



Gamma Alpha Bulletin

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



President's Message



Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holiday season with loved ones. I celebrated with my family and friends, cooking and feasting. We watched another decade slip away as we continue to face new challenges in education and our economy. The new year comes with taxes and DKG reports. We can now do both on line.

Are you reading one of our Book 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 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. No afterschool detention for those who haven't read the books.

We will need hostesses 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.

See you all at the January 28 meeting.

Fran



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Meeting Info



See calendar for details.

January 28

4:00

Executive Board meets.
Annual reports will be completed.

5:00

Dinner &
Book Discussion Groups

6:30

Speaker:
Kids 4 Afghanistan

RSVP to Jackie at:

www.mysmartfamily.com



Mission Statement

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

Gamma Alpha Bulletin

*Fran asked me to share the message I recently sent to all chapter presidents. So...here goes!

Get Smart – State President’s Message

January is a time for resolutions. Diet, exercise, save money, stop smoking, etc. are the usual resolutions we make and break. This year make your resolution meaningful and achievable. Resolve for 2010 to become more involved in Delta Kappa Gamma at all three levels: chapter, state, and International. One way to help you achieve this resolution is to attend the annual state convention that will be held at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme, Michigan, located just outside of Traverse City. Convention gives us the opportunity “to unite women educators in a world of genuine fellowship” and to enhance our involvement in an organization we are proud to be in.

Many Alpha Iota State members get involved only at the chapter level and see the Society from this vantage point. When you attend a state convention, you see the Society from a different point of view. I sincerely believe that attending a state convention is worth the expense of travel, meals, and lodging. Part of the fun of convention for me is getting there. My van is usually loaded with chapter members. We talk, laugh, plan, and stop at a Cracker Barrel for a bite to eat and some shopping therapy. We have a great time. I know that I do.

We all know that DKG is an International Society and at convention you learn more about the organization. Besides Executive Board and the General Membership session, there are many wonderful workshops to attend. Olive Horning and the Program of Work Committee want to make your trip to the state convention worth your time and money, as well. You will have the opportunity to attend sessions that will be of interest to a variety of members, communicate Society information, help members earn SB-CEU credit, fulfill professional development hours, and inspire personal growth. I have always gleaned ideas for chapter programs and service projects, not to mention the many new friends I have made. I love going to convention!

During the convention in Traverse City, you will have the opportunity to meet the International representative, Cathy P. Daugherty, Southeast Regional Director. Cathy is an engaging speaker and will keep us up-to-date as to what is happening at International. On Sunday morning, we will honor members during the Celebration of Life ceremony. Chapters will receive recognition for their achievements at the Awards Brunch.

There will be a change in procedure at this year’s convention. On conference evaluations, there have been many comments asking why we hold the Executive Board meeting on Friday and do the same thing again at the Saturday General Membership meeting. Well I listened! In Traverse City, we are going to pilot combining the Executive Board meeting and the General Membership session on Friday evening. The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. We have made arrangements for a buffet dinner on Friday for your convenience. If needed, we have blocked out some time on Saturday morning to finish the Executive Board meeting.

I would love to see a HUGE Gamma Alpha turnout at this year’s convention. Registration material will be in the *Winter Wolverine*. I invite you all to make involvement your 2010 resolution.

Jackie

Standing Rules and Bylaws

International has a goal of updating the Standing Rules and Bylaws for The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International in 2010. The changes will be voted on at the International Convention held on July 20-23. It has been requested by International that all Chapters revise their Standing Rules and Bylaws as well. We have been given a March 15 deadline. Fran and Jackie will be meeting to work on these revisions but would like input from **all** Gamma Alpha members. If you know of any changes you would like, please contact Jackie or Fran with your ideas. FYI the chapter rules are on our website. www.migammaalpha.org

Goals are dreams with deadlines. Diane Scharf Hunt

Don't forget these dates!



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, 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
- 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

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- 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. 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

Chicken Asparagus Casserole

Submitted by Sandy Becher

Ingredients:

- 6 half breasts of chicken
- 4 T butter
- 3 hard boiled eggs
- 2 (15 oz) cans asparagus (or use fresh if in season)
- 1/2 cup mayo
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 T lemon juice
- 1 cup grated sharp cheese
- 25 Ritz crackers crumbled
- 3 T melted butter



Boil and cool chicken, bone if it's not boneless; keeping pieces large. Remove the skin.
Salt and pepper chicken to taste and sauté for 2-3 minutes in butter.

Slice eggs thinly.

Drain asparagus and spread in bottom of casserole

Top with layer of eggs, then chicken

Mix mayo, soup, lemon juice and cheese and pour over chicken

Sauté crackers in melted butter and sprinkle on top

Bake: 25 minutes at 350 degrees.

Serves 6

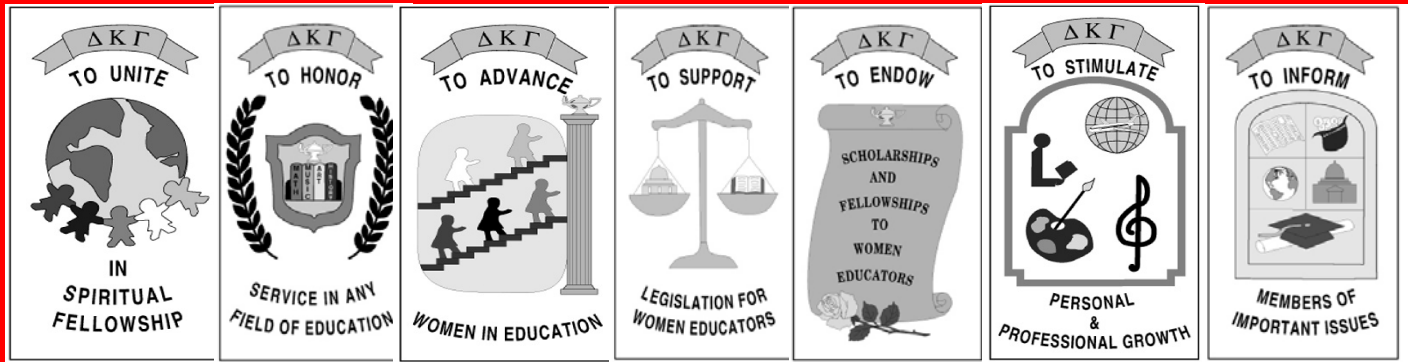
Seedlings News

In July, Seedlings passed the "one quarter of a century" mark as they celebrated 25 years of serving visually impaired children and their families. Although the past year presented challenges, they still found a number of things to celebrate:

- The 22nd annual Bowl-a-thon was the biggest and most successful so far
- Seedlings commemorated their 25th anniversary with an open house for friends and supporters. Gamma Alpha members helped with the celebration.
- Art Van Furniture Co. awarded us a \$10,000 grant to supply the Michigan Department of Education with Braille books for preschool children.
- We filled our largest order to date-1,733 books packed into 117 boxes. They passed the 300,000 mark in total number of books produced since they began. Some remarkable numbers:
 - 23,121 books & articles produced
 - 1,068,000 pages of Braille sent out
 - 1000+ titles in the 2010 catalog (5,429 or 23%

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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

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books provided for free to deserving Braille readers.

Seedlings is proud of what they were able to accomplish and determined to do even more in 2010!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

The 23rd Annual Seedlings Bowl-a-thon

Sunday, March 21 at 12:00 PM

Super Bowl

Canton, Michigan

Seedlings' Annual Bowl-a-thon is always fun! Whether you bring your family and compete for great prizes or simply pledge your support to someone else, the result is the same-you feel good about supporting a worthwhile cause and we continue to put books into the hands of grateful children. To sign up to bowl or to pledge a bowler go to their website, www.seedlings.org, or call the **Seedlings** office at 734 427-8552. Registration deadline is March 7, 2010.

Can you help?

During the winter months, as many of Seedlings volunteers head for warmer locales, they need extra help transporting boxes to the post office on Tuesdays and Fridays. The task involves picking up the packages at the Seedlings office and dropping them off at the Livonia post office and usually takes an hour or less. If you can help on either of those days, please call them at 734-427-8552.