



Gamma Alpha Bulletin

The G.A.B. "Let's Talk"



Extra! Extra!
Read All About It!



I really want your **News** for our newsletter. Are you having an exciting event in your life like retirement, an upcoming vacation, a new grandchild, or a marriage in your family? Are you having an affair? (Just checking to see if you are reading this.) Have you been recognized for your accomplishments or received some honor? Let me 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.

President's Message



Our April Birthday meeting went by in such a pleasant blur, but I'll try to recall some of the highlights. We initiated Pam Husson and Judy Morante into our chapter. We welcome them into the sisterhood of Gamma Alpha! Thanks to Carol Anderson and our Membership committee for the ceremony.

I'd next like to thank the Birthday Committee for putting together an enjoyable 30th Birthday celebration. We appreciated the icebreaker from Amy, dinner, conversation and cake. Then the spirited DKG "Angels" (Helen, Esther and Jackie) took us back to 1979 when our chapter was founded. We also paused with Sherry Green for a touching tribute to charter member, Abby Roche, who left us this year. All our chapter's past presidents were also

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Mission Statement

*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
promotes professional and personal growth of women*



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Meeting Information

May 28, 2009

Open House for the community at Seedlings (14151 Farmington Road in Livonia) from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Notify Judi Fisher judifisher@yahoo.com if you are willing to help out.

June 18, 2009

Planning meeting and salad luncheon at Fran's at 11:00. Fran's address is 17269 Vacri Lane. Go north on Farmington. (Pretend you are going to Subu's.) After you pass Six Mile turn left on McNamara Drive. Then turn left on Vacri Lane. Fran's house is on the right.

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each honored with a special engraved plaque. Then, kudos to Carol Anderson, our chapter's 2009 Woman of Distinction. Carol has worked quietly and consistently for Gamma Alpha since she joined our chapter in 1997. She was also honored at our state convention.

Next, I'd like to acknowledge Esther Loskowske and her committee who organized the project, and to all who donated to the Summer Fun bags of athletic gear for the boys at the Methodist Children's Village. Your generosity is heartwarming.

Also, the gardening basket our chapter donated for auction at State Convention was lovely! Again thanks to your generous donations and to Amy Wainwright for attractively putting it all together. Twenty of us finished the evening at the Tipping Point Theatre, where we laughed through the comedy: "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged". It was a good day.

A grand weekend in Grand Rapids quickly followed. The Alpha Iota State Conference, May 1 - 3 was a success. I was able to attend a couple sessions when not in Executive Board meetings. I was fascinated by "Kids 4 Afghan Kids", a school project, presented by Khris Nedam, U.S. Director and a Northville teacher. We hope that Khris can repeat her presentation for our chapter. You will be amazed at her accomplishments. Our crafty Grace Morgan also presented a card making workshop which was very popular.

Jackie Smart was installed as our next State President. She was humble, strong, intelligent and funny at various times through the process. Her speech was an invitation to join her cause for her biennium: $\Delta\text{K}\Gamma$ Service, Sharing, Sisterhood, and Scholarship-We Hold the Key! Our chapter members enjoyed an afterglow party with Jackie where we played "homage" to our new leader. See the photos! We do love our fun.

Please join us to serve at Seedlings on 5/28/09. Our chapter is helping with their Open House. Contact Judi Fisher for the details judifisher@yahoo.com

Finally, you are all invited to my home on 17269 Vacri Lane, Livonia 48152, on Thursday, June 18th at 11:00 a.m. (We're north of Six Mile Rd. and west of Farmington. Turn left on McNamara then left on Vacri Lane.) This is our annual planning meeting and Executive Board where we schedule next year's meetings and events. Many hands are needed as we also have the responsibility of hosting the state's Fall Workshop. (Jackie put together a great power point invitation to Livonia at state convention.) I'll have salad ready. Please come with your calendars and great ideas. RSVP mafrans@sbcglobal.net or 734-522-7749. Hope to see you there.

Fran



Initiation Ceremony of New Members at Subu's Leather Bottle, April 22, 2009.

L-R: Amy, Pam, Judi, Lynne, Judy, Carol and Fran.

*I am not a teacher
but an awakener.
-Robert Frost*



Sunshine Committee Birthday Greetings

June

- 19- Fran Saenz
- 26 Marianne Reinhard

July

- 6 Lynda Neuroth
- 16 Suzanne Bacinski
- 20 Carol Holland
- 21 Judy Handley

Minutes in a Minute



April 22, 2009

We began our meeting with a fun activity provided by Amy. We were supposed to find number patterns on a page full of numbers. It looked easier than it was. Even after she gave us the clue many still couldn't finish it! She finished with a lovely story reminding us that our priorities should be with family and friends. Great job, Amy!

The ceremony initiating our new members took place next. As always, it was lovely and we are really glad to welcome our new members, Pam Husson and Judy

Meronte.

We celebrated the 30th birthday of Gamma Alpha with a funny presentation by Jackie, Esther, and Helen. Good job, ladies (but don't give up your day jobs for acting!)

Carol Anderson was our Woman of Distinction this year. Thanks for all of the hard work you have done since joining!

After another good dinner at Subu's we left to go to the play at Tipping Point Theater in Northville. Everyone who attended truly had a fun evening. The play was terrific! Thanks to Fran for planning it.

A BIG THANKS to our members for all of the "goodies" that were donated for the boys at the Methodist Children's Home. It was wonderful to see so much caring!

Just a reminder... **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 so please try to attend. We had some wonderful meetings this year and look forward to lots of new ideas from everyone.

Keep this date open...October 9-10. Fall Workshop is at the Livonia Radison and WE ARE IN CHARGE so we will need lots of help!

CONGRATULATIONS to Jackie as she has become the new state president of Delta Kappa Gamma! We know what a terrific job you do in our chapter and now the state can see that too!

Enjoy the summer!

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Jo Dreffs, Recording Secretary

President's Banquet Speech

Good evening. I hope everyone enjoyed today's workshop offerings, the delicious meal, the wonderful music provided by Rob Garrison and Alex Lough, as well as our wonderful Rosebud Chorus.

Before I begin my remarks, I would like to introduce my family...

My youngest daughter Hannah is a senior at Eastern Michigan University majoring in English and Marketing, Hannah's boyfriend Jason Pohl is a nursing student., and finally, my wonderful husband Ian. Ian has been an ex officio member of ΔΚΓ since he became Gamma Alpha's tech support and webmaster in '95. He has helped me become computer literate over the years. I am sure he can attest that was not an easy task. My eldest daughter Rachel could not be here. She is on a trip celebrating the completion of her Master's degree in Accounting. Gainful employment is in her future, and finally being off the Smart payroll!

A quote taken from one of John F. Kennedy's speeches was the theme for my high school graduating class in '65 - *Knowledge is Power*. I believe that this theme is still relevant today. The current economic climate has shown us that our students aren't just competing locally for good jobs - they're competing globally. As educators we understand that these opportunities can only be achieved through learning. *Knowledge is Still Power*. In preparation to speak at tonight's banquet, I thought how themes embody our ideals and aspirations.

Education themes are a declaration of faith in the future. They speak to a guiding belief that every child has talent, every child can learn, and as key women educators, we must nurture and fulfill the potential of all. In President Obama's words, "Yes, we can" or as one of my chapter members quipped, "Yes, ΔΚΓ can."

Some recent state themes embodied this "Yes, ΔΚΓ can" spirit:

Eileen Rodak's theme was **Caring, Doing, Sharing: On the Move For Children;**

Mary Tracey chose **Maximizing the Millennium - Ordinary Women Doing Extraordinary Things;**

Judy Foster's theme was **Light the Path to Excellence;**

Marilyn Mitchell chose **A Caring Community of Key Women Educators;**

And I am sure everyone who has attended a state event this year knows that J-Jay Pechta's theme has been **Key Women Educators - United in Purpose.**

My biennium theme will be

ΔΚΓ - Service, Sharing, Sisterhood, Scholarship - We Hold the Key

The Society Founders saw in themselves the ability:

- to be of **Service** to their community
- to **Share** their time and talents with others

- to unite women educators in a genuine spirit of fellowship - the **Sisterhood** we all hold dear
- and to endow **Scholarships** and lead women to new levels of professionalism

We need to carry on with past traditions, but continue to look forward to meet new challenges. Each of us who joins The Society has the same opportunities for **Service, Sharing, Sisterhood, and Scholarship**. We **ALL** hold the key.

I stand ready to take my turn as the elected President of Alpha Iota State and look forward to the challenges the next two years will bring. I would like to close with one of my favorite poems.

One Hundred Years From Now

by Forest Witcraft

*One Hundred Years from now
It will not matter
What kind of car I drove,
What kind of house I lived in,
How much money was in my bank account
Nor what my clothes looked like.
But the world may be a better place because
I was important in the life of a child.*



Jackie, with her crown and scepter, and J-Jay Pechta at the Awards Brunch on Sunday morning.

Kitchen Talk

Layered Taco Dip

Submitted by Carol Anderson

Ingredients:

1 pound lean ground beef
1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chilies, undrained
2 teaspoons beef flavored instant bouillon
1 can (15 ounces) refried beans
16 ounces sour cream
1 packet (1.7 ounces) taco seasonings mix
Guacamole (purchased or homemade)
Garnishes: shredded cheddar cheese, chopped tomatoes, sliced green onions, sliced ripe olives, chopped jalapenos
Tortilla chips
Salsa

Procedure:

Brown the beef, pour off the fat. Add chilies and bouillon, cook and stir until the bouillon dissolves. Cool. Stir in the beans. In a small bowl, combine sour cream and taco seasoning. Set aside. Spread beef and beef mixture on a large plate. Top with the sour cream mixture and guacamole. Cover. Chill for several hours. Just before serving add the garnishes. Serve with tortilla chips and salsa.

Ole!



Book Talk

“American Wife”

by Curtis Sittenfeld

Review submitted by Fran Saenz

American Wife, by Curtis Sittenfeld, is a remarkable novel. The author took four actual events from Laura Bush’s life and wove them into the fictional story of Alice Lindgren and how she became the wife of a president. The characterizations are amazing and engaging.

Charlie Blackwell is a fun-loving, Midwestern version of George Bush with his known charisma, self-absorbed innocence, wealthy, powerful staunch Republican family and personal shortcomings. The clash of politics and privilege are a challenge for the quiet, bookish, sincere small town librarian as she navigates her way through the minefield of public life. Alice faces the contradictions of loving her husband and disagreeing with some of his beliefs. The complexities of marriage are laid bare.

The author’s own liberal Democratic leanings shine through her reluctant heroine as we follow a life lived “almost in opposition to itself”. For any woman born in the 40’s, you will experience a beautifully written walk down memory lane. How young Curtis Sittenfeld recreated this time is a testament to her talent. The author is an admirer of Laura Bush.

This is an excellent book club choice, as it opens many areas for discussion and creates more questions than answers. Enjoy the read!



Carol Anderson's 2009 Grand Rapids Convention Photos



Top to bottom, left to right...Fran enjoying a glass of *vino* prior to the procession. Judi and Jackie prior to the banquet. Amy was one of the flag bearer's during the President's procession. Fran marching in the President's procession.

School Prayer Chuckle

After being interviewed by the school administration, the prospective teacher said: "Let me see if I've got this right. You want me to go into that room with all those kids, correct their disruptive behavior, observe them for signs of abuse, monitor their dress habits, censor their T-shirt messages, and instill in them a love for learning. You want me to check their backpacks for weapons, wage war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, and raise their sense of self esteem and personal pride. You want me to teach them patriotism and good citizenship, sportsmanship and fair play, and how to register to vote, balance a checkbook, and apply for a job. You want me to check their heads for lice, recognize signs of antisocial behavior, and make sure that they all pass the final exams. You also want me to provide them with an equal education regardless of their handicaps, and communicate regularly with their parents in English, Spanish or any other language, by letter, telephone, newsletter, and report card. You want me to do all this with a piece of chalk, a blackboard, a bulletin board, a few books, a big smile, and a starting salary that qualifies me for food stamps. You want me to do all this and then you tell me... I CAN'T PRAY?"

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Head table at the President's Banquet
L-R: Olive Horning, Jackie, Dr. Helen
Popovich and Dr. Barbara Day, Past
International President.

Installation Ceremony
L-R: Shaila Jehle, Kathy
Muench, Gloria Rich-
ards, Olive Horning, and
Jackie Smart. Dr. Paula
Dent is conducting the
Installation.



Queen Jackie is crowned by Fran
at Gamma Alpha's private after-
glow party.





Judi is helping her friend Ellen sell homemade jewelry for Alpha Theta's scholarship fund. Judi was a big help during registration, General Membership, set up, and general go-fer for Jackie. Thanks Judi!

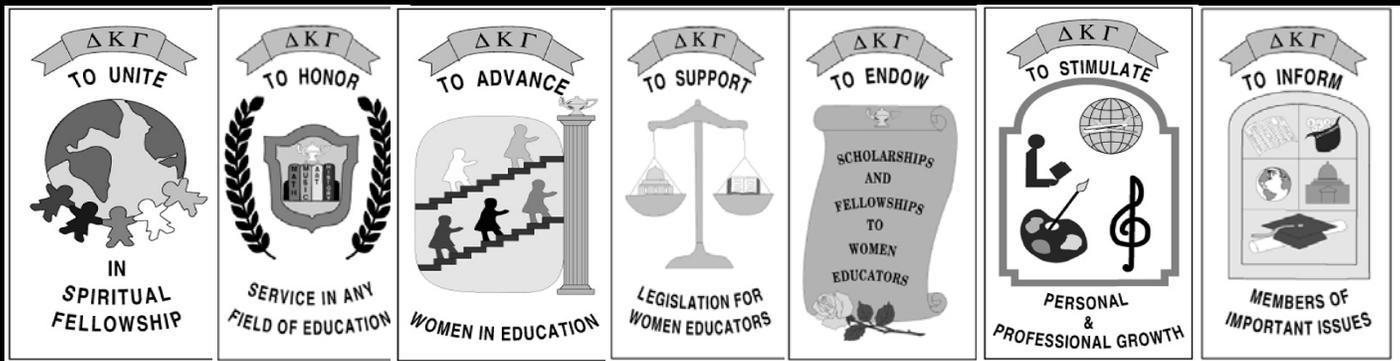
Everybody worked! Jackie helped to sell raffle tickets and scholarship pins during lunch.



Jackie brought her family for support. Jayson (Hannah's beau), Hannah, and Ian. Rachel was unable to attend. They stayed awake during the speeches but they found out that attending convention is not for wimps!



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 June Icebreakers!

Research

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

Inform: Despite rumors to the contrary, there does not appear to be any difference between the way male and female brains process words in reading. Using over 200 subjects and MRI scans, Researchers found no difference in the involvement or asymmetry of either Broca's or Wernicke's areas. Chiarello, C. et al. (2009). *Neuropsychology*. Vol 23(2), Mar 2009, 210-222.

Inform: Research suggests that after-school programs can make a difference in academic performance and socio-emotional development, but the record is far from consistent and two rigorous studies of the largest federal programs found limited or no impacts on student outcomes. The logical next step is a systematic effort to improve the quality of federally funded after-school programs. Black, A.R., and et..al, 2008.

The Evaluation of Enhanced Academic Instruction in After-School Programs: Findings After the First Year of Implementation.