



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*

**Winter 2026
Volume 46 Issue 2**

GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN



Presidents' Message

Judy Morante & Pam Emerson, Co-Presidents

Gamma Alpha Sisters,

What a beautiful autumn it has been — perfect weather for cider mills, color tours, and great fall sports! Unfortunately, winter has now arrived, so bundle up.

Turning to Gamma Alpha, I hope you all enjoyed our fall meetings, the educational offerings, and the wonderful tour of Living & Learning. Anne Wade's presentation about her incredible experiences in India was truly inspiring, and our auction was such fun! Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the auction, and special thanks to Jackie, Carol Anderson, and Cindy for making it such a success.

Pam and I recently attended the Fall Conference along with several of our Gamma Alpha sisters. I'd like to thank Pam for taking excellent notes during the Executive Board meeting. Here are a few highlights:

1. **Anne Wade**, State VP, is seeking suggestions for speakers for the Spring Convention in Lansing.
2. **AIM Grants** for teacher-led projects totaled **\$43,611** this year.
3. **Membership** continues to decline, with 957 members statewide across 39 chapters.
4. **Save the Date:** The **State Convention** will be held **April 24–**

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This is the link to Join
Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID:

**576 074 8757
Passcode:**

dlkg

Join by Phone

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

Next Meeting

December 18, 2025
See calendar for details
An Evite with RSVP will be sent. See you there!

2025-2026 Calendar

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5760748757?pwd=bHZ6TnJJZVEyS3hwbStRVGJzUnpwUT09&omn=81598475155>

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757

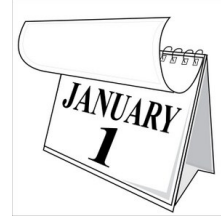
Passcode: dkg (all lowercase)

OR

Join by Phone

312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757



December 18, 2025 (Thursday) This is a change from what's in the booklet.

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:

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 FIELD TRIP

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 dinner, a margarita, and meaningful time as a chapter.

May 8, 2026 (Saturday) 1 SCECH

Metro Council Meeting

Time: 11:15 A.M. - 1:45 P.M.

Place: The Sports Den (Lunch will be separate checks.)
133 W Main Street
Northville, MI

Meeting Information:

We have arranged for Kevin Adkisson curator for Cranbrook Center for Collections and Research to speak to Metro Council. An Evite will be sent for RSVP purposes.

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 (www.dkgmichigan.org) 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 pins, 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



WINTER BIRTHDAYS

December

3 Pam Husson
12 Barbara Broadley
30 Judi Fisher

January

1 Carol Anderson
6 Rosa Russenberger
7 Donna Colaianne
8 Margie Sievert
31 Marie Canzoneri

February

29 Marge Braun



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.

A Heartfelt Thank You to Gamma Alpha



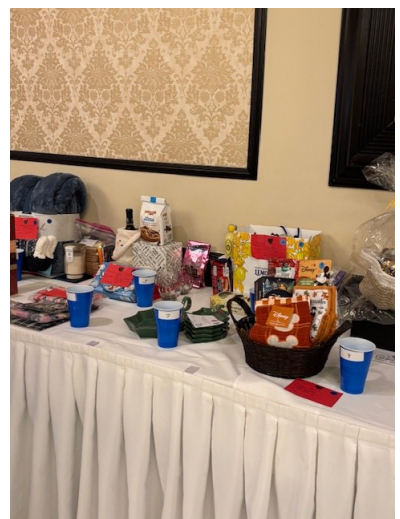
The Gamma Alpha executive board would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all members for your support of our annual auction. Your donations, attendance, and enthusiastic support helped make the event a wonderful success!

Every member played an important role, whether in setting up, assisting at the raffle or silent auction tables, delivering prizes, or helping with cleanup. Your teamwork and dedication truly made a difference. We would also like to give a special thank you to those who were unable to attend, but still contributed with thoughtful donations. Your generosity was appreciated.

Together, we made this year's auction a memorable one. Thank you for your support and commitment to DKG Michigan Gamma Alpha chapter.

\$825	Cups
\$1670	Silent
\$180	Donations
\$2675	Total (Savings)
\$310	50-25/25 (Checking)
\$155	Two lucky winners

A Heartfelt Thank You to Gamma Alpha



Huge thanks to our amazing registration team and our treasurer, Cindy! And shoutout to Margie for the wonderful photos of our guests and auction tables!

How



In Jackie's 'inspiration' prior to lunch, she admits to being a big fan of the TV show, Ted Lasso. Ted is a relentlessly optimistic coach who leads with kindness, humor, and heart. He also believes in people, sees the good in everyone, and proves that hope and compassion can change a team - and a life. Ted sounds like a teacher. Here's part of her welcome:

Ted said, *"I believe in hope. I believe in BELIEVE."* Since 1929, Delta Kappa Gamma has believed in something simple, but powerful, too. When you invest in educators, you invest in every student they will ever teach. At the heart

of our mission is a belief we all share, that every child deserves the opportunity to succeed.

Your generosity at our auction today fuels that mission through programs like:

- **The G.I.R.L.S. Fund** – giving girls in Africa access to education through our partnership with UNICEF.
- **Seedlings Braille Books for Children** – providing braille books so visually impaired children can enjoy reading all year long. Our chapter sponsors two young readers every year.
- **Beverly House** – supporting local teen girls in foster care and letting them know they are seen, valued, and supported.
- **Grant-in-Aid Awards** – awarding \$1,000 grants empowering women educators who are boldly shaping the future in their classrooms.

Because at the end of the day, this isn't just an auction—it's what happens when big hearts team up with a good cause. Or as Ted Lasso would say: *"We're not just raising money—we're raising HOPE. And hope? That's a superpower."*

Now let's do what Ted does best - BELIEVE - and have a little fun while we're at it!

What Are We Reading?

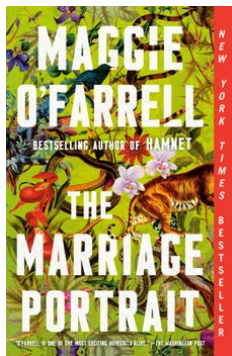
The Marriage Portrait

By Maggie O'Farrell

Hamnet's author, Maggie O'Farrell, has written a novel that pulled me in from the very first page. *The Marriage Portrait* is a beautifully written historical novel that reimagines the life of Lucrezia de' Medici, a young Renaissance woman who marries Duke Alfonso II d'Este of Ferrara, and finds herself in a dangerous situation after her arrival at court. Lucrezia is the duchess whose story inspired Robert Browning's poem "*My Last Duchess*." O'Farrell's writing vividly captures 16th century Italy while giving voice to a young woman silenced by history. The novel explores themes of autonomy, power, and the constraints placed on women in patriarchal societies, all through Lucrezia's perspective. O'Farrell brings her to life with such vivid detail that you can almost feel the brushstrokes of Lucrezia's world...the art, the palaces, the quiet tension of a life not truly her own.

I think that you will appreciate Lucrezia's artistic spirit and intelligence, as well as O'Farrell's emphasis on the transformative power of learning and observation. It's a story that invites reflection on how women's agency, education, and empathy shape both history and the classroom today. For women teachers, this book resonates on another level. Lucrezia's curiosity and independent spirit mirror what we try to inspire in our students every day. It's a reminder of the importance of nurturing imagination and giving young people, especially girls, the space to find and use their voices.

A Reese Witherspoon Book Club pick, *The Marriage Portrait* is a beautifully written, emotionally rich, and it leaves you thinking about how women's stories, once lost to history, still have so much to teach us.



*"I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading!
How much sooner one tires of anything than of a book!"*
Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen

Minutes

Informal Minutes October 23, 2025

After our dinner Co-President Judy Morante called the informal meeting to order at 5:40 for announcements. There were 16 members in attendance.

Judy thanked Carole Lower for taking the position of Vice President. She also thanked Lynne Beemer for taking over Carole's position of Service Projects Chairperson. Members were asked to send ideas to Lynne for Beverly House. We discussed Christmas gifts for the girls and agreed that we preferred idea lists from the girls.

Auction - Jackie reported that we are down 20 people from last year , but we have met the required amount for the venue. She will send out detailed information about upcoming auction.

December 18th - Christmas gathering at Margie Sievert's 5:30 - 7:30. Details and a sign up sheet will be sent via email.

Our speaker for tonight's meeting is Anne Wade, from Alpha Lambda. Anne is a nationally board certified educator and Fulbright teacher. Anne gave a very enthusiastic talk about teaching and learning in India through the Fulbright Global Scholars Program. The program was enjoyed by all.

Margie Sievert, Co Recording Secretary



Anne and her husband, Dave.



Gamma Alpha members at The Sports Den in downtown Northville.



Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committees

(Continued from page 1)

26 at the **Marriott in Lansing**. Details are in the yearbook.

5. We also extend a warm **welcome** to **Karen, Ana, and Kristen**, who were inducted into Gamma Alpha at our September meeting. We're so happy to have you join us!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our Christmas Happy Hour at Margie Sievert's beautiful home—thank you, Margie, for hosting us! Lynne Bemer will once again share the **Wish Lists** from the girls at **Beverly House**. The Wish Lists will be in the Evite.

Pam and I wish you all a **Happy Thanksgiving** filled with warmth, friendship, and gratitude—and of course delicious food!

Judy Morante

Multiply 1	Multiply 2	Multiply 3
1x0=	2x0=	3x0=
1x5=	2x5=	3x5=
1x1=	2x1=	3x1=
1x2=	2x2=	3x2=
1x7=	2x7=	3x7=
1x2=	2x2=	3x2=
1x4=	2x4=	3x4=
1x8=	2x8=	3x8=
1x1=	2x1=	3x1=
1x3=	2x3=	3x3=
1x6=	2x6=	3x6=
1x4=	2x4=	3x4=

Should More Time Be Spent Learning Math Facts

This is a brief summary of an article from Edutopia by Holly Korbey. The link to the full article is below.

As math scores decline nationwide, educators are revisiting the importance of mastering basic math facts through consistent practice. Research and classroom results, such as those from Forest Hills Elementary in Pennsylvania using the *SpringMath* program, show that short, focused sessions on foundational skills like multiplication and division improve both fluency and confidence. Experts argue that while conceptual understanding is important, students also need repeated, explicit practice to build automatic recall and free up working memory for complex problem-solving. Evidence-based strategies such as spaced and interleaved practice can strengthen long-term retention without relying on endless drills. The article concludes that balancing fluency and conceptual learning—and giving time for daily foundational practice—is key to reversing declining math achievement.

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/how-decreased-practice-time-plays-into-historic-math-declines/>



Co-Presidents:

Judy Morante & Pam Emerson

Vice-President & Membership:

Carole Lower

Co-Recording Secretary:

Linda Dobrzeniecki & Margie Sievert

Treasurer:

Cindy Dietz

Parliamentarian:

Pam Sayre

Communications:

Jackie Smart

Committees

Grant-in-Aid: Joanna Eiwen & Karen Mosca

Service Projects: Lynne Bemer

Finance: Judi Fisher

Sunshine: Fran Saenz

50/50: Cindy Dietz and helper

Auction: Jackie Smart & Carol Anderson

Websites

DKG International

www.dkg.org

DKG Michigan State Organization

www.dkgmichigan.org

DKG Gamma Alpha

www.migammaalpha.org