



## The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International DKG

*Serving Women Educators from Western Wayne Cty.  
Member of Detroit Metro Coordinating Council*

# GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN

## Presidents' Message

Gamma Alpha Friends,



I enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving with my family. There were 19 of us in attendance this year. I continue my role as the #2 Chef in Charge. My duties include preparing the stuffing and gravy. These are legacy recipes, and it is my job to make them taste just as if my grandma Onnalea had cooked them. My other, much more covert duty, is pouring a cup of water on the turkey each time I pass by while it is cooking in the electric roasting pan. So far, I have been very successful in not getting caught. As a result, I have been able to produce increased quantities of gravy in recent years. My crusade to promote sweet potatoes over squash has created a rift between my mother and I. All is forgiven though, since my presence in the kitchen makes the dinner ready 30 minutes ahead of schedule. I hope all of you had equally wonderful celebrations with your families!

There is so much to be grateful for this holiday season, not the least of which is not having to deal with the shenanigans of students in the days leading up to Thanksgiving Break! I really am grateful, thankful, and amazed with the success for our Annual Auction. The donations were beautiful and thoughtful. The turn out this year was quite impressive! Thank you to all of you who brought guests. Thank you to everyone who pitched in to help make this event a huge success. I really liked the table decorations Esther made with the cute burlap-wrapped vases filled with fall leaves and sunflowers. I thought they made the tables look much more festive than the arrangements Laurel Manor provided in years past. Esther says we can expect to enjoy them again in future years.

I'm looking forward to our Holiday Happy Hour at Judy Morante's house. I've already requested the day off of work and will be there with my donation to the Beverly House. For us, I will bring a nice bottle of red wine, but for the girls, I have ordered a few books from Amazon and a magazine subscription from NEA magazines to add to their reading nook. I look forward to seeing you at Judy's. Don't forget to use the Sign Up Genius to let us know what beverage, appetizer or dessert you intend to bring.

Yours in DKG,  
Amy

November 2018  
Volume 39, Issue 3



## Pumpkin Gingerbread Cake

First, let's start with the two simple ingredients:

- 1 (14.5 ounce) box gingerbread mix (just the dry mix I used Pillsbury brand Gingerbread Cake and Cookie Mix)
- 1 cup canned pumpkin not the sweetened pumpkin pie filling
- Optional: powdered sugar or whipped cream for topping

Place the two ingredients in a large mixing bowl. That's it! No eggs, no oil, no butter... *nothing else!* Use an electric mixer to whip up a thick, fluffy batter. This can be done with a wooden spoon by hand, but I find that it's much smoother and easier with the handheld mixer.

Spread the batter in a baking dish, pop it in a 350°F oven for about 25 minutes, and you've got a moist pumpkin gingerbread cake to enjoy with your next cup of tea!

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### REMINDERS

December 6 - Holiday Happy Hour

## 2018-2019 CALENDAR

In order to avoid conflicts, **PLEASE put the dates in your calendar** and we'll see you there. Information about meetings will be updated in following newsletters.

### **Thursday December 6, 2018 Holiday Happy Hour**

**Place:** Judy Morante's house  
49646 Timber Trail  
Novi, MI 48374

**Time:** 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

**Program:** Holiday Happy Hour

Instead of a white elephant gift exchange this year, we agreed to get gifts for Beverly girls. Suggestions for gifts: young adult books, magazine subscriptions, holiday themed tee shirts, sweatshirts, fun socks (6 pairs), gloves, hats, snow toys, games, and homemade decorated Christmas cookies. We are asking that members bring gifts unwrapped, so we can see what we have, then we will wrap them. We can use Judy's extra large gift bags for the "house" gifts (games, etc.) The more personal items can be wrapped separately. We also thought maybe a couple of members could deliver the gifts instead of Judy or her committee. That way more members can experience what the house is like. If you are unable to attend, please consider sending a gift for the girls or the house.

**Bring:**

Judy will provide coffee, tea, pop, and an alcoholic punch. Colleen will create a "Sign-up Genius List" for: hot & cold appetizers, and dessert. If you are in town, please try to attend.

### **Wednesday January 9, 2019**

**Place:** Claddagh Irish Pub  
17800 Haggerty  
Livonia

**Time:** 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Executive Board will complete annual reports  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Dinner

**Program:** Conversation and Fellowship

### **Thursday March 14 , 2019**

**Place:** Northville Library  
212 W. Cady Street  
Northville

**Time:** 5:30 PM - 6:30  
Speaker from Northville Library  
E-books, MEL, Michigan, Activity Pass  
6:30 PM - Dinner in Northville

### **Saturday April 13, 2019**

Metro Council Lunch

**Place:** Our Lady of Sorrows (School Cafe)

**Time:** 11:00 AM- 2:00PM

**Cost:** \$20

**Program:** Preserving Our History

### **Wednesday April 17 , 2019**

**Place:** Northville Library  
212 W. Cady Street  
Northville

**Time:** 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Tentative Program:  
Unlacing Victorian Women - History of Women's Clothing

6:30 PM - Dinner in Northville

### **May 3-5, 2019**

#### **Executive Board and State Convention**

Grand Hotel

Mackinac Island, Michigan

Registration information will be in the Winter *Wolverine*.

### **Thursday May 16 , 2019 Birthday Dinner**

**Place:** Karl's Cabin  
6005 Gotfredson Road  
Plymouth 48170

**Time:** 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**Cost:** approximately \$30

**Program:** Gamma Alpha's 40th Birthday Dinner

- Chapter Woman of Distinction
- Friend of Education
- Honor Retirees
- Grant-in-Aid Recipient
- Ceremony for New Members

### **Saturday June 15, 2019 Planning Meeting**

**Place:** TBD

**Time:** 11:00 - 2:00

**Bring:** Sign-up Genius for Dish to Pass, Program ideas

## CHAPTER NEWS

### November Birthdays

- 2 Debbie Ervin
- 4 Linda Dobrzeniecki
- 5 Amy Wright
- 10 Sherry Green
- 11 Sarah Elsesser
- 17 Pam Emerson

### December Birthdays

- 3 Pam Husson
- 14 Barbara Broadley
- 30 Judi Fisher



### Annual Auction

Alpha's Annual Auction was a success. Treasurer Cindy reported we raised \$530 from the silent auction, \$1730 from the cups, and \$280 from the 50/25-25 raffle. The food was tasty and service from Laurel Manor was excellent, as usual. Many thanks to all those who donated auction items or cash, brought guests to the event, purchased tickets, and helped out during the auction. Thank you.





# MINUTES

## Minutes for Meeting on October 10, 2018

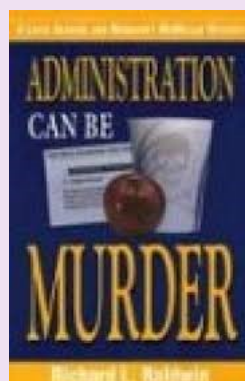
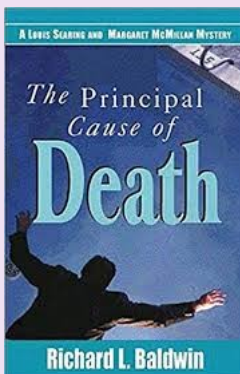
Our October meeting was held at the Northville Library. There was no formal business meeting. Jackie passed around a sig-up sheet for auction chores.



Richard Baldwin was our guest speaker. A resident of Haslett, Rich Baldwin has published more than 20 books, including two children's books, a set of religious vignettes, several skits and the "AARP Magazine – Swim Suit Edition", under his own company – Buttonwood Press. Prior to becoming a published author, he enjoyed a long and exciting career in special education, serving as a teacher, college professor, and spending 20 years at the Michigan Department of Education where he was a consultant, supervisor and State Director of Special Education from 1990-97. Rich talked about his process of writing. Members were able to purchase books. Rich also donated books for our auction and his speaker fee.



Joanna Eiwen, Recording Secretary



## More Auction Moments





## LEGISLATION

### A Win for Students, Educators

Wins for a slew of MEA-recommended candidates in Tuesday's election, highlighted by Gretchen Whitmer's victory in the race for governor, represent a "course correction" for Michigan and public education, says MEA President Paula Herbart.

"With Governor-elect Whitmer's victory, along with many new pro-public education legislators, we look forward to our state's top elected officials reaching out to front-line education experts - teachers and school support professionals - to ensure their voices are heard before making education policy decisions," Herbart said in a statement.

Now the real work begins, according to Whitmer. "Voters rejected agendas that don't put our kids' education first," she added, noting her pledge to level the playing field and make the state a place where kids stay, families thrive, and people come to for opportunity.

"I'm determined to work with everyone who wants to make sure that is the future of our state," she said.

The midterm election drew the highest turnout in Michigan in nearly 60 years, and MEA members were part of bringing about change across the state—volunteering for local and state candidates, making phone calls, writing post-cards, knocking doors and donating to MEA-PAC, MEA President Herbart said.

"From volunteering to voting, everyone made a difference for our students and our profession, and we should be proud of what we accomplished together," she said.

*MEA Voice*, November 7, 2018



## DKG STATE NEWS

### "In the Mood," The Grand Hotel

During the first weekend of May, DKG Michigan members and their guests will be given the opportunity to "Live Large," and experience the GRAND lifestyle!

In preparation for your weekend, before packing overnight bags, there are a couple of films that might qualify as Anticipatory Sets for your visit.

The first, *This Time for Keeps* (1947) with Esther Williams and Jimmy Durante emphasizes the Historic Cottages, bicycles of the era, horse drawn carriages, and the Grand Hotel with its Esther Williams Pool constructed for Esther and this production which still provides swimming for guests on the grounds.

The second and most memorable in my opinion, *Somewhere in Time* (1980) with Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour, leads us through the gardens and grounds while touring public and private rooms in the hotel.

As you view these films, remember the site's history of growth, both horizontally and vertically, and frequent off-season renovations, the current designed by Carlton Varney.

Although there may have been cosmetic changes since becoming Michigan's Summer Place in 1887, perhaps new wall coverings and paint colors or furniture, bedding, and carpets, the elegance, ambiance, and service for which the Grand Hotel are known continue to improve with age. Are you getting "In the Mood" yet? Come find out. Experience the GRAND Lifestyle! See you on The Island May 3-5, 2019.

Hotel reservations and convention registration forms will be in the 2019 Winter *Wolverine*.



## Gamma Alpha Officers & Committees



Colleen Retherford, Co President  
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### Committees

Grant-in-Aid - Joanna Eiwen

Newsletter & Yearbook— Jackie Smart

Service Projects - Judy Morante, Lynne Elsesser, Judi Fisher

Finance - Judi Fisher

Sunshine - Esther Loskowske

Vacation Auction - Mary Jo Dreffs, Carol Palk, Sherry Green

50/50 - Cindy Dietz & Esther Loskowske

Used Book Sale -Carol VandenBrul

Gamma Alpha Annual Auction - Jackie Smart, Pam Husson, Esther Loskowske, Cindy Dietz (& all Gamma Alpha Members)

If you would like to be part of a committee, please contact Colleen or Amy.

### WEBSITES

**Gamma Alpha**  
[www.migammaalpha.org](http://www.migammaalpha.org)

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

**DKG International**  
[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

## Book Report



### *The Madwoman Upstairs* By Catherine Lowell

In this smart and enthralling novel, the only remaining descendant of the Brontë family embarks on a modern-day literary scavenger hunt to find the family's long-rumored secret estate, using clues her eccentric father left behind.

Samantha Whipple is used to stirring up speculation wherever she goes. As the last remaining descendant of the Brontë family, she's rumored to have inherited a vital, mysterious portion of the Brontë's literary estate; diaries, paintings, letters, and early novel drafts; a hidden fortune that's never been shown outside of the family.

But Samantha has never seen this rumored estate, and as far as she knows, it doesn't exist. She has no interest in acknowledging what the rest of the world has come to find so irresistible; namely, the sudden and untimely death of her eccentric father, or the cryptic estate he has bequeathed to her.

But everything changes when Samantha enrolls at Oxford University and bits and pieces of her past start mysteriously arriving at her doorstep, beginning with an old novel annotated in her father's handwriting. As more and more bizarre clues arrive, Samantha soon realizes that her father has left her an elaborate scavenger hunt using the world's greatest literature. With the aid of a handsome and elusive Oxford professor, Samantha must plunge into a vast literary mystery and an untold family legacy, one that can only be solved by decoding the clues hidden within the Brontë's own writing.

This was a literary adventure from start to finish, but alas...fiction!