



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International DKG Michigan State Organization

*Serving Women Educators from Western Wayne County
Gamma Alpha, Zeta, Gamma Gamma, Beta Chi, & Alpha Rho are
Members of Metro Coordinating Council*

**Fall 2025
Volume 46 Issue 1**

GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN



Presidents' Message

Judy Morante & Pam Emerson, Co-Presidents

Gamma Alpha Sisters,

Pam Emerson here from Holland! Summer on Michigan's West Coast has been unpredictable, with strong winds and frequent beach warnings due to 2-4 ft. waves, often making swimming off-limits. But that just leaves more time for something else: summer reading! Dive into our region's rich maritime history through Great Lakes-themed historical fiction and nonfiction. You'll soon see what I mean—the Great Lakes are truly spectacular.

From pounding waves along the shorelines to freighters and ocean-going ships caught in sudden, fierce storms, the lakes have claimed many vessels. Check out historical maps of each lake or visit one of Michigan's many maritime museums to get a better sense of their power and charm. The stories of bold seafarers, lighthouse keepers, and fishing families navigating these unpredictable waters are as gripping as any novel.

In Detroit, stop by the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle for a front-row view of ship traffic on the Detroit River. Or take a stroll along the Detroit Riverwalk or

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This is the link to Join
Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5760748757?pwd=bHZ6TnJJZVEyS3hwYStRVGJzUnpwUT09&omn=81598475155>

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757
Passcode: **dkg**

Join by Phone
312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 576 074 8757

**First Meeting
September 18, 2025
See calendar for details
An evite with RSVP will be
sent. Dinner afterwards at
Deadwood Bar & Grill in
Northville.**

See you there!

shoreline paths in other lakefront towns—you'll often spot ships passing by.

Want real-time updates? Follow Facebook's "Ships of the Great Lakes" for daily photos and ship details. And while you're on Facebook, check out #BorderCrossings for stunning aerial views of the nearly finished (90%) Gordie Howe International Bridge, a US-Canada project funded initially by Canada and built by skilled tradespeople from around the world. Once open, tolls will gradually reimburse Canada. This new bridge adds to our five existing international crossings; plus, of course, the iconic Mighty Mac!

Feeling inspired? It might be time to plan your next Michigan day trip. Grab a copy of "The First 50" from the popular Under the Radar Michigan TV series, or pick up "Michigan Day Trips by Theme"; both packed with updated routes, lodging ideas, and themed adventures.

So here's to hitting the road or the lakeshore. Happy Trails to You (Name that tune in 5 notes!)

Pam



Gordie Howe Bridge

2025-2026 Calendar

Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5760748757?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5760748757?pwd=bHZ6TnJJZVEyS3hwbStRVGJzUnpwUT09&omn=81598475155)

[pwd=bHZ6TnJJZVEyS3hwbStRVGJzUnpwUT09&omn=81598475155](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5760748757?pwd=bHZ6TnJJZVEyS3hwbStRVGJzUnpwUT09&omn=81598475155)

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757

Passcode: dkg (all lowercase)

OR

Join by Phone

312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757



September 18, 2025 (Thursday) 1 SCECH

Time: 5:30 P.M.

Place Living & Learning Enrichment Center

801 Griswold Street

Northville, MI 48167

Meeting Information:

Rachelle Vartanian, founder of the Living & Learning Enrichment Center (501(c)3 nonprofit), will speak to Gamma Alpha about her journey and the center's mission. Rachelle holds a BA in teaching emotionally impaired students and a MA in Educational Psychology. After noticing signs of autism in her youngest son, she earned a second Master's in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Recognizing limited local support for families, she created Weamara, a social skills group, which she facilitated for two years. After 20 years as a special education teacher, Rachelle downsized her life to launch the Living & Learning Enrichment Center and Mod Market. Join us to learn more about her journey, the Center, and Mod Market.

After the meeting, let's keep the evening going at Deadwood Bar & Grill on Northville Road! Enjoy delicious food, a cozy atmosphere, and—most importantly—good company. Fellowship is a vital part of what makes our group strong. Hope you can join us!

Note:

We will also induct new members into Gamma Alpha Chapter.

Jackie will begin collecting checks, cash, Zelle, or Venmo or Apple Cash for payments for the Annual Action. \$33.

- Venmo to Ian-W-Smart
- Zelle to ian@mysmartfamily.com
- Apple Cash to ian@mysmartfamily.com

October 3-4, 2026 (Friday, Saturday)

Fall Conference and State Executive Board Meeting

Place: Hilton Garden Inn

27355 Cabaret Drive

Novi, MI 48377 US

Information about the convention will be available on the state website and in the fall issue of *The Wolverine*. Registration form is also in the newsletter. Note: First-time attendees will have their registration fees paid by the state. Be sure you indicate you are a first-timer on your registration form.

October 23, 2025 (Thursday) 1 SCECH**Time:** 5:30 P.M.**Place:** Northville Sports Den

133 W. Maine Street Suite 102

Northville, MI 48167

We will have dinner and enjoy a presentation at The Sports Den in downtown Northville. There is plenty of free parking on Center and Cady Street. We will eat first and enjoy a wonderful speaker. An Evite will be sent for you to RSVP. The Sports Den needs to know the count.

Meeting Information: Teaching & Learning in India

We are thrilled to welcome Anne Wade (Alpha Lambda) — State First Vice President and a Nationally Accredited Educator — as she shares stories from her incredible adventure in India through the Fulbright Global Scholars Program.

Anne will give us a behind-the-scenes look at:

- What it's like to teach and travel with Fulbright
- How teachers can apply for this life-changing opportunity
- The lessons she learned while working with students and educators in India
- How the Indian education system compares to ours
- The important role education plays in achieving the United Nations' goals for a better world by 2030

Join us for an inspiring evening — bring your curiosity, your questions, and maybe even a dream of where your teaching journey could take you next!

*Jackie will collect checks, cash, Zelle, or Venmo payments for November's Annual Action. (\$33)

October 24-26, 2025 (Friday-Sunday)**Women in the Arts Retreat**

Ralph MacMullen Conference Center

Conservation Drive

Roscommon, MI 48653

Women in the Arts is a weekend to attend craft sessions, socialize, or just relax in a beautiful 'up north' setting. No creative talent is required to attend. It is a great way to meet new members around the state for fun, food, and fellowship. Registration form is in this newsletter. In the summer issue of *The Wolverine* www.dkgmichigan.org

November 2, 2025 (Sunday) *This is detailed for new members and those who forget!***Time:** 11:30 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.**Place:** St. Mary's Cultural Center

18100 Merriman Rd (between Six/Seven Mile Roads in Livonia)

Cost: \$33 (Prepayment needed)**Meeting Information:** Gamma Alpha Annual Fundraiser Auction Guidelines.

Each year, Gamma Alpha hosts one fundraiser to support our chapter's service work, grants, and charitable giving. We count on YOU to help make it a success!

Auction Schedule

Set-Up Committee Arrival: 10:45 AM

Member Arrival & Item Setup: 11:15 AM

Guests Begin Arriving Shortly After

To streamline setup, please complete your donation form, silent auction sheet, and description cards before arriving. These are included in the newsletter. (Extras available at registration if needed or you forget.)

Since we have new members, here are some suggestions about what to donate. All items should be new or handmade. Please do not bring white elephant items.

Themed Baskets (Great for the Silent Auction table):

- Spa Day
- Date Night
- Coffee Lovers
- Pet Lovers
- Movie Night
- Fitness
- Wine or Gourmet Foods
- Snacks
- Family Game Night
- Chocolate
- Kids' Crafts

Experiences & Services:

- Tickets (Movies, Theater, Sports, Comedy Club, Concerts, etc.)
- Classes (Cooking, Art, Fitness)
- Services (House Cleaning, Hair, Nails)
- Gift Cards (Restaurants, Retail, Online) I included a letter to help you solicit donations in the newsletter.
- Spa Trip
- Weekend Getaways

Auction Cup Ideas:

- Handmade craft
- Art
- Baked Goods
- Books
- Holiday Décor
- Collectibles

Where Should I Put My Items?

Item Value	Table	Cup Color
\$5 - \$25	Small Raffle Cup Table	Yellow
\$25 - \$50	Large Raffle Cup Table	Blue
\$50+	Silent Auction Table	

Raffle Cup Instructions

- Select a numbered cup in the appropriate color.
- Write a description of your item on the donation card.
- Place a matching numbered sticker on your item and your description card that corresponds with the number on the cup. (This prevents mix-ups during the drawing!)

Silent Auction Instructions:

Fill out a bidding sheet with:

- Item description
- Starting bid (50–75% of value is suggested)
- Place your item and completed bidding sheet on the Silent Auction Table.

Can't Attend?

Please consider donating anyway! Proceeds benefit:

- Beverly House for Girls Service Projects
- Grant-in-Aid Awards for Educators
- Gamma Alpha Chapter's Charitable Donations (Seedlings Braille Books for Children, UNICEF-DKG G.I.R.L.S. Fund, DKG World Fellowships, DKG Members Supporting Members Fund)

Don't Forget:



You may bring a bottle of wine or two to enjoy during the event. Let's make this auction a success - for our chapter and our community.

December 11, 2025 (Thursday)

Holiday Happy Hour "Fun, Food, and Giving to Beverly House"

Time: 5:30-7:30

Place: Margie Sievert's Home
18265 Arselot
Northville, MI 48168

Meeting Information:

Gamma Alpha members will come together for an evening filled with fun, fellowship, and generosity. An Evite with full details will be sent at the end of November. You'll be asked to bring either a hearty hors d'oeuvre or a dessert to share. As part of our annual Service Project, the committee will provide us with the wish lists of the girls we're sponsoring. If you'd prefer not to shop, you're welcome to make a cash donation instead. All contributions, whether gifts or funds, will be added to Gamma Alpha's holiday donation, supported in part by proceeds from our auction. Together, let's make this season bright and help ensure these girls have a joyful and memorable Christmas!

January 15, 2026 (Thursday)

Zoom Executive Board Meeting:

A meeting reminder with the Zoom link will be sent to you.
(Interested members are welcome to attend.)

Time: 7:00-8:15 PM

Place: Your home

Online President's Reports to complete:

- Form 2 'Death of a Member' annual report (Must send by Feb 1 even if there are no deaths in the chapter)
- Award of the Rose (on state website)
- President's Award (on state website)
- Chapter Woman of Distinction (on state website)
- Lifetime Service Awards (one this year)
- Friend of Education (on state website)
- VP/Membership Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Auction Report
- Newsletter Report
- Service Project Report
- Grant-in-Aid Report
- Slate of Officers for 2026-2028 (Presented and voted on)
- Confirm meetings for February through June

February 19, 2026 (Thursday) 1 SCECH

Zoom Membership Meeting: A meeting reminder with the Zoom link will be sent to you.

Time: 7:00-8:15 PM

Place: Your home

Meeting Information:

Join us for a truly special meeting featuring **Linda K. McLean** - a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, retired educator, author of *Wanda and Winky* (the story of two beloved elephants from the Detroit Zoo), a dedicated DKG member from the Beta Chi chapter, and a certified forest bathing guide.

What is Forest Bathing?

Forest bathing, or *Shinrin-yoku*, is a holistic wellness practice that invites you to slow down and connect deeply with the natural world through your senses. Picture this: the gentle music of a bubbling stream, the spiral of a butterfly's tongue, a single dewdrop reflecting the canopy above and the warm scent of sunlit wildflowers. These small, mindful encounters create profound benefits for our physical and emotional health. Forest bathing has gained global recognition for reducing stress, enhancing clarity, and promoting overall well-being, all by simply being present in a forest environment. Come discover this peaceful and restorative practice with Linda as your guide. Don't miss this unique virtual opportunity to experience nature in a whole new way!

March 19, 2026 (Thursday) 1 SCECH

Gamma Alpha Visit to Seedlings Braille Books for Children

Time: 5:30-7:30 PM

Place: 14151 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48154

Meeting Information:

Gamma Alpha has proudly supported **Seedlings Braille Books for Children** since 2003. This inspiring nonprofit is dedicated to promoting literacy and educational access by providing high-

quality, affordable children's books in braille. Join us at **5:30 PM** for a special evening at Seedlings! The new director or her designee will share insights about the organization's history, its ongoing mission, recent developments, and how we can continue to support their important work. A guided tour of their expanded facility will follow the presentation. After the tour, interested members are invited to continue the evening with dinner at **Los Tres Amigos** (located at Middlebelt and 5 Mile). Let's come together to support a cause close to our hearts and enjoy meaningful time as a chapter.

May 8, 15, or 22, 2026 (Saturday)

Metro Council Meeting

TBD

April 24-26, 2026 (Friday-Sunday)

DKG Michigan State Organization State Convention and Executive Board

AC Hotels Marriott

3160 E. Michigan Avenue

Lansing, Michigan 48912

517-337-7771

Information about the convention will be available on the state website and in the winter issue of *The Wolverine*.

May 14, 2026

Annual Birthday Dinner

Time: 5:00 - 7:30 P.M. (We will eat @ 5:30.)

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

108 E. Main Street

Northville, MI 48167

- Awards (Friend of Education, Lifetime Service, Chapter Woman of Distinction, Anniversary, Grant-in-Aid)
- Induction of New Members (if any)
- Installation of New Officers

June 13, 2026 (Saturday) Annual Planning Meeting

Place: Linda Dobrzeniecki's home

2089 Helmsford

Wolverine Lake, MI 48309

Time: 11:00-1:30

Meeting information: TBD

Gamma Alpha Needs You for the 2026-2028 Biennium!

Discover the Leader in You



Our chapter has always thrived because of the dedication, creativity, and heart of its members—*you*. As we look ahead to the next biennium (2026-2028) we invite you to consider taking on a leadership role within Gamma Alpha. You don't need experience; just a willingness to learn and spirit of collaboration. Whether you're organized, creative, a team builder, or someone who wants to be more involved, there's a role for you.

President: Lead with Vision & Heart

Do you care deeply about Gamma Alpha's mission and want to help guide our chapter into the future? Consider accepting the role of **President**. You'll collaborate with a strong support team, preside over meetings, and help shape your term's focus. You don't need to have all the answers; just a love for our group, a steady hand, and a desire to serve. We'll walk alongside you every step of the way!

Vice President/Membership: Connect & Grow

Are you passionate about helping others feel welcomed, valued, and involved? As **Vice President/Membership Chair**, you'll lead efforts to recruit, engage, and retain members. This role is perfect for someone who enjoys building relationships and creating a sense of community. You'll also support the president and step in when needed. If you're a people person who wants to strengthen our sisterhood, this is your role!

Recording Secretary: Keep Us Connected & Informed

Are you detail-oriented and dependable? Our chapter needs a **Recording Secretary** to keep accurate records of meetings and help us stay organized. This behind-the-scenes role is essential to our smooth operation. It's also a great fit for someone who prefers a steady, manageable commitment and wants to make meaningful contributions to the chapter's success.

Why volunteer?

- Grow your leadership skills in a supportive environment
- Build deeper connections with fellow members
- Shape the future of our chapter's service projects and programs

Many of us stepped into a new leadership role feeling unsure; and walked away feeling empowered, inspired, and grateful. We know you're busy. The state offers training. Gamma Alpha has several dedicated members who will mentor you. The responsibilities are shared. You won't do it alone. Your voice is exactly what we need. Ready to say *yes* to growing, leading, and making a difference? Let Judy Morante judymorante@yahoo.com or Jackie Smart jackie@mysmartfamily.com know.

G.I.R.L.S. Initiative to Revitalize Learning and Success Fund



The G.I.R.L.S. Fund is one of Gamma Alpha's charitable projects. Partnered with UNICEF USA since 1997, DKG is currently supporting educational access for girls in Africa through UNICEF's "Girls Initiative to Revitalize Learning and Success" (G.I.R.L.S.) Fund.

Launched in response to the setbacks caused by COVID-19, the G.I.R.L.S. Fund works to bolster girls' education in Africa. This fund provides flexible financial support to address critical barriers to girls' education and strengthen global expertise in this field. By focusing on secondary education, the GIRLS Fund aims to help all girls *complete their schooling, acquire essential life skills, and challenge harmful social norms.*

The G.I.R.L.S. Fund addresses several key areas to improve girls' education. These aim to better understand and overcome barriers faced by out-of-school girls, expand access through various interventions, and improve learning pathways and quality of education. Additionally, the G.I.R.L.S. Fund ensures schools provide a supportive environment for girls, addressing their overall well-being through health and nutrition services. The G.I.R.L.S. Fund also drives advocacy and leadership, ensuring that governments and stakeholders are committed to accelerating educational outcomes for girls.

The initiative aims to:

- Get a better understanding of the current barriers and bottlenecks facing girls in Africa
- Address harmful social norms that impede prosperity of girls
- Deploy technology to accelerate results in girls' education
- Mount global advocacy and leadership through a Global Platform; and 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

Together, we can guarantee the next generation a better life than the last.



FALL BIRTHDAYS

September

Cindy Dietz	9
Carole Lower	16
Barb Anderson	24
Jennifer LaRose	26
Linda Clark	27
Jackie Smart	30

October

Lynne Bemer	14
Alice Duke	21
Lisa Austin	23

November

Linda Dobrzeniecki	4
Sherry Green	10
Sarah Elsesser	11
Pam Emerson	17



What Are We Reading?



GREAT BIG BEAUTIFUL LIFE

BY EMILY HENRY

Emily Henry's *Great Big Beautiful Life* is a novel that blends mystery, memoir, and emotional discovery into a story that resonates deeply with women who value voice, legacy, and the power of storytelling. It is also a great selection for your book club, good story and sometimes a little 'steamy'. The plot follows two writers, Alice and Hayden, who are invited to a secluded island to uncover the life of Margaret Ives - an aging, enigmatic uber-wealthy heiress, married to an Elvis-like man, whose story has been buried beneath years of silence and scandal.

For women educators, this book offers more than an engaging narrative. It speaks to the heart of what we do: preserve stories, nurture truth, and shape the next generation's understanding of identity and history. Margaret's life, full of complexity and contradiction, becomes a mirror through which we see the power and importance of telling women's stories, especially those often overlooked or misunderstood.

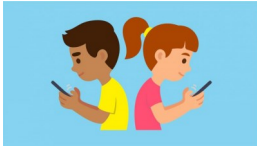
With its intergenerational themes, strong female characters, and insights into the way stories are crafted and remembered, this novel provides rich discussion points for book clubs, DKG gatherings, or quiet summer reflection. Emily Henry's writing is warm, witty, and wise; reminding us that behind every life is a "beautiful life" worth exploring, and perhaps, understanding.

This novel is perfect for women educators and will linger in your thoughts long after the last page.

"That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you're not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong."

F. Scott Fitzgerald

How Screen Time Is Shaping Today's Classrooms



In today's digital world screens are a constant presence in children's lives, tablets are part of a teacher's school supply list, and students carry smartphones before they can write in cursive, screen time has become a central part of how children learn and live. While technology offers many benefits, growing evidence suggests that excessive screen time can have a profound impact on children's overall well-being. As educators, active and retired, it's important to understand how this shift is influencing the classroom experience and shaping young learners.

What We're Seeing in Today's Classrooms

Screens are being used for everything from reading lessons to math games and virtual field trips. When used intentionally, technology can boost learning in exciting ways:

The Upside:

- High-quality apps and videos offer interactive learning in reading, math, science, and art.
- Adaptive software helps personalize learning, offering support where kids need it most.
- Digital tools help students build 21st-century skills like research, collaboration, and tech fluency. However, not all screen time is created equal.

The Concerns:

- One of the most visible effects of too much screen time is a decline in physical health. Children who spend long periods sitting and engaging with screens often lack the physical activity needed for healthy growth. This sedentary lifestyle contributes to weight gain and increases the risk of childhood obesity.
- Too much screen time, especially entertainment-based, can lead to shortened attention spans and reduced focus in school.
- Additionally, screens can interfere with natural sleep rhythms. The blue light emitted by phones, tablets, and computers suppresses melatonin, a hormone that promotes sleep. Many children who use devices before bedtime struggle to fall asleep or experience restless nights, which in turn affects their mood, attention, and academic performance.
- Face-to-face social interaction is reduced when screen use replaces play and conversation.
- Teachers report rising difficulty keeping students engaged in non-digital tasks like writing and reading print materials.

What Educators Are Doing

- Schools and teachers are responding with structured screen time policies and digital literacy programs.

- Many classrooms now feature “tech-free” zones or intentional screen breaks to re-engage students with hands-on activities, collaborative projects, and quiet reading time.

Tips for Supporting Balance at Home

Parents (and grandparents!) can help by:

- **Setting clear boundaries:** The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no more than one hour of high-quality screen time per day for children aged 2-5 and encourages consistent limits for older children.
- **Model healthy habits:** Parents, grandparents, and caregivers can set a powerful example by managing their own screen use and prioritizing device-free family time.
- **Encourage alternatives:** Promote activities like outdoor play, reading, creative arts, and board games - all of which support physical, emotional, and social development.
- **Co-view and engage:** When children are using screens, watch or play alongside them. Discuss what they’re seeing or doing to make screen time more interactive and meaningful

Technology isn’t going away , and it doesn’t need to. When used mindfully and in moderation, screens can support learning. The key is balance. As educators, our role in shaping learning may shift with retirement, but our curiosity and concern for the future of education remain constant. Understanding the evolving impact of screen time helps us stay informed, supportive, and ready to guide the next generation.



“Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is most important.” *Bill Gates*

June 7, 2025 Minutes

Minutes June 7, 2025

Call to Order at 11:15 A.M.

Fourteen members and one guest were present for the planning meeting: Judy Morante and Pam Emerson (co-Presidents), Jackie Smart, Judi Fisher, Cindy Dietz, Diane Frangie, Pam Sayre, Amy Wright, Joanna Eiwen, Linda Clark, Linda Dobrzeniecki, Lynne Bemer, Margie Sievert, Carole Lower, and one of our grant awardees, Karen Dickelman.

Quorum:

Secretary Linda D. reported we had a quorum.

Minutes:

The awards from the Birthday Dinners meeting were approved as published.

Reports:

Co-Presidents: Judy and Pam made a positive report about their time at the state convention.

Treasurer: Cindy reported we have \$17,491.34 in savings and \$533.86 in the checkbook. Twenty members have paid their dues, and twenty still need to pay. Cindy will be making calls.

Standing/Special Committees

- Personal Growth & Service Projects Committee: Carole Lower reported that she delivered the new television to Beverly House. Lynne Bemer reported that she and Lynne Elsesser planted annuals with the girls at the home. The committee will explore some new projects for the girls.
- Auction Committee: The auction is scheduled for November 2, 2025, at St. Mary's Cultural and Banquet Center located at 18100 Merriman Road in Livonia (between Six and Seven Mile Roads). The flyer and more information will be in the newsletter. The cost will be \$33. Bring GUESTS.
- Grant-in-Aid Committee: Joanna Eiwen let us know that seven working teachers from Wayne-Westland are interested in joining Gamma Alpha!!!! They are: Karen Dickelman, Kristen VanDoorne, Ana Tilley, Andrea Saksa, Angela Christy, Mary Ann Welch, and Chris Swanson. Judy Morante will follow-up with Friend of Education, William Hundley's wife.

Special Orders: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business

- A motion was made to pay dues for the new members for the first year.
- First timers at the Fall Conference in Novi (October 3-4, 2025) will have their registration fee paid by the state organization. SCECH credit is available.
- Awards from the Birthday Dinner: Chapter Woman of Distinction-Margie Sievert; Lifetime Service Awards-Margie Sievert, Carol Anderson, Judi Fisher, Carole Lower, Judy Morante; Anniversary Pins; 45-Esther Lowkowske, 35-Jackie Smart, 30-Cindy Dietz, and 25-Liz Frazier; Friend of Education: William, Northville's Tuscan Café; and Grant-in-Aid Awards-Karen Dickelman and Adriana Tilley. Both are teachers in WWCS.
- Gamma Alpha website fee is going up to \$8.00/month.

<https://migammaalpha.org/>

- The meetings and programs are available in the 2025-2026 Calendar in the newsletter. A copy is attached to the minutes.
- Pam Emerson will chair the October meeting. Judy Morante will be on vacation.
- Meeting ideas were discussed, and the calendar for 2025-2026 was decided.
- Amy was given a gift from the chapter. Pam Emerson read a touching tribute about her. We will still see Amy at state events.

Announcements:

Bring old eyeglasses to any meeting. These will be donated to the Lions Club. Linda Clark will collect and deliver the glasses.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Linda Dobrzeniecki, Recording Secretary



“People who love to eat are always the best people.”

Julia Child

Auction Flyer

GAMMA ALPHA ANNUAL AUCTION



Date: Sunday, November 2, 2025

Time: 11:45-3:45 P.M

Set-up Committee arrive at 11:00

Members arrive at 11:30 to set-up their auction items

St. Mary's Cultural Center

18100 Merriman Road Between Six & Seven Mile Roads
Livonia, Michigan 48153

You can BYOW (bring your own wine!)

Be ready to buy raffle tickets that support
Gamma Alpha Chapter.

Proceeds will be used in part for:

Early-Career Educators Grants

UNICEF G.I.R.L.S. Fund

Community Service Projects:

Seedlings Braille Books for Children

Beverly House-Girls Group Home

Cost \$33

Fresh Crudité with Ranch, Domestic Cheese & Crackers, Relish Tray

Broccoli Cheese Soup & Rolls

Michigan Salad with Grilled Chicken

Coffee, Pop, Tea, Decaf

Cake

1. Indicate if a vegetarian Michigan salad is requested (no chicken)
2. Make checks payable to "Gamma Alpha."
3. Send \$33 check to Jackie Smart, by October 24, 2024
4. Electronic payment: Venmo to Ian-W-Smart, Zelle to ian@mysmartfamily.com, or Apple Cash to ian@mysmartfamily.com
5. Please list names of guests for the name tags.
6. All tables have 8 seats. If you fill a table (8) we can reserve the table for your party. Please include their names and if vegetarian.
7. If you are a guest, indicate at whose table you will sit.
8. If you are unable to attend after you have paid, please find someone to take your place. No refunds after October 24.
9. Bring many guests!

DKG is a professional honor society of key women educators in the United States, Canada, Europe, Latin America and Japan. Our mission is: *"to promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education."* If you are currently a teacher or retired from the teaching profession, please ask any member about joining DKG.

Jackie Smart
20158 Southampton Drive
Livonia, MI 48152
jackie@mysmartfamily.com
248-476-8659

State of Michigan Form for Your Auction Donation

State of Michigan Donation Form





Name _____

Address _____

November 2, 2025

Item or Service Donated	Cash Value
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Total	_____

Auction Donation Cards for Your Items

<div>Item</div> <div>Donated by</div> 	<div>Item</div> <div>Donated by</div> 
<div>Item</div> <div>Donated by</div> 	<div>Item</div> <div>Donated by</div> 

Letter of Introduction for Business Donations



**Michigan
State Organization**

Gamma Alpha Chapter

Event Date: Saturday, November 2, 2025

Location: St. Mary's Cultural Center, Livonia, MI

Who We Are:

Gamma Alpha is a local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG)—an international honor society of women educators. Our chapter includes current and retired teachers, counselors, and administrators who are passionate about **uplifting education** in the Wayne-Westland, Livonia, Garden City, and Northville communities.

What We're Doing:

Each November, Gamma Alpha hosts its **Annual Teacher Auction**, where donated items and services are auctioned off to raise funds for educational initiatives. Proceeds support:

- ☒ Grants for early-career educators
- ☒ Seedlings Braille Books for Children
- ☒ Beverly House for Young Girls
- ☒ UNICEF Schools for Africa and other DKG projects

How You Can Help:

We are asking for donations from community-minded businesses and individuals like you! Your donation—whether a product, gift card, service, or unique experience—will:

- ☀ **Directly support local education**
- ☀ **Give your business visibility** among educators, families, and community members
- ☀ **Be recognized in our auction program.** We also welcome your business cards or brochures to display at the event!

We are a not-for-profit group of educators (not a 501(c)(3)) and would be happy to provide documentation of your donation for your records, if needed.

Contact Information:

Jacquelyn Smart, Auction Chairperson, jackie@mysmartfamily.com

Thank you for helping us support the students, teachers, and schools in our community!

Gamma Alpha Financial Statement

GAMMA ALPHA FINANCIAL STATEMENT

JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025

INCOME

BALANCE (7-1-24) \$2527.52

DUES 2805.00

INTEREST 1.36

TRANSFER 4000.00

50/50 325.00

DONATIONS 150.00

BOOKS 16.00

CELEBRATIONS

AUCTION 2340.00

BIRTHDAY 477.00

TOTAL INCOME \$10,114.36

AVAILABLE FUNDS \$12,741.88

SAVINGS (7-1-24) \$18,699.46

AUCTION \$2550.00

INTEREST 37.88

DONATIONS 210.00

TOTAL INCOME \$2797.88

AVAILABLE FUNDS \$21,497.34

WITHDRAWALS

GRANTS/TRANSFER \$4000.00

TOTAL DEBITS \$4000.00

BALANCE (6-30-25) \$17,497.34

EXPENSES

DUES \$2464.00

SUPPLIES 29.34

PRINTING 43.58

POSTAGE 129.36

PRESIDENTS' OFFICE 699.86

GRANTS 1500.00

MEETING EXPENSES 494.40

JEWELRY (YEAR PINS) 117.00

DINNERS

AUCTION 1868.58

BIRTHDAY 666.54

CONTRIBUTIONS

BEVERLY HOUSE 582.79

SEEDLINGS 109.10

CONVO GIFT 255.03

ELLIOTT 65.97

SUCCESS CTR. 300.00

DWNT. BOX GYM 300.00

AIM 300.00

WORLD FELLOWSH. 200.00

GIRLS' FUND (AFR) 200.00

M > MEMBER 200.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$10,525.55

CHECKBOOK BALANCE \$2216.33

(6-30-25)

Gamma Alpha Proposed Budget

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA PROPOSED BUDGET

GAMMA ALPHA CHAPTER
JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026

CHECKING BALANCE 7-7-25

\$2216.33

INCOME

DUES	\$ 3265.00
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INTEREST	2.00
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TRANSFER FROM SAVINGS	2500.00
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50/50 300.00

TOTAL	\$6067.00
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AVAILABLE **\$8283.33**

EXPENSES

DUES	\$2658.00
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SUPPLIES	100.00
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PRINTING	100.00
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POSTAGE	100.00
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MEETING EXPENSE (INCL. LICENSE)	550.00
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CONFERENCES	700.00
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SPECIAL PROJECTS (BH)	500.00
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GRANTS	2000.00
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CONTRIBUTIONS (WF, MSM, GF, +)	1000.00
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WEBSITE	100.00
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SYMPATHY/SUNSHINE	100.00
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ZOOM	200.00
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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8108.00
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A Heartfelt Farewell to Amy

Today, we say goodbye not just to a dedicated member of Gamma Alpha but to a dear friend who has touched our hearts in countless ways.

Amy has been a cornerstone of our chapter—always ready to lead, always willing to lend a hand, and always bringing warmth and wisdom to every gathering. Her leadership was steady and dependable, and during the uncertain days of the pandemic, her technological support helped us stay connected and grounded when we needed it most. She gave her time and talents freely, never seeking praise, but always making a difference.

But beyond her many contributions, it is Amy's spirit that we will miss most. Her kindness, her quiet strength, her smile that lit up a room, and her ability to make everyone feel welcome - these are the gifts she gave us, time and time again. Gamma Alpha is better because Amy was part of it.

Although she has moved across the state to Sturgis, Amy will always hold a place in our hearts and the story of our chapter. We are grateful for the memories, the laughter, and the sisterhood we've shared. And while goodbyes are never easy, we know this is not the end - just a new beginning for someone who has given so much.

Amy, thank you for everything. You will be deeply missed, always remembered, and forever loved. We look forward to reconnecting with you at state events.

With heartfelt appreciation and all our best wishes,
Your Gamma Alpha Sisters



**"A good friend is like a four-leaf clover;
hard to find and lucky to have." - Irish Proverb.**

Fall Conference Registration

Delta Kappa Gamma Michigan 2025 Fall Conference

Paper Registration Deadline: September 10, 2025

Hotel Registration Deadline: September 3, 2025

Name _____	Fall Conference 2025 Registration \$90 _____
Chapter _____	*Registration includes Saturday Lunch
Street Address _____	First Timer Registration \$0 _____
City _____	Virtual Only Registration \$25 _____
State _____	Friday Evening Munch & Mingle \$30 _____
Zip _____	*Cash Bar Available at this time.
Phone (Please supply a cell phone number)	TOTAL _____
_____	CHECK NUMBER _____
Email address _____	CHECK AMOUNT _____
Chapter Office _____	
State Office _____	
PIC Number (Only if Earning SCECH's)	

<input type="checkbox"/> First Time at a DKG Michigan Statewide Event?	
Photo Release	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I consent	
<input type="checkbox"/> No, I do NOT consent	

Additional Information including an online registration option, schedules, hotel registration information, and cancellation policies can be found on the events page of the organization's website at www.dkemichigan.org.

If you wish to print this out and mail it in with a check, mail it to our registrar:

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

****Attendees requiring special dietary considerations should contact the conference registrar.**

You can also register online for the conference at:

<https://dkgmichigan.org/dkg-michigan/events/>

If interested in staying overnight at the conference, here is the hotel information:

Hilton Garden Inn 27355 Caberet Drive in Novi (across from Twelve Oaks Mall near the Emagine Theater)

Cut and paste into your browser:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/deltakappagammainternationalmsu/>

Women in the Arts Registration

DKG



Delta Kappa Gamma Society of Key Women Educators

Women in the Arts Weekend Retreat

Friday, October 24-Sunday, October 26, 20025

4:00 PM (or later) - 10:00AM Sunday



Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, Roscommon

REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline: September 29, 2025

Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Email/Cell_____

Room Preference: for two nights lodging including meals for Friday p.m.,
three on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday

_____ Double Room, per person rate \$ 250.

_____ Single Room, per person rate \$290.

Roommate's name, Chapter or email/phone_____

List food allergies or accommodations _____

Please note any skill, craft, art, music, project or session you are willing to
present _____

Mail check to "DKG" with form to:

Claire Rettenmund

243 S. Jackson Trail

Grayling, MI 49738

Contact: cerbirder@yahoo.com

A Refresher on Beverly House

Beverly House is a program operated by *Spectrum Child & Family Services*, an organization that has been working since 1976 to strengthen children, families, and communities across Michigan. Their philosophy is simple yet powerful: **dignity and respect are human gifts that belong to everyone.**

Beverly House provides a supportive, structured home for teen girls who, by court decision, are unable to live in their family homes. The goal is to create a *normal, home-like environment* that encourages personal growth, healing, and responsibility.

Residents of Beverly House engage in everyday activities that help prepare them for independent, successful lives, such as:

- Attending school
- Sharing common spaces with others
- Completing household tasks: cooking, cleaning, making their beds
- Participating in extracurriculars, dances, and school events
- Volunteering and engaging in the community

Beyond daily routines, Spectrum provides therapeutic support to help the girls address the effects of trauma and challenges related to:

- Low self-esteem
- Family substance abuse
- Truancy
- Sexual abuse
- Academic struggles
- Neglect
- Family separation

Many of the residents arrive at Beverly House with very few possessions. That's why our donations and sponsored activities mean so much—they offer comfort, joy, and the reminder that someone cares.



Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committees



Co-Presidents:

Judy Morante & Pam Emerson

Co-Vice-President & Membership:

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/Auction: Jackie Smart

Service Projects: Carole Lower

Finance: Judi Fisher

Sunshine: Fran Saenz

50/50: Cindy Dietz and helper

Gamma Alpha Auction: Jackie Smart

Websites

DKG International

www.dkg.org

DKG Michigan State Organization

www.dkgmichigan.org

DKG Gamma Alpha

www.migammaalpha.org