



# Gamma Alpha Bulletin

## International News

### Let Global Exchange Enhance Your Travel

To promote friendship around the world, the Global Exchange program allows members to visit a home in another member's country. The sign-up page provides members a way to offer their homes to other members. Sample questions include:

- Where in the world do you live?
  - What accommodations do you have?
  - Do you have limits/rules about pets, handicap access, ages, etc.
  - When is your space available?
- Add information you believe is pertinent.

Log on [www.deltakappagamma.net](http://www.deltakappagamma.net) and find a place to visit!

Select the tab:

"For Members, Global Exchange,"

User Name: GEGuest

Password: GEDKG2008.

If you need additional information or have questions contact:

[webmanager@deltakappagamma.org](mailto:webmanager@deltakappagamma.org)

## President's Message



Dear Gamma Alpha Sisters,

I've been working on my "Bucket List" this last month, performing in a water show at Schoolcraft and successfully competing with the Michigan Synchro Masters in the 2008 U.S. Synchronized Swimming Masters Competition in Las Vegas. It was an adventure! I hope you enjoyed our lively September meeting and your summer "treasure" from our silent auction. Thanks to all who contributed and those who took a chance. Our "new" used book sale raised \$17 for our general fund. Great reads were happily exchanged. Please continue to bring books to our next meeting as this will be an ongoing exchange/fundraiser. And speaking of our next meeting on October 29th, don't forget a bag of Halloween candy (no nuts) for the Methodist Children's Village. We'll also have "Simply Fun" with a games demo and sale and orient new members to our chapter.

Twenty seats have been reserved for our chapter at the Tipping Point

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## Meeting Information

### October 29

Invite your candidate to the meeting for orientation. Be sure to bring the completed form with you.

Bring a bag of Halloween candy for the MCV (no nuts in ingredients).

Grace is requesting that you bring some caps from water bottles. She needs sixty for our table favors and can't drink that much water!

We will be playing several games from "SimplyFun". See page 8 for more info about "SimplyFun." The games can be purchased for your family, as gifts, or for the MCV. Proceeds from the sales will be donated to MCV.

RSVP to Jackie by **Oct. 24**  
[jackie@mysmartfamily.com](mailto:jackie@mysmartfamily.com)

### November 19

This is the big one! Our Annual Holiday Auction. Bring lots of friends and \$\$

## 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 17, 2008

We were welcomed back to DKG with bags of goodies from Fran and Jackie. Thanks, ladies! The meeting began at 6:10 after a nice dinner at Subu's. Fran welcomed everyone back and we had a great icebreaker provided by Judy Hurley, Jennifer Chambers, and Kristin Chiasson. We learned lots of things about the other members at our tables.

Cindy presented the treasurer's report. We will have an increase in our dues due to a \$20 increase from International. We chose to compromise and only increase our dues by \$10 to \$75 for all members. We'll have less money to work but with some cost cutting we should still be able to maintain our projects. For example, instead of reprinting a new yearbook each year the info will be available on CD per member request and on our website. The agenda and bulletins for each meeting will be emailed each month. (Thanks, Jackie!) We will have a used nook sale to add to the chapter treasury.

Fran reminded all of us to check which committee we have been asked to work on. There are lots of jobs and we'll need help in every area. You may change your committee if you would like.

Lynn Elsesser and Judi Fisher presented 2 women who may be interested in joining Gamma Alpha; Pam Husson and Judy Meronte. We'll be glad to welcome if they choose to join us! Members should invite their candidates to the October meeting for orientation.

The Used Book Exchange was a success. There were lots of good books to choose from and we earned \$18. We decided to do this every meeting so be sure to bring your "oldies but goodies" to each meeting. Carol Palk will be in charge of this.

Our Vacation Souvenir Raffle earned \$160! Thanks to all who brought and bought!

Just a few notes about upcoming meetings...

**October 29** - Bring a bag of Halloween candy to be given to the Children's Methodist Village. No nuts please.

**November 19** - (Holiday Auction) We will need lots of things so start planning now. We will have fliers to pass out at the October meeting but begin inviting your friends and family to join us soon!

**April 22** - (Tipping Point Theater) Fran explained that the cost would be \$16 because it is a preview show and asked for a show of hands if interested. Sixteen of us were interested so she will set this up. More details will follow. This is also our Birthday Dinner.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Mary Jo Dreffs, Recording Secretary

### Save the Bottles, Save the Sticks Save the Planet

The Elmer's Glue Crew Recycling Program got off to an amazing start last year, with classrooms in all 50 states collecting their empty glue bottles and glue sticks for recycling. In total, the program reached more than 750,000 students!

For the 2008-09 school year, Elmer's and Wal-Mart® are teaming up again to make the Glue Crew Recycling Program an even bigger success - with a goal of over a million glue bottles and glue sticks collected!

Elmer's Glue Crew Recycling Program is a fun, hands-on way to teach about recycling. As a program member, you'll have access to plenty of helpful recycling-related curriculum and fun projects to keep your kids excited about recycling. Best of all, you and your students also have the opportunity to win hundreds of great prizes, including Elmer's products and more!

For more information and classroom resources, go to:

<http://www.elmersgluecrew.com>

**Book Talk**  
The Glass Castle  
By Jeannette Walls



If you thought your family was dysfunctional or that you had a tough childhood, this book will make you think twice. Jeanette Walls writes a story about resilience and survival.

Walls presents her amazing childhood memoir full of homelessness, neglect, near sexual abuse, and disappointments in a way that allows you to make your own judgments about the adults in her life.

Walls accurately depicts the despair of a child of an alcoholic father. You are often horrified by her living situation and her frequently neglectful parents. Every chapter in the book makes you cringe or cry or sigh for the children. Through the entire awfulness of this existence there is a love for her parents that shines through on every page. It is abundantly clear that as negligent as her parents were, Walls has somehow moved past her anger and has forgiven them both. She writes with clarity and compassion for her family. At times you hate her parents, and then suddenly you are in awe of their quirkiness and unique take on life.

This book is indeed truthful in that the ones who hurt us the most are often those who we love the most. The book also sends out another message and that is **acceptance**.

Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them to become what they are capable of being.

Goethe

*(Continued from page 1)*

Theatre in Northville for the April 22, 8 p.m. preview performance of The Complete Works of Wm. Shakespeare (Abridged). To hold your seat, please send me a check for \$16. made to Gamma Alpha. We need at least 16 participants to keep this low ticket cost. If there is interest, we can accommodate more than 20.

And continuing with future meeting plans, remember our upcoming November 19th Holiday Auction. Invite friends and prospective members. Do you have an item to donate? You might even consider donating a service for the auction: cooking, baking, gift wrapping, card making, computer help, etc. Be creative!

Seven our members attended the Fall Conference in Alpena and will share some of their experiences at our next meeting.

Fran

**Sunshine Committee  
Birthday Greetings  
for  
October**



- October 21 Alice Duke**
- October 21 Laura Oliver**
- October 23 Lisa Austin**
- October 26 Mary Lou Flynn**

2008-2009 CALENDAR



**SEPTEMBER**

**OCTOBER 29, 2008**

Location: G. Subu's

5:30 Dinner

6:30 Meeting

Hostesses: Membership Committee with Carol Anderson and Finance Committee with Grace Morgan

**October Icebreakers** Lynne Elsesser  
Lynda Neuroth  
Judi Fisher

Agenda:

- Introduction of New Members and Orientation
- "Simply Fun" Demonstration/playing of games and sale to benefit Methodist Children's Village
- Making crafts for holiday auction table favors
- Bring a bag of Halloween candy for the Methodist Children's Village (no nuts, please)
- Used book sale.

**NOVEMBER 19, 2008**

Location: G. Subu's Arrive at 5:00 to register and set up your items for the auction.

5:30 Dinner

6:30 Auction

Hostesses: Grant-in-Aid Committee and Auction Committee

**No Icebreakers this month!**

Agenda:

- Holiday Auction** and 50/50 raffle (Prepayment of \$25 is necessary for this event.)
- You and your guests should arrive for the auction at 5:00 at G. Subu's Leather Bottle. This will give you plenty of time for auction registration, displaying your auction donation, cocktails, and camaraderie.
- Family style dinner will begin approximately at 5:30. The auction will begin promptly after dinner.

**Holiday Auction Reminders**

1. Members need to bring a 3x5 card for each item they donate. On the card, they should describe the item, a suggested opening bid, and name of the donor. Members should try to bring more than one donation so we will have a variety of auction items.
2. Suggested items or services that could be donated:
  - Gift Certificates, Theater/Movie/Game Tickets
  - Baked goods
  - Massage
  - Theme Baskets, Teacher Baskets
  - Holiday items/ decorations
  - Books/Books on Tape
  - Crafts

**JANUARY 28, 2009**

Location: G. Subu's

4:30 Executive Board Meeting (Only Executive Board members need to attend.)

5:30 Dinner

6:30 Meeting

Hostesses: Executive Board and Membership Committee

**Icebreakers**

Chris Smith

Mary Lou Flynn

Danielle Jopek

Cindy Dietz

**Agenda:**

Executive Board Meeting at 4:30

Initiation of New Members

Used book sale.

Guest Speaker

"One Crayon Project" is a presentation by Melissa McDermid, a Farmington Teacher and Delta Kappa Gamma member. Melissa won the National Milken Educator Award (\$25,000) and decided to use the money traveling to Tanzania, volunteering in a school, and helping the community of Arusha, Tanzania. Below is an excerpt from her blog about the One Crayon Project...

*"I've really been pondering how to respond to my trip to Tanzania. How does an individual give back to a community that welcomed me into their lives? I know that I must find an appropriate way to respond and keep giving! I've been thinking about different avenues to take and would love to include others on the journey! My current thinking is to have a night to share my experiences with everyone. I just have to figure out when, where, and how to share my experience. Everyone has been great at offering to help... so my current issue is what is the best way to help, how to do it and how to make the effort sustainable. The One Crayon Project... how does that sound. One Pencil, One Crayon, One HUGE Group of Individuals Making a Difference! The name comes from the idea that the nursery (kindergarten) children have the choice of ONE CRAYON to color with. I don't think I'll forget watching children pick ONE CRAYON. That gave that gave me a moment of pause... my students have the choice of 96 crayons, colored pencils, or even smelly markers. Yet these children pick ONE CRAYON and are satisfied. Hence... The One Crayon Project!"*

**Come to our January meeting and learn about Arusha, Tanzania and be inspired!**



**MARCH 3, 2009** Note the day is **TUESDAY**. The church is not available on Wednesdays.

Location: Geneva Presbyterian Church  
Sheldon Road (north of Ford Road)  
Canton

Time: 5:30

Hostesses: Personal Growth Committee with Grace Morgan and Amy Wainwright

**Icebreakers**

Donna Colaianne

Nancy Chiasson

**Agenda:**

Cooking Demonstration with celebrity chefs, Chefs Lisa Austin and Kristin Chiasson.

Recipe Exchange (Start sending Jackie 3 or more of your favorite recipes to [jackie@mymartfamily.com](mailto:jackie@mymartfamily.com) We'll print copies for all and have them available at the meeting. **Send your recipes by February 1.**

Used book sale.

Nine tenths of education is encouragement.  
Anatole France

## APRIL 22, 2009

Location: G. Subu's for dinner followed by Tipping Point Theatre

Hostesses: Birthday Committee and Executive Board

**Icebreakers** Carol Anderson  
Amy Wainwright

Agenda:

- 5:30 Family Style Birthday Dinner at G. Subu's  
(Pre-payment of \$25 for the family style dinner will be necessary.)
- 6:30 Honor Retirees  
Award Scholarship/Grant-in-Aid  
Birthday Ceremony (Gamma Alpha 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
- 8:00 "The Complete Works of Will'm Shakespeare, Abridged"  
Tipping Point Theatre  
361 E. Cady Street in Northville

(With a minimum of 15, the tickets will be \$16. We will need to pre-order the tickets early.)

## MAY 1-3, 2009

Alpha Iota State Convention in Grand Rapids

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Information will be in the *Winter Wolverine* and in future newsletters. Please plan on attending.

## JUNE 2009

Date /Location/Time TBD at January Executive Board Meeting

Hostesses: Executive Board

Agenda: Planning Meeting for 2009-2010

### Kitchen Talk Skillet Tamale Pie

#### Tamale Filling

2 T vegetable oil  
1 medium onion, minced  
2 T chili powder  
Salt  
2 medium cloves of minced garlic  
1 lb ground sirloin (lean)  
1 can of black beans, drained and rinsed (15.5 oz)  
1 can drained diced tomatoes (14.5 oz)  
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese  
2 T minced cilantro  
Pepper

#### Cornbread Topping

3/4 cup all purpose flour  
3/4 yellow cornmeal  
3 T sugar  
3/4 t baking powder  
3/4 t baking soda  
3/4 t salt

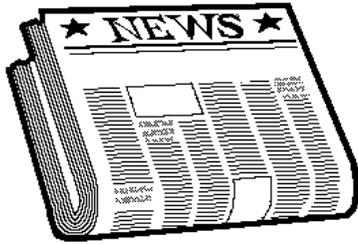


3/4 cup of buttermilk  
1 large egg  
3 T melted, but cooled unsalted butter

#### Procedure:

1. Heat oven to 450 degrees
2. For the **tamale filling**, cook onion and chili powder in oil until the onion is softened. Add the garlic and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds.
3. Stir in ground sirloin, beans and tomatoes and bring to a simmer. Break up meat with a wooden spoon. Stir in the cheddar and cilantro into the filling. Add salt and pepper to taste. Pour into a casserole dish.
4. For the **cornbread topping** whisk together dry ingredients in a bowl. In a separate bowl, whisk the buttermilk and egg together. Stir this mixture into the flour mixture until uniform. Stir in the melted butter until just combined.
5. Dollop the batter evenly over the filling and spread into an even layer. Bake until the cornbread is cooked through in the center (about 10-15 minutes.) Serves 4.
6. Enjoy.

## Metro Council News



One of the goals of Metro Council is to encourage council chapters to network. Although we generally meet for a council luncheon in even numbered years, we like to keep communication lines open to publicize attendance at special chapter events. Please share this information with your chapter membership.

Gamma Gamma, Metro Council's Plymouth-Canton chapter, has two events they would like to invite us to attend. The first event is their annual scholarship fund-raising Craft Fair that will be held on October 18 at West Middle School in Plymouth from 10:00 - 4:00. Unfortunately, this event is during the Fall Workshop weekend and many are committed to going to Alpena for Executive Board. But for those not traveling north, the Craft Fair would be an enjoyable afternoon of shopping therapy.

Gamma Gamma's second event will be held on November 6 at 5:00 at the Plymouth Library, located in downtown Plymouth. Nancy Berkompas, Past State President, will do an encore presentation of **Leadership...What Does It Mean? Who Can Do It?** This presentation is for those interested in being a stronger leader in their classroom, district, or community. Nancy will discuss different perspectives of leadership and strategies that will broaden one's understanding of leadership. Nancy states, "If you are thinking that leadership is not on your horizon, think again. Remember, you lead everyday just by being your own drummer." Gamma Gamma will provide beverages and finger foods. The cost will be under \$10 (exact price is still TBD) and will be collected at the door.

Please RSVP your intentions by October 31. For more information and to RSVP, contact Alice

Chrenko at (248) 348-9601 or by email at dachrenko@hotmail.com

Zeta, Metro Council's Detroit chapter, will host their annual Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 13 at 10:00 at the beautiful St. Regis Hotel.

3071 W Grand Blvd  
Detroit (313) 873-3000

The cost of the brunch is \$28. Send checks payable to Delta Kappa Gamma Zeta Chapter to:

Elizabeth Cooper  
16515 Edinborough  
Detroit, MI 48291  
(313) 533-4260

Zeta will have a Chinese Auction with the proceeds going to their educational project (classroom dictionaries and thesauri for the new Christo Rey High School in Southwest Detroit). Alpha Chapter will have a "Giving Tree" at the brunch to benefit their particular Service Project.

I hope many of you are able to take advantage of the events.

### **I Believe...**

That just because two people argue, it doesn't mean they don't love each other. And just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean they do.

That we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.

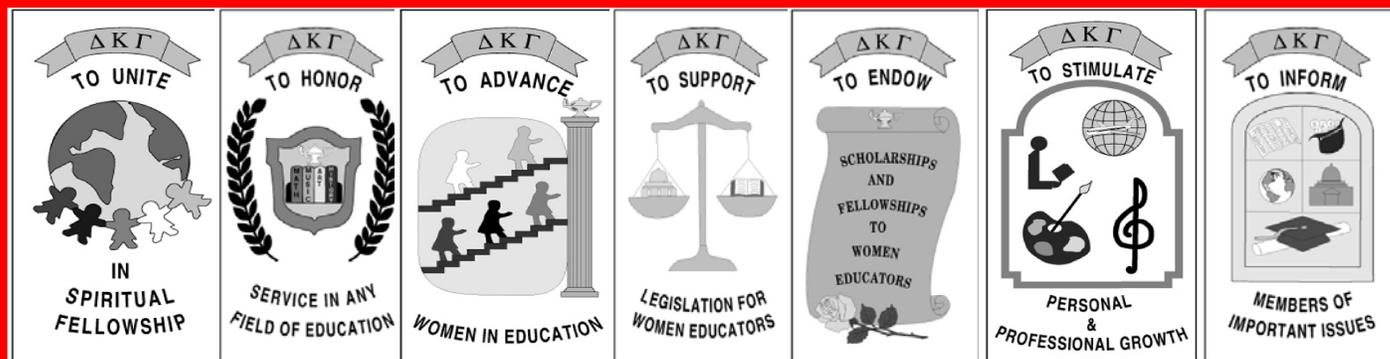
That money is a lousy way of keeping score.

That credentials on the wall don't make you a decent person.

That our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we become.

*Borrowed from St. Roch Catholic Church, Caseville, MI newsletter*

## Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



### Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committee Chairmen

#### Executive Board

President	Fran Saenz
First Vice President	Amy Wainwright
2nd Vice President	Carol Anderson
Recording Secretary	Mary Jo Dreffs
Corresponding Sec.	Jackie Smart
Treasurer	Cindy Dietz
Parliamentarian	Barbara Broadley

#### Committee Chairmen

Personal Growth & Service	Esther Loskowske
Professional Affairs	Lynne Elsesser
Research/History	Sherry Green
US Forum/Legislation	Pam Emerson
Music	Chris Smith
Grant-in-Aid	Debbie Ervin
Birthday	Helen Mate
World Fellowships	Colleen Retherford
Yearbook/Newsletter	Jackie Smart
Sunshine	Donna Colaianne & Nancy Chiasson
Finance	Grace Morgan
Nominations	Danielle Jopek
Holiday Auction	Mary Jo Dreffs

#### Ice Breakers

**October:** Judi Fisher, Lynda Neuroth, Lynne Elsesser  
**January:** Chris Smith, Mary Lou Flynn, Cindy Dietz, Danielle Jopek  
**March:** Donna Colaianne, Nancy Chiasson  
**April:** Carol Anderson, Amy Wainwright

### SimplyFun

*Play, It's About Life*

Spend time together with your friends and family by enjoying a board game together!

Do you remember how your parents encouraged you, from the day you were born, to play?

For children, play teaches valuable life skills like sharing, learning to win and lose gracefully, understanding risk and rewards, building relationships and much more. As adults, play is often given inadequate time and attention, replaced by daily activities and other obligations and priorities. The benefits of play are plentiful and we often yearn to bring more play back into our lives.

Play should always feel like time well spent. It should be engaging, entertaining, personally rewarding and fun.

Through play, we are reminded to relax and spend special time with loved ones and friends.

All of the *SimplyFun* games and play products were designed to be learned in five minutes or less and be played in less than thirty minutes.