



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*

**Summer 2026
Volume 46 Issue 4**

GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN



Presidents' Message

Judy Morante & Pam Emerson, Co-Presidents

Gamma Alpha Sisters,

As I sit down to write this column for the last time, I am inspired by this beautiful day as I fondly look back on the past two years. We have grown as a group adding many new members that have made us laugh and brought new ideas that will help us grow.

I have enjoyed all our meetings and hope that you have also. The field trip to Seedlings and our guest speakers have been outstanding. In addition, I love the social component of Gamma Alpha especially our Christmas Happy Hour. So many of our members have made meaningful connections that are now friendships outside of our chapter. Finally, my favorite, our service projects. Thank you Carole Lower and Lynne Beemer for continuing to bring joy to the girls at Beverly House and all you who give so generously. Thank you Judi Fisher for keeping us connected with Seedlings. Amanda Hercula was an inspiring speaker.

I am anxiously looking forward to the leadership of our new executive board. Thank you 2026-2028 President Linda Dobrzeniecki, V.P. Rosa Russenberger, Secretary Margie

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Next Meeting:

June 13, 2026 (Saturday)
**Planning Meeting
& Lunch**

Place: Linda Dobrzeniecki's
home:

2089 Helmsford
Wolverine Lake, MI
48309

Time: 11:00-2:00

Meeting information:

An Evite will be sent with specific information. Please RSVP when you receive it.

Summer Birthdays



JUNE

- 19 Fran Saenz
- 20 Tara Cooper
- 25 Pam Sayre

JULY

- 4 Karen Marold
- 9 Joanna Eiwien
- 16 Suzanne Bacinski
- 30 Judy Morante

AUGUST

- 30 Beth Banker



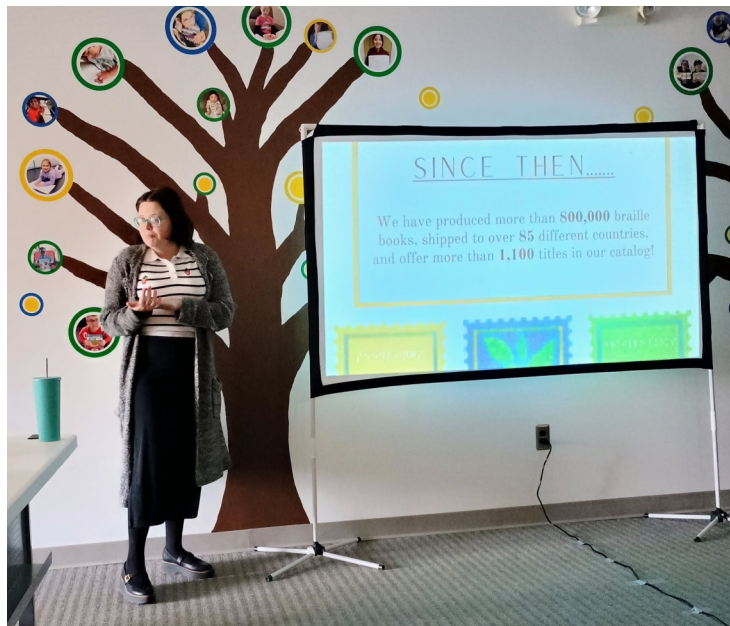
Gamma Alpha's Field Trip to Seedlings Braille Books for Children

The Gamma Alpha Chapter traded in our usual meeting room for a meaningful “field trip” on March 19, visiting the incredible team at Seedlings Braille Books for Children, a place that truly puts heart into every page.

Our chapter has proudly supported Seedlings since 2003, and seeing their mission in action was nothing short of inspiring. This remarkable nonprofit is dedicated to opening doors through literacy, providing high-quality, affordable (and sometimes even FREE!) Braille books for children. From books to flashcards to alphabet blocks, and even Braille gifts. They're making the world more accessible one dot at a time.

We were warmly welcomed by Amanda Hercula (pictured below), Seedlings' new Executive Director (and living proof that hard work pays off!). Since joining the organization in 2020 as part of the shipping team, Amanda has worked her way up through two roles before stepping into leadership in December 2024, after founder Debbie Bonde's retirement. She gave us a fantastic tour of the newly renovated facility, shared the rich history of Seedlings, and, air warning, may have recruited a few future volunteers along the way.

After filling our minds and hearts, we turned our attention to a different kind of nourishment. The group wrapped up the day at Los Tres Amigos, where margaritas and munchies provided the perfect ending. Because nothing says “successful field trip” like doing good *and* celebrating it with chips and salsa. All in all, it was a day full of purpose, perspective, and just the right amount of lime and salt.



Amanda Hercula shares some Seedlings history.

Seedlings Field Trip

Seedlings books are used in over eighty-five countries.



Founded in 1984 by Debra Bonde in Michigan after recognizing that braille books for children were scarce and extremely expensive. In its first year (1985), Bonde produced just 221 books from her basement, aiming to increase access and lower costs. By 1990, production had grown to about 5,000 books annually, leading to expansion into a larger facility in Livonia, Michigan. Over time, Seedlings developed programs such as:

- Book Angel Program: Provides free books to children with vision loss
- Rose Project (1994) : Offers free braille encyclopedia articles for students

The organization steadily expanded its reach, distributing books across the U.S. and internationally, addressing what was often called a “braille book desert.” By the 2020s, Seedlings had produced hundreds of thousands of Braille books, many given away for free, significantly improving access to literacy for children worldwide.

Seedlings emerged at a time when braille books could cost over \$100 each, limiting access for families. Its mission has been to make reading materials affordable and widely available, helping children develop literacy skills and a love of reading from an early age.

Seedlings Field Trip

Jen, Kristen, and Joanna



Cindy and Carol



Linda, Sarah, Vicki, and Lynn



Fran and Jackie
Amanda Hercula and her staff

Seedlings Field Trip

Carole, Judy, Lynne, and Judi



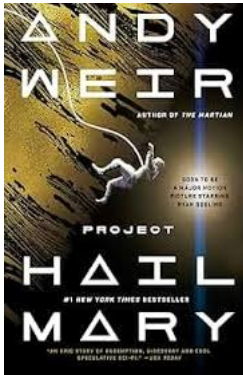
The tour starts looking at original Braille transcribing machines.



We are very good listeners.

What Are We Reading?

Project Hail Mary **By Andy Weir**



Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir follows Ryland Grace, a middle school science teacher who wakes up alone on a spaceship with no memory of who he is or why he's there. As his memories gradually return, he realizes he's on a desperate mission to save Earth from a mysterious organism draining the sun's energy and threatening all life. Through a mix of problem-solving, humor, and scientific reasoning, Grace pieces together what happened on Earth and what he must do in space. Along the way, he encounters an unexpected ally, an alien being named Rocky, whose cooperation becomes crucial to the survival of both their civilizations. The story blends suspense, science, and an emotional exploration of friendship, courage, and sacrifice. But, this isn't just a sci-fi adventure, it resonates strongly with educators for several reasons:

It celebrates the teacher identity

Ryland Grace isn't a typical action hero, he's a teacher first. His instincts are to explain, experiment, and encourage curiosity. I felt his portrayal validates the intellectual and emotional strength of educators and shows how teaching skills translate into real-world problem-solving.

It models engaging science communication

The book presents complex scientific ideas in a clear, engaging, and often fun way. Teachers can draw inspiration from how concepts are broken down, almost like mini lessons embedded in the story.

It highlights empathy and collaboration

The relationship between Grace and Rocky emphasizes communication across differences, patience, and mutual respect, values that align closely with classroom culture and inclusive teaching.

It portrays growth and resilience

Grace starts as someone reluctant and unsure, but grows into responsibility. That arc mirrors what teachers often foster in students, and what educators themselves experience throughout their careers.

It offers a refreshing kind of heroism

Instead of relying on physical strength, the story centers on intellect, persistence, and emotional connection. That makes it especially meaningful for readers who value thoughtful, relationship-driven leadership.

It's genuinely enjoyable and uplifting

Despite high stakes, the tone includes humor and warmth. For busy teachers, it's both an escape and a reminder of why curiosity and learning matter.

It's also a great movie with Ryan Gosling as the teacher-astronaut! Woohoo!

May 14, 2026 Minutes

Informal Minutes for May 14, 2026

47th Birthday Dinner at Genitti's in Northville

Minutes are generally not taken at the Birthday Dinner.

The awards, new officers for 2026-2028, and the newly inducted members are recorded.

Awards

Co-President Pam Emerson reported that Gamma Alpha received two state awards:

- **Award of the Rose:** we met 10 of the 12 objectives
- **President's Award:** we met all 8 objectives
- **Friend of Education Award:** Zack Peterlin could not be here, but he will be presented with the Friend of Education certificate by Co-President Judy Morante next week. Judy will send a picture to Jackie for the newsletter.
- **Grant-in-Aid Award:** Joanna Eiwen presented the award to Anna Morgan, a Multi-Level Language teacher (formerly ESL) from the Wayne Westland Community School District.
- **Lifetime Service Award:** Lynne Bemer is the recipient of this award. She was absent, but will receive her certificate at the next meeting.
- **Chapter Women of Distinction:** Joanna Eiwen and Cindy Dietz
- **Anniversary Pins:** For 20 years of membership: Donna Colaianne and Diane Frangie.

Installation of New Officers

- New officers for 2026-2028 were installed this evening. They are:

President:	Linda Dobrzeniecki
V. President:	Rosa Russenberger
R. Secretary:	Margie Sievert
Treasurer:	Cindy Dietz (appointed)
Parliamentarian:	Pam Sayre (appointed)
Communications:	Jackie Smart (appointed)

Induction of New Members

New Members inducted into Gamma Alpha Chapter by outgoing Vice President/

Minutes

Membership, Carole Lower, are:

- Vicki Dwelley, a retired educator
- Jen Troike, a POHI teacher from Wayne-Westland Community School District

Announcements:

- Planning Luncheon is on June 13, at 11:00 at the home of Linda Dobrzeniecki. Jackie Smart will send an Evite with details at the beginning of June.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Sievert, Recording Secretary, Gamma Alpha Chapter



To our newest members of DKG, welcome. You are becoming part of a sisterhood built on fellowship, excellence in education, and a shared commitment to lifting others through knowledge, service, and compassion. You each bring unique gifts, experiences, and wisdom that will strengthen this organization and inspire those around you.

DKG is more than an organization; it is a circle of women who encourage one another, lead with integrity, and believe deeply in the power of education to change lives. As you are inducted tonight, know that you are not simply adding your name to a membership roll; you are becoming

part of a legacy of dedicated teachers and lifelong learners.

May you find friendship here, purpose here, and opportunities to grow both personally and professionally. May your voice be heard, your talents appreciated, and your contributions celebrated.

We are honored to welcome you into DKG and excited for the journey ahead. Congratulations on this meaningful milestone.

L-R: Vicki Dwelley, Carole Lower (VP), Jen Troike

Birthday Dinner/Founders' Celebration

DKG began as a bold idea - one that refused to stay small. It was the vision of Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, who, on May 1, 1929, in Austin, gathered eleven remarkable women who clearly understood two things: education matters, and so do the women who lead it.

Dr. Blanton was a true trailblazer in education and leadership. She didn't just open doors, but made sure they stayed open for others. From the very beginning, DKG stood firmly for gender equity, good teaching conditions, thoughtful school legislation, financial support for women preparing to teach, and, of course, excellence in education. In other words, they weren't just ahead of their time; they were busy improving it.

Each year, we celebrate Founders Day, affectionately known as our Birthday Dinner. And while we don't have a cake with 97 candles on it, there is a lasting flame: a commitment to honor the original twelve founders and to remind ourselves that their work is not finished.

Their legacy calls us to keep pace with their courage, their advocacy, and their determination - because the challenges educators face today still require the same passion, persistence, and, yes, a little bit of fearless spirit that started it all.



2026-2028 Gamma Alpha Executive Board:

Past President Judy Morante, President Linda Dobrzeniecki, Vice President Rosa Russenberger, Secretary Margie Sievert, Treasurer Cindy Dietz, Communications Jackie Smart, and Past President Pam Emerson. Absent is Parliamentarian Pam Sayre.

Birthday Dinner

2026 Friend of Education

Zack Peterlin



Zachariah 'Zack' Peterlin grew up in Escanaba, where his passion for hospitality began at an early age. He started working at the local Best Western Hotel restaurant as a dishwasher and, through dedication and hard work, advanced to the role of sous chef. While commuting to Northern Michigan University, Zach continued to build his skills and experience in the restaurant industry.

After earning his bachelor's degree in Hospitality Management, he worked as a kitchen coach at J. Alexander's in Livonia, followed by positions as executive chef at Bistro 127 and Bella Luna in South Lyon. He later spent five years at John Cowley & Sons Restaurant in Farmington before fulfilling his dream of opening Peterlin's Restaurant and Bar.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Zach is deeply committed to giving back to his community. For many years, he has partnered with Visions Unlimited, a Farmington Hills post-secondary program that supports young adults with physical and developmental disabilities. Through this partnership, Zach provides meaningful volunteer opportunities and mentors students as they gain valuable job skills and confidence. He has witnessed extraordinary growth in these young people; students who begin shy and uncertain blossom into engaged, self-assured individuals.

Zach's generosity, patience, and genuine care for others have created opportunities that extend far beyond the walls of his restaurant. His dedication offers dignity, purpose, and a true sense of belonging to those he serves, making a lasting difference in countless lives.

L-R: Judy Morante presented Zack Peterlin his certificate as a Friend of Education along with Judi Fisher.

Birthday Dinner

Grant-in-Aid Presentation

Gamma Alpha Chapter proudly awards a \$1,000 Grant-in-Aid each year to support working women educators who are continuing to grow, inspire, and make a difference in their schools and communities. The grant may be used for professional development, advanced education, innovative classroom projects, or much-needed educational materials designed to enrich learning and empower educators in their important work.

The recipient receives \$500 at the Chapter's Birthday Dinner, with the remaining balance awarded after attending a Chapter meeting and sharing how the grant has impacted their students, classroom, or professional journey. This meaningful tradition allows members to celebrate not only the recipient's accomplishments, but also the lasting ripple effect of investing in education.

This year, Joanna Eiwen, Grant-in-Aid Chairperson, had the honor of presenting the award to Sandra Morgan from Wayne-Westland Community School District. Sandra's dedication to education, commitment to her students, and passion for lifelong learning embody the very spirit of this award. Gamma Alpha Chapter is proud to support educators like Sandra, whose work continues to inspire future generations.



L-R: Joanna Eiwen and grant awardee, Sandra Morgan

Birthday Dinner

Cindy Dietz, 2026 Chapter Woman of Distinction



Cindy Dietz has been a proud member of DKG since 1995, bringing nearly three decades of commitment, service, and heart to our organization. During her career, she taught English at Wayne Memorial High School, shaping minds, inspiring readers, and likely correcting more grammar than most of us would dare attempt.

An avid reader, Cindy doesn't just teach about books - she delivers them, literally. At our book sales, she arrives pulling a wagon overflowing with literary treasures. If enthusiasm could be measured in the sheer weight of books, Cindy would win every time. For Gamma Alpha's literacy service project, Cindy shares her love of reading as one of the dependable Story Ladies at Elliott Elementary in Wayne-Westland.

Since 2000, Cindy has served as treasurer for Gamma Alpha, a role she has handled with exceptional skill and unwavering reliability. Let's be honest - anyone who can keep finances for that long deserves not just recognition, but possibly a medal...and maybe a vacation.

Her expertise doesn't stop at the chapter level. Cindy has stepped up as treasurer for state events an impressive nine times (yes, nine!) fall conferences and state conventions. That's nine occasions where she willingly said, "Yes, I'll handle the numbers," while the rest of us quietly felt relieved it wasn't us.

In addition, she has served as state membership and expansion chair for three biennia, helping grow and strengthen our organization with the same dedication she brings to everything she does.

Cindy describes herself as "Jackie's minion," but we all know the truth: she's the powerhouse behind the scenes, the one who answers every call, solves every problem, and somehow keeps everything running smoothly.

When she's not surrounded by books or balancing accounts, you might find her in a bowling alley, competing alongside her daughters, Tanya and Deanna. Clearly, teamwork and a little friendly competition run in the family.

Most importantly, Cindy truly cherishes her membership in DKG Gamma Alpha Chapter, and we cherish her right back.

It is with great pride, admiration, and just a little bit of awe that we present the Chapter Woman of Distinction Award to Cindy Dietz.

Co-President Pam Emerson presents the CWofD certificate to Cindy.

Birthday Dinner

Joanna Eiwen, 2026 Chapter Woman of Distinction



Since her induction into Delta Kappa Gamma in 2010, Joanna has been the kind of member every chapter hopes for, the one who quietly says “yes” before you even finish asking. Need someone to help sell 50/50 raffle tickets? Joanna’s already holding the roll. Need someone dependable? Joanna’s already there, probably five minutes early.

Professionally, Joanna is a proud graduate of Eastern Michigan University, where she earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees. She brings that strong educational foundation to her classroom every day as a POHI teacher at Stevenson Middle School in the Wayne-Westland. Her commitment to her students mirrors the same dedication she shows to Gamma Alpha.

Within our chapter, Joanna’s impact has been both steady and significant. She has served on the Grant-in-Aid Committee since 2012 and has chaired it since 2019. In that role, she has been a champion for educators, encouraging working teachers to apply for grants that support professional development, classroom materials, and innovative projects. Thanks to Joanna, opportunities have turned into realities for many.

She also served as our Recording Secretary from 2017 to 2021, keeping us organized, informed, and on track—no small feat! And if you’ve ever attended one of our annual fundraising auctions, you’ve seen Joanna in action. Tireless doesn’t quite cover it, she is the engine that keeps the raffle table running smoothly.

But Joanna’s life isn’t all meetings and minutes, although she does those exceptionally well. Outside of DKG, she enjoys spending time with friends and their children, proving that you don’t have to be a parent to be a positive and lasting influence in young lives. She is active in her church, sings in the choir, and teaches vacation Bible school, sharing her time, talents, and spirit with her community.

She also has a love for scrapbooking and traveling, and when we say traveling, we mean *traveling*. While some of us might consider a trip across state lines adventurous, Joanna has explored places like Pakistan and Nepal. Clearly, she’s not afraid of a little altitude, whether in the mountains or in her commitment to excellence.

Through it all, Joanna considers her membership in Delta Kappa Gamma an honor and deeply values the friendships she has built here. And I think it’s safe to say, Joanna, that the feeling is mutual.

We are incredibly proud to recognize Joanna Eiwen as our 2026 Gamma Alpha Chapter Woman of Distinction. She is a woman whose quiet strength, generous spirit, and unwavering dedication make our chapter better in every way.

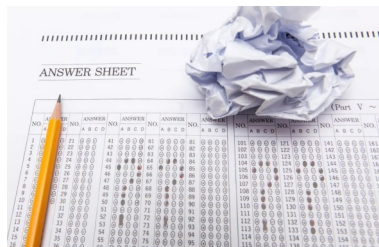
Co-President Judy Morante presented the CWofD certificate to Joanna.

Birthday Dinner Tables



*L-R: Diane Frangie receives 20 year anniversary pin from
Cindy Dietz.*

Standardized Testing Still Missing the Mark



Teachers have long known that standardized tests are an inaccurate and unfair measure of student progress. There's a better way to assess students. According to the National Education Association (NEA), these tests provide only a limited snapshot of student performance, often failing to reflect what students truly know or can do in a real-world context.

One major concern is that standardized tests rely on uniform questions that don't account for different learning styles, backgrounds, or abilities. This can create inequities, putting some students at a disadvantage while overlooking others' strengths. Additionally, these tests tend to ignore critical skills such as creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking; abilities that are essential for success beyond the classroom.

The NEA also points out that standardized testing does little to track student growth over time. Instead of showing progress, it captures a single moment, which can lead to incomplete or misleading conclusions about student achievement.

As artificial intelligence becomes more common in classrooms, it is also revealing a major problem: traditional standardized tests may no longer be an effective way to measure student learning. According to perspectives from the NEA, AI tools can now generate essays, solve problems, and assist with assignments, making it harder for standardized tests to accurately reflect what students truly know and can do.

This shift is pushing educators to rethink how learning is assessed. Instead of focusing on memorization or single correct answers, there is growing emphasis on skills like critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving. These are areas where students must demonstrate understanding beyond what AI can easily replicate.

The NEA also highlights the potential for AI to support new forms of assessment, such as ongoing, personalized evaluations that track student growth over time rather than relying on one high-stakes exam. However, they stress that the role of teachers remains essential. Human judgment, relationships, and guidance are still central to meaningful education.

Ultimately, the rise of AI is accelerating a larger conversation: standardized testing, as it exists today, may be outdated. The future of assessment will likely be more flexible, more personalized, and more focused on how students think, not just the answers they give.

Summarized from:
neaToday, April, 8, 2026



Gamma Alpha Story Ladies

Gamma Alpha Chapter's own Jackie, Fran, and Cindy brought energy, laughter, and a love of reading to Elliott Elementary School, visiting 19 classrooms in celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday.

Each classroom received a brand-new book to enjoy together, and every student went home with a special pencil—because the joy of reading shouldn't end when the day does. Their visit sparked smiles, imagination, and a renewed excitement for books across the school.

(And yes—next mission: teaching Jackie how to take the perfect selfie!)



Top: March's Story Ladies: Jackie, Fran, & Cindy. Bottom: Mrs. Sislo's class



Metro Council

Meeting Highlights and a few FYIs



In true Michigan fashion, construction traffic did its best to derail our schedule, and our speaker arrived fashionably late - proving once again that orange barrels are the state flower. Thankfully, the excellent food and service at The Sports Den kept everyone happy while we waited. Twenty-seven attended, including two “evolved spouses” who bravely joined the fun and survived the afternoon beautifully.

Two Gamma Alpha members took advantage of the SCECH credit - because learning and lunch are a winning combo.

After lunch, attendees enjoyed *Cranbrook’s Women of Design: Weaving an Idea into a Campus*, presented by the always engaging and energetic Kevin Adkisson. He spotlighted the women whose creativity helped shape

Cranbrook, beginning with visionary cofounder Ellen Scripps Booth.

Kevin wove together the stories of artists, architects, designers, and textile innovators whose work transformed Cranbrook into a design powerhouse. Special attention was given to Loja Saarinen, whose textiles completed Eliel Saarinen’s architectural vision and influenced generations of designers. Attendees also learned about trailblazers Ruth Adler Schnee, Florence Knoll, Marianne Strengell, and Ray Kaiser Eames, whose influence extended far beyond Cranbrook onto the national stage.

With fascinating stories, rich history, and plenty of lively commentary, Kevin’s presentation was both informative and inspiring. Guests were warmly welcomed, and everyone left with a greater appreciation for the women who helped weave Cranbrook’s legacy into modern design history.

Curator Kevin Adkisson assists in the preservation, interpretation, and programming across the many buildings and treasures of Cranbrook. Kevin has his BA in Architecture from Yale, where he worked in the Yale University Art Gallery’s American Decorative Arts Furniture Study, and an MA from the University of Delaware’s Winterthur Program in American Material Culture. He is pictured with Dr. Elena Ivanova, Beta Chi, who made arrangements for Kevin’s presentation.

Metro Council



Top left: Fran, 3 Alpha Rho members, and State President Collen Retherford. **Top Right:** Beta Chi members. **Bottom left:** Gamma Alpha members, Karen Judi, and Jackie. Pam Olech from Alpha Theta in Howell joined and well as Judi and Jackie's evolved husbands. **Bottom right:** Gamma Alpha's Carole, Linda, Pam, Sarah, Cindy, Margie, and Lynn. Thanks for all the great pictures, Margie.



(President's Message continued from page 1)

Sievert, Treasurer Cindy Dietz and Parliamentarian Pam Sayre. Many chapters struggle to find leaders. Gamma Alpha is fortunate to have ladies volunteer for leadership positions. Thank you for the support I have received from so many; to Pam Emerson for sharing the duties of the President, the entire executive board, and Jackie Smart for skillfully handling communications, technical support, and keeping us updated. Our annual planning meeting is Saturday, June 13, at 12:00 P.M. at the home of new president, Linda Dobrzeniecki. Her address is:

2089 Helmsford
Wolverine Lake 48309
248-624-1962
pldobrzen@comcast.net

Jackie will email members an Evite and RSVP in June for the luncheon. Many of you belong to other organizations and have heard interesting speakers. Bring names and contact information. If you have a program you would like to present to the group, let us know. If you can't attend, but have an idea or contact information for a speaker **please** email your ideas to jackie@mysmartfamily.com. The more people we have at our June planning meeting, the more wonderful and diverse ideas we have! Please plan on attending or sending ideas.

Judy Morante, Outgoing Co-President

Finding Balance: Rethinking Device Use in Early Classrooms

Across the country, schools are beginning to scale back the use of digital devices in classrooms - especially in kindergarten and first grade. After years of rapid technology expansion, many educators are now taking a closer look at how screen time impacts young learners. Some districts are introducing limits on classroom device use, while others are choosing not to use devices at all in the earliest grades. This shift reflects growing concerns about attention span, social development, and the importance of hands-on, play-based learning for young children.

Educators are observing that excessive screen time can interfere with students' ability to focus, collaborate, and build foundational skills. In response, many schools are returning to developmentally appropriate practices that emphasize face-to-face interaction, creative play, and real-world problem-solving.

For members of DKG, this trend highlights an important opportunity for leadership and advocacy. As professionals committed to excellence in education, we can support thoughtful, balanced approaches to technology, ensuring it enhances learning without replacing the human connections that are essential in early childhood classrooms.

Rather than abandoning technology, schools are working to use it more intentionally. The goal is clear: to create learning environments that nurture the whole child while preparing students for a digital world.

They say it takes a village to educate a child, and if that is true, then Gamma Alpha feels very much like home within that village. It brings together both active and retired teachers in a shared space where experience and ongoing practice meet, and where retired teachers continue to enrich our conversations with wisdom, perspective, and a lifelong commitment to learning.

In Gamma Alpha, we come together not only as colleagues, but as friends who truly understand the heart of the work we have all dedicated ourselves to, whether we are still in the classroom or reflecting on years spent there. That shared understanding bridges every stage of our professional journey.

In this space, encouragement is never in short supply. Wisdom is shared generously, and laughter finds its way into even the busiest of agendas. We celebrate each other's successes, offer support when the days feel long, and gently remind each other why we chose this calling in the first place and why we continue to value it long after retirement.

There is something truly special about a group of women who can move seamlessly from meaningful conversation to genuine laughter, sometimes in the very same breath. And yes, we may occasionally lose track of time, adjust the agenda, or quietly hope someone else remembered the snacks, but those small, human moments are part of what make our time together so meaningful.

At its core, DKG International and Gamma Alpha are about connection, growth, and purpose. It is about showing up for our students, for our profession, and for one another across every stage of our careers, including retirement and beyond.

In a world that often asks so much of our teachers, it is a gift to have a place like this, where we are supported, inspired, and reminded that none of us is doing this important work alone.

Jackie Smart



Presidents:

Linda Dobrzeniecki

Vice-President & Membership:

Rosa Russenberger

Co-Recording Secretary:

Margie Sievert

Treasurer:

Cindy Dietz

Parliamentarian:

Pam Sayre

Communications:

Jackie Smart

Committees

Grant-in-Aid: Joanna Eiwen

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