



# GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN

## “LET’S G.A.B”

*Caring Makes a Difference*

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### *March 7 Reminder*

Meet at Leather Bottle at 5:00. (I don’t think we need directions.)

Sponsors should invite candidates for a brief Society orientation conducted by Amy and the membership prior to dinner. After dinner, we will listen to Angela Branch, a representative from the State Attorney General's office, speak to us about identity theft.

Amy reminds us to bring any old towels or linens for the Michigan Humane Society in Westland. See minutes for details.

Registration information for the State Convention is in the *Wolverine* and on the State website [www.deltakappagamma.org/MI](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/MI)

### *Seedlings Update*

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Thanks to you, our Seedlings supporters, we were able to produce and distribute a record number of Braille books and articles to blind children last year (21,910: up 12% over the previous year)! And for the very first time, we sent out over a million pages of Braille! Thanks to you, more children than ever can own their own books, hold them in their hands, learn to read, love to read, compete on a more even playing field with their sighted peers, and do well in school ... and beyond! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for ALL of your help and support!

Here's an extremely easy way to continue helping Seedlings throughout the coming year--Now you can raise money for Seedlings every time you do a search on the Internet!: Do you ever "Google" or search the web with other search engines? Now you can search using GoodSearch and earn money for Seedlings Braille Books for Children with every search! Just go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> and type "Seedlings" in the "Who do you GoodSearch for?" box. Be sure to bookmark the page and use it for all your searches. If just 1000 of you do an average of 2 searches per day, approximately \$7300 will be donated to Seedlings each year ... and with that money, we can make 730 more Braille books each year! Don't delay! Go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> today and designate Seedlings as your charity of choice, and then SEARCH FOR CENTS FOR SEEDLINGS! Oh, and please pass this notice along to all your friends, family, coworkers and associates! Thank you for your help! Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the opportunity for literacy by providing high quality, low-cost children's literature in Braille.

Best Wishes and Happy Reading,  
Debra J. Bonde, Director, Seedlings Braille Books for Children  
PO Box 51924, Livonia, MI 48151-5924  
800-777-8552 [www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org)

### *Mission Statement*

*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
promotes professional and personal growth  
of women educators and excellence in education.*



## *Minutes in a Minute*

### **Executive Board Minutes January 10, 2007**

Call to order at 4:35. Attending were: Jackie Smart, Grace Morgan, Barb Broadley, Judi Fischer, Marie Canzoneri, Amy Wainwright, Mary Jo Dreffs, and Carol Anderson

December minutes were reviewed. Motion to accept was made by Barb, seconded by Judi. Approved. Thanks were again expressed to all members who donated items and brought guests to the Holiday Auction. The large amount of money earned was the direct result of the many fine donations and the number of guests. Many compliments were offered regarding the location, as well. A big thanks to the committee chairs and committee members.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Savings account has \$5493.85. Checking account has \$705.20. (\$41.00 in checking will go toward Joan Lyon's dues.) It is noted that having the newsletter on line is saving money. The much lower cost of printing the yearbook (researched by Judi Fischer) has saved money as well.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A letter was received from Lutheran Social Services thanking the chapter for the stockings filled and donated to Wayne County Family Center. A card of thanks was sent to our chapter from Sharleen Gonzalez, former State President, for condolences on the passing of her mother.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Amy reported that chapter attendance in September was 50%, October attendance was 44%, November attendance was 72% and December attendance was 66%. Average attendance = 58%. Current chapter membership is 33.

Concern about low membership number was discussed. All are encouraged to invite new members and to encourage attendance at all meetings. Some meetings should be designated as meetings to bring guests and some meetings to discuss chapter issues. The honor of membership should be stressed. Activities and programming should be reviewed for meeting the interests and concerns of all members, including younger teachers. It was suggested that initiation take place at a multi-chapter function so that many new members are part of a bigger program. Honors such as Chapter Woman of Distinction may be presented at multi-chapter functions, as well.

**NOMINATIONS:** Chair is needed. Amy will talk to Danielle about this position.

**PERSONAL GROWTH:** Barb will have Gamma Alpha Friend of Education certificates for Debra Bonde of Seedlings and chef Larry Janes. The two honorees will be invited to the chapter birthday dinner for presentations of the awards.

**SERVICE PROJECTS:** There was some discussion about exploring new avenues for services. Wayne County Family Center has lost their Activity Coordinator last July and there are no plans to fill the position. This person was our contact and helped us with our projects. The Center still accepts donations, but we won't be able to do hands-on or "Field Trip" projects.

Amy suggested a project of donating old linens to the Michigan Humane Society for use in their Westland shelter. Items do not have to be in good shape. They will be used for bedding in the kennels, drying the animals after baths, and will probably be chewed to shreds! So when you clean out your linen closet this spring, bring your old towels, sheets, blankets etc. to the **March** meeting. Amy will deliver the items to the Humane Society.

Other agencies will be considered for Service Projects, as well.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS:** The committee will be selecting this year's Chapter Woman of Distinction and she will be honored at the Birthday Dinner.

**RESEARCH/LEGISLATION/U.S. FORUM:** Sign up for your Dream Dinner experience. Jackie has sent everyone an email regarding procedures and sign-up.

**FINANCE/MUSIC:** Grace announced that at the March meeting, the topic of Identity Theft will be presented by Angela Branch who works on consumer issues for Attorney General Cox. We are asked that this meeting be open to chapter members only.

**GRANT-IN-AID:** Mary Jo indicated that \$1739.50 was raised at the Christmas auction. Three grants of \$500 each will be offered for women students of education. Former applicants and former recipients are encouraged to apply again if desired.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**WORLD FELLOWSHIP:** Carol Holland reported by mail that the chapter raised \$110 at the September meeting with the auction of donated vacation souvenirs. Judi and Jackie reminded the board that many chapters donate items for a state convention auction similar our September auction. We will ask the membership if they would like to participate in preparing a theme basket for this year's convention.

**YEARBOOK:** Yearbooks were sent in to the State by the December 1 deadline.

**NEWSLETTER:** Send Jackie news!

**BIRTHDAY/SUNSHINE:** Helen is arranging for the Birthday Dinner to be held at G. Subu's Leather Bottle.

**HISTORY:** Sherry is still keeping the old scrap-books safe.

## ***International Events***

*www.deltakappagamma.org*

### **Northeast Regional Conference**

Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

Acme, MI

July 25-28, 2007



### ***State Events***

*www.deltakappagamma.org/MI*

### **Alpha Iota State Convention 2007**

Detroit Marriot

Pontiac at Centerpoint

May 4-6, 2007

Information about both events is in the current *Wolverine and the newsletter*.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The MI State Convention will be held in Pontiac at the Detroit Marriott Centerpoint on May 4-6. Gamma Alpha is responsible for working at the registration table. We will need as many members as possible to attend and to work shifts at the table. Workers are needed on Friday in the late afternoon through the evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning.

A motion to re-instate Joan Lyon was made by Barb and seconded by Grace. Approved. We will hold a Memorial ceremony for Joan at the Birthday Dinner.

## **Gamma Alpha Meeting Minutes for February 7, 2007**

Meeting was held at Dream Dinners of Livonia. 10 members attended. The session began at 5:00. Members enjoyed assembling dinners such as Coconut Chicken, Steaks Southwest, Tilapia with Lemon and Dill Sauce, and a variety of other interesting entrees. Dream Dinners had all necessary ingredients, measuring utensils, packaging materials and labels with cooking directions for every meal. It was a pleasant evening with a chance to experience painless gourmet meal preparation for even the novice cooks among us. When the final ingredients were mixed and safely stored, a business meeting was held.

Lynne Elsesser collected the DKG survey forms that had been sent by e-mail. She will tally and forward the results to the state.

Five candidates were nominated for membership. Bonnie Franka presented Pam Emerson, and Judi Fischer presented Karen Scott. Nancy Chiasson was unable to attend but sent the forms for three candidates- a mother and two daughters. The candidates for membership are Kristen Hurley Chiasson (Nancy's daughter-in-law), Jennifer Hurley Chambers (Kristen's sister) and the girls' mother, Judi Hurley. Pam is a recently retired Wayne-Westland teacher. Karen is currently working at REMTC and has held a variety of successful teaching positions. Judy is a newly retired Wayne-Westland first grade teacher. Kristin teaches high school in Wayne-Westland and Jennifer

*(Continued on page 4)*

## March 7 Agenda

- 5:00- Meet promptly at the Leather Bottle
- 5:15- Orientation of candidates for membership– Pam Emerson, Karen Scott, Judy Hurley, Jennifer Chambers, and Kristen Chiasson. Led by Amy and Membership Committee
- 5:30- Order dinner from the menu
- Announcements: Birthday Dinner flyer, State Convention, June planning meeting, Northeast Regional Conference in July, etc.
- 6:30– Identity Theft presentation

(Continued from page 3)

is an elementary teacher in Wayne-Westland. Members voted to accept all of the candidates for membership. Orientation for the five candidates will be held at the March meeting and they will be initiated at the April 25 meeting.

Judi read a lovely note of thanks from Joan Lyon's husband for the red rose at her funeral. It was suggested that the chapter hold the Ceremony of Remembrance for Joan at our Birthday Dinner in April.

Amy displayed a tote bag with a lovely red rose and the DKG logo that is available to purchase for \$10 from Kappa Chapter. Shirts with the design are available, as well. It was suggested that chapter members consider ordering shirts to wear at the state convention when we will be working at the registration table. Amy will confirm a price for shirts and provide the information for those who are interested.

Members were reminded of the Leadership Conference to be held on March 23 and 24 in Tustin, MI.

The next chapter meeting will feature information on Identity Theft. A speaker from the State Attorney General's office will be present. The meeting is at G. Subu's Leather Bottle on March 7 beginning at 5:00. Dinner will precede the presentation.

We are reminded to make plans for the State Convention to be held on May 4-5-6.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol A. Anderson, Recording Secretary

## President's Message



### Get Smart!

Let's focus on you as an individual members. Just what can you do to put the "ME" in Gamma Alpha membership? Because of your outstanding qualities as an educator, you were asked to become a member of our Society. Though the chapter membership statistics seem discouraging at times, you have the ability to help Gamma Alpha flourish.

- One of the easiest ways is to talk about ΔΚΓ. We are not a secret organization, but many educators have no idea what we are. Memorize our mission statement, so that when someone in our schools or community asks you, proudly tell them that we "*promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*"
- Pay your dues to support the Society and our chapter.
- Attend meetings when you can. We look forward to seeing you whenever you are at meetings, and we support you when you cannot attend.
- Invite women to join the Society who you feel would be good members. Look for members with diverse ages, academic, educational and cultural areas.
- Attend Gamma Alpha's orientation meeting. Help to mentor new members.
- Offer to help with a program, serve on a committee or be an officer.
- Participate in all levels of the Society. Look beyond our local chapter.
- Read the chapter, state and international publications.
- Realize that you cannot do everything, but you can do something.

Jackie

## *Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International*



### *Recognizing a Stroke*

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Remember the “3” steps, **STR**. Doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

**S**-Ask the individual to **SMILE**.

**T**- Ask the person to **TALK** and speak a simple sentence coherently, i.e. It is sunny out today.

**R**- Ask him or her to **RAISE** both arms..

Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to stick out their tongue. If the tongue is crooked, if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke. If he or she has trouble with any one of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

*Contributed by Judi Fisher*

*The Sunshine Committee*

*Sends March*

*Birthday Greetings To*

11 *Nancy Chiasson*

13 *Esther Loskowske*

### *Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committee Chairmen 2006-2008 “Caring Makes a Difference”*

<i>Jacquelyn Smart:</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Judi Fisher:</i>	<i>First Vice President</i>
<i>Amy Wainwright:</i>	<i>Second Vice President</i>
<i>Carol Anderson:</i>	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
<i>Cindy Dietz:</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Barbara Broadley:</i>	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
<i>Judi Fisher:</i>	<i>Past President</i>
<i>Jacquelyn Smart:</i>	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>

#### *Committee Chairmen*

<i>Barbara Broadley:</i>	<i>Personal Growth</i>
<i>Esther Loskowske:</i>	<i>Service Projects</i>
<i>Marge Braun, Amy Wainwright:</i>	<i>Professional Affairs</i>
<i>Lynne Elsesser:</i>	<i>Research</i>
<i>Cindy Dietz:</i>	<i>US Forum/Legislation</i>
<i>Chris Smith:</i>	<i>Music</i>
<i>Mary Jo Dreffs:</i>	<i>Grant-in-Aid</i>
<i>Helen Mate:</i>	<i>Birthday</i>
<i>Carol Holland:</i>	<i>World Fellowships</i>
<i>Colleen Retherford:</i>	<i>Yearbook</i>
<i>Sherry Green:</i>	<i>History</i>
<i>Carol Anderson, Donna Colaianne &amp; Nancy Chiasson</i>	<i>Sunshine</i>
<i>Grace Morgan</i>	<i>Finance</i>
<i>Bonnie Franka, Joan Murray &amp; Carol Palk:</i>	<i>Ice Breakers</i>
<i>Open:</i>	<i>Nominations</i>

## *Dream Dinner Meeting Snapshots*



**Ten Gamma Alpha members prepared some wonderful dinners at Dream Dinners in February. The experience was fun and definitely worthwhile. Judi and Lynne have already signed up for another session.**



# 2006-2007 Gamma Alpha Chapter Calendar

Put these dates in your planner now and check out our website for future newsletters, forms, links, photos and more at: [www.migammaalpha.org](http://www.migammaalpha.org) RSVP to Judi Fisher three days before the meeting date at [judifisher@yahoo.com](mailto:judifisher@yahoo.com) or [jackie@mymartfamily.com](mailto:jackie@mymartfamily.com)

## **March 7, 2007 Preventing Identity Theft**

Finance and Music Committees are hostesses for this meeting. Angela Branch, a representative from the State Attorney General's office will speak to us about the fastest growing crime, identity theft and some steps to help prevent this from happening to you. Members and candidates for membership arrive at the Leather Bottle at 5:00 for conversation and cocktails. Orientation for new members at 5:15 Dinner will be at 5:30. Meeting about Identity Theft will begin at 6:30.

## **April 25, 2007 Birthday Dinner**

The Birthday Committee members and Sunshine Committee are the hostesses for this meeting. It will be held at the Leather Bottle. There will be a flyer at the March meeting .

## **May 4-6, 2007 Alpha Iota State Convention 2007**

Detroit Marriott Pontiac at Centerpointe. Judi and Jackie are co-chairs for the State Convention. Gamma Alpha will be manning the registration table during the Convention. We need a good member turnout at the Convention to complete this task. The hotel is within commuting distance, so you won't have to stay unless you want. Details regarding the convention and workshop sessions can be found in the *Winter Wolverine* and on the state website. Alpha Iota State website is: [www.deltakappagamma.org/MI](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/MI)

## **June 2, 2007 Saturday Planning Meeting for 2007-2008**

All of our programs are planned by the membership. Meetings focus on the seven purposes of ΔΚΓ:

1. **Unite women educators in spiritual fellowship** (*We can plan meetings where members share their talents, travels, hobbies, or memorable teaching experiences.*)
2. **Honor distinctive service in any field of education** (*Honor our active and long-time members with certificates of appreciation; recognize those who attained higher-level professional degrees.*)
3. **Advance women in education** (*Bring in community leaders for a Q&A session; invite school board women members to share their experiences; have members share about leadership conferences they have attended.*)
4. **Support legislation for women educators** (*Invite the League of Women voters or legislators to discuss the latest information; study the lobbying process.*)
5. **Endow scholarships to women educators** (*Send congratulations or birthday notes to scholarship recipients; invite former recipients to share their experiences; list hostel, leadership retreats available to members; hold fundraisers for grant-in-aid awards and world fellowships.*)
6. **Stimulate personal and professional growth and services** (*Visit local resources to learn about opportunities for all members: museums, theaters, newspaper offices, nursing homes, judicial environments, senior centers, shelters, art galleries, and historical landmarks.*)
7. **Inform members of important issues** (*Invite legislators for a panel discussion; report on world developments and future innovations; email information updates to members; review opportunities through Delta Kappa Gamma.*)

This meeting is **not** just for Executive Board, but for members who wish to make our chapter vital. Come to our planning meeting armed with ideas you want Gamma Alpha to be involved with for 2007-2008. We will have breakfast at Five at St. John's at 10:00. After breakfast and program planning we can be refreshed with a walk through The Gardens of St. John's Center for Youth and Family. The Gardens have been created to inspire spiritual reflection for all who visit. Five is located at 44045 Five Mile at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth. We hope to see many members at this important planning meeting.



**Delta Kappa Gamma**  
**Friday, May 4, 2007 to Sunday, May 6, 2007**

**RESERVATION FORM**

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or one-night's advance deposit must be sent in. Reservations are subject to availability if not received by April 4, 2007. Any guaranteed room will be held all night. You will be billed if it is not cancelled before 6:00PM on the date of planned arrival*

PLEASE CHECK YOUR PREFERENCE

King Bed - \$99.00 \_\_\_\_\_

All Guest Rooms are Non-Smoking

Two Double Beds - \$99.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Special requests \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Mail To:**

**Marriott at Centerpoint**  
**3600 Centerpoint Parkway**  
**Pontiac, MI 48341**  
**Phone: 248-253-9800**  
**Fax: 248-579-8395**  
**Or call 1-800-579-8395**

1. Enclose a check or money order covering the first nights stay  
**OR**
2. Send us the ENTIRE number of your credit card. Please do not forget the expiration date and signature.

*Check out time is 12 noon. Rooms may not be available for check in until after 4:00 pm*

*Reservations requested beyond the cut off date are subject to availability. Rooms may still be available after the cut – off date but not necessarily at the above rate. All reservations are subject to local room tax.*

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**ALPHA IOTA STATE CONVENTION, May 4-6, 2007**  
**Detroit Marriott Pontiac at Centerpoint, Pontiac, Michigan**  
**“Empowering WOMEN EDUCATORS”**



Please Print: Use one form for each person. Complete both sides.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Title

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name tag should read: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Office: Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

International: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you participating in the President's Procession?  Yes  No

Are you your chapter president's substitute?  Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first ΔΚΓ Convention?  Yes  No Years of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

**Photo Release:**

**“I grant permission to Alpha Iota State of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International to use my photograph in *The Wolverine* and/or on the Society website.”**

Yes  No Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

(Guests only are invited to meals without attending workshops.)

**Registration Fee:**

Postmarked by April 4, 2007 \$40 (non-member \$60) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Postmarked after April 4, 2007 \$50 (non-member \$70) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

President's Banquet/ Saturday \$40 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Awards Breakfast/ Sunday \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CEU'S** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Certified Educational Units \$10

**Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Dietary Needs:** Requirements must be listed with this registration form to avoid duplicate costs. Special tickets will be provided in the registration packets of those who indicate the following needs:  
 Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ Diabetic \_\_\_\_\_

**Handicap Assistance:** There is elevator service to guest rooms. There is elevator service and a hall-way ramp to the workshop floor function rooms. If you require special guest room accommodations, please notify the hotel staff directly when you make your reservations.

Payment for registration and desired meals must accompany this registration form.

**Make checks payable to Delta Kappa Gamma**

Please print and then mail this form and payment to:

**Barbara Hoffman  
 3911 Ludwig  
 Oxford, MI 48371  
 248-628-9303  
 blehoff@charter.net**

**Cancellation:** A person having to cancel will receive a refund provided her written request is **post-marked no later than fifteen days before the event, April 19, 2007** (Standing rule 7:01 of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.) Requests for cancellations must be sent to the same person to whom the registration form was sent.

Are you attending the Executive Board Meeting on Friday night?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Friday Night Alternate Session:** Scheduled for those persons not attending the Executive Board Meeting.

Will you be attending ...

- **Let's Dance???**  
 8:00—10:00 P.M., Friday Night  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No



## Good Reading

### Stephanie Plum Mysteries

Janet Evanovich

During the Holiday Auction I won shopping bag full of books. I discovered Janet Evanovich's smart, sassy Stephanie Plum series. There were 11 books with titles like: *One For the Money*, *Two For the Dough*, *Three to Get Deadly*, etc. There are fourteen Stephanie Plum mysteries in print thus far.

Stephanie Plum is a New Jersey girl, from Trenton. She gets into the bounty hunting business out of desperation when she is laid off of her job as a lingerie buyer. Stephanie needs money fast; her cousin Vinnie owns a bail bond store. Stephanie needs to fill her fridge and pay some bills, so she figures she'll nab one big case to tide her over until she can get a better job. Her first case: grab Joe Morelli, a former vice cop with whom she has a bit of romantic history.

Evanovich's characters are one of the best aspects of her books. If you want a nice easy read, that will keep you interested until the last page, pick up a few books in the series. I guarantee you will be hooked on the action, wit and humor like I am.

I have laughed out loud to the first eight books in the series that I have I read because I cannot believe what Evanovich puts Stephanie through. *If the Plum mysteries ever becomes a movie, I see Sandra Bullock as the heroine.* With a cast of colorful characters that you have to read to believe, you too will be wanting more Plum mysteries. With an infinite amount of numbers, (unlike Sue Grafton's alphabet mysteries), I predict this series is likely to continue as long as the fans demand it.

Plum Series:

*One For the Money, Two For the Dough, Three to Get Deadly, Four to Score, High Five, Hot Six, Seven up, Hard Eight, To, the Nines, Ten Big Ones, Eleven on Top, Twelve Sharp, Visions of Sugar Plums (holiday novella) and Plum Lovin'*

## Good Eating

### Irish Potato Leek Pie

#### Ingredients:

6-8 potatoes, peeled  
6 bacon strips  
3-4 leeks  
salt and pepper to taste  
one cup grated Cheddar cheese

#### Procedure:

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Cook the potatoes in boiling water until tender. Drain.

In a skillet, fry bacon until crisp and drain well on paper towels.

Trim leeks so that you have the white part and a small amount of green. Wash well, and slice thinly. Add leeks to skillet and sauté over medium heat until soft.

Slice the boiled potatoes, and arrange half in the bottom of a pie plate. Season with salt and pepper.

Layer with bacon, leeks and one half of the cheese. Cover with remaining with remaining potatoes and season again. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake for 30 minutes or until top is browned and cheese is melted. Serve with soda bread.

### Irish Soda Bread

#### Ingredients:

- 4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- About 14 ounces of buttermilk.

#### Procedure:

Preheat the oven to 425 F. Sift the dry ingredients together several times in a big bowl. Make a well in the center. Pour about three-quarters of the buttermilk and begin to stir. Add more liquid sparingly if you need it- dough should be raggy, soft and dryish. Blend ingredients. Then knead dough, only for around half a minute. Shape the bread into a circular flat piece and put it into a cake pan (lightly dusted with flour). With a sharp knife cut a cross across the top. Cover the cake pan with another cake pan. Place in oven. This simulates a bastible pot or Dutch oven. Bake with the pan on top for the first 30 minutes at 425 F, then decrease to 400 F for an additional 15 minutes.



## ***To all the kids who survived the 1930's 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's!***

*Marge Braun contributed this interesting giggle for all to enjoy.*

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and were not tested for diabetes. Then after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with bright colored lead-based paints. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking.

As infants and children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, booster seats, seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pick up on a warm day was always a special treat. We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and no one actually died from this. We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank Kool-Aid made with sugar, but we weren't overweight because we were always outside playing. We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scrap wood and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem. We did not have Play Stations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 150 channels on cable, no video movies, no DVDs, no Surround-sound, no CDs, no cell phones, no personal computer, no Internet or chat room.

We had friends and we went outside and played with them. We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and chipped teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever. We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and, although we were warned what might happen we did not poke out any eyes. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law! These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever. The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it.

Share this with your kids so they will know how brave (and lucky) their parents were. Kind of makes you want to run through the house with scissors, doesn't it?

