



# Gamma Alpha Bulletin

## Letter From Methodist Children's Village

Dear Gamma Alpha Chapter,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your recent donation to Methodist Children's Home Society.

As you know, keeping up with the activities of growing boys is a challenge. Your donation of Halloween candy is a wonderful gift.

Your contribution truly makes a difference. To help our children learn and grown as fully as they are able, we depend on people like you, who give of their resources to help our organization in its mission.

We believe that every child has the right to develop into a healthy adult. We are glad you have some interest in supporting this life-affirming principle, which guides what we do at Methodist Children's Home Society.

Sincerely,  
Steve Dingman, Associate Executive Director

### Service Project Update

We will have "Summer Fun" theme for the boys at the MCV. At the Birthday Dinner in April, we would like you to bring items that the boys can use in the summer. From the MCV Wish List, we chose these items to donate:

- Gym bags
- Beach towels

- Swim trucks (Men S, M, L)
- Team t-shirts (Men S, M, L)
- Adult size baseball mitts (new or gently used – Try looking at *Play It Again Sports* for good deals)
- Drink bottles

To save some money, we suggest several members team up and fill a gym bag with summer goodies.

Esther  
Personal Growth & Services Chair

### Inside this issue:

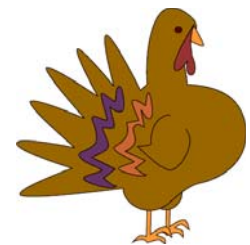
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### Meeting Information

#### November 19

This is the big one! Our Annual Holiday Auction! Bring lots of friends and \$. RSVP to Cindy by **Nov. 14** Send \$25 check payable to Gamma Alpha to:

Cindy Dietz  
7329 Gilman  
Westland, MI 48185



#### January 28

Please refer to the calendar for specific details about our guest speaker, Melissa

McDermid and Initiation of New Members.

### Mission Statement

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





## Minutes in a Minute

October 29, 2008

Fran called the meeting to order at 6:00 with her new “gavel” ... plastic clapping hands. Very cute! She introduced our guests, Pam Husson and Judy Morante who had come to be introduced to the membership and hear about ΔΚΓ.

Judi and Lynne were in charge of the “ice breaker” which consisted of trying to figure out several types of cakes. It was lots of fun...especially if you were a baker!! (Some of us only know chocolate and yellow cakes!)

Minutes from the September meeting were approved with only having to correct one typing error. Hopefully, I'll get better by the end of my term!

Cindy reported that only a few members still have not paid dues. Let's go girls!!

Jackie told us about activities from Seedlings. All of this information will be forwarded to everyone. Also, raffle tickets for a time share in Hawaii or Vermont were available for \$15.00 and this money goes to Members Supporting Members which pays for first time convention attendees and/or presenters for the convention. Jackie will have the tickets with her at each meeting. The winner will be drawn at convention in May.

We had a very good orientation for our guests (and a re-orientation for the old members) done by Jackie and Carol A. Nice job, ladies!! Did you know that DKG is 30 years old this year? One of the founding members, Sherry Green, was at the meeting and... no, she didn't join when Annie B. was around!

We received our yearbook CD's and Jackie took us on a “tour” of what the CD has on it. There is LOTS of information on the CD not just yearbook information. Please take some time to look at your CD. You might find out some interesting new!

Several members went to the Fall Workshop in Alpena and had a great time. We were told that Esther actually attended meetings this year!

Carol P. brought the books for the Used Book Exchange. A few members bought books. Remember...the money we earn from this goes to help offset our fund shortage. So please remember to bring your used books to each meeting. (Don't forget to buy books at the meetings!) Grace brought some beautiful cards that she had made and donated all of the money from the sales to help with our fund shortage, too. Thanks, Grace.

LOTS of candy was donated to the Methodist Children's Village by everyone attending the meeting. THANKS for being so generous.

The Holiday Auction is quickly approaching. You will be getting a postcard as a reminder so please send your money to Cindy as soon as possible. Be sure to bring guests and things to auction off. We've done very well each year so let's keep up the good work!

We ended the meeting with a presentation of *Simply Fun* games. We had a chance to see and play some of the games before buying them. What a great way to end the evening!

Respectfully Submitted:  
Mary Jo Dreffs, Recording Secretary

Only those who dare to fail can ever achieve greatly.

Robert F. Kennedy

If we did all of the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves.

Thomas Edison

### Book Talk



One of my purchases at the Gamma Alpha book sale was *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. It opens with a day of disaster at the circus and Jacob Jankowski admitting he kept a secret from that day for over 70 years. The novel then moves to the ninety-something year old Jacob in a nursing home. As the older Jacob fights to survive the indignities of old age, he recounts the story of his life with the *Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth*.

*Water for Elephants* moves between the story of the traveling circus in 1930 to the story of the older Jacob's fight to maintain sanity. While most of *Water for Elephants* is about the circus, the chapters about the older Jacob provide a depth to the story that makes the whole book

richer and more real.

I discovered that Gruen researched circuses and animal behavior extensively before writing *Water for Elephants*. Her writing is descriptive, easy-to-read and I felt as if I were part of the circus community. All of your senses are engaged, from the whistle of the train to the burn of moonshine against the back of the throat. You can almost smell the sawdust and the animals

I loved and hated many of the characters as well. As the adventure and details of Jacob's secret unfolds, it is impossible not to become attached to Jacob, Walter, Bobo, Rosie, and Marlena.

I highly recommend *Water for Elephants*.

### Sunshine Committee Birthday Greetings for November & December



#### November December

2	Debbie Ervin	8	Karen Scott
5	Amy Wainwright	12	Barbara Broadley
10	Sherry Green	30	Judi Fisher
17	Pam Emerson		
24	Chris Smith		

Happy Birthday to you!

### 2008 Instruction and Professional Development Conference

December 4-6, 2008  
Hyatt Regency, Dearborn  
Registration deadline  
November 14, 2008  
Go to [www.mea.org/members](http://www.mea.org/members)  
and click on conferences  
for further details.

## 2008-2009 CALENDAR



### NOVEMBER 19, 2008

Hostesses: Grant-in-Aid Committee and Auction Committee

No Icebreakers this month! **Alpha Iota State President J-Jay Pechta will be our guest at this year's auction.**

Agenda:

**Holiday Auction** and 50/50 raffle (Prepayment of \$25 is necessary for this event.)

You and your guests should arrive for the auction at 5:00 at G. Subu's Leather Bottle. This will give you plenty of time for auction registration, displaying your auction donation, cocktails, and camaraderie.

Family style dinner will begin approximately at 5:30. The auction will begin promptly after dinner.

### Holiday Auction Reminders

1. Members need to bring a 3x5 card for each item they donate. On the card, they should describe the item, a suggested opening bid, and name of the donor. Members should try to bring more than one donation so we will have a variety of auction items.
2. Suggested items or services that could be donated:
  - Gift Certificates, Theater/Movie/Game Tickets
  - Baked goods
  - Massage
  - Theme Baskets, Teacher Baskets
  - Holiday items/ decorations
  - Books/Books on Tape
  - Crafts

### JANUARY 28, 2009

Location: G. Subu's

4:30 Executive Board Meeting (Only Executive Board members need to attend.)

5:30 Dinner

6:30 Meeting

Hostesses: Executive Board and Membership Committee

**Icebreakers**  
Chris Smith  
Mary Lou Flynn  
Danielle Jopek  
Cindy Dietz

Agenda:

Executive Board Meeting at 4:30 (Only Executive Board members need to attend)

Initiation of New Members

Used book sale

Guest Speaker: Melissa McDermid

"One Crayon Project" is a presentation by Melissa McDermid, a Farmington Teacher and Delta Kappa Gamma member. Melissa won the National Milken Educator Award (\$25,000) and decided to use the money traveling to Tanzania, volunteering in a school, and helping the community of Arusha, Tanzania

## Volume 29 Issue 3

Below is an excerpt from her blog about the One Crayon Project...

*"I've really been pondering how to respond to my trip to Tanzania. How does an individual give back to a community that welcomed me into their lives? I know that I must find an appropriate way to respond and keep giving! I've been thinking about different avenues to take and would love to include others on the journey! My current thinking is to have a night to share my experiences with everyone. I just have to figure out when, where, and how to share my experience. Everyone has been great at offering to help... so my current issue is what is the best way to help, how to do it and how to make the effort sustainable. The One Crayon Project... how does that sound. One Pencil, One Crayon, One HUGE Group of Individuals Making a Difference! The name comes from the idea that the nursery (kindergarten) children have the choice of ONE CRAYON to color with. I don't think I'll forget watching children pick ONE CRAYON. That gave that gave me a moment of pause... my students have the choice of 96 crayons, colored pencils, or even smelly markers. Yet these children pick ONE CRAYON and are satisfied. Hence... The One Crayon Project!"* **Come to our January meeting and learn about Arusha, Tanzania and be inspired!**

**MARCH 3, 2009** Note the day is **TUESDAY**. The church is not available on Wednesdays.

Location: Geneva Presbyterian Church  
Sheldon Road (north of Ford Road)  
Canton

Time: 5:30

Hostesses: Personal Growth Committee with Grace Morgan and Amy Wainwright

**Icebreakers** Donna Colaianne  
Nancy Chiasson

Agenda:

Cooking Demonstration with celebrity chefs, Chefs Lisa Austin and Kristin Chiasson.

Recipe Exchange (Start sending Jackie 3 or more of your favorite recipes to [jackie@mymartfamily.com](mailto:jackie@mymartfamily.com) We'll print copies for all and have them available at the meeting. **Send your recipes by February 1.**

Used book sale.

**APRIL 22, 2009**

Location: G. Subu's for dinner followed by Tipping Point Theatre

Hostesses: Birthday Committee and Executive Board

**Icebreakers** Carol Anderson  
Amy Wainwright

Agenda:

5:30 Family Style Birthday Dinner at G. Subu's  
(Pre-payment of \$25 for the family style dinner will be necessary.)

6:30 Honor Retirees  
Award Scholarship/Grant-in-Aid  
Birthday Ceremony (Gamma Alpha 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

8:00 "The Complete Works of Will'm Shakespeare, Abridged"  
Tipping Point Theatre  
361 E. Cady Street in Northville

**MAY 1-3, 2009**

Alpha Iota State Convention in Grand Rapids

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Information will be in the Winter *Wolverine* and in future newsletters. Please plan on attending with a minimum of 15, the tickets will be \$16. We will need to pre-order the tickets early.)

**JUNE 2009**

Date /Location/Time TBD at January Executive Board Meeting

Hostesses: Executive Board

Agenda: Planning Meeting for 2009-2010

## Keeping Teachers from Dropping Out

by Dorothy Rich, Columnist EducationNews.org

It's one thing to train and hire teachers. It's another thing to "retain" them. Many first year teachers are assigned to the toughest situations, plunged into the classroom. The door shuts behind them, and there is no one on hand to help. Consequently, many new teachers leave. The turnover costs to school districts is high. The costs in teacher morale are even higher.

To keep new teachers on the job, let's give them what only luck is providing now. Instead of sending new teachers to Siberia, let's send them to Florida. Let's provide a satisfying first year that provides a cushion of success. After that, these teachers will be able to face more difficult situations. And, they will be more likely to stay on the job.

Administrators know well in advance about the better assignments, even in the toughest schools. Now these are saved for those who have been teaching a long time. But if we want to retain new teachers they need to experience success early on. I'm told by those wise in the ways of the schools that this idea for placing new teachers in "good" classes has about much chance as the idea that we should put our best teachers in the hardest-to-teach classrooms. These nay-sayers may be right. But something has to be done. To be sure, we don't have high achieving, motivated students for every teacher to start with. Yet, there are softer and harder situations every school. Let's give new teachers softer situations. Is this really such a radical idea?

### **Kitchen Talk**

#### ***Curried Cranberries***

#### **Ingredients:**

1 cup sugar  
1/2 cup cider vinegar  
1/2 cup port wine  
3/4 cup orange marmalade  
1/3 cup of raisins  
2 teaspoons cinnamon  
1 1/2 teaspoon curry powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 12 ounce bag of fresh cranberries

#### **Procedure:**

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Combine all ingredients except the cranberries.

Mix well.

Then add the washed cranberries and mix well.

Spray a 2 quart baking dish with cooking spray.

Pour in the cranberry mixture.

Cover with foil.

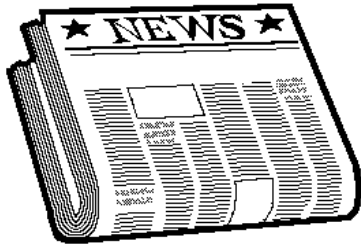
Bake for 50 to 60 minutes-until cranberries are soft.

Before serving, let sit for 15 minutes to slightly thicken.

You can substitute chopped dates for the raisins, if desired.

This make a nice accompaniment for your turkey and dressing.

## State News



### US FORUM CONNECTION

US FORUM CONNECTION is free newsletter sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society has over 114,000 United States members. Any Delta Kappa Gamma member wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to Elaine Christensen, elaine395@comcast.net

You are urged to share this newsletter with other interested educators who are or not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or do not subscribe.

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Alpha Iota State President J-Jay Pechta will make an official visit to our chapter on November 19.

Instead of complaining that the rosebush is full of thorns, be happy that the thornbush has roses.

*German proverb*

## President's Message



Dear Gamma Alpha Sisters,

After an amazing presidential election, are you ready for the start of the Holiday season? Let's begin with our auction on November 19th. This should get us in the mood. Reservations are due to Cindy Dietz by November 10th. We will be in the large room for this event. Don't forget your donation descriptions and opening bid suggestions on 3x5 cards.

Grace Morgan and I delivered your Halloween candy to the Methodist Children's Home on October 30th. You'll notice the thank you letter and recognition for our chapter in this issue.

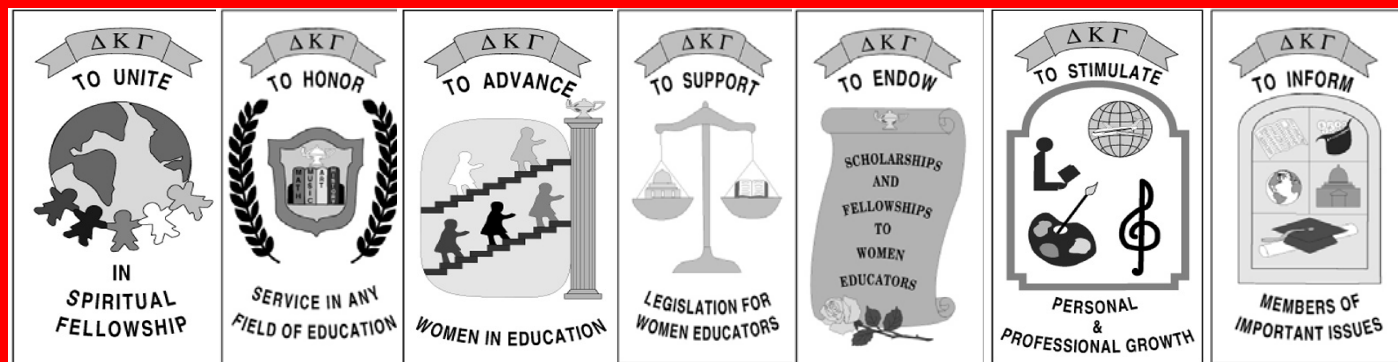
Our October meeting was truly a team effort. Didn't you enjoy the "cake" opener from Lynne and Judi? Jackie's professional "Delta Kappa Gamma 101" orientation presentation was a knockout. Hopefully we'll see the unabridged version soon.

Many thanks also go to Grace for donating her lovely hand made cards to our chapter, for making our auction table favors and for introducing the Simply Fun games to our group.

Thanks to Judi Fisher for taking Seedlings card orders and to Carol Palk who took charge of our book exchange. (Next book exchange at our January meeting.)

*Fran*

## Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



### Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committee Chairmen

#### Executive Board

President	Fran Saenz
First Vice President	Amy Wainwright
2nd Vice President	Carol Anderson
Recording Secretary	Mary Jo Dreffs
Corresponding Sec.	Jackie Smart
Treasurer	Cindy Dietz
Parliamentarian	Barbara Broadley

#### Committee Chairmen

Personal Growth & Service	Esther Loskowske
Professional Affairs	Lynne Elsesser
Research/History	Sherry Green
US Forum/Legislation	Pam Emerson
Music	Chris Smith
Grant-in-Aid	Debbie Ervin
Birthday	Helen Mate
World Fellowships	Colleen Retherford
Yearbook/Newsletter	Jackie Smart
Sunshine	Donna Colaianne & Nancy Chiasson
Finance	Grace Morgan
Nominations	Danielle Jopek
Holiday Auction	Mary Jo Dreffs

#### Ice Breakers

**January:** Chris Smith, Mary Lou Flynn, Cindy Dietz, Danielle Jopek

**March:** Donna Colaianne, Nancy Chiasson

**April:** Carol Anderson, Amy Wainwright

## Dropouts: One is Too Many



You read about new teachers dropping out of the professional. Here is a study about high school dropouts.

The “Dropouts: One is Too Many” coalition set out to jump start community conversations about the problems stemming from the approximately 21,000 students who drop out of school in Michigan every year. About 1,600 pages of testimony was collected from more than 500 people who attended the 11 hearings held across the state or shared ideas online. Four key themes were identified as areas that need attention in all efforts to keep students in school until graduation:

- Students need caring relationships.
- One size doesn’t fit all students.
- Tackle the problem early – high school is too late.
- This isn’t just a “school” problem – community collaboration is critical.

To read the coalition’s final report , go to [www.mea.org](http://www.mea.org)