



Gamma Alpha Bulletin

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!



News for our newsletter. Are you having an exciting event in your life like retirement, a new grandchild or a marriage in your family? Have you been on a trip that you are excited about? Have you spent time on an innovative project or one of service to others? Have you just been recognized for your accomplishments or received some honor? Have you just completed your masters or doctorate program? Let us know. Gamma Alpha members care about you and want to celebrate the good things in your life. Send or phone in your news to Jackie Smart. Photos are welcomed and appreciated.

**Education is the best
provision for old age.
-Aristotle**

President's Message

Dear Gamma Alpha Sisters,

I hope you're enjoying some spring sunshine and fresh air. The return of my daffodils and tulips always lifts my spirits. After enjoying our chapter's 30th Birthday Celebration, I'm looking forward to the state Convention in Grand Rapids. We are so proud and excited to have our own Jackie Smart as the nominee for our next state president. We know how hard she works for Gamma Alpha and how lucky Alpha Iota is to have her leadership for the next biennium. Even with all her new responsibilities, Jackie has volunteered to continue producing our award winning chapter newsletter.

At our last meeting didn't we all enjoy the tasty and healthy treats prepared for us by Lisa and Kristin? We are fortunate to have such a competent, talented and generous membership. Thanks go to many chapter members for their efforts to help others. In March, our chapter bowlers helped Seedlings raise funds for new Braille books. Speaking of Seedlings, Debra Bonde and the volunteer

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Meeting Information

April 22, 2009

Birthday Dinner at G. Subu's Leather Bottle. Arrive at 4:15 p.m. for the festivities!

See calendar for specifics.

May 1-3, 2009

State Convention in Grand Rapids.

May 28, 2009

Open House for the community at Seedlings. More information later.

June 18, 2009

Planning meeting and salad luncheon at Fran's.

Mission Statement

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



SHOE-IN Challenge



Chapter Challenge

Recognition at the 2010 International Convention in Spokane, Washington, will be given to ALL chapters who accomplish **one, two, or all three** of the following:



- **Maintain** the number of members in the chapter from January 2009 through May 2010
- **Increase** the overall number of members in the chapter in the same time frame as above
- **Add** a member from an educational environment not currently represented in the chapter.

State Organization Challenge

Recognition at the 2010 International Convention in Spokane, Washington, will be given to ALL state organizations who

- **Install** at least one new chapter or reinstate a dissolved chapter.



2008-2010 International Membership Committee
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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staff are celebrating 25 years of service to the blind on Thursday, May 28th at their office on Farmington Road from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Gamma Alpha will be involved in providing and serving some of the appetizers for this community event. If you have not had the opportunity to visit Seedlings, this will be the perfect opportunity to get involved. More details will be shared at the Birthday Dinner. Thanks in advance for donating your bag of "Summer Fun" to the boys at the Methodist Children's Village and gardening items for our basket to be included in the "Funding Our Purposes" raffle at the state convention. You've all been so generous in a lean economic time.

And speaking of members, are there coworkers that you might invite to a meeting or consider for membership? Please mention our Society and its philanthropic activities and scholarship opportunities whenever you can. Would you be willing to share Delta Kappa Gamma information at your school next fall?

The time is already here to think about next year's programs. What kind of programs are interesting for working and retired members? Should we try to have some of our programs where CEU credit can be earned? You are all invited to come with your great ideas, resources and calendars to our annual planning session and salad luncheon on Thursday, June 18th at 11:00 a.m. at my house in Livonia. I live just north of Six Mile Road and

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Sunshine Committee Birthday Greetings

April

4 Lynne Elsesser

May

4 Colleen Retherford

4 Sandy Becher

15 Carol Palk

18 Kristen Chiasson

24 Jennifer Chamber

28 Joan Murray-Custer

June

19- Fran Saenz

26 Marianne Reinhard

July

6 Lynda Neuroth

16 Suzanne Bacinski

20 Carol Holland

21 Judy Handley

Happy Birthday to you!

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just west of Farmington Road on 17269 Vacri Lane in Livonia. Please RSVP at mafrans@sbcglobal.net so that we have food for all. I'll have Jackie send directions and a reminder in early June. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Birthday Dinner next week. Until then...think summer!

Fran

Minutes in a Minute



March 3, 2009

After Fran opened the meeting we had a nice ice breaker by Donna and Nancy. Each of us chose a stone with an idea printed on it to talk about with the other members at our tables. It was really interesting learning new things about each other!

Carol Anderson told us about the Wall of Fame in which members of DKG who have impacted the area can be honored. Let Carol or Jackie know if you know of anyone. (We already thought of Fran.) The meeting continued with a fabulous cooking demonstration by Lisa Austin and Kristin Chiasson. The food was terrific and all of the recipes were easy to do. On top of that...everything we ate was even healthy! Thanks for the great ideas, ladies!

A few reminders...

- Birthday dinner/Tipping Point theater on April 22. Get your money to Cindy by April 15 if you plan to attend the dinner. The cost is \$25.00.
- The next meeting will be at Fran's house on June 18 at 11:00 a.m. We will be planning the agendas for next year. Please try to attend. WE NEED LOTS OF IDEAS AND HELP!
- Fall Workshop is at the Livonia Radisson on Oct.9-10. We ALL need to come because LOTS of help is needed so put the dates in your planner now!
- We will be raffling off a Garden Theme basket at the state convention and need items to put into it. Please bring some donations to the birthday dinner. (Jackie already sent out a list of suggestions from Amy so use one of these of be creative and think of something on your own.)
- Don't forget our Service Project for the Methodist Children's home. We're looking for gym bags filled with "goodies" for summer. (Again, Jackie is right on top of this...she's already sent out a list given to her by Esther!)

Respectfully Submitted:
Mary Jo Dreffs, Recording Secretary

2008-2009 CALENDAR



APRIL 22, 2009

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

Hostesses: Birthday Committee and Executive Board

Agenda: Icebreaker- Amy
Memorial Ceremony for Abby Roche
Initiation of New Members
Family Style Birthday Dinner at G. Subu's
Award Scholarships/Grant-in-Aid
Honor Retirees, Chapter Woman of Distinction, Past Chapter Presidents
50/50 Drawing
Birthday Ceremony (Gamma Alpha 30th Anniversary)
"The Complete Works of Will'm Shakespeare, Abridged" at the Tipping Point Theatre

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

May 28, 2009

Seedlings Open House for the community. Gamma Alpha will help provide and serve appetizers from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Sign-up at the Birthday Dinner.

JUNE 18, 2009

Hostesses: Executive Board

Agenda: Planning Meeting for 2009-2010 at Fran's house. More details in June

Seedlings News

On March 26, 2009, the Detroit Free Press published an article stating that fewer than 10% of legally blind people in the United States read Braille and quoting a report that says Braille appears to be dying. The following letter to the editor of the Free Press is in response to that article:

To the Editor:

The teaching of Braille may be faltering, but I can assure you that Braille, itself, is not dying for those of us who have learned to make it a vital part of our lives. Children learning Braille are permitted the thrill of holding a book in their own hands, turning the next page eagerly to see how the plot will unfold and, almost without knowing it, learning spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraph organization, and all that makes up clear writing. As an engineer with GM for over twenty years, I have gained access to mathematics thanks to Braille. Braille permits me to label paperwork so I can find information quickly. Braille has permitted me to read to my family, building special bonds of shared experience. In short, Braille is the key to literacy for those of us who are blind.

*Jerry Weichbrodt
President, Board of Trustees
Seedlings Braille Books for Children*

We applaud Jerry for speaking so eloquently on behalf of all of us who believe there is tremendous power in the written word.-Debra Bonde

MEA News Bites

Certification Alert

It is a teacher's professional responsibility to always know where their teaching certificate is and when it expires. Depending on the type of certificate that you've been issued by the Michigan Department of Education and when, you may have some work to do to maintain your certificate.

Remember that a Professional Education teaching certificate expires on July 1 of any given year and must be renewed prior to that date to avoid a district taking action against your employment. A district may only employ a teacher with a valid certificate and once your certificate expires and has not been renewed the district may terminate your employment. Without a valid teaching certificate you no longer can invoke your rights under the Tenure Act.

A teacher is responsible for maintaining the validity of a teaching certificate. The date of expiration appears on the face of a certificate so take time to know that date. It is not the responsibility of the district or the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to notify the teacher of an impending expiration date.

Teachers with a Provisional teaching certificate with 3 years of successful teaching experience and who have earned at least 18 semester credits in a planned program are encouraged to advance to the Professional Education teaching certificate prior to July 1, 2009 in order to avoid taking an additional 3 semester credit course in reading. Applications to request a university or college to recommend you to the MDE must be received by the certification officer of the institution prior to July 1, 2009. Similarly, if you will be applying directly to the MDE (in the case of completing credits through an out-of-state institution) the application will need to be postmarked prior to July 1, 2009.

Teachers holding a Provisional Teaching certificate who cannot advance in certification prior to July 1, 2009 will need to take a 3 semester credit course in the diagnosis and remediation of reading difficulties as a condition of advancing to the Professional Education teaching certificate. All Michigan teacher preparation institutions are prepared to offer an approved course, however, you will need to work closely with an out-of-state institution to be assured of meeting this requirement prior to applying to advance in certification.

Questions may be directed to Dr. Frank Ciloski at 1-800-292-1934 extension 6213.



Kitchen Talk "Nutty Carrots"

Carol Anderson

Ingredients:

5 cups of carrots
1 1/2 cups of water
1/2 teaspoon salt

Sauce:

1/2 cup of melted butter
2 teaspoons of honey
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons of lemon juice
1/4 teaspoon of grated lemon peel

Garnish:

1/2 cup of coarsely broken walnuts

Procedure:

Cook the carrots in the water with 1/2 teaspoon of salt until tender.
Drain thoroughly.
Meanwhile, heat the remaining ingredients, except the walnuts.
Pour the sauce over the carrots.
Toss with the walnuts.



Book Talk "My Gal Sunday"

Mary Higgins Clark



I won a basket of Mary Higgins Clark's books at a Christmas auction and this was the first one I read. Imagine Nick and Nora Charles with a taste for politics and none of the gin, and you'd be pretty close to Mary Higgins Clark's Henry Parker Britland IV and his attractive young wife, Sandra O'Brien Britland, known as "Sunday."

Henry Britland, possessor of an enormous inherited fortune and known as one of America's sexiest men, has just finished his second term as president of the United States and is happily retired at 44, puttering around his New Jersey country estate.

Sunday, who bootstrapped her way up from a modest working-class background, is a junior congresswoman with a reputation for smarts. The two met, romantically enough, on the eve of Henry's leaving office, fell madly in love, and were married six weeks later.

In this collection of four pleasantly readable short stories, the sleuthing duo catch the murderer of a statesman's flashy amour, endure Sunday's kidnapping and mastermind her rescue, solve the 34-year-old mystery of the disappearance of a foreign prime minister from the Britland family yacht, and reunite a ransomed French boy with his parents at Christmas.

Of the four, "They All Ran After the President's Wife" may be the best plotted, and has a particularly amusing villain in the character of a caviar-loving terrorist. While the suspense is on the mild side throughout, the romance is lighthearted, but sincere, and the occasional flashes of wit are dryly appealing. With a cup of tea and a warm afghan, these stories are like sweet little bonbons to be enjoyed.

State/International News



Successful Chapter Practices Survey

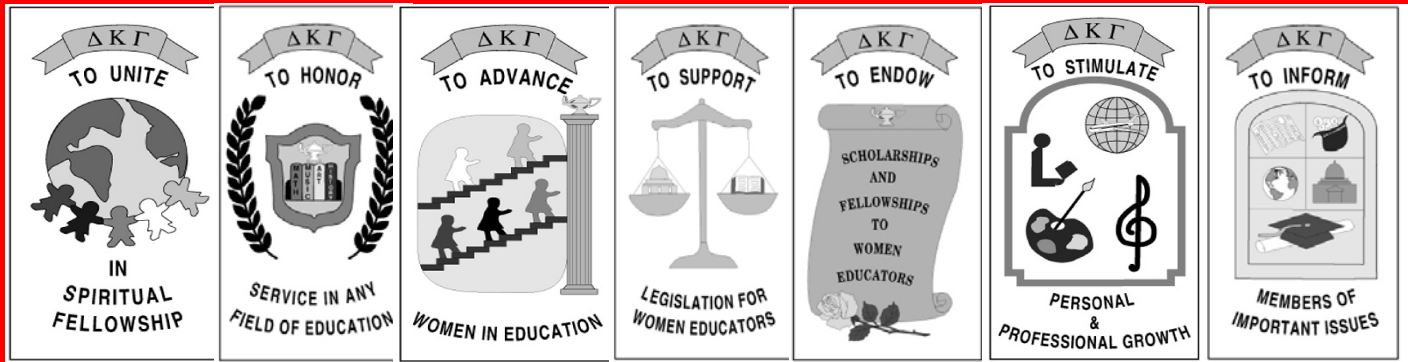
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International conducted a survey recently and below are the results. Please read and give feedback to Fran, Amy, Carol, Mary Jo, Cindy, or Jackie about areas where you think our chapter needs improvement. We welcome your input.

Result:

Successful Chapter Model

- Holds 4-6 well-planned, relatively informal but still structured, quick-moving business meetings per year
- Meets at varied times, days, and places convenient for working members
- Meets for approximately 1 ½ hours in length, excluding meals
- Has more refreshment-only meetings than meetings with meals
- Plans fellowship time as part of each meeting
- Focuses on meeting members' social needs (fellowship/camaraderie)
- Has open meetings and activities that welcome non-members
- Has a wide variety of high-quality, interesting programs and speakers, including programs that highlight community initiatives and those that use members' talents/expertise
- Supports a variety of one-time and ongoing projects that actively engage members
- Supports projects in the areas of mentoring/Collaborative Connections; fund-raising and volunteer efforts; scholarships and grants-in aid; community initiatives, especially for women and children; literacy; the legislative process; and others, including international projects
- Communicates with members in multiple ways: newsletter (print, website or email 4+ times a year), phone, email, snail mail, website
- Publicizes the Society through projects and activities that receive newspaper coverage as well as school and community recognition
- Has specific strategies in place for attracting new members, retaining members, engaging retired and employed members, and developing/nurturing new chapter leaders
- Implements formal and traditional initiation and installation ceremonies
- Emphasizes the Society's mission, purposes, and history
- Offers benefits and services that members cannot get elsewhere, including chapter scholarships, grants, interaction among a diverse group of educators, friendship/camaraderie, and service to community

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

No May/ June Icebreakers!

Research

One of the Seven Purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma is to **Inform** members of important issues. So...

Inform: Preschool teachers and parents/grandparents take note: Adding more numbers to your vocabulary when speaking to preschoolers helps boost their math skills. Researchers at the University of Chicago found that when teachers of 3-5 year olds used more numbers in their everyday conversations and instruction, their students' math skills improved. Simple things like, "This group of 3 can line up now" is better than "This group here can line up now."

Klibanoff, R. et al. (2006) Developmental Psychology, Vol 42(1).

Inform: Why do you teach? Apparently, teachers who are motivated mainly by intrinsic factors, so called "autonomous motivation", have a greater sense of personal accomplishment and fewer feelings of exhaustion. Perhaps more importantly, they promote autonomy-supported teaching which offers students choice and greater clarification of subject relevance. This type of teaching then is reflected in students' more positive feelings for the task at hand and greater behavioral engagement. The researchers for this study concluded with concern that the increase in high stakes testing would have a detrimental effect on these highly effective teachers by making them feel "less autonomous and consequently act in more controlling ways toward their students."

Roth, G. et al. (2007). Journal of Educational Psychology. Vol 99(4), 761-774