



# Gamma Alpha Bulletin

## Plan Ahead for Our Summer Fun Service Project

We will have a “**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*



### In Memoriam Abby Joel Roach

August 18, 1938  
November 29, 2008

Abby was one of the first teachers to welcome me to my new teaching position with Wayne-Westland Community Schools in 1976. She was the Learning Consultant, and I was a fairly new teacher, who needed as much help as her kindergarten students did. Fortunately, although I didn't realize it at the time, I had the opportunity to learn from the best, and Abby and I became life-long friends, and colleagues.

Abby had a love of history, and art, as well as a love of education and children. In addition to being an accomplished educator, Abby was a talented artist in her own right, creating works of primitive art, Fraktur \*, and calligraphy. Her homes in Michigan and Florida were filled with beautiful works of art of every kind, from her every day dishes to the ornaments on her Christmas tree. Each item was unique and had special meaning to Abby. She had a gifted eye, and would often pick up pieces from unknown artists who would go on to become prominent in their field.

Abby was a lifelong learner, taking classes throughout her life. She, with many of her friends, took classes at Greenfield Village,

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### Meeting Information

#### January 28

**4:30** Executive Board will meet for the semi-annual EB meeting.

Reports/Updates Needed:

- Auction Report - Cindy
- Chapter Woman of Distinction - Esther
- Birthday Dinner - Helen
- Tipping Point Theater - Fran
- Cooking Demo - Lisa and Kristen

**Dinner at 5:30** All Members Business Meeting during dinner.

Used Book sale

Speaker at 6:30 (or whenever dinner ends)

Melissa McDermid, Beta Eta

“One Crayon Project”

**\*Note: Initiation will take place at the Birthday Dinner.**

**Next Meeting March 3**

Cooking Demonstration  
See Calendar

### Mission Statement

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



## Sprouts from Seedlings

Debra Bonde

As we review our sales and distribution numbers from 2008, a couple of things become very clear: individuals, schools, and libraries may not have the funds to purchase books but the need for Braille books is still very real.

Last year we distributed 22,605 Braille books and articles, 5005 of which were given away. Several of our "free" programs accounted for 22% of the total **1,056,256 pages** of Braille produced in 2008. Although sales fell somewhat short of our projection, we gave away 19% more books and articles than in 2007. How can we do this with the economy stumbling and sales lagging?

We are extremely fortunate to have the most faithful, dedicated group of donors and volunteers that any organization could ever hope for. In trying years like 2008, our donors may give a little less but they still give. Our volunteers remain available for whenever and whatever we need and never let us down. With the help of all of you, we are able to keep supplying young Braille readers with the books they want and need. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

May your hearts be joyful and your blessings many in this new year.

### The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Seedlings Bowl-a-thon

Sunday, March 22 at 12:00 PM

Super Bowl in Canton, Michigan

The Bowl-a-thon continues to be our biggest yearly fundraiser, gathering together old friends and new supporters, giving everyone a fun afternoon of bowling along with a chance to win great prizes. Come and join us! Sign up to bowl or to pledge a bowler on our website,

[www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org), or call the **Seedlings** office at 734 427-8552. Registration deadline is March 7, 2009.

## CELEBRATING BRAILLE

January is *Braille Literacy Month*. On January 4, 1809, Louis Braille was born in Coupvray, France. After becoming blind at the age of 3, Louis Braille attended school in Paris where he developed a Braille code by the time he was 15, forever changing the world for people who cannot see. An accomplished musician, he also developed a music Braille code and co-invented the first dot-matrix printer. As we acknowledge the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Louis Braille's birth, we pause to reflect on this remarkable man, the challenges he faced, and the legacy he left.

On a more personal level, **Seedlings Braille Books for Children** will officially be 25 years old on July 13, 2009! Since 1984, Seedlings' mission has not changed. We still produce high quality books, sell them at low prices, provide free books to those who are in need, and ship to visually impaired children all over the world. Watch for more news of our official 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration later in the year.

## MARCH IS READING MONTH

*Reading Month* is a perfect opportunity for Seedlings' Community Outreach staff to visit local elementary schools and talk about the importance of reading for all children. As the students learn about Braille and how it is used by visually impaired children, they often begin their own reading competitions and use them to raise funds for Seedlings! Many Braille books are sent out each year bearing the names of the schools whose fundraising efforts have made their production possible. We thank all of the teachers and students who give of their time and energy to help enrich the lives of others.

*(Continued from page 1)*

where she had a special association with the Village and its schools. She belonged to the Dearborn Genealogical Society, and many professional and historical organizations.

As a lifelong learner, Abby embodied the spirit of Delta Kappa Gamma. We joined Delta Kappa Gamma as charter members of Gamma Alpha in 1979, and Abby quickly volunteered to be the Historian. She was proud of her membership in Delta Kappa Gamma, and began as active member, serving not only as Gamma Alpha's Historian but as Treasurer, and in other capacities, as well.

One of my favorite memories is of Abby and I attending our first State Convention in 1979. Representing the "new chapter" and members of one of the only chapters not wearing gloves during the Procession of Presidents, we were particularly nervous about our dress and how we appeared to others. At the convention luncheon, tables were quite close together, and as we squeezed by to get to our table, Abby brushed against a salad, getting oil all over the back of her dress. We quickly went back to our room, washed the back of her dress, dried it with a hair dryer, and made it back to the luncheon!! The proof is in the photo of Volume I, *A History of Gamma Alpha*, which Abby helped to put together for us.

Abby was dearly loved by her friends, family, students, colleagues, and Delta Kappa Gamma Sisters. She is already sorely missed, but her talented, generous, compassionate, and accomplished contributions to our lives will not be forgotten.

Sincerely,  
Sherry Green

*("Fraktur art is naive art at its finest. It corrals folk art, family, and American values tinged with a strong dose of Old World heritage." Corinne and Russell Earnest. I had to include this definition of Fraktur, for it is also descriptive of Abby and her love of folk art, family, and American values and her quest to study and appreciate the people and events of the past.)*

## Book Talk Death by Darjeeling

By Laura Childs

I was recently introduced to a series of new books written by Laura Childs. Theodosia Browning is the owner of Indigo Tea Shop in Charleston, South Carolina. Theo's maturity and wisdom seem to go beyond her thirty-six years, making her an easy hostess with customers of all ages. Her business is growing in the historic tourist town and she is building a strong, knowledgeable staff: Drayton Connelly, tea sommelier, Haley Parker, Theo's clerk and baker, and Bethany Shepherd, Haley's roommate, who fills in on occasion.

Theo also caters local events, most recently the Lamplighters Tour, tours of the historic homes of Charleston. During one of the stops, local developer Hughes Barron drops dead after a cup of Theo's special blended tea.

Not wanting to besmirch her shop's good name, Theo decides to look into Hughes's death on her own and soon learns that Charleston may not be the genteel

picture of southern towns it purports to be. Theo finds local historians at odds with real estate developers and all too soon realizes the problems may hit closer to home than she would like.

The mystery remains a little unfocused and it takes Theo and the police longer to solve the mystery than it will take most of you. Once Theo settles on her choice of suspects, she is oblivious to all other clues and puts all her energies into proving her suspect is the culprit.

**Death by Darjeeling** is a good beginning to a new culinary series that will quickly become a favorite of those who enjoy a light mystery. The setting is cozy and inviting. There are even tea recipes and tips on how to brew a proper pot of tea. Once reading this mystery, I think you will want to return to the Indigo Tea Shop for a second cup of tea. and maybe a scone.



### Sunshine Committee Birthday Greetings



#### January

- 1 Carol Anderson
- 7 Donna Colaianne
- 13 Mary Jo Dreffs
- 31 Marie Canzoneri

#### February

- 20 Danielle Jopek
- 29 Marge Braun (Sorry no birthday this year.)

**Happy Birthday to you!**



### Minutes in a Minute November 19, 2008

No minutes were taken at the auction.  
Auction report will be given at the January meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Mary Jo Dreffs, Recording Secretary



Alvin Toffler

The illiterate of the 21st Century will not be those who cannot read and write; but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn.

## 2008-2009 CALENDAR

### JANUARY 28, 2009

Location: G. Subu's

4:30 Executive Board Meeting

5:30 Dinner

6:30 Meeting

Hostesses: Executive Board and Membership Committee

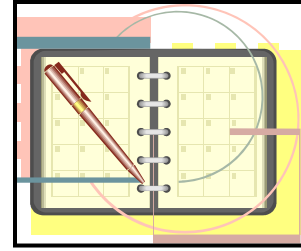
#### Icebreakers

Chris Smith

Mary Lou Flynn

Danielle Jopek

Cindy Dietz



#### Agenda:

Executive Board Meeting at 4:30 (Only Executive Board members and chairmen with reports need to attend.)

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

**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 Initiation of New Members  
Honor Retirees  
Award Scholarship/Grant-in-Aid

8:00 Birthday Ceremony (Gamma Alpha 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
“The Complete Works of Will'm Shakespeare, Abridged”  
Tipping Point Theatre

**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



**MEA News Bites**

**MEA Hosts New Education Radio Show**

**Voices of Michigan Education** is a new radio program that offers listeners insight into issues and events that are at the forefront of the state's current educational climate and future. The debut show aired on January 13 on News Talk 760 WJR. On Jan. 17, it was broadcast on affiliates of the Michigan Talk Network.

Whether it be teachers who have come up with inventive new ways to prepare our next generation for success, business leaders sharing what their expectations are of current and future graduates entering the workforce, or parents and educators making a difference in helping students achieve, **Voices of Michigan Education** discusses hard-hitting and thought-provoking issues affecting the Michigan educational landscape while allowing for diverse perspectives to be shared.

The debut show, told how Michigan teachers are preparing students for a changing job market and how to prepare for a new world of technology and alternative energy.

\*\*\*\*\*

**2009 MEA Lobby Day**

**February 18, 2009 Radisson Hotel, Lansing**

Plan now to attend MEA 2009 Lobby Day in Lansing on Wednesday, February 18, 2009. The MEA Lobby Day is a one-day event. Meet with your legislators. Get updates on current legislation and gain valuable information about public education funding that you can use on behalf of your community.

## Kitchen Talk

### Blueberry Scones

*Real British scones are often like British humor, sometimes dry and tasteless. Try this recipe for scones that have the moistness of muffin, the richness of clotted cream and jam, and the super-flaky crumb of a good biscuit.*

#### Ingredients:

- 16 tablespoons unsalted butter (2 sticks), frozen whole
- 1 1/2 cups fresh blueberries
- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour  
*plus additional for work surface*
- 1/2 cup sugar (*plus 1 tablespoon for sprinkling*)
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon table salt
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest

#### Procedure:

1. Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 425 degrees. Score and remove half of wrapper from each stick of frozen butter. Grate unwrapped ends on large holes of box grater (you should grate total of 8 tablespoons). Place grated butter in freezer until needed. Melt 2 tablespoons of remaining ungrated butter and set aside. Save remaining 6 tablespoons butter for another use. Place blueberries in freezer until needed.
2. Whisk together milk and sour cream in medium bowl; refrigerate until needed. Whisk flour, 1/2 cup sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and lemon zest in medium bowl. Add frozen butter to flour mixture and toss with fingers until thoroughly coated.
3. Add milk mixture to flour mixture; fold with spatula until just combined. With rubber spatula, transfer dough to liberally floured work surface. Dust surface of dough with flour; with floured hands, knead dough 6 to 8 times, until it just holds together in ragged ball, adding flour as needed to prevent sticking.
4. Roll dough into approximate 12-inch square. Following Fold dough into thirds like a business letter, using a scraper or metal spatula to release dough if it sticks to countertop. Lift short ends of dough and fold into thirds again to form approximate 4-inch square. Transfer dough to plate lightly dusted with flour and chill in freezer 5

minutes.

5. Transfer dough to floured work surface and roll into approximate 12-inch square again. Sprinkle blueberries evenly over surface of dough, then press down so they are slightly embedded in dough. Try not to smash them into the dough. Using your scraper or metal spatula, loosen dough from work surface. Roll dough, pressing to form tight log. Lay seam-side down and press log into 12 by 4 inch rectangle. Using sharp, floured knife, cut rectangle crosswise into 4 equal rectangles. Cut each rectangle diagonally to form 2 triangles and transfer to parchment-lined baking sheet.
6. Brush tops with melted butter and sprinkle with remaining tablespoon of sugar. Bake until tops and bottoms are golden brown, 18 to 25 minutes. Transfer to wire rack and let cool 10 minutes before serving.

#### Notes:

It is important to work the dough as little as possible - work quickly and knead and fold the dough only the number of times called for.

The butter should be frozen solid before grating. While the recipe calls for 2 whole sticks of butter, only 10 tablespoons are actually used. You are using the extra amount of butter to hold onto while grating it.

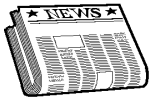
If fresh berries are unavailable, an equal amount of frozen berries (do not defrost) can be substituted. An equal amount of raspberries, blackberries, or strawberries can be used in place of the blueberries. Cut larger berries into 1/4 to 1/2 inch pieces before incorporating.

Refrigerate or freeze leftover scones, wrapped in foil, in an airtight container. To serve, remove foil and place scones on a baking sheet in a 375-degree oven. Heat until warmed through and re-crisped, 8 to 10 minutes if refrigerated, 16 to 20 minutes if frozen.



#### Madame Benoit

*I feel a recipe is only a theme, which an intelligent cook can play each time with a variation.*



## State News

### Alpha Iota Slate for 2009 - 2011 biennium

President:	Jacquelyn Smart !!!
1st Vice President:	Olive Horning
2nd Vice President:	Gloria Richards
Recording Secretary:	Kathy Muench
Corresponding Secretary:	Shaila Jehle

Voting on the proposed slate of officers and Installation Ceremony will take place at the State Convention May 1-3, 2009 in Grand Rapids. Mark your calendar and please plan on attending. There will be some great CEU sessions.

### Raffle Tickets to Benefit Alpha Iota State

Jackie has raffle tickets to benefit the Members Supporting Members project. that will build an endowed

## Gamma Alpha Member News

Hi everyone,

Thought I would give you an update on our little guy. Everyone had a great Christmas. Jonah had his port taken out before Christmas and right after Christmas he received his hearing aids. He doesn't seem to mind wearing them. He had another scan last Tuesday as a part of the vaccine research. He also had his regular blood work.

JoAnn has been taking him to the sports center in Canton to kick around the soccer ball. Last Tuesday, for the first time since last January, he played with other 4 year olds.

On February 8, 2009 at 1:30 our Wayne Rotary Club is sponsoring a **Best Friends Forever Benefit Tea and Fashion Show** in honor of Jonah at St. Mary's Activity Center in Wayne. Presale tickets are \$12 for adults and children (under 12) for \$8. Tickets at the door are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. You can buy tickets at St. Mary's school office, Wayne Chamber of Commerce, or The Acorn Shop. The proceeds from the event will help to pay for medical and other expenses not covered by insurance. Tax deductible donations can also be made to the non-profit Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation whose mission is to encourage and support research to reveal causes and discover effective treatments for the disease.

We feel very blessed to have so much support. 2008 taught us things we would have rather not known, but it also showed us how many wonderful people there are to be thankful for and prayers can definitely be answered.

Hope all of you and those around you have a great 2009.

Judy Hurley

fund so members can be granted stipends for attending and presenting workshop sessions and eventually for special speakers at our State Conventions and Fall Workshops. The tickets sell for **\$15** each. The raffle is for your choice of a week in Stowe, VT during the summer of 2009 or 2010, or a week at the Waikiki Beach Walk Resort in Honolulu during the winter or spring of 2009 or 2010. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the January and March meetings. A brochure about the prizes accompanies each ticket. The winner will be drawn at the State Convention In May and you need not be present to win.

## President's Message

Dear Gamma Alpha Sisters,

I hope you enjoyed the holidays with friends and family. 2008 was a roller coaster of a year. We participated in an historic election while we watched our retirement investments diminish with the economy. In spite of "shrinking wallets" Gamma Alpha sisters generously donated ten Simply Fun games to the Methodist Children's Home. We received a nice thank you letter from the Home. As the year neared an end, we lost a charter member, Abby Roche. For those of you who were fortunate to have known Abby, you feel the loss of a trusted mentor and talented friend. Abby maintained a gentle spirit while rheumatoid arthritis took its toll on her body. She will be remembered in the White Roses ceremony at our state convention in May.

The New Year continues to bring hope to the optimists. I started "100 Days to Health" with the Livonia Recreation Center, hoping to shed some signs of my overindulgence. I also encouraged more 60's to participate as a synchronized swimming team entry in next fall's national meet in Florida. Challenges keep you going!

As a Chapter Challenge, remember to invite a prospective member to an upcoming meeting. On January 28th we have a presentation on the "One Crayon Project", by Melissa McDermid, a Farmington teacher and Delta Kappa Gamma member. She will share her experiences in Tanzania. We are postponing our scheduled initiation of new members until our April meeting when both new members should be able to attend.

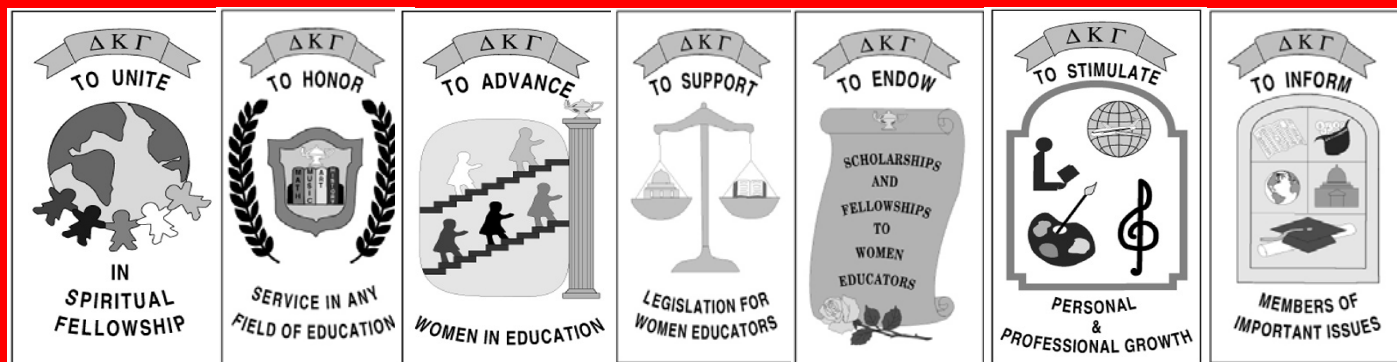
Please reserve your theater seat for our April 22 trek to the Tipping Point Theatre to see "The Complete Works of Will'm Shakespeare," Abridged". I'll need \$16 check to Gamma Alpha to pre-order the group tickets.

Plan on joining us at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids for the Alpha Iota State Convention, May 1 -3. Our chapter knows how enjoy the moments!

I hope to see you at our upcoming meeting. Stay warm and wonderful!

*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

### Research

One of the Seven Purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma is to **Inform** members of important issues. So...

#### Who is better at Math?

If you still subscribe to the stereotype that boys are better at math, please note that the research doesn't support it. Looking at standardized math scores from over 7 million children in early elementary through high school, researchers at the University of Wisconsin found no differences between the genders.

Hyde, J. et al. (2008). *Science*, Vol. 321 (5888), 494-495.

#### New Teacher Mentoring

There is too much here to include in the newsletter regarding research on mentoring new teachers. So I am listing a link members can go to for information. This is an article by Harry Wong. It includes a list of activities that might stimulate our thinking. Enjoy.

<http://teachers.net/wong/FEB08/>