



Gamma Alpha Bulletin

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



President's Message



Those of us who attended our November 5th meeting were able to shop for jewelry and learn about our facial composition and expressions from Lin Klassen, our speaker. Each of us had some unique feature to analyze. Kudos go to Pam Emerson and Marie for our engaging program and shopping opportunity. Women in the Arts attendees shared some projects. Carol Anderson gave an orientation to our two new candidates for membership: Joanna Eiwen, POHI teacher from Wayne-Westland; and Carol VandenBrueel, retired business teacher from Wyandotte Public Schools. You'll soon learn more about these women educators. Welcome them into our fold!

Thanks also to those who brought or bought books. And special thanks to Amy Wainwright for sharing her birthday with us. The cake was delicious. Even the waitresses enjoyed a piece. What

fun!

The holidays are almost here. This year for our annual family feast, I ordered my first fresh, free range turkey from the local turkey farm on Five Mile Road. The owner assures me that my 17 pound bird will cook faster than my usual frozen variety. We'll see! Poor turkey has one more week on the farm.

Our Holiday Auction is coming soon, December 3rd. Do you have something or some service to donate? Please come with an opening bid in mind. If you haven't done so, please get your reservations and \$25 per person to Cindy Dietz by 11/27/09. Thanks to Carol Palk for filling in for Mary Jo with the volunteer list for the auction. If you'd like to help out, but didn't sign up, give Mary Jo Dreffe a call. Please invite guests to this event. Retirees, if you're available at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, 11/23, to help make favors for the auction, join me at my house. Also, let me know if you're coming.

Are you reading one of our "club" selections for our January meeting? Amy, Cindy, and Jackie volunteered to be book discussion leaders. You'll be asked to sit at tables with members who want to discuss the same book. The books are: *Three Cups of Tea*, *Zoya's Story*, and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. All of the books tie in with our

Mission Statement

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



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Meeting Info



See calendar for details.

December 3

Annual Holiday Auction.
\$25 check to Cindy.

Bring friends and \$\$\$\$\$.

January 28

Executive Board meets for planning and to complete biennial reports at 4:00. Members are welcome to attend.

5:00 Dinner and Book Discussion Groups
6:30

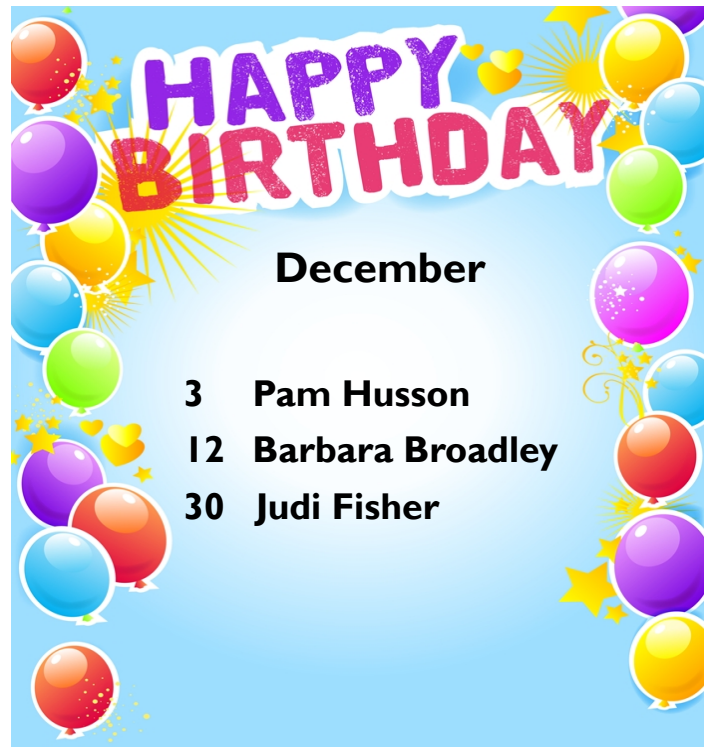
Kids 4 Afghan Kids
Speaker
SB-CEUs

speaker, Khris Nedam. Khris is a Northville teacher whose students founded **Kids 4 Afghan Kids**. These selections should be available at your local library. So you now have some ideas for your holiday reading! At this meeting, SB-CEUs are offered.

We also need hostess and publicity help for our March meeting at the Livonia Civic Center Library. The topic is teen dating abuse and the presenter from Mu Chapter has developed an educational program on this subject. We are inviting the public to this and would like newspaper and school district coverage. Hostess help would include snack and coffee set -up and welcoming all. Please consider volunteering for this meeting where we will need many hands. Happy Thanksgiving and see you at the auction!

Fran

RSVP if you want to help make table favors.
mafrans@sbcglobal.net



Michigan Author Wins Distinguished Service Award

A Michigan author - who couldn't read until a teacher discovered she was dyslexic - is the recipient of MEA's Distinguished Service Award, the association's highest honor. Patricia Polacco received the award at the Representative Assembly Saturday, where hundreds of MEA members from around the state gathered to conduct association business.

Polacco said she was overwhelmed with the attention, telling member-delegates that she saw their admiration as she signed their books before the award presentation. "Educators," she said, "deserve praise. You need to know what a glorious job you have,"

Polacco said. "Every day you are saving lives and you don't know it because we don't get back to say thank you... None of this would be if it weren't for people like you."

Among Polacco's many book titles is *Thank You Mr. Falker*, an autobiographical story about her own struggle with not being able to read. Mr. Falker was the teacher who helped Polacco learn to read even though she has dyslexia.

MEA, November 12, 2009

Will I Live to Be 80?

A woman recently picked a new primary care doctor. After two visits and exhaustive lab tests, the doctor said she was doing 'fairly well' for a 60 year old. The woman was concerned about his comment and asked the doctor if he thought she would live to be 80. The doctor asked if she smoked, drank beer or wine, indulged in chocolate or coffee, ate steaks and barbecued ribs. The woman replied, "Oh, no. I'm not doing drugs, either!" Then the doctor asked her if she spent a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, sailing, hiking, or bicycling. The answer was "No." Finally the doctor asked her if she gambled, drove fast cars, or had a lot of sex. Again she answered "No." The doctor looked at the woman and said, "Then why do you even give a s--- if you live to 80?"

Thank you for this chuckle, Fran!

Minutes in a Minute

November 5, 2009

Mary Jo was not at the meeting. She was having fun in Florida. So that left the minutes to me. I am not a great secretary because I can't keep my mouth shut long enough to write anything down. But let's see how my memory and listening skills are working.

Fran welcomed Michelle, the Lia Sophia sales representative to our meeting. Pam Emerson and Mary Jo made arrangements for members to have some "retail therapy." Michelle had many beautiful and reasonably priced earrings, necklaces and bracelets. Pam will bring our orders to the December 3 meeting. A big thank you to Pam and Mary Jo for making arrangements.

Carol Palk collected money for our recycled book sale. Carol reminded us that we do not need to bring any books to the December meeting.

Two candidates for membership were introduced by their sponsors. Donna Colaianne presented Joanna Eiwani, a lower elementary POHI teacher at Roosevelt-McGrath in Wayne-Westland. I introduced Carol VandenBrul (yes, another Carol) for membership. Carol is a Livonia resident and taught Business Education in Wyandotte Schools. Carol has attended many Gamma Alpha auctions and two Fall Conferences. I convinced Carol that it is time for her to join. Carol Anderson gave the candidates a brief orientation about Delta Kappa Gamma and our chapter. Initiation will be held at the February meeting, but candidates are welcome and encouraged to attend the December and January meetings.

January's Book Discussion leaders were chosen. I will have discussions questions for *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, Amy will lead *Three Cups of Tea* discussions, and Cindy will handle *Zoya's Story*. All of these books are about Afghanistan. Our speaker for January's meeting is teacher Khris Nedam who founded the Kids 4 Afghan Kids project. This is the first time we have

tried a book discussion activity, so please pick one of the three books and read! I have all three books and will bring them in December.

Two members have resigned their membership. Karen Scott and Danielle Jopek. If their circumstances change, they can easily be reinstated.

Carol Palk passed around a sign-up sheet for workers at the auction. There were quite a few blank spaces for workers and I am confident members will step up to volunteer by the auction. Send checks to Cindy by November 27. Bring guests, auction items and money\$\$\$\$

After shopping and dinner, we had the pleasure of listening to our speaker arranged by Marie. Lin Klaassen has earned a reputation as one of the Midwest's leading Face Readers. Lin has worked with lawyers on jury selection and trial consulting, human resources personnel about smart hiring, and in the entertainment area.

Lin said that face reading, or physiognomy, is based on the observation that there is a correlation between the structures of the face and the character or personality of the person. She said that our total personality is a combination of genetics, nature, and nurture. Our inherited traits, major life events, and behavioral patterns etch themselves onto our face and serve as a representations of who we are. There are 14 bones and over 100 muscles that go into making up a map of our face. There are 57 traits that one can be trained to read immediately. Face reading has been statistically validated to 92% accuracy. Using members as examples of different facial traits, Lin was able to accurately read our personalities.

Jackie Smart for Mary Jo Dreffs
Recording Secretary

Don't forget these dates!



Thursday, December 3, 2009

Location: G. Subu's (Arrive at 4:30 to register and set up your items for the auction.)

5:00 Family Style Dinner (No meeting)

6:00 Auction

Hostesses: Grant-in-Aid Committee and Auction Committee

No Icebreaker this month! No Recycled Book Sales this month!

Holiday Auction and 50/50 raffle

(Prepayment of \$25 is necessary for this event.)

You and your guests should arrive for the auction at 4:30 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 5:00. The auction will begin promptly after dinner.

Holiday Auction Reminders

1. This year, in order to expedite the auction we decided to make some changes.

- For the smaller items, we will sell raffle tickets and have people put tickets into cups and winners will be randomly selected.
- Some of the larger items will be in the "silent auction" format with pad, pen, a starting bid, and a time cut-off for bids.
- And lastly, some items will be put on the auction block.

2. Members still need to bring a 3x5 card for each item they donate. On the card, they should describe the item, list the value, and name of the donor. Members should try to bring more than one donation so we will have a variety of auction items. We encourage you to bring guests so we aren't the only ones spending money!

3. Suggested items or services that could be donated:

A certificate from businesses you frequent
Gift Certificates
Theme Baskets, Teacher Baskets
Theater, movie, or game tickets
Crafts

Baked goods (homemade or purchased)
Massage
Holiday items/ decorations/plants
Best seller books, books on tape
etc.

Thursday, January 28, 2010

Location: G. Subu's

4:00 Executive Board (Interested members may attend E.B. meeting if desired.)

5:00 Dinner and Meeting

Hostesses: Legislation/U.S. Forum and Research Committees

Icebreaker: Chris Smith, Mary Lou Flynn, Danielle Jopek, Cindy Dietz

Agenda

- Multi-tasking is the name of the game during dinner this year. Our schedule is full so try to arrive on time

Volume 30 Issue 2

- Icebreaker
- Business Meeting
- Book Discussion - Choose one of the books and we will break up into discussion groups during dinner. All of the books have something to do with Afghanistan.
- The books are: *Three Cups of Tea*, *Zoya's Story*, *1,000 Splendid Suns*.
- 6:30 Guest Speaker

Kids 4 Afghan Kids (6:30 - 7:30 p.m.)

Teaching students about diversity and the world around them can be a difficult task for educators. Northville teacher, Khris Nedam, and her sixth grade students took a unique approach in learning about Afghanistan. Her students discovered that the country had suffered a long drought, economic disruption due to the Soviet Union invasion, the Taliban rule, and the recent war. Students learned that children in many rural parts of Afghanistan had not had a school or access to a doctor in over 20 years. After understanding the hardships of Afghan children, Mrs. Nedam's students decided to be proactive and Kids 4 Afghan Kids was born. Under the guidance of their teacher, the students raised money and witnessed, via videotapes, internet and cell phones, the construction of a six-room school, a medical clinic, an orphanage, a bakery/kitchen, a guest house and community well for the residents of Wonkhai Valley, a mountainous area 3 hours southwest of Kabul. Come and be inspired by this unique and ongoing Social Studies project. Khris presented this session at the State Convention and was very well received by the members. **CEU Available**

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Location: G. Subu's

5:00 Dinner and Meeting

Hostesses: Professional Affairs Committee

Icebreaker: Donna Colaianne & Nancy Chiasson

Agenda

- Multi-tasking is the name of the game during dinner this year. Our schedule is full so try to arrive on time
- Dinner and Business Meeting
- Bring Service Project Donations for Methodist Children's Village- Items TBD
- Initiation of New Members
- Friend of Education discussion
- March meeting arrangements/dinner discussed. Flyers for the meeting need to be distributed to middle and high school administrators, counselors, and social workers. We should also invite Metro Council members.

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Location:

Livonia Public Library

32777 Five Mile Road

Livonia 48154 (Located on Five Mile Road east of Farmington Road)

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Program: Guest Speakers from Mu Chapter Community is invited.

Teen Dating Abuse (7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

Teen Dating Abuse is a pattern of abusive behaviors that are used to gain power and control over a dating partner.

Gamma Alpha Bulletin

Unhealthy relationship behaviors can start early and last a lifetime. Dating abuse occurs when harmful behaviors are repeated, creating a pattern of violence. According to recent research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in eleven teens report being a victim of physical dating violence. Even more startling, adolescents who report experiencing dating violence are also more likely to report binge drinking, suicide attempts, physical fighting and current sexual activity. Mu Chapter has developed an effective program for educating students about this serious problem. Invite your daughters, school administrator, counselor, and social worker to this informative session. **CEU Available**

Saturday, April 17, 2010 Metro Coordinating Council Luncheon

Location: G. Subu's

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Icebreaker: Lambda Chapter

Agenda

- Multi-tasking is the name of the game during the luncheon. Our schedule is full so try to arrive on time
- Family Style Luncheon at G. Subu's (Pre-payment of \$25 for the luncheon will be necessary.)
Metro Council will honor their Chapter Women of Distinction
- Founders Celebration
- More information about the luncheon will be in future newsletters.
- 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Guest Speaker

Women in Aviation (1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.)

Women have been impacting the history of aviation since the first hot air balloon crested the horizon, yet their accomplishments have gained little recognition in the memories of people worldwide. Only a few resources choose to acknowledge the huge influence women have had in aviation. A pioneer aviator, Jessie Lambdin, will take you on a journey through time to explore the history of women in aviation. Your spirit will fly free as you learn about forgotten heroines. Information from the presentation can be easily transferred to Social Studies classes. **CEU Available**

State Convention April 30 - May 2, 2010

Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

Convention and hotel registration will be available in the *Winter Wolverine* and in future newsletters. Please plan on attending.

May 13, 2010

Location: G. Subu's

5:00 Birthday Dinner

Hostesses: Birthday Committee, Membership Chairman

Agenda:

- Our schedule is full so try to arrive on time
- Family Style Birthday Dinner at G. Subu's (Pre-payment of \$25 for the family style dinner will be necessary.)
- 6:15 p.m. Program
Honor Friend of Education, Honor Retirees, Award Scholarships/Grant-in-Aids,
Install New Officers, Birthday Ceremony

- 8:00 p.m. "Southern Comfort" Field trip to the Tipping Point Theater (The play is a comedy about a December-December romance. We will need to pre-order the tickets (\$16) early like last year. Fran will collect money and make arrangements.

June Date TBD, 2010 Planning Meeting, Location TBD

Teaching is a Family Tradition

Leanne Rodgers, Observer Staff Writer



Being an educator is a family business for the Hurley family. Mike, a teacher and administrator, and teacher Judy are retired from Wayne-Westland Schools. Both their daughters work in the district - Jennifer Chambers (center left) is in her first year at principal of Lincoln Elementary School and Kristin Chiasson teaches at John Glenn High School.

For one local family, teaching in the Wayne-Westland School District has been a family business. Mike and Judy Hurley spent their careers in the district, now daughters Jennifer Chambers and Kristin Chiasson are following in their parents' footsteps. Hired in 1967, Judy Hurley was the first member of the family to work for the district. "In high school, I decided I'd like to be a teacher. We had a future teachers organization," said Judy Hurley, who spent 26 years at Jefferson-Barns Elementary School and was at Schweitzer Elementary School when she retired in 2005. "I wanted a family and they tell you that you get the summer off - that's not true - so I thought it would be good."

The couple married two weeks before Judy started her first teaching assignment - they had commuted together to Eastern Michigan University. Despite graduating high school together, Mike Hurley was a year behind his wife in

school. "It's a long story," he said, and one that he told in 2008 when he was honored as Wayne-Westland Schools distinguished alumni.

Judy and Mike both graduated from Wayne Memorial High School, as did both their daughters and two sons. "We met at Wayne when I shared my lunch with her. We went to the junior prom together," Mike Hurley said. "It was (Hostess) snowballs - pink ones."

Unlike his wife, Mike Hurley needed a nudge toward a teaching career. "When I was growing up, I wanted to be a train engineer. When I said I wanted to be an engineer, my dad didn't realize I meant a train engineer," he said. "I was a regular student - not outstanding by any means. In my senior year, my dad said he thought teaching might be a good job. My dad really encouraged me. I got involved and I liked it."

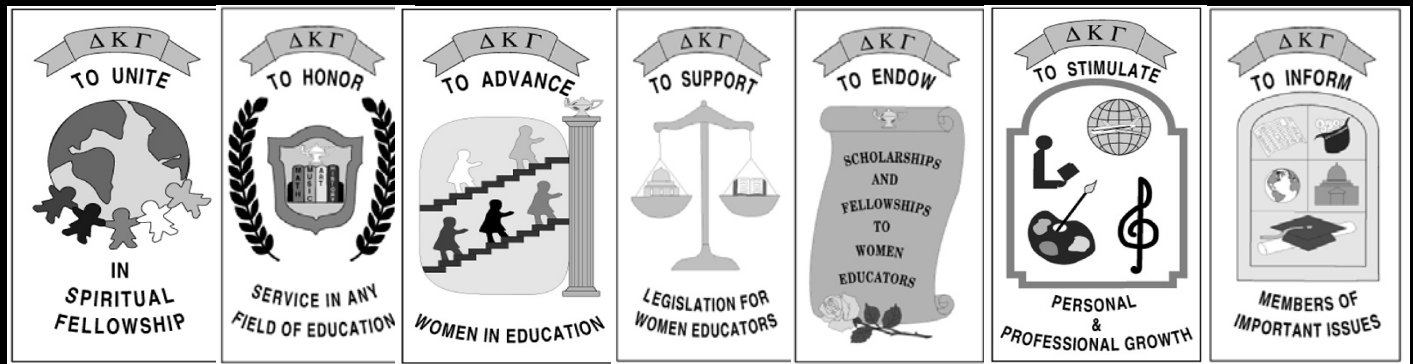
Mike Hurley began his career teaching in the old Cherry Hill School District, also serving as an assistant principal and director of adult and community education. His move to Wayne-Westland Schools came when the districts merged in 1985. Five years later, Mike Hurley became principal of Vandenberg Elementary School and later moved to Taft-Galloway Elementary School. Despite retiring in 2004, Mike Hurley continues to work as a fill-in principal.

Before her father retired, Jennifer took a job as an overload aide at Taft-Galloway and also worked as a paraprofessional. "She was at a crossroad about what she wanted to do. I got the ball rolling. She liked it. The teacher she worked with was outstanding and took her under her wing," Mike Hurley said. Jennifer had her first permanent teaching job at Taft-Galloway. She is now in her first year as principal at Lincoln Elementary School.

Kristin originally planned to get a business degree, but later changed her major to education. After a part-time position teaching in Livonia Schools, Kristin was hired for a full-time position at Wayne Memorial High School in 2004. With a master's

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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	Lisa Austin
Holiday Auction	Mary Jo Dreffs

(Continued from page 7)

degree in counseling, she is now a part-time counselor at Wayne. "I didn't want to go into teaching - that was the last thing I wanted after hearing the dinner conversation for years," said Chiasson, whose mother-in-law Nancy Chiasson is a teacher at Taft-Galloway.

Once she started working in education, Kristin said she felt like she fit and it was something she understood.

"We never discouraged them about teaching. People say, 'How can you encourage them to teach?'" Mike Hurley said. "Judy thoroughly enjoyed teaching and I thoroughly enjoyed teaching and administration. I felt we had tremendous impact on kids. I still enjoy working with the kids and staff."

"They encouraged us to get an education," Kristin said.

Son Steve is trained as a chemical engineer and works as a plant manager, Mike Hurley often wishes that Steve had gone into education. The family's other son, Chris, is an engineer, and has said he would have liked to be a history teacher.

"Wayne-Westland has been a wonderful district to work in and to live in," Mike Hurley said.

"The administration and other teachers are wonderful. I enjoy working with the students," Kristin said.

