at the Holiday Auction who were indicated an interest in joining. Contact friends, daughters-in-law, nieces, cousins, neighbors who are currently employed in or recently retired from education who would benefit from the camaraderie of ΔΚΓ.
2. If you have the name of a women who might benefit from the Grant-in-Aid, the application is also on our website under Forms. We are able to award three grants because of the generosity of out membership.

*Jackie*

## *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

### The Collectors

By David Baldacci

I'd read a couple reviews that really slammed this book, so when a friend recommended it to me, I was reluctant to read it. But, of course, I did. I mean we're talking about David Baldacci, after all, the man who has been responsible for several sleepless nights at my house. *"Absolute Power," "Split Second," "The Hour Game,"* and *"The Camel Club,"* masterpieces all. Baldacci's books are about entertainment, and he really entertains. He takes us out of our lives and plants us squarely with his characters. No longer are we mere teachers.

Still, after those horrid reviews, I was afraid I'd be disappointed, for I've never picked up a book by this man that I didn't thoroughly enjoy. But after the first page, I knew the reviews were wrong.

The assassination of the U.S. Speaker of the House has shaken the nation. And the Camel Club has found a chilling connection with another death: the body of the director of the Library of Congress's rare books room has been found in a locked vault. The Camel Club's unofficial leader, a man who calls himself Oliver Stone, discovers that someone is selling America to its enemies one classified secret at a time. Then Annabelle Conroy, the greatest con artist of her generation, struts her way into the club and gives it a sexy new edge-one it needs. Because the two murders are hurtling the Camel Club into a world of espionage that can bring America to its knees.

O.K., you might say the premise is impossible, but it's not to those who are still wondering who killed JFK. And besides, isn't that what thrillers are supposed to be about, taking an impossible premise and making us believe in it and believe me, Baldacci makes you believe in his plot and care for the people who walk through his pages.

Again, this is most definitely a five star thriller/mystery. I can't recommend it highly enough.

## Good Eating

### Chicken Picatta

*We all love the chicken picatta at the Leather Bottle. Give this recipe a try and part-time employment is guaranteed at the restaurant.*

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- salt and pepper to taste
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts
- 3 tablespoons of olive oil
- 4 ounces fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 2-4 cloves of minced garlic
- 1 (14 ounce) can artichoke hearts, drained and quartered
- 2 tablespoons of capers
- Chopped fresh parsley

#### Directions:

1. Pound chicken breasts between sheets of waxed paper or within a food storage bag until thinned and evenly flattened. Slice into thin strips for scaloppini.
2. In a shallow bowl, mix together flour, paprika, and salt and pepper. Dredge chicken pieces in the seasoned flour.
3. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat, and sauté chicken until light golden brown. Remove chicken from skillet, and set aside.
4. To skillet, sauté the garlic. Add mushrooms, lemon juice, and chicken stock. Simmer until a smooth, light sauce develops.
5. Return chicken to the skillet, and simmer until chicken is no longer pink and juices run clear.
6. Stir in artichoke hearts and remove from heat.
7. Serve with rice or pasta. Top chicken with sauce. Garnish with capers and parsley.



## 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) or [jackie@mysmartfamily.com](mailto:jackie@mysmartfamily.com) (when Judi's email is on the fritz!)

### 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 you 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. Gamma Alpha will be manning the registration table during the Convention. We need a good member turnout at the Convention to complete this task. The hotel is within commuting distance, so you won't have to stay unless you want. Details regarding the convention and workshop sessions can be found in 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.

## MEA Voice Bytes

### New Rules for Teacher Certification Posted

The administrative rules governing teacher certification have been revised to reflect changes in state law and the new rules are now available online for review. Among the new rules for teachers is one that requires those applying for the renewal of a provisional certificate or initial issuance of a professional education certificate after July 1, 2007, to have completed a three-credit reading course as prescribed in the law.

Another rule change will permit the first three-year renewal of a provisional certificate based on nine-formerly 10-semester credit hours in a planned program at an approved teacher preparation institution.

For questions, contact Mary Anne Adams, MEA Professional Development and Human Rights consultant, at 800-292-1934, or [madams@mea.org](mailto:madams@mea.org).

### Guide for Child Abuse or Neglect Available

A new guide is available for school personnel to explain the legal standard for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect. The guide explains what constitutes child abuse or neglect as well as how to make a report.

Michigan law requires that certain people report any case of suspected child abuse or child neglect to the Michigan Department of Human Services. Mandated reporters include all school administrators, counselors and teachers.

The guide was prepared by the Michigan State University Chance at Childhood Program with assistance from the Michigan Department of Human Services, the Michigan Prosecuting Attorneys Association, and the Lansing School District.

To read the *School Personnel Guide for Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect*, go to [http://www.mea.org/voicetoday/mandated\\_reporter.pdf](http://www.mea.org/voicetoday/mandated_reporter.pdf)

(Continued from page 3)

I wonder," she said, "if you know how much your call meant to me. I never had any children and I used to look forward to your calls." I told her how often I had thought of her over the years and I asked if I could call her again when I came back to visit my sister. "Please do", she said. "Just ask for Sally."

Three months later I was back in Seattle. A different voice answered, "Information." I asked for Sally. "Are you a friend?" she said. "Yes, a very old friend," I answered. "I'm sorry to have to tell you this," she said. "Sally had been working part-time the last few years because she was sick. She died five weeks ago." Before I could hang up she said, "Wait a minute, did you say your name was Paul?" "Yes." I answered. "Well, Sally left a message for you. She wrote it down in case you called. Let me read it to you."

The note said, "Tell him there are other worlds to sing in. He'll know what I mean." I thanked her and hung up. I knew what Sally meant.

Never underestimate the impression you may make on others. Whose life have you touched today?



Two of Santa's elves, Mary Jo and Fran, arrange a few of the many items that were donated by Gamma Alpha members.