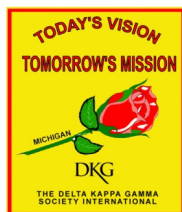


ALPHA IOTA STATE MICHIGAN



Serving Women Educators from Livonia and Wayne-Westland Schools

Member of Detroit Metro Coordinating Council

Volume 31 Issue 7 Summer 2011

Gamma Alpha Bulletin

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

President's Message



"Summer time and the livin' is easy." The song from Porgy and Bess is one I always enjoy listening to even if I don't care if the "Fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high." The message that comes through is one that reminds us of the pleasant times most of us enjoy in summer. For many of us it is the chance to go to the cottage or go camping or take a restful vacation away from the everyday worries at home. I love flower gardening so I love the sights of summer. I love grilling so I love the tastes of summer. I love the birds so love the chirping and singing sounds of summer. I love the sensation of a warm breeze so I love the feel of summer. I love the scent of wildflowers so I love the smells of summer. Summer is beautiful for all the senses.

As teachers, we have always had the good fortune to experience more of the pleasures of the season. Our schedule gives us more free time to enjoy what nature offers. As a retiree, I no longer need that time for R&R. I can set my schedule a little more freely all year if I choose. However, I never forget that I am still and always will be a teacher. That is why I am a part of DKG. Next month we will make plans for our

coming DKG year. I hope that all of us are thinking of good ideas for meetings. We need ideas for projects, informational speakers, entertaining persons and so on. It would be nice to see everyone at the planning meeting in June. Our chapter is stronger when more of us have input to the brainstorming.

As you do some vacationing this summer, remember to find something for our vacation raffle at the first meeting. It is always fun to hear where everyone has gone over the summer and to see the interesting items brought to the auction. Since the raffle proceeds are used for our DKG projects we have little reluctance feeling generous.

Remember to bring items for our "Stuff the Duffel" project for the MCV. As teachers, we are always concerned about the welfare of children. The young boys at the Home need nurturing beyond the classroom. This is another chance for us to act as teachers all year long. Enjoy your rest and relaxation time. Use it to make yourself a better educator whether you are active or retired. We never really stop being a teacher. So says the prez!

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.

Inside this issue:

Chuckles	2
Summer Read	3
Calendar	4
Birthdays	4
Minutes	4
Photos	5-7
Legislation	8

Meeting Info

See calendar for details.



June 22

Planning Meeting at
Carol Anderson's

July 20—23

Northeast Regional
Conference
Hershey, PA

October 7 - 9

Women in the Arts

October 21 - 22

Fall Workshop
Lansing Lexington

RSVP to Jackie at:

jackie@mymartfamily.com

Masculine or Feminine

A SPANISH Teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine. 'House' for instance, is feminine: '**la casa.**' 'Pencil,' however, is masculine: '**el lapiz.**'

A student asked, 'What gender is 'computer'?' Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether computer' should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that 'computer' should definitely be of the feminine gender ('**la computadora**'), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be Masculine ('**el computador**'), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on;
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.



The women won.

Potato Crusted Whitefish

A couple fillets of frozen white fish, thawed

Shredded hash browns

Dash of salt, pepper, onion powder, garlic powder

1/2 cup of oil

1. Thaw the fish in a dish filled with milk. This will take away any fishy smell to the fish.
2. Peel 2 or 3 the potatoes. Shred the potatoes with a hand shredder. You can even use frozen shredded hash browns, but they have to be fully thawed before you use them. Dry off the fish with a paper towel. This will let

the potatoes stick to the fish better.

3. Heat the oil in a skillet.
4. Take the shredded potatoes and form a coating around the fish until the entire fish is encased in shredded potato. Sprinkle the salt, pepper, onion powder, and garlic powder over the fish.
5. Set the fish into the frying pan and cook on each side for about 2-3 minutes, or until each side is golden brown. Remove fish and set on a plate with paper towels on it to drain off the excess oil.

Enjoy!

"Inside the Kingdom: My Life in Saudi Arabia"

by Carmen bin Laden

A book that came highly recommended to me during one of my chapter visitations is *"Inside the Kingdom: My Life in Saudi Arabia"* by Carmen bin Laden. I "borrowed" a review of the book. Carmen bin Laden is a woman whose life is a dance between two cultures, two contrasting world views. Carmen's mother was born into an aristocratic Persian family, and ran off to Paris to elope with a man from Switzerland. Carmen's mother was raised as Muslim but so loosely practiced the religion that her daughters did not have to wear a veil and on Christmas, the girls were allowed to open gifts under a Christmas tree. Carmen was raised in Switzerland, in a Western world. However, Carmen spent much of her childhood in Persia; and her values and identity are deeply rooted in Middle Eastern traditions.

Carmen's attachment to Persia was disrupted by two events. First, her father left the family and to save face, her mother began to separate from the family. Second, Persia is taken over by the Shah, who uses the SAVAK (secret police) to brutalize the people into submission. Around these events, Carmen's book centers on a core theme that begins early in her life--Carmen's journey to define, and create her identity as a racially mixed woman who embraces both the Middle Eastern and Western worlds. The struggle, and tension of the book largely involves the struggles of misunderstanding, pride, and bigotry that causes a divide between Westerners and Middle Easterners--perpetuated by both sides.

While these differences could be overcome, could be dealt with in a constructive way--taken in the hands of an extremist or a fundamentalist religion (*Inside the Kingdom* discusses Wahabism) they become powerful tools, winning a divide fueled by hatred, violence, and beliefs so deeply embedded that it becomes difficult to change.

In Switzerland, Carmen meets Yeslam bin Laden, a handsome Saudi coming from a well-known, aristocratic family with ties to the royal family (Yeslam is the brother of Osama, his father had 10 wives and several mistresses). In the Kingdom spans Carmen's life in Saudi Arabia--as big as Saudi Arabia is, Carmen is basically confined to the family compound. As soon as Carmen puts on the heavy, black abaya she enters a society that is closed to women. Although, Carmen does rebel--her exposure to the Western world gives her a freedom of thought, and an inner strength that is uncommon for the women of Saudi Arabia. So much in love, Carmen looks away at the oppression she endures. Instead, Carmen focuses on making her home a haven, and supporting her husband.

After the birth of her two daughters, Carmen begins to reconsider her life--especially when her children are taught doctrines of hate in school. Carmen knows that the only future for her daughters is to become property through marriage, or if their father died a male relative would gain charge over them. Coming from a Western world, Carmen knows that life could be different for her daughters--that they could have opportunities outside Saudi Arabia.

Another turning point for Carmen is the erosion of her marriage as Yeslam becomes increasingly unpredictable, and often abusive but by law, a wife cannot go against or speak against the word of her husband. So Carmen begins to look for a way out. It takes 14 years for Carmen to fight to free herself and begin to live life truly on her terms. *Inside the Kingdom* is truly a remarkable story and is definitely on my summer read list.

Don't forget these dates!



Wednesday, June 22, 2011 11 a.m.

All of our programs are planned by the membership. Be reminded that this meeting is **not** just for Executive Board, but for members who wish to make our chapter vital. Come to our planning meeting armed with ideas **or** suggestions you want Gamma Alpha to be involved with for 2011-2012. Let us know if you are happy having the meetings at the Leather Bottle or would you like to explore other venues. If you know of a speaker, please bring the contact information. The more cooks in this case the better the soup!

Planning meeting and pot luck luncheon will be held at Carol's at 11:00. Bring your favorite potato, pasta, fruit, or green salad to pass. We will need rolls and some healthy snacks to munch on while we are meeting. Carol will have dessert and beverages for us. Carol lives in Canton. Take I-275 to Ford Road (west.) She is off Ford Road approximately 2 miles west of I-275. The sub is Nottingham Forest between Lilley and Morton Taylor Roads. From Ford Road turn north on Willow Creek and then left on Wedgewood. Her address is 5855 Wedgewood. Carol's house is on the left. (734-981-3741) Carol will be on a cruise, so please RSVP your intentions and what you are bringing to Jackie:

jackie@mysmartfamily.com

Summer Birthdays

May

4 Sandy Becher
4 Colleen Retherford
18 Kristin Chiasson

June

19 Fran Saenz

July

6 Lynda Neuroth
9 Joanna Eiwen
16 Suzanne Bacinski
19 Stephanie Smith
20 Carol Holland
21 Judy Handley
30 Judy Morante



DKG Minutes for May 12, 2011



Our meeting was called to order by Carol Anderson at 4:35 pm at Eastside Mario's in Livonia. Carol and members shared the outcomes of our convention held April 15 - 17. \$2,000.00 was raised at the Funding Our Purposes raffle. International President sent a thank you letter that Jackie read to the meeting. Judy Fisher won the vacation raffle at the convention. She can vacation in Florida, Hawaii or the Carolinas. Our next convention will be held in Kalamazoo the 1st weekend of May, 2012.

The scholarship winner, Alyssa Sandoval and her mother were in attendance. Alyssa read her essay that won her the scholarship. She is a most impressive young lady. Also in attendance were Dr. Hans and Tina Schwarz. The Schwarz's were chosen as our Friends of Education for their help to our chapter. Dr. Schwarz also won our 50/50 raffle and he graciously donated the winnings to the scholarship winner. Lisa Austin was chosen as our Chapter Woman of Distinction for 2012 because of her outstanding contributions. Congratulations to all.

Our next meeting is our planning meeting which will be held at Carol Anderson's house in Canton. If you are coming please bring a dish to pass. The meeting date is June 22, at 11 am. If you would still like to stuff a duffel bag for our service project you may bring your items to the meeting at Carol's on June 22.

Cindy reported that we have \$8523.36 in savings and \$346.05 in checking.

Carol Palk, Recording Secretary



Friend of Education: Dr. Hans and Tina Schwarz receive a certificate from President Carol Anderson for their generous donations of dental supplies for our service projects over the years.



Grant-in-Aid: Carol Anderson presents the Grant-in-Aid to Alyssa Sandoval and her mother Grace. Alyssa read her application essay to the membership and it was obvious to all why she was selected.

Birthday Snaps



Say cheese, Esther. Great Birthday Ceremony and table decorations!



Pam, Judi and Judy seem to be enjoying the evening's festivities.

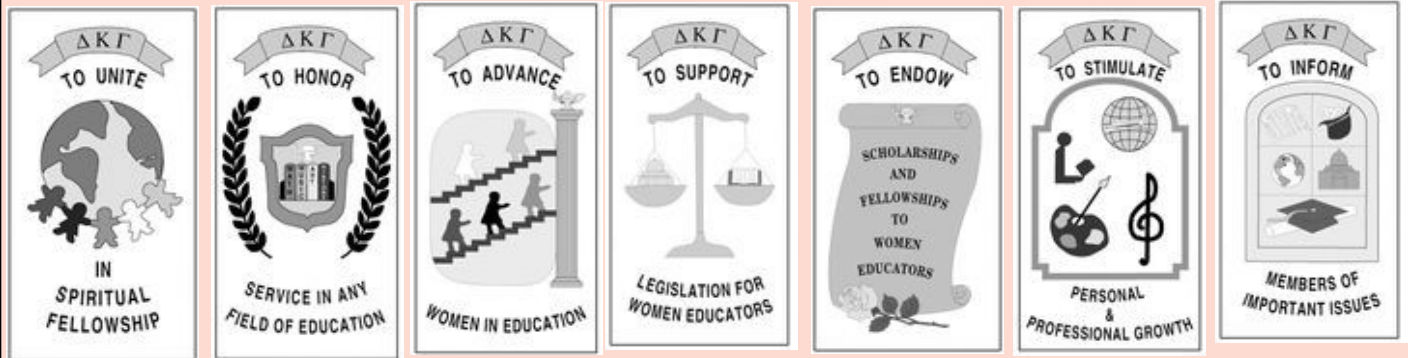


What is Helen up to?



Chris Smith and Colleen Retherford...got ya!

Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committee Chairmen

Executive Board

President	Carol Anderson
1st VP/Program	Mary Jo Dreffs
2nd VP/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	Esther Loskowske Helen Mate
World Fellowships	Esther Loskowske
Yearbook/Newsletter	Jackie Smart
Sunshine	Donna Colaianne & Nancy Chiasson
Finance	Judi Fisher
Nominations	Open
Holiday Auction	Mary Jo Dreffs

Senate Runs Over School Employees with HB 4152 and SB 7

Fight back! Lawmakers need to hear from you!

The Senate approved historic changes to collective bargaining and public employee compensation, stripping locally elected officials of the right to make important decisions.

Despite intensive lobbying by MEA leaders, staff, and others, the GOP-led Senate passed bills that impede local control and impact all public employees in some way.

The Michigan Senate voted to eliminate step wage increases between contracts and to require employees to pay at least 20 percent of the cost of health care, issues currently negotiated locally between employers and employees. The bill affecting step increases now goes to the governor for his signature; the health cost bill now goes to the House, where it could be amended.

Plans are under way to help you respond to these actions -- contact your local association president to find out what's happening locally. Other activities include a major protest Saturday at the Capitol. Additional information is posted at www.mea.org.

