



# Gamma Alpha Bulletin

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



### President's Message

"Over the ground lies a mantle of white" and now winter is really and truly here. Gamma Alpha did a wonderful job on our auction this year. It was good to so many of us at Laurel Manor with guests in tow. We made money for our fund to aid women studying to be educators, members seeking further degrees, and early career educators. We had a good meal and actually had enough room to spread out and see all of the items donated by members for auction. Thanks to our auction committee and all who helped to make this event so successful.

With 2010 ending, we head toward the second half of the school year. Exams are due in a couple of weeks and semester 2 begins. I don't know about you, but I always felt that the second half of the year moved faster than the first. Have you achieved the goals you set for yourself at the beginning of the school year? Have you made a strong effort to be a better teacher and a better model to other educators? As key woman educators, we are always aware of being the best that we can be and the best that any one else can see.

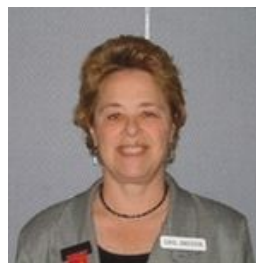
Maybe the new year is a good time to make a resolution, not to try and do something new, but to try with a bit more effort what we know we should be doing all along. Some of the things we know we should be doing have nothing to do with the classroom.

Maybe we need to watch what we eat a little more closely or exercise just a bit more. Maybe we need to spend a little more time with the ones we love and the friends we have and focus just a little bit less on ourselves. Without making a single new resolution we can show that we are not just key women educators, but key women in all parts of our lives. So-o-o, do not burden yourself with any new resolutions. Just sharpen the ones you made once before. Be the wonderful teacher, friend, role model that you are.

Have a wonderful new year 2011.



A beautiful sight,  
We're happy tonight  
Walking in a Winter Wonderland.



So says the prez!

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### Meeting Info

See calendar for details.



January 12

3:30

Executive Board meets at to complete annual reports

4:30

All Members meet at Subu's

Initiation of New Members

Business Meeting

Used Book sale

5:00

Dinner

6:00

Speaker : Abraham Lincoln

RSVP to Jackie at:

jackie@mysmartfamily.com

### Mission

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

### Vision

Leading women educators impacting education worldwide.

### Don't forget these dates!



#### Wednesday, January 12, 2011

4:30 p.m. We're back at G. Subu's Leather Bottle  
20300 Farmington Road  
Livonia (248-474-2420)

Located south of Eight Mile Road on the east side of Farmington Road. (Executive Board will meet at 3:30 prior to the meeting to complete annual reports.)

#### Agenda:

- Initiation of New Members/Business Meeting
- Used Book sale
- Dinner
- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

#### Speaker: An Evening with Abraham Lincoln

Our presenter will strip away the myth to reveal the inner strength of Lincoln's will and the charm of his character. Our presenter will provide material that can be used in your classroom during Presidents' Month in February. **SBCEU**

#### Thursday, February 10, 2011

4:30 p.m. Dinner/Business Meeting Subu's Leather Bottle

#### Agenda:

- Friend of Education discussion
- Field Trip to the Methodist Children's Village  
26645 West Six Mile Road  
Redford, MI
- Service Project for the MCV: Valentine Treat donations
- More information in future newsletter.

#### Wednesday, March 9, 2011

4:30 p.m. Dinner/Business Meeting Subu's Leather Bottle

#### Agenda:

Speaker: **Kids 4 Afghan Kids Update**

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 for us last year. This is a review and update of the project. **SBCEU**

#### Wednesday, April 13, 2011

**Location:** TBD (Probably Judi's house)

**Time:** TBD (Probably during the afternoon)

**Agenda:** Convention preparations, stuffing envelopes

#### State Convention April 15 - 17, 2011

Crowne Plaza Detroit Metro Airport

8000 Merriman Road

Romulus, MI 48174

Convention and hotel registration will be available in the Winter *Wolverine* and in future newsletters. Please plan on attending. We will need tons of help! Judi is Registrar and Cindy is the Treasurer.

#### Thursday, May 12, 2010 Birthday Dinner

4:30 p.m.

Birthday Dinner

East Side Mario's

31630 Plymouth Road in Livonia

#### Agenda:

- Reunion Birthday Dinner
- Family Style Birthday Dinner at G. Subu's (Pre-payment of \$25 for the family style dinner will be necessary.)
- 6:00 p.m. Program
- Honor Friend of Education, Honor Retirees, Award Scholarships/Grant-in-Aids, Birthday Ceremony

#### Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Planning Meeting and potluck will be held at Carol Anderson's home. Time 11:00 a.m. More information in future newsletters.

# "Women Educators' Leadership in the 21st Century"

A workshop designed to educate, enhance, and connect accomplished women as leaders in educational positions featuring:

**Cathy Daugherty**

**"Leading Together: The 21st Century Approach"**

With focus sessions presented by the Alpha Iota Leadership Team on:

**Your Professional Image, The Many Hats of Leadership, Time Management, Communication - a Key to Successful Leadership, and Delegating** (\*SBCEU credits available)

**When and Where?**

**Saturday, March 19, 2011**

**8:30 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast**  **9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sessions**  **Lunch included**

**Genesys Conference and Banquet Center**

**805 Health Park Blvd., Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439**

**How to Register**

Send completed registration form and check for \$30 payable to "Delta Kappa Gamma" by **February 28, 2011** to:

**Gwen Graham**

Leadership Workshop Registrar

819 W. Shiawassee Avenue

Fenton, MI 48430

**Questions?** Call: 810-629-8418 *or* E-mail: [godonnell@aol.com](mailto:godonnell@aol.com)

## **2011 Women to Women Leadership Workshop Registration Form**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form and \$30 check payable to Delta Kappa Gamma by February 28, 2011 to:

Gwen Graham

819 W. Shiawassee Avenue

Fenton, MI 48430

We look forward to seeing you March 19!

### DKG Minutes for December 9, 2010



No formal minutes were taken at the auction. We had 72 attendees and made \$1877! Thank you for bringing guest and all of your support.

Carol Palk, Recording Secretary

### Happy Birthday

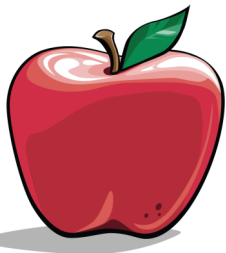
#### January

1	Carol Anderson
7	Donna Colaianne
13	Mary Jo Dreffs
31	Marie Canzoneri



### Message from International

#### Early Career Educators



Let's polish this apple by supporting early-career educators, a focus of our Society established by the International Educational Excellence Committee (formerly called Program of Work). What can you do to help other teachers? The Library on the DKG Web site contains many ideas to inspire you! Here's just one suggestion:

Send a valentine card - made and signed by your members - to the new teachers in your local districts. Include a DKG brochure and a message such as "Welcome to the profession. We appreciate all that you do and wish you a Happy Valentine's Day." Thank you for all you do to support early-career educators.

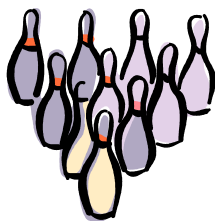
### Reading Nature: Signs it's Going to be a Hard Winter

- The layers of gum stuck under the student desks seem thicker this year.
- Your classroom whiteboard turned yellow earlier this year.
- Your students have started to underdress in layers.
- The mice who live in your desk seem to have grown unusually thick furs.
- The school lunch food has been tasting better to you.
- Your squirrelliest student has grown an unusually bushy head of hair.
- Your students report that the wooly caterpillars taste better this year.



### News From Seedlings

#### “2011 Seedlings Bowl-a-thon”



Calling all bowlers! It is time to pull out those bowling shoes and get ready for our 2011 Bowl-a-thon on **Saturday, March 26th at the Plaza Lanes in Plymouth (\*note the new day and location)**. Come bowl with fellow Seedlings supporters and WMGC’s Chris Edmonds and crew. Form a team with your co-workers, friends, family or bowl individually. Registration forms will be available soon. Gamma Alpha is a supporter of the Bowl-a-thon. It is a fun outing for everyone.

If you know of any local businesses, civic organizations or companies that are interested in sponsoring the bowl-a-thon, (through a lane sponsor, a t-shirt sponsor or an event sponsor), donating a silent auction or raffle item or if you are interested in volunteering at the bowl-a-thon event please contact Therese at (734) 427-8552, ext. 301.

#### “Volunteer Opportunities”

Debra Bonde, Seedlings founder, extends a heartfelt “Thank You” to the many volunteers that have come in and helped with the holiday cards (Judi Fishers is in charge of the sale of holiday cards), mailings and holiday fairs. Debra says that Seedlings greatly appreciates those that help with the everyday process of making braille books for our readers. Thanks to all of you, Seedlings was very well prepared for the upcoming holiday rush.

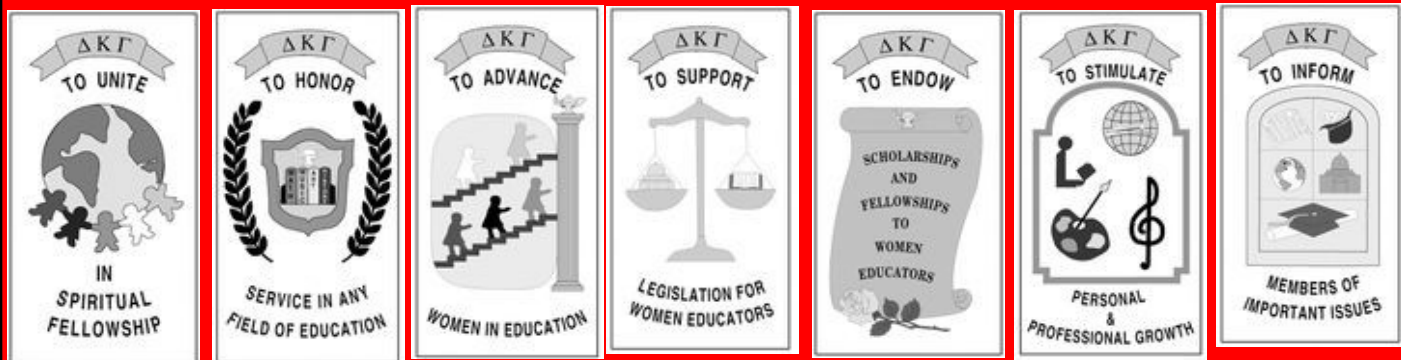
Seedlings will be looking for some volunteers to help in our office with a bowl-a-thon mailing after the holidays. Please contact Sue Keast at (734)-427-8552, ext. 306 if you are interested in volunteering.

Volunteers and donors help make it possible for Seedlings to produce over 23,000 braille books and articles per year for blind children.

A child is not a vessel to be filled, but a lamp to be lit.

Hebrew Proverb

## Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



### Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committee Chairmen

#### Executive Board

President	Carol Anderson
1st Vice President/Program	Mary Jo Dreffs
2nd Vice President/Membership	Colleen Retherford
Recording Secretary	Carol Palk
Corresponding Secretary	Jackie Smart
Treasurer	Cindy Dietz
Parliamentarian	Fran Saenz

#### Committee Chairmen

Personal Growth & Service	Amy Wainwright
Professional Affairs	Lynne Elsesser
US Forum/Legislation	Pam Emerson/ Cindy Dietz
Grant-in-Aid	Debbie Ervin
Birthday	Helen Mate/ Esther Loskowske
World Fellowships	Esther Loskowske
Yearbook/Newsletter	Jackie Smart
Sunshine	Donna Colaianne & Nancy Chiasson
Finance	Judi Fisher
Nominations	Open
Holiday Auction	Mary Jo Dreffs

### International Membership News

Statistics from DKG membership database show that new members (no matter their years in education) drop out of the Society at about the same rate that new educators drop out of the profession - we lose approximately 50% by year three of their membership. With this data in hand, the 2010-2012 International Membership Committee has chosen to concentrate, not on a new membership challenge, but on rewriting existing resources and creating new resources that will assist chapters in better orienting new members and reorienting all members. Committee members believe that accepting our invitation after potential members have a clear understanding of who and what we are will create more enthusiastic and participatory members who remain in the organization. Also, by continuous and effective reorientation about Society benefits, projects, and programs, members are more likely to maintain their appreciation of our organization and continue their affiliation through the years. Be looking for a new orientation model, including a new Power Point presentation, and a revision of the orientation process and Guide. Also look for short, pithy reorientation “bites” that can be done effectively at each chapter meeting. These will be introduced at the regional conference in Hershey, PA.

