



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
DKG Michigan State Organization
Serving Women Educators from Western Wayne County
Gamma Alpha is a Proud Member of Detroit Metro Coordinating Council
Spring 2025
Volume 45 Issue 3

GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN

Presidents' Message



Judy Morante & Pam Emerson, Co-Presidents

We hope you all are successfully making your way through this cold and snowy winter. Thanks, Amy for providing an evening of "joy" and virtual fellowship for the February meeting. Gamma Alpha is an outstanding chapter because we have amazing members. In addition to Amy's many contributions to our chapter, Pam and I would like to highlight and thank Carole Lower for hosting our annual Christmas Happy Hour, organizing our gifts, then delivering them to Beverly House for a special Christmas. Thank you, Jackie, for the newsletter and your continual support and mentorship. Finally, thank you, Judi Fisher, for arranging the follow-up session on March 20th with our 'guest' speaker, Mary Todd Lincoln. Those who attended the October meeting learned about Mary Todd Lincoln's early life. We were thoroughly entertained and educated. In March, we will hear about her life after her husband's assassination.

May is a busy month. May 2-4, is the state convention. The A.I.M. Foundation activity for Friday night will have a Polynesian theme. See *The Wolverine* for details. Hopefully, many of you will join us at Soaring Eagle in Mount Pleasant for the convention. Metro Council is offering a visit to the Michigan Flight

Museum (formerly Yankee Air Museum) on May 10th, an outing not to be missed. The flyer is in the newsletter.

Gamma Alpha's Anniversary Birthday Dinner will be held May 15th at Genitti's in Northville. Be sure to mark your calendar for these events. If you have suggestions and ideas for our chapter be sure to attend the planning meeting in June.

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This is the link for all future Zoom meetings.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5760748757>

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757

Password dkg or

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 76 074 8757

Next Meeting In-Person

March 20, 2025

5:00-7:00 P.M.

See you there!

2024-2025 Calendar

Zoom link for meetings

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5760748757>

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757

Password dkg

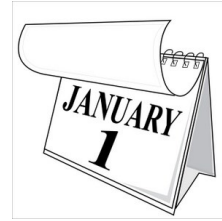
or

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757



March 20, 2025 (Thursday)

Time: 5:00-6:30 P.M.

Place: Northville Library
212 W. Cady in Northville

Meeting: Costumed speaker

FYI: A brief business meeting will take place after the meeting. Our speaker will begin at approximately about 5:00. Bring your used books for sale. Unsold books will be donated to the library. 50/50 tickets will be available, too.

Meeting: March is Women's History Month - commemorating and encouraging the study, observance, and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. Mary Todd Lincoln, AKA Chris Miller, returns for Part Two of her presentation "The Post Assassination Years." Mrs. Lincoln lived for seventeen years following her husband's death. Many of those years were not good for her. Dinner will be in Northville following the presentation for those who are interested. Cindy will start collecting dues at the beginning of April. Dues are \$85. You can pay at the March meeting or you can send your check payable to Gamma Alpha to:



Cindy Dietz
7329 Gilman
Westland, MI 48185

May 2-4, 2025 (Friday-Sunday)

State Convention and Executive Board

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd.

Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Information and registration will be on the state website and in *The Wolverine*.

May 10, 2025 (Saturday)

Metro Council Field Trip

Place: Michigan Flight Museum (formerly Yankee Air Museum)

47884 D Street

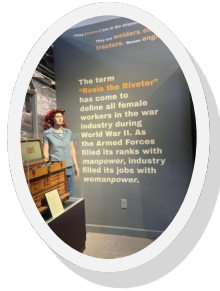
Belleville, MI 48111

Time: 10:30 A.M.

Cost: \$10

Meeting:

We begin our day with Claire Dahl. She will do a 45 minute classroom presentation and take us to the Museum and the newest exhibit “Women Answer the Call” which depicts the working life of women at Willow Run. This exhibit features hands-on riveting stations and several other interactive displays. Claire will teach us all how to rivet. We all can be ‘Rosie the Riveter’ for a day. Afterwards we can wander around the Museum on our own. Metro Council will be making a donation to MFM. Pam Emerson is exploring places for lunch after the meeting. Flyer is in the newsletter.



May 15, 2025 (Thursday)

Gamma Alpha's 46th Anniversary 'Birthday' Dinner

Time: 5:00-7:30 P.M.

Place: Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall

108 E. Main Street

Northville, MI

Cost: \$26 (probably)



Meeting: We will honor our Chapter Woman of Distinction, the Friend of Education, and Lifetime Service Award members. We will present anniversary pins and the Grant-in-Aid check. We will induct new members and collect Service Project donations. Dues should be paid if you haven't done so (**\$85**).

We need your help. If you know of a person or group in the community that does good things for children or educators...and is **not** an educator, they would be a good candidate for this award. They would be invited to the Birthday Dinner to receive the award (our treat). Please inform anyone on the executive board if you have a candidate. We can present more than one award.

June 21, 2025

Annual Membership Planning Meeting and Luncheon

Time: 11:00-2:00 P.M.

Place: TBD

We will meet for our annual planning meeting. There will be a Sign-up Genius for the luncheon. Bring program ideas to this fun, end-of-the-year meeting.





SPRING BIRTHDAYS

March

- 1 Diane Frangie
- 2 Krystal Leece
- 13 Esther Loskowske
- 14 Marilyn Wallenmaier
- 15 Jessica Walker

April

- 1 Lynne Elsesser
- 3 Marcia Scarr
- 5 Karen Mosca

May

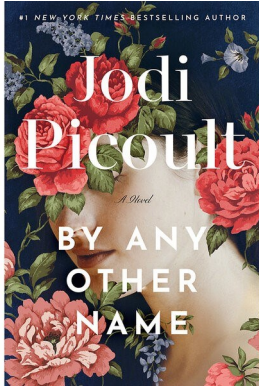
- 5 Liz Frazier



What Are We Reading?

By Any Other Name

By Jodi Picoult



By Any Other Name by Jodi Picoult is a historical fiction novel about two women who are forced to hide their identities to be heard. The story is told in dual timelines, one set in Elizabethan England and the other in modern day New York.

I love the ‘mash-up’ of history and fiction. *By Any Other Name* was written for anyone who likes this genre. So here’s the story. In 1581, young Emilia Bassano was the ward of English aristocrats. She was a gifted musician. She had traveled to France, Italy, and Denmark with them. She was an outstanding student. Her lessons in languages, history, and writing endowed her with a sharp wit and a gift for storytelling. Like all women living in the male-dominated world in which she lived, she wasn’t allowed a voice of her own. Women could not be poets or writers. Her circumstances change, and she is forced to become the mistress of the Lord Chamberlain. He was a kind old man whose job was to oversee all theater productions in England. Because he saw how clever Emilia was, he allowed her to help edit some of the plays he received. She saw firsthand how the words of playwrights could move an audience to laughter or tears. She begins to form a plan to secretly bring her writing to the stage by paying an actor to front her work. The actor is William Shakespeare.

Shift to the present. Melina Green is a struggling young playwright in New York City. She has just written a new play inspired by the life of her Elizabethan ancestor, Emilia Bassano. She knew she would never see her play performed. The theater world is still not a level playing field for women playwrights. She is afraid to risk rejection again. Secretly her roommate takes the decision out of her hands and submits her play under a male pseudonym and it is selected to be produced.

The story is told in intertwining timelines. Both women are playwrights, both must confront the theater world that diminishes the work of women, despite the centuries between them. Should a writer do whatever it takes to see her story live on...no matter the costs? This is a story of ambition, courage, and desire of two women who created something beautiful, despite the prejudices they had to face. I found it an enjoyable read.

Minutes January 16, 2025

Call to Order: The Executive Board meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M.

Attendance:

Judy Morante and Pam Emerson (Co-Presidents)

Carole Lower (Service Projects chair)

Margie Sievert and Linda Dobrzeniecki (Co-Recording Secretaries),

Jackie Smart (Immediate Past co-President)

Pamela Sayre (Parliamentarian)

Amy Wright (Co-Vice President/Membership)

Cindy Dietz (Treasurer)

Judi Fisher (Immediate Past President) sent a Seedlings report, Joanna Eiwen and Karen Mosca sent a Grant-in-Aid report.

Absent: Jennifer LaRose (Co-Vice President/Membership)

Minutes: September minutes were approved as amended (Pam Sayre was at the last meeting.)

Reports:

Co-Presidents: Judy and Pam reported that we have had a good first half of their year as president and look forward to the rest of their biennium.

Co-Vice Presidents: Amy discussed the President's Award and the Award of the Rose and their requirements. She completed both reports on Google forms. Our 2025 goals will be on Membership Spotlight, Program Showcase, and SCECHs session for Mary Todd Lincoln and our Rosie the Riveter/Michigan Flight Museum trip. We had a lively discussion on what "average attendance" means and encouraging member attendance.

Treasurer: The checking balance is \$1329.87 and \$20,378.16 in savings. We sent checks to support World Fellowship, AIM, Members Supporting Members, and Schools for Africa. Cindy will start collecting dues in April.

Standing Committees:

Personal Growth and Service Projects:

- Carole reported that there is a new director and aides at Beverly House. Our members were very generous with the Christmas donations for the girls. The girls were excited when Elf Carole delivered the gifts.

Minutes

- Seedlings – Judi sent a report. She said we donated to Seedlings “Adopt a Reader” program. The adopted child will receive 10 books over during 2025.

Auction: Jackie reported that we netted \$2660 from the auction. Members expressed favorable comments about St. Mary’s Cultural Center. The auction will be held at the same place on November 2, 2025. Start shopping the sales for items for the auction!

Grant-in-Aid: Karen Mosca sent pictures showing how she used her grant money. Pictures and an article are in the newsletter. Joanna and Karen (co-chairs) are accepting applications for 2025 grants.

Special Orders: Judi Fisher will confirm the Northville Library room for our March meeting.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

1. Chapter Woman of Distinction was selected. Our honoree will be revealed at the Birthday Dinner in May.
2. State Convention in Mt. Pleasant at Soaring Eagle May 2-4 , 2025. All members are encouraged to attend. Thus far, Judy M , Pam E , Amy, Judi, Cindy, and Jackie plan on attending.
3. Kathleen Rodak , Fine Arts Liaison, sent an email to the presidents about the submission date (February 15) for anyone who wants to submit a photo of their art. The board suggested that Pam Sayre submit some of her photographs.
4. Metro Council trip to Michigan Flight Museum (formally Yankee Air Museum) will take place on May 10. Jackie will send a flier out to member in April. Claire Dahl will do a presentation for us and lead us in riveting lessons at the museum

Announcements:

1. Amy announced that she will be moving back to Sturgis, MI where her family lives. She will REALLY be missed !!!

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 8:18 with no objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Sievert Co-Recording Secretary



Grant-in-Aid

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Gamma Alpha Chapter Grant-in-Aid Application



DKG stands for The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. DKG is an international honor society of 85,000 members that promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. Gamma Alpha Chapter is comprised mainly of women educators from Wayne-Westland and Livonia schools. Gamma Alpha is involved in projects that aid the community. We award one/two (\$1,000) Grant-in-Aid funds for early career educators for continuing education or classroom projects. Five hundred dollars is presented to awardee at our spring dinner. Awardee is encouraged to bring a teaching colleague (female) to the dinner. Meals will be provided by Gamma Alpha. The remainder of the grant (\$500) will be awarded at one of our fall meetings the awardee chooses to attend. Awardee will give a brief talk about how she has used the grant. She is encouraged to bring a colleague to this meeting, as well. Applicants complete the following:

Part I

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____
Email _____
School and District _____

Part II

Write an essay, no longer than one page, of your current responsibilities, accomplishments, and how you wish to use the grant money.

Part III

Include one letter of recommendation with your application.

Return this form by February 28 to:

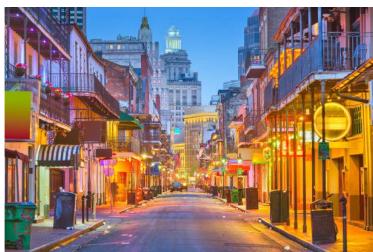
Joanna Eiwen
jeruth@att.net
or
Karen Moscsa
klmosca@hotmail.com

Grant-in-Aid Report

Before Karen Mosca became a member of Gamma Alpha, she attended our annual auctions yearly as a guest of Donna Colaianne. As a guest, Karen even donated items for the auction. Donna encouraged Karen to apply for a grant. Karen used money from the grant to defray the cost of field trips for the four first-grade classes in her school. The grant money defrayed the cost of transportation and entrance fees. The classes visited the city library, Wayne-Westland S.T.E.M. center/planetarium, the Detroit Zoo, an outdoor adventure center, and the Real Life Farm in Canton. Karen is now a member and attends the auction annually. Karen thanks all of our members for awarding her the grant. Thank you so much!!!



DKG International Convention



Coming to New Orleans, Louisiana
July 30 - August 2, 2025

GET INSPIRED!
MAKE VALUABLE CONNECTIONS!
EXPLORE!

Registration is now open

Visit www.dkg.org for more details

Partnered with UNICEF USA since 1997, DKG



is currently supporting
G.I.R.L.S. Fund. This fund
provides educational access
for girls in Africa through
UNICEF's "Girls Initiative

to **Revitalize Learning and Success**" (GIRLS)
Fund.

The initiative aims to:

- 1) **Get a better understanding** of the current barriers and bottlenecks facing girls in Africa;
- 2) **address harmful social norms** that impede prosperity of girls;
- 3) **Deploy technology** to accelerate results in girls' education;
- 4) **Mount global advocacy and leadership** through a Global Platform; and
- 5) **Develop a Technical Advisory Panel** (TAP) to tap into expertise on gender equality and women's empowerment and change the trajectory of learning and earning outcomes for girls and young women.

Our annual auction profits help to support the G.I.R.L.S. Fund. Go Gamma Alpha.

Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committees



Co-Presidents:

Judy Morante & Pam Emerson

Co-Vice-President & Membership:

Amy Wright & Jennifer LaRose

Co-Recording Secretary:

Linda Dobrzeniecki & Margie Sievert

Treasurer:

Cindy Dietz

Parliamentarian:

Pam Sayre

Immediate Past Presidents:

Judi Fisher & Jackie Smart

Committees

Grant-in-Aid: Joanna Eiwen & Karen Mosca

Newsletter/Yearbook: Jackie Smart

Personal Growth & Service Projects:

Carole Lower

Finance: Judi Fisher

Sunshine: Fran Saenz

50/50: Cindy Dietz

Auction: Jackie Smart

Websites

DKG International

www.dkg.org

DKG Michigan State Organization

www.dkgmichigan.org

DKG Gamma Alpha

www.migammaalpha.org

**Metro Coordinating Council Educational Opportunity
Michigan Flight Museum
47844 D Street
Belleville, MI 48111**



In 1941, Ford Motor Co. received a \$200 million government contract to produce B-24 bomber planes. This was a thriving boost to Michigan's economy and the plant was known as the world's largest factory at the time. Ford simplified production to an assembly-line format. At the Michigan Flight Museum (formerly the Yankee Air Museum) you'll discover a diverse array of exhibits. While some are permanent fixtures, others grace the halls for a limited period. We begin our day with Claire Dahl. She will do a 45 minute classroom presentation and take us to the Museum and the newest exhibit "Women Answer the Call" which depicts the working life of women at Willow Run. This exhibit features hands-on riveting stations and several other interactive displays. Claire will teach us all how to rivet. We all can be 'Rosie the Riveter' for a day. Afterwards we can wander around the Museum on our own. Metro Council will be making a donation to MFM.

Date: May 10, 2025 (RSVP by April 26)

Time: Classroom presentation begins at 10:30 A.M. (The Museum opens at 10:00.)

Cost: \$10 p/p

Send your check payable to 'Gamma Alpha.' Mail check to the Metro Council treasurer: by
April 26, 2025

Cindy Dietz
7329 Gilman
Westland, MI 48185
734-812-7285
cdietz02@comcast.net

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Guest(s): *Men are welcome* _____

Chapter: _____

Total amount of check: \$ _____

We will find a local place for lunch after our trip for those who are interested.

Mt. Pleasant Here We Come!

Another exciting DKG Michigan State Organization Event is planned for May 2-4, 2025 at the Soaring Eagle Resort near Mt. Pleasant. The event will be fun and our business meeting promises to be succinct.



Why should you come to this event?

- As a member or chapter officer, we need your input in making decisions about state events and activities.
- Soaring Eagle is not only beautiful, but it is packed with plenty of things to do in addition to the program of speakers that our state First Vice President, Colleen Retherford, has planned.
- There is gambling as well as a beautiful pool and a spa where you can get pampered.
- We've booked 50 rooms at \$199 per night before taxes and fees. If you have a roommate, that's only \$199 for a luxurious, beautifully appointed room for two nights! Book your room by calling the hotel by April 11, 2025. Check In after 4 pm and Check Out before 11 am on Sunday. You can use the hotel amenities before and after you are "checked in."
- The trips there and back are packed with fun things to do. Think about stopping in Claire, Michigan for a quick trip to Cops & Donuts. There's also some shopping and if you want a quaint lunch, it's fun to go to the Doherty Inn.
- Central Michigan University campus and town are beautiful, with a few highlights to visit including:
 - ◊ The Ziibiwing Center which presents the beauty and vibrancy of the Anishinaabe culture.
 - ◊ Enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, biking and picnicking near the Chippewa River or the nearby Isabella County Parks.
 - ◊ Wander through charming downtown Mount Pleasant, filled with unique shops and boutiques.

Here are some links to follow for more information:

Soaring Eagle Hotel and Casino <https://www.soaringeaglecasino.com/resort/deals.html>

Central Michigan University <https://www.cmich.edu/>

Meet Mt. Pleasant <https://meetmtp.com/mt-pleasant-small-town-feel-big-city-amenities/>

Deerfield Nature Reserve <https://meetmtp.com/places/deerfield-nature-park/>

Bike Mt Pleasant <https://meetmtp.com/blog-bike-your-way-around-central-michigan/>

Submitted by Dr. Ranae Beyerlein, Beta Mu, State Executive Secretary

Exciting Topics Will be Presented in Mt. Pleasant!

The excitement is building for our upcoming spring convention at Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mount Pleasant! While the schedule has not yet been firmed up, we would like to give you a peek at some of the sessions and other great activities we have planned.

- Friday night we will begin with another AIM gala. Last spring our Roaring 20's party was a huge success, and we're hoping for even more fun this year. Many thanks to the AIM committee for creating an event that funds our purposes, as well as bringing us together in a relaxed, joyful event.
- We are excited to have our own Laura Ruggles presenting her "Teach Like a Coach" session, sharing strategies for changing mindsets through teaching with themes. Laura's enthusiasm and energy is contagious, and we can't wait to attend her session.
- We will be joined by our Northeast Regional Director Eileen Little. We hope to gain insight into how our international organization is functioning now with the changes in personnel, as well as learning more about GIRLS, our service project in Africa.
- As you may know, Soaring Eagle is a tribal venture, and we plan to have at least one session by representatives of the Anishinabek tribe. We will learn about the Saginaw Chippewa Academy, a unique educational system. We have also invited a representative from the Ziibiwing Center to give a talk. This educational center was created to promote "the society's belief that the culture, diversity and spirit of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe must be recognized, perpetuated, communicated and supported."
- And there's more! Are you an early bird? Partake in an aqua fitness session on Saturday morning.
- Our leadership session will be a mid-biennium check-in for our chapter presidents and other officers.
- We also hope to have a tech session with our own Amy Wright.
- Of course, there will be sessions to express and explore our creativity through the arts.

These are just some of the offerings for our DKG members in the spring. Plan on a weekend of fellowship, fun and educational opportunities! See you there!

Submitted by Colleen Retherford, Epsilon, State 1st Vice-President



DKG-Michigan State Organization State Convention

May 2-4, 2025

Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort
6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858
Reservations

(888-732-4537) by April 11, 2025 for the group rate

Use Delta Kappa Gamma Society International to get the rates at \$199 per room (plus Tax and Fees) for two Queen Beds (Rate is for 1 or 2 people; \$10 extra per additional room guest)

Please Print: Use one form for each person

First	Last	Chapter
Address	City/State	Zip
Preferred Phone	Email	Years of Membership
Chapter Position	State Position	International Position

All participants must register to attend, even workers.

Please bring your neck wallet name badge holders. If you do not have one or forget yours, plastic holders will be available.

All meals include taxes and Gratuities

Registration Fee Postmarked by April 9, 2025, includes hot beverages & snack. Waived for first time attendee.	\$90.00	\$
Late Fee (Postmarked after April 9, 2025)	\$40.00	\$
If this is your first time attending a DKG state conference or convention, please check here. Registration waived.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Friday AIM Anniversary Gala- includes hors d'oeuvres, snacks, activities and Cash Bar at 8:00 pm \$10 goes to AIM	\$30.00	\$
Saturday Breakfast Buffet- Scrambled eggs, Crème Brulee French Toast with fresh berries, with home fried potatoes, juices, fresh fruit slices, pastries, bacon, assorted hot beverages	\$28.00	\$
Saturday Lunch- Michigan Chicken Salad Wrap with pasta salad, fruit garnish, assorted hot beverages	\$21	
Saturday Banquet- Choice of shrimp carbonara (bacon accented cream sauce) with linguini or grilled chicken breast with Fontina Mornay and glazed onion; both include salad, vegetable, starch, rolls, dessert and assorted hot beverages.	Shrimp or Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> \$44.00 or \$44.00	\$
Sunday Breakfast – Vegetable and parmesan quiche with sausage links, roasted red skin potatoes, seasonal fruit cocktail, pastries, and hot beverages.	\$25.00	\$
Total amount enclosed: Make Check payable to Delta Kappa Gamma	<i>(Note: Checks will not be deposited until March 30 in case of event cancellation)</i>	\$

**Cost of the meals helps to defray the cost of the room rentals. Costs include mandatory gratuity and taxes*

Dietary Needs:

Dietary needs must be listed on this registration form in order to inform the hotel staff of your special needs. If you sign up for a special meal, please do not switch your selection at the banquet since the meal count is predetermined by registration. Special tickets will be provided in the registration packets of those who indicate the following needs. Circle **DIETARY NEED, IF NECESSARY:**

Gluten Free___ Vegetarian___ Diabetic___

Handicap Assistance:

There is elevator service to guest rooms. If you require special guest room accommodations, please notify the hotel staff directly when you make your overnight reservations.

Photo Release: By your attendance at this event you are granting your permission to be photographed by Michigan State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and granting the use of your likeness, without compensation, in the *Wolverine* and/or on the Society website.

There is NO SCECH fee for this Convention.

In order to earn the State Continuing Educational Clock Hours (SCECHs) you must do the following:

1. Register for SCECHs at the registration desk when you check in. (State Required Form)
2. Assure that you are stamped in and stamped out of each session. (You must attend the entire session, plus sign the State Form with your signature and phone number, and MI PIC number. The monitor should have this form.)
3. At the registration desk, there will be a special box labeled for your completed Official Attendance Sheet and SCECH evaluation sheet.

- The Combined Executive Board and General Membership Meeting will start at **8:00 AM Saturday**.
- ALL MEMBERS should attend that meeting at 8:00 AM Saturday
- Coordinating Councils will meet following the Executive Board meeting.

Please mail this completed form and your check, payable to Delta Kappa Gamma, to the 2025 Convention Registrar:

Judi Fisher
20180 Rippling Lane
Northville, MI 48167-1905
248-808-0477
judifisher@yahoo.com

Cancellation Policy:

*"A person having to cancel will receive a refund provided her written request is posted **fifteen** days prior to the event"* which would be **April 1, 2025**. (Standing rule 7:01 of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International). Requests for cancellations must be sent in writing to the same person to whom the registration form was sent. If it is necessary to cancel after **April 1, 2025**, you should attempt to get someone from your chapter to attend in your place. **No refunds will be made after the cancellation date.**

NOTE: HOTEL REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE BEFORE FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025 FOR CONVENTION RATE OF \$199 FOR STANDARD DOUBLE QUEEN, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY.

You must personally make and/or cancel your hotel accommodations:

Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort
6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858
Reservations
(888-732-4537) by April 11, 2025 for the group rate
For the group rate, use Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



Nation Gets a New Report Card Nearly 5 Years after Schools Closed

Co-President, Pam Emerson recently read an interesting report by NPR on our nation's schools. This is a condensed version. The link for the entire article is at the end.

Almost five years have passed since COVID-19 first disrupted America's schools, and new data, known as the Nation's Report Card, offers cause for hope — and concern.

The good news: In math, many students have made up at least some of the academic ground they lost during the pandemic. The bad news: In both reading and math, most fourth- and eighth-graders in 2024 still performed *below* pre-pandemic 2019 levels.

This article discusses the 2024 Nation's Report Card (NAEP) results, focusing on math and reading scores for fourth and eighth graders. Here's a breakdown of the key findings:

Math:

- **Hopeful Signs:** Fourth-grade math scores showed slight improvement compared to 2022, suggesting some recovery from pandemic learning loss. White, Black, Hispanic, and economically disadvantaged students all saw modest gains. Eighth-grade scores held steady.
- **Still Below Pre-Pandemic Levels:** Despite the improvement, both fourth and eighth-grade math scores remain below 2019 levels. The gains made are not enough to fully close the gap.
- **Pre-Existing Trends:** The decline in math scores began *before* the pandemic, around 2013, raising questions about underlying causes. Possible explanations include changes in education policy (like the phasing out of No Child Left Behind), the Great Recession, increased screen time, and a decline in reading for pleasure.
- **Widening Gap:** A concerning trend is the widening achievement gap in eighth-grade math. High-performing students improved, while low-performing students lost further ground.
- **Proficiency Levels:** Overall, 39% of fourth-graders and 28% of eighth-graders are at or above NAEP's proficiency standard in math.

Reading:

- **Concerning Results:** Reading scores paint a less optimistic picture. Fourth-grade reading scores continued to decline, falling below both 2022 and 2019 levels. Eighth-grade scores also dropped.
- **Pre-Existing Trends:** As with math, reading scores were already declining before the pandemic, starting around 2015.
- **Low Proficiency:** Only 31% of fourth-graders and 30% of eighth-graders are at or above the proficiency standard in reading.
- **Historical Lows:** The share of eighth-graders reading below the "basic" level is the highest in NAEP history. The lowest-performing readers are scoring lower than they did 30 years ago.
- **No State Improvement:** No state saw improved eighth-grade reading scores

compared to either 2022 or 2019.

Other Key Findings:

- **Socioeconomic Disparities:** The NAEP results highlight the strong correlation between socioeconomic status (SES) and academic performance. Students from wealthier backgrounds significantly outperformed those from lower-income backgrounds.
- **Attendance Matters:** Lower-performing students are more likely to report missing school. Chronic absenteeism is a significant problem that hinders learning.

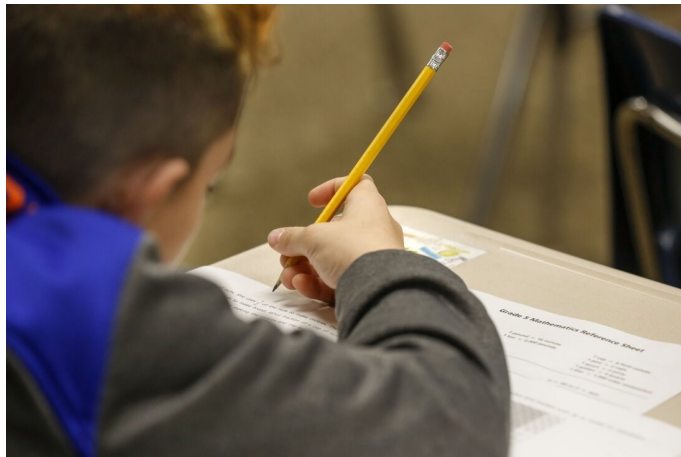
Overall:

The Nation's Report Card presents a mixed picture. While there's some hope in math recovery for fourth-graders, reading scores continue to decline, and achievement gaps are widening. The data underscores the need to address pre-existing trends that were exacerbated by the pandemic, as well as the importance of tackling issues like chronic absenteeism and socioeconomic disparities. The article emphasizes that simply throwing money at the problem isn't enough; a deeper understanding of the underlying causes is crucial for effective solutions.

JANUARY 29, 2025 5:00 AM ET
HEARD ON MORNING EDITION

By Cory Turner and Jonaki Mehta

Read entire article in NPR: https://apple.news/Ap_xcT0V-TXWB0O4Osaof_w



February 20th Galentine's Day Zoom Recap

Galentine's Day is a holiday celebrated on February 13th to honor female friendships. It originated as a fictional holiday on the TV show Parks and Recreation. Galentine's Day is a day to celebrate and support female friendships. It's a chance to show appreciation for your girlfriends, who have been there for you through thick and thin. Galentine's Day is often celebrated with a brunch, lunch, or dinner with friends, or in Gamma Alpha's case, a wonderful Galentine's Day Zoom meeting, sharing five rounds of joyful conversation. Some recurring themes emerged:

- **Comfort Food:** Soup is a February favorite.
- **Galentine's Day Food:** Make a Caprese salad with heart-shaped mozzarella and tomato slices, heart-shaped ravioli with pink vodka sauce, yellow cake with pink frosting and sprinkles, heart-shaped donuts from Dunkin'
- **Beating the Blues:** Music is a great way to lift spirits during the winter. Some of my favorites include Cyndi Lauper's timeless hit, "Girls Just Want to Have Fun," radiates the vibrant energy of female empowerment and camaraderie, making it an ideal addition to any Galentine's Day playlist. Sara Bareilles' empowering anthem "Brave" is an exceptional addition to your playlist, celebrating the courage and strength that comes from true friendship. Alicia Keys' "Girl on Fire" is an empowering song that quickly became a rallying cry for women everywhere, celebrating strength, resilience, and the indomitable spirit that defines true friendship.
- **Cozy Reads:** Snuggling up with a good book is a popular pastime. Some book recommendations are:
 - ◇ *The Grey Wolf* by Louise Penny (recommended by Judy Morante)
 - ◇ *Summer Island* by Kristin Hannah (recommended by Fran Saenz)
 - ◇ *The Mirror and the Light* by Hilary Mantel (recommended by Diane Frangie)
 - ◇ *The Waiting* by Michael Connelly (recommended by Margie Sievert)
 - ◇ *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks (recommended by Margie Sievert)
 - ◇ *The Women* by Kristin Hannah (recommended by Margie Sievert)

