



## 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 Detroit Metro Coordinating Council

Fall 2026  
Volume 47 Issue 1

### GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN



#### President's Message

##### Linda Dobrzeniecki, President's Message

*Gamma Alpha Sisters,  
Summer reminds us that the world is both our classroom  
and our inspiration. This season, many of our Gamma  
Alpha sisters have embraced opportunities to travel and  
discover new places. Our new Vice President, Rosa, is  
enjoying Italy's beauty and history. Pam Emerson and I  
are exploring the cultures and traditions of Central  
Europe on a river cruise, while several of our members  
recently returned from unforgettable journeys through  
Norway, Denmark, and Sweden.*

*Whether we travel across continents or simply step  
beyond the familiar, every new experience broadens our  
horizons, challenges our perspectives, and enriches our  
understanding of the world. As educators, we know that  
learning is not confined to a classroom; it is a lifelong  
adventure fueled by curiosity and discovery.*

*As we begin a new year together in Gamma Alpha, I hope  
we carry that same spirit of exploration into each of our  
meetings. May our programs inspire fresh ideas, our  
discussions encourage thoughtful reflection, and our  
friendships continue to grow stronger. Together, we have  
the opportunity to learn from one another, celebrate our  
accomplishments, and continue the meaningful service*

(Continued from page 18)

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#### First Meeting:

**September 24, 2026**

Information is on page 3.

**This is the link for Zoom  
meetings.**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/  
j/5760748757?  
pwd=bHZ6TnJJZVEyS3hwb  
StRVGJzUnpwUT09&omn=  
81598475155](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5760748757?pwd=bHZ6TnJJZVEyS3hwbStRVGJzUnpwUT09&omn=81598475155)

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757

Passcode:  
**dkg** (all lowercase)

or  
you can join us by phone.  
312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
Meeting ID: 576 074 8757

**Jackie will send the link  
in an email prior to  
meetings. Just click the  
link!**

## Summer Birthdays



### SEPTEMBER

- 7 Vicki Dwelley
- 9 Cindy Dietz
- 15 Jen Troike
- 16 Carole Lower
- 21 Karen Dickelman
- 24 Barb Anderson
- 26 Jennifer LaRose
- 27 Linda Clark
- 30 Jackie Smart

### OCTOBER

- 14 Lynne Bemer
- 21 Alice Duke
- 23 Lisa Austin

### NOVEMBER

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



**Gamma Alpha**  
**2026-2027 Meeting Calendar**

**September 24, 2026 (Thursday) 1 SCECH Pending**

**Time:** 5:30 P.M.

**Place:** Northville Sports Den

133 W. Main Street, Suite 102

Northville, MI 48167 (*Free parking is located on Cady and Center Streets.*)

**Meeting Information:**

**‘Be the Difference: Advocacy in Action; Making Your Voice Count**

With the midterm elections on the horizon, now is the perfect time to learn how your voice can make a difference. Lynn Mason from Sigma Chapter brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in politics, advocacy, and public policy. Drawing on insights gained during her recent trip to Washington, D.C. for the National Legislative Seminar, Lynn will share practical advocacy strategies, effective talking points, and ways to engage with elected officials on issues affecting women, children, and education. Join this informative session to discover how you can become a more effective advocate and help shape the policies that matter most to your community.

***We will also induct a new member, Cheryl Valdahl.***

**October 16-17, 2026 (Friday-Saturday)**

U.P. Fall Conference

Bay Mills Community College

12214 W. Lakeshore Drive

Brimley, MI 49715

Book your room: Bay Mills Resort and Casino

11386 W. Lakeshore Drive

Brimley, MI 49715

Booking code: BKG685 1-888-422-9645 \$153 + tax

**October 22, 2026 (Thursday) 1 SCECH Pending**

**Time:** 5:30 P.M.

**Place:** Northville Sports Den

133 W. Main Street, Suite 102

Northville, MI 48167 (*Free parking is located on Cady and Center Streets.*)

**Meeting Information:**

**Grant Awardee Projects**

Gamma Alpha Chapter and The AIM Educational Foundation, Inc. provide grants that empower active teachers to enhance classroom learning through innovative projects and activities. In this session, several Gamma Alpha members who have received these grants will showcase their funded initiatives and share the impact these experiences have had on their students. Discover how a modest grant, combined with creativity and dedication, can transform learning and inspire young minds. Come away with ideas, inspiration, and a renewed appreciation for the difference educators can make.

**October 23-25, 2026**

Women in the Arts Retreat

Ralph MacMullen Conference Center

Conservation Drive

Roscommon, MI 48653

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

## Trip

### **November 8, 2026 (Sunday)**

**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)

*Specific auction information is in your pink booklet. Flyer and handouts have been mailed and are in the newsletter. BRING MANY GUESTS!*

### **December 17, 2026 (Thursday) Holiday Happy Hour**

**Time:** 5:30-7:30

**Place:** Home of Vicki Dwelley

21333 Summerside

Northville, MI 48167

### **Meeting Information: Fun, Food, and Giving to Beverly House**

Gamma Alpha members will gather for an evening filled with friendship, festive fun, delicious food, and the spirit of giving. An Evite with all the details will be sent in early December. Members will have the opportunity to sign up to bring a hearty hors d'oeuvre or a favorite dessert to share. As part of our holiday tradition, the Service Project Committee will present the wish lists from the girls at Beverly House, giving us the opportunity to help make their season brighter. Together, we can celebrate the holidays while making a meaningful difference in the lives of others. We look forward to sharing a wonderful evening of fellowship, laughter, and generosity with everyone.

### **January 14, 2027 (Thursday) Zoom Executive Board Meeting**

All members are welcome to attend. Jackie will send you the link to the meeting. You'll click the link to join the 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 you can join us by phone...**

**312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**

**Meeting ID: 576 074 8757**

**Time: 7:00-8:00 PM**

### **Meeting Information:**

#### **1. President's Reports:**

- Form 2 Death of a Member annual report Interactive Form (Ready to send Feb 1)
- Award of the Rose Google Form
- President's Award Google Form
- Chapter Woman of Distinction Google Form
- Lifetime Service Awards Google Form (Smart & Bacinski)
- Friend of Education Google Form (Need a candidate)

#### **2. VP-Membership Report**

#### **3. Treasurer's Report**

#### **4. Auction Report**

#### **5. Newsletter Report**

#### **6. Service Project Report**

#### **7. Grant-in-Aid Report**

#### **8. Confirm meetings for February-June**

**February 18, 2027 (Thursday) Zoom Meeting 1 SCECH Pending**

Jackie will send members the Zoom link.

**Time:** 7:00-8:00 PM

**Meeting Information:****Protect Yourself from Scams: Learn How to Stay Safe**

Scammers are becoming increasingly sophisticated, using phone calls, text messages, emails, social media, and even artificial intelligence to deceive their victims. This presentation will cover common scams targeting seniors, families, and consumers, including identity theft, online fraud, phishing schemes, romance scams, grandparent scams, and financial exploitation.

Attendees will learn:

- How to recognize warning signs of a scam
- The latest tactics used by fraudsters
- Practical steps to protect personal and financial information
- What to do if you suspect you've been targeted
- Resources available to help victims of fraud

Knowledge is one of the best defenses against scams. Join us for this important presentation and gain valuable tips that can help you protect yourself, your family, and your finances from becoming the next target. Don't miss this opportunity to stay informed, stay alert, and stay safe.

**March 18, (Thursday) 1 SCECH Pending**

**Time:** 5:30 P.M.

**Place:** Northville Sports Den

133 W. Main Street, Suite 102

Northville, MI 48167 (*Free parking is located on Cady and Center Streets.*)

**Meeting Information:****Nutrition for Brain Health and Longevity**

What we eat plays a powerful role in how we think, feel, and age. Join us for an engaging presentation that explores the connection between nutrition, brain health, and healthy aging. Learn how specific foods and dietary patterns can support memory, focus, and cognitive function while helping reduce the risk of chronic disease. This presentation will highlight practical, evidence-based strategies for nourishing the brain, maintaining vitality, and promoting longevity. Participants will discover simple lifestyle choices that can enhance overall well-being and support healthy aging at every stage of life. Whether you are interested in improving your health, caring for a loved one, or simply learning how to live well and longer, this informative session will provide valuable insights and actionable tips for everyday living.

**April 18, 2027 (Sunday) 2.5 SCECH Pending FIELD TRIP**

**Time:** 11:45 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

**Place:** Zekelman Holocaust Center  
28123 Orchard Lake Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

**Cost:** \$5 (Prepayment is needed)

**Meeting Information:****Lessons in Humanity: A Visit to the Zekelman Holocaust Center**

Join fellow DKG members for an inspiring, educational, and deeply moving visit to the Zekelman Holocaust Center in Farmington Hills. This meaningful experience offers an

opportunity to explore powerful exhibits that preserve the history and lessons of the Holocaust while fostering understanding, empathy, and civic responsibility. We arrive at the center and head to the auditorium at 11:45 for Welcome and Orientation. At 12:00, we will listen to the Survivor talk. Every survivor's story is unique and offers a firsthand account of life before, during, and after the Holocaust. Hearing from local Michigan survivors helps us see the victims as individuals. From 1:00-2:15, a knowledgeable docent will lead us through compelling exhibits featuring personal testimonies, historical artifacts, and stories of resilience, courage, and survival. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the consequences of prejudice, discrimination, and hatred, as well as the importance of defending human dignity, promoting justice, and confronting intolerance in all its forms. As educators and community leaders, DKG members will reflect on how these lessons continue to shape our work in education and strengthen our commitment to building inclusive, compassionate, and informed communities.

**May 13, 2027 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

**Meeting Information:**

- Friend of Education Certificate
- Grant-in-Aid Award
- Lifetime Service Awards
- Chapter Woman of Distinction
- Anniversary Pins
- Induction of New Members (if any)

**May 15, 2027 (Saturday) Detroit Metro Coordinating Council  
(1 SCECH Pending)**

**Time:** 12:00-2:30

**Place:** Northville Sports Den  
133 W. Main Street, Suite 102  
Northville, MI 48167  
(Free parking is located on Cady and Center Streets.)

**Lunch:** Separate Checks

**RSVP to Attend.**

**Meeting Information:**

**'The Revitalization of the Detroit Riverfront'**

Join fellow members of DKG Metro Coordinating Council for an engaging and informative session exploring the revitalization of the Detroit Riverfront. Participants will gain insight into the history of the waterfront, the challenges and opportunities of its redevelopment, and the impact of this revitalization on surrounding communities. Given our members' appreciation for education, civic engagement, local history, and community development, we believe learning more about the Detroit Riverfront's remarkable evolution would be both informative

and inspiring.

### **June 16, 2027, Thursday Planning Meeting & Pot Luck Lunch**

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Place:** Home of Kristen VanDoorne

32418 Nestlewood St.  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

### **What's on the Menu?**

Good food, great company, and even better ideas!

Jackie will email everyone a Google RSVP form. Please let us know if you'll be attending and what delicious dish you'll be bringing to share. (No pressure, we're sure everything will be better than burned toast!)

### **Help Us Plan an Amazing Year**

Many of you belong to other organizations and have heard outstanding speakers or participated in fun activities. We'd love to hear your ideas!

The RSVP form will also include space for you to:

- Suggest a speaker, program, or group outing.
- Volunteer to present a program yourself (just include a brief description of your topic).
- Share speaker recommendations or contact information, even if you can't attend the planning meeting.

Every idea helps us build another great year of meetings.

### **Looking Ahead**

Each year we typically schedule **four or five meetings** featuring guest speakers, special activities, or field trips. Your suggestions are what make our programs interesting and enjoyable!

We're also looking for:

- Ideas for our Metro Council meeting—the more creative, the better!
- A volunteer to host our annual Holiday Happy Hour in December. The best part? You get to pick the date! (Yes, that means you have the power!)

We hope you'll join us for an afternoon of planning, laughter, and good food. Together, we'll create another year of engaging programs and memorable gatherings. 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.



## What Are WE Reading?

### ***The Reappearance of Rachel Price* by Holly Jackson**



If you're looking for a book that promises, "I'll just read one more chapter," and then suddenly it's 2:00 a.m., *The Reappearance of Rachel Price* is your next read. Holly Jackson has crafted a mystery so twisty that you'll begin to suspect everyone, including the family dog.

Sixteen years ago, Rachel Price vanished without a trace, leaving behind her toddler daughter, Bel. Her disappearance became the stuff of documentaries and endless speculation. Then, in a shocking turn of events, Rachel suddenly reappears, claiming she escaped after years of captivity. Everyone is thrilled...well, almost everyone. Bel isn't buying the story, and neither will readers who love trying to solve mysteries before the author pulls the rug out from under them.

Jackson's writing keeps the pages flying by with clever dialogue, believable characters, and enough plot twists to make your head spin, in the best possible way. Just when you're convinced you've figured everything out, you'll find yourself muttering, "Wait...WHAT?" (Don't worry. Your family will get used to hearing this.)

Although this is classified as Young Adult fiction, don't let the label fool you. This is a smart, layered thriller that adult readers will enjoy just as much. In fact, women teachers may find themselves appreciating Bel's determination to question assumptions, evaluate evidence, and think critically. After all, teachers have been asking, "What's your evidence?" long before it became fashionable.

This novel offers more than an entertaining mystery. It invites discussion about resilience, trust, family relationships, media influence, and the importance of seeking truth, even when it's uncomfortable. These are conversations teachers thrive on (and let's be honest, they're far more fun than discussing standardized testing).

Fair warning: once you start reading, don't plan on accomplishing much else. Laundry may wait. Dinner might become takeout. Your to-do list will still be there tomorrow; but you'll absolutely need to know what happens next.

Whether you're searching for a thrilling escape or a lively book club selection guaranteed to spark conversation, *The Reappearance of Rachel Price* is a winner. Just don't be surprised if your book club members spend the discussion saying, "I did NOT see that coming!"

*You know what I've been reading, so please consider sending me a book report for 'What Are We Reading?'*  
[jackie@mysmartfamily.com](mailto:jackie@mysmartfamily.com)

## Gamma Alpha Auction Flyer

# GAMMA ALPHA ANNUAL AUCTION



**Date: Sunday, November 8, 2026**

**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 Crudit  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, 2025
4. Electronic payment: Venmo to Ian-W-Smart, Zelle to [ian@mysmartfamily.com](mailto:ian@mysmartfamily.com), or Apple Cash to [ian@mysmartfamily.com](mailto: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 29.
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](mailto:jackie@mysmartfamily.com)  
248-476-8659

Donation Card

|                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                             |
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| <div>Item</div> <div>Donated by</div>    | <div>Item</div> <div>Donated by</div>  |
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State of Michigan Form

State of Michigan Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**November 2, 2025**

Item or Service Donated

Cash Value

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## June 13, 2026 Minutes

### ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2026

Home of Linda Dobrzeniecki

Prior to the meeting, members enjoyed a variety of appetizers while visiting and catching up with one another in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. President Linda Dobrzeniecki called the Annual Planning Meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

**Attendance:** Fourteen members were present.

Jackie Smart shared a note from Pam Sayre and reported that she had recently enjoyed lunch with Esther Loskowske, providing members with an update on Esther. Jackie also announced that Pam Sayre has graciously agreed to continue serving as the chapter's Parliamentarian.

A proposed calendar of meeting dates for the upcoming year was passed out along with a compilation of program ideas and outing suggestions gathered from the recent member survey. Members discussed the various recommendations and developed the following schedule of programs and activities for the 2026–2027 year: Meeting details will be in the newsletter. Here's a short version.

#### SEPTEMBER 24

Lynn Mason, State Legislation/U.S. Forum Chair for DKG Michigan, will be invited to present a program on current legislative issues affecting education. Jackie will extend the invitation. Pam Emerson volunteered to serve as the chapter's Legislative Liaison.

#### OCTOBER 22

Recipients of the chapter's educational grants will be invited to share how they used their awards and the impact the grants have had on their educational journeys. Members suggested including a PowerPoint presentation featuring photographs. Joanna Eiwen will coordinate the program.

#### OCTOBER 23–25

Members interested in creative pursuits are encouraged to attend the Women in the Arts Retreat. Participants may bring their own art, craft, or other creative projects to work on during the weekend.

#### NOVEMBER 8

Gamma Alpha's Annual Auction will be held.

#### DECEMBER 10

The chapter will celebrate the holiday season with a Holiday Happy Hour at the home of Vicki Dwelley.

#### JANUARY 14

An Executive Board Meeting will be conducted via Zoom. Although this is an Executive Board meeting, all members are welcome to attend.

## Minutes

### **FEBRUARY 18**

A Zoom meeting will feature a program on scams and fraud prevention. Judy Morante will contact Catholic Charities regarding a presenter for this important topic.

### **MARCH 18**

A nutrition program is planned. Vicki Dwelley will contact Sarah Elsesser, who will reach out to a friend as a potential presenter.

### **APRIL 18 (SUNDAY)**

A Sunday field trip to the Zekelman Holocaust Center in Farmington Hills is planned. Jackie will make the group reservation.

### **MAY 13**

The chapter's annual Birthday Dinner will be held at Genitti's.

### **MAY 15 (SATURDAY)**

The Metro Council meeting will take place at the Northville Sports Den and will include lunch and a presentation.

### **JUNE 16**

The 2027 Annual Planning Meeting will be hosted at the home of Kristen VanDoorne, who was good-naturedly "voluntold" to host the event.

Jackie reported that she will make reservations at the Northville Sports Den for the September 24, October 22, and March 18 chapter meetings, as well as for the Metro Council meeting on May 15. She has already secured reservations for the Birthday Dinner at Genitti's and for the Annual Auction at St. Mary's Cultural Center. She will make reservations for the Holocaust Center for the April meeting.

There being no further business, President Linda Dobrzeniecki adjourned the meeting at **1:20 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Margie Sievert**  
Recording Secretary



**GAMMA ALPHA FINANCIAL STATEMENT****JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026****INCOME**

BALANCE (7-1-25) \$2216.33

DUES 3380

INTEREST 1.59

TRANSFER 2500.00

50/50 375.00

DONATIONS 400.00

BOOKS 0.0

CELEBRATION

AUCTION 2401.00

BIRTHDDAY 690.00

**TOTAL INCOME \$9,747.59****AVAILABLE FUNDS \$11,963.92****SAVINGS (7-1-25) \$17,497.34**

AUCTION \$ 2505.00

INTEREST 34.84

DONATIONS 180.00

**TOTAL INCOME \$ 2719.84****AVAILABLE FUNDS \$20,217.18****WITHDRAWALS**

GRANTS/TRANSFER \$2500.00

**TOTAL DEBITS 2500.00****BALANCE (6-30-26) \$17,717.18****EXPENSES**

DUES \$2528.00

SUPPLIES 71.87

PRINTING 92.68

POSTAGE 47.26

PRESIDENTS' OFFICE 922.72

GRANTS 1500.00

MEETING EXPENSES 170.84

DINNERS

AUCTION 1988.32

BIRTHDAY 812.46

EMPATHY 44.16

CONTRIBUTIONS

BEVERLY HOUSE 614.06

SEEDLINGS 300.00

CONVO GIFT 100.00

ELLIOTT 122.00

LVG/LRN CTR 200.00

AIM 0.0

WORLD FELLOWSH. 0.0

GIRLS' FUND (AFR) 0.0

M &gt; MEMBER 0.0

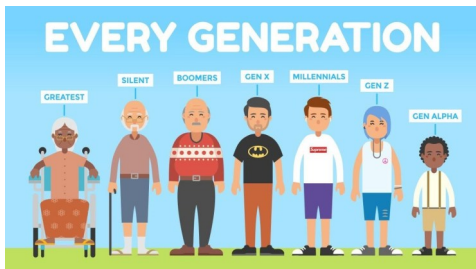
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**TOTAL EXPENSES \$9,594.77****CHECKBOOK BALANCE \$2369.15****(6-30-26)**

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>CHECKING BALANCE 7-1-26</b>  | <b>\$2369.15</b> |
| <b>INCOME</b>                   |                  |
| DUES                            | \$ 3380.00       |
| INTEREST                        | 2.00             |
| TRANSFER FROM SAVINGS           | 2500.00          |
| 50/50                           | 300.00           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>\$6182.00</b> |
| <b>AVAILAABLE</b>               | <b>\$8551.15</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                 |                  |
| DUES                            | \$2658.00        |
| SUPPLIES                        | 100.00           |
| PRINTING                        | 100.00           |
| POSTAGE                         | 100.00           |
| MEETING EXPENSE (INCL. LICENSE) | 550.00           |
| CONFERENCES                     | 700.00           |
| SPECIAL PROJECTS (BH)           | 500.00           |
| GRANTS                          | 2000.00          |
| CONTRIBUTIONS (WF, MSM, GF, +)  | 1000.00          |
| WEBSITE                         | 100.00           |
| SYMPATHY/SUNSHINE               | 100.00           |
| ZOOM                            | 200.00           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>           | <b>\$8108.00</b> |

## Generation Alpha: Teaching the 'Swipe' Generation

If you've ever watched a student tap a printed page expecting it to zoom in, or ask, "Can't I just Google it?" welcome to the wonderful world of Generation Alpha!



Primarily the children of Millennials, they are the first generation to be born entirely in the 21st century and have been immersed in screens, streaming, and artificial intelligence since birth. Born between 2010 and 2024, these students have never known life without smartphones, tablets, streaming videos, and instant answers.

Add the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic during their formative years, and it's no surprise they're approaching school differently than any generation before them.

Teachers are seeing the effects every day. Attention spans seem shorter, anxiety levels are higher, and many students find it difficult to stay engaged with lessons that don't compete with the nonstop entertainment of social media. Reading a chapter book can feel like asking them to watch a three-hour movie with no snacks, and no pause button.

The 2025 National Assessment of Educational Progress confirms what many educators already know: too many students are struggling in reading and mathematics. At the same time, teachers are navigating classrooms filled with smartphones, one-to-one devices, and now artificial intelligence. While technology offers tremendous learning opportunities, it also creates new challenges, from distractions and misinformation, to figuring out whether the essay was written by a student...or their favorite AI assistant. (Let's just say some essays suddenly sound suspiciously like graduate-level dissertations!)

So where does that leave us? It reminds us why organizations like DKG are more important than ever. DKG has always championed women educators, promoted professional growth, and supported excellence in education. Today's teachers need more than applause. They need encouragement, resources, mentoring, and opportunities to share innovative practices.

Generation Alpha doesn't need lower expectations; they need different pathways to reach high expectations. They need classrooms that spark curiosity, hands-on learning that captures their imagination, and caring educators who teach not only academic content but also resilience, critical thinking, and responsible use of technology.

As DKG members, we know that every generation presents new challenges. We've taught students who passed notes folded into tiny triangles, students who texted under their desks, and now students who ask AI for help before asking the

DKG



Michigan Women in the Arts Weekend Retreat

Friday, October 23-Sunday, October 25, 2026

Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, Roscommon



REGISTRATION FORM

-----  
Deadline: October 2, 2026

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

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 , email/cell \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:cerbirder@yahoo.com)

teacher. Through it all, great educators have continued to adapt, inspire, and make a lasting difference.

Our commitment to scholarships, grants for future educators, professional development, and community service reflects our belief that investing in teachers is investing in the future.

We know that technology will continue to evolve. Generations will continue to change. But one truth still remains constant: an outstanding teacher can still change the trajectory of a child's life.

And while we may never convince Gen Alpha that a library is as exciting as YouTube, we'll keep showing them that the best "download" they'll ever receive is a love of learning. That's a lesson worth sharing, and one that will never need a software update.

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*that defines our chapter and the Delta Kappa Gamma.*

*I am honored and excited to serve as your President this year. I look forward to the journey ahead and all that we will accomplish together. May this be a year of new ideas, meaningful connections, and shared experiences that inspire us to grow, not only as educators but as lifelong learners and friends.*

Linda



**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](http://www.dkg.org)

**DKG Michigan State Organization**

[www.dkgmichigan.org](http://www.dkgmichigan.org)

**DKG Gamma Alpha**

[www.migammaalpha.org](http://www.migammaalpha.org)