



## The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International DKG

*Serving Women Educators from Western Wayne County  
Gamma Alpha is a Member of Detroit Metro Coordinating Council*

July/August, 2020  
Volume 41, Issue 1



## GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN

### Presidents' Message

Dear Gamma Alpha Friends,

I hope you are healthy and safe! I am looking forward to the new biennium with Carole Lower by my side as my Co-president. I thank you for the great turn out to our virtual meeting in June. We have a variety of events planned for the coming year. We will make the most of virtual meetings and, of course, we'll get together face-to-face as appropriate.

The following is my adaptation of "Be Generous. Breathe. Laugh. 10 tips for staying sane during the COVID-19 crisis" by Mary Schmich published in the Chicago Tribune on March 12, 2020. Here I share with you 10 reflections of my own.

#### Give

I found out I was so well stocked this year that I wasn't lacking anything. Not a thing. I am so lucky to be able to give cash donations and gifts-in-kind to various charities.

#### Get outside

Get some sun. Take a walk. Walk the dog. Take a bike ride. I've never seen so many people outside, just enjoying some time away from their TVs and phones. I like to listen to audio books during my walks.

#### Put down the newspaper, pick up a book

A short update on the daily news is good, but having CNN on 24/7 is not going to improve my morale, nor is scrolling endlessly through my Facebook feed. I'm happier when I turn off the TV, put down my phone and read a magazine, a book, or even a favorite, old cookbook.

#### Check your sources

It's important to know where the news is coming from. If it's on my Facebook news feed, I double check the facts.

#### Check in with yourself

This year feels like a rollercoaster. I have had to remind myself several times, "You're OK. Everything is weird, but everything is fine. You're OK. More and more often, I pause and ask myself what I am feeling. If I am all worked up for reason in particular, I take a break to clear my head.

#### Move

I am not getting in nearly as many steps at home as I did at the office. I have to remind myself to move and to stretch. I downloaded the 7-Minute Workout app. It was amazing how much better I felt after some simple stretches.

#### Connect

Social distancing has been great for my long-distance friendships. With *Whatsapp*, I have long conversations with my Brazilian friend, Alex, virtual happy hours with my German friend, Angi, and I am talking to my sister, who is out in DC, more frequently.

#### Perspective!

#### Perspective! Perspective!

Again, I remind myself I am OK. I remind myself that I have a great opportunity this year to finish my house

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#### REMINDERS

Check your email to see if the September meeting will be at the Northville Library or via Zoom!

## Calendar 2020-2021



### **September 10, 2020 (Thursday)**

Place: Northville Library (If restrictions are not lifted then Zoom.us)

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 PM at library (6:30 if virtual meeting)

Program:

Business Meeting

Quarantine Crafts Show and Tell

Dinner in Northville after the meeting

### **September 25-26, 2020 (Friday and Saturday)**

Executive Board and Fall Conference

DoubleTree by Hilton Grand Rapids Airport

Registration information will be in the Wolverine and in our newsletter

### **October 15, 2020 (Thursday)**

Place: Northville Library

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 at library (6:30 if held via Zoom)

Program: Education in the Time of Covid

Panel with: Pam Sayre, Jennifer LaRose, Joanna Eiwen, Jessica Walker, Sarah Elsesser

Dinner in Northville after the meeting

### **November 1, 2020 (Sunday)**

**Gamma Alpha's Annual Auction and Luncheon is cancelled. More information about November's meeting will be in the next newsletter.**

### **December 10, 2020 (Thursday)**

Gamma Alpha Holiday Happy Hour and Service Project Donation

Place: Margie Sievert

18265 Arselot Drive

Northville 48168

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 PM

A Genius Sign-up will let us know what we should donate in terms of appetizers and service project donations

### **January 21, 2021 (Thursday)**

Cruising into January

Place: The comfort of your home via Zoom.us

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Executive Board Business meeting one hour prior to the meeting (4:30 PM)

Select members will share travel ideas, cruise tips, Airbnb info, and some fantastic vacation photo memories

**Please email Amy Wright your pictures, information, tips, ideas & stories from your travels: amosande@hotmail.com**

### **February 3, 2021 (Wednesday)**

Virtual Happy Hour

Place: The comfort of your home via Zoom.us

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 PM

**Program Virtual trivia – please email Amy Wright three multiple choice trivia questions: amosande@hotmail.com**

**March 11, 2021 (Thursday)**

Place: The comfort of your home via Zoom.us

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 PM



We are working on having author, Erin Bartells, joining our Zoom meeting to share her journey as a writer. Her debut novel, “We Hope for Better Things” released in January 2019 and received rave reviews. It was followed in September 2019 with “The Words Between Us.” Please join us for this Zoom meeting.

**April 30-May2, 2021 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)**

DKG Michigan State Organization Executive Board and State Convention

DoubleTree by Hilton Riverfront Bay City

One Wenonah Park Place

Bay City, MI

Registration information will be in the Wolverine and in our newsletter

**May 15, 2021 (Saturday) Metro Council Field Trip**

**Program: Wild Women of Detroit Bus Tour**

**Cost: \$65.**

**Time: 10:00 am to 2:30 pm**

Join Metro Council for the Detroit History Tours on a 4 hour bus tour of some “Wild Women of Detroit” and their stories. We will enjoy a mini-sub lunch, chips, cookies, and a soft drink. Because a bit of swearing comes with the history, all public bus tours are a strict 21 years old and older. Alcoholic beverages are NOT allowed on the bus (DARN.) Bottled water is provided and guests may bring snacks or nonalcoholic beverages on board.

The tour leaves promptly at 10:00 am and returns at 2:30 pm from Millennium Park in Livonia. Millennium Park is located on Middlebelt and I-96. We will park near the service drive in front the Home Depot parking lot. Home Depot is directly behind Costco. There will be a sign. Boarding starts at 10:00 AM. The bus holds 52 passengers. DKG members and their guests are welcome (although DKG members will have priority.)

**May 20, 2021, (Thursday)**

Gamma Alpha Chapter's 42nd Birthday Dinner

Place:

Karl's Cabin

6005 Gotfredson Road

Plymouth, MI

Time: 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Cost: \$33

Program:

Birthday Dinner

Chapter Woman of Distinction

Friend of Education

Honor any Retirees

Present Lifetime Service Award

Grant-in-Aid Recipient

Induction of New Members

Service Project Donation

## June 12, 2021 (Saturday)

Planning

Place: Carole Lower

45766 Fermanagh

Northville MI 48168

Time: 11:00 - 2:00

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



## BIRTHDAYS

### July Birthdays

4 Karen Marold  
9 Joanna Eiwen  
15 Rose Kelly  
16 Suzanne Bacinski  
20 Carol Holland  
21 Judy Handley  
30 Judy Morante



### September

9 Cindy Dietz  
16 Carole Lower  
19 Helen Mate  
26 Jennifer LaRose  
27 Linda Clark  
30 Jackie Smart

### August

*(Continued from page 1)*

projects and to get my life organized. All that time I would have spent commuting, I can enjoy sleeping in longer in the morning and cooking a yummy dinner and eating at a decent time in the evening.

### Have fun

I have created so many fabulous playlists. I sing and dance when I cook in the kitchen and when I'm in the shower! Lately, I feel like I am constantly cleaning the house. A great playlist makes chores feel less like chores.

### Think

It's as if the whole world has been told, "Go to your room, and think about what you have done." This is more of a break than many people have ever had. Lots of folks are having to take a real good look at their lives and face, for the first time, the life they have made for themselves. Some don't like what they see. Some do like what they see and are taking this opportunity to focus on what is most important to them. I am using it as an opportunity to clean out all the clutter: physical, mental, and emotional.

I look forward to being in a better place when we are on the other side of all this. I hope all of you are too.

Yours in DKG,

Amy

## June 13, 2020 Zoom Meeting



President Amy Wright expertly handled our first virtual meeting via Zoom. There were 20 attendees (a few left the meeting before the picture was taken.) It was nice seeing so many faces and catching up with everyone. We had a full agenda and Amy expertly led us in the meeting with a PowerPoint, DKG background, and even DKG music during a planned break. Many thanks to Amy for sending us Zoom etiquette notes. Gamma Alpha has purchased a Zoom package since we will be using this meeting format for a few meetings in the future.

**Gamma Alpha**  
**Minutes for Meeting on June 13, 2020**  
**Zoom Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 11:09 a.m.

Welcome of Guests

Tara Cooper, Barb Anderson, Jessica Walker

Birthday Celebration Events

1. Award Chapter Woman of Distinction- Liz Frazier-member for 20 years
2. Award Grant in Aid - Jessica Walker- Currently teaching at Fordson High School, Dearborn
3. Induction of New Members, Barb Anderson, Tara Cooper, Jessica Walker was led by Carole Lower and Amy Wright.

Barb Anderson -Started teaching in 1972, Taught in Grosse Ile, Garden City, and Wayne-Westland. Retired in 2016

Tara Cooper- Taught in Wayne - Westland. Retired in 2016

Jessica Walker- Taught at Fordson High School, Dearborn, Wayne - Westland, Lincoln Park High School. Still teaching.

4. Installation of Officers- Led by Judy Morante

**CO-PRESIDENTS:** Amy Wright & Carole Lower

**CO-VPS & MEMBERSHIP:** Lynne Elsesser & Linda Clark

**CO-REC. SECRETARIES:** Joanna Eiwen & Linda Dobrzeniecki

**CO-CORRES. SECRETARIES:** Jackie Smart & Liz Frazier

**TREASURER:** Cindy Dietz

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Pam Sayre

5. Dues are due

20/21 dues are \$85

Send checks to Cindy Dietz, 7329 Gilman, Westland, MI 48185

Checks should be made out to Gamma Alpha

6. Service Project Update

a. Donations can be made to Beverly House. Send to Cindy Dietz.

b. Motion was made by Judy Morante and seconded by Carol Anderson to send \$100 to Beverly House for a take-out a meal for the girls. Motion passed.

c. Lisa Austin will be visiting Beverley House to teach meal prep

d. Gamma Alpha can fund flowers and have volunteers work outside planting them with the girls.

***Delta Kappa Gamma Song- 5 minute Stretch Break***

1. 1/23/2020 minutes were approved as written.

2. President's Report- Amy Wright- reminders of upcoming events, etc.

Cancellations

a. State Convention, April 24-26, was cancelled. Refunds have been made.

b. Metro Council Wild Women of Detroit Bus Tour, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, was cancelled.

c. Women in the Arts is now cancelled. The center is now closed so they will need a new location.

d. International Convention, July 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, is cancelled.

e. Annual Auction might be cancelled. Jackie will check with Laurel Manor.

3. Treasurer's Report- Cindy Dietz

a. Get dues to Cindy as quickly as possible. Needed by the end of June

b. People who paid for Wild Women of Detroit should just send in \$20 to cover dues in lieu of receiving a refund

c. Gamma Alpha has \$2,219 in checking and \$16,398 in savings

d. Have some bills still to pay

- e. Grant in Aid Recipient Award- Will get \$500 now and \$500 when she attends a

- meeting in the fall.
- f. Amy will send addresses to Cindy
4. Corresponding Secretary's Report- Jackie
- a. **New Members please send birthdate and picture to Jackie**
  - b. Pictures will be used in directory
5. Committee Reports
- a. Membership - Carole Lower
    - 1) Michigan has been challenged by Ohio to get new memberships
    - 2) They have more members so it is by percentage.
    - 3) Cherry/Buckeye Challenge - Winner gets chocolate covered cherries or buck-eye balls
    - 4) Trying to get update from Ohio.
    - 5) We have had quite a few new members in recent years.
6. Newsletter - Jackie Smart
- a. Will come out in August.
  - b. Please send her news, recipes, and book reports
7. Annual Auction- Jackie Smart
- a. Scheduled for Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>
  - b. Cost should be \$33 a person
  - c. Will have flyer at Sept. meeting and will be in newsletter
8. Metro Council- Jackie Smart
- a. Wild Women of Detroit has been postponed until May 15th 2021
  - b. Will keep the price the same as this year
9. Fall Conference is scheduled for Sept. 25-26 in Grand Rapids at the DoubleTree
10. Grant-in-Aid- Joanna Eiwen
- a. Invite educators you know to apply
  - b. You can apply more than once
  - c. Application is on website
11. Service Projects-Judy Morante
- a. Pam Husson made a motion and seconded by Margie Sievert to send a check to cover the cost of a 1 year subscription, not to exceed \$100, for (digital) entertainment (Disney+) pending administrative approval. Motion passed.
  - b. If and when money is donated designated to Beverly House, Cindy will write a check for that amount and will mail it.
  - c. Judy will send Cindy Beverly House's address
- Final Comments
- a. Tara, Barb, and Jessica- Please send in Picture and Birthday
  - b. Amy will send Power Point and Calendar in email
  - c. Margie Sievert expressed thanks for the sympathy cards she received.
  - d. Linda Dobrzeniecki expressed thanks for the cards for her mother's 100th birthday.
- Meeting Adjourned at 1:22 pm.

Joanna Eiwen, Recording Secretary



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Summer is a great time for making salsa. This one is easy and uses fresh ingredients. Pop them in your food processor for a rough chop and enjoy with chips and a beverage.

### Pico De Gallo

#### Ingredients:

6 tomatoes  
3 jalapenos (warning: hot)  
1 medium white onion  
1/2 a medium red onion  
1 cup cilantro (I'm a fiend- so a little less if you aren't)  
5 cloves garlic



## BOOK SHELF

No matter your genre of choice, the first half of 2020 has delivered more than its fair share of excellent reads. I've rounded up a few from the year so far.

### **The Glass Hotel**

Emily St. John Mandel

Tying together the collapse of a Ponzi scheme in New York with a woman's disappearance from a ship off the coast of Mauritania, *The Glass Hotel* will draw readers in and keep them captivated until the final page. A look at greed, guilt, and unintended consequences, Mandel's latest novel features mesmerizing writing and a fascinating, character-driven plot.

### **Conjure Women**

Atia Afakora

Set on a Southern plantation before and after the Civil War, Atakora's captivating debut tells the story of three women: Miss May Belle, a healer, or conjure woman; her daughter, Rue; and Varina, the daughter of their enslaver. Rue learns her mother's healing skills and, after the war ends, steps into the role. But when she helps deliver a seemingly cursed child and disease follows, rumors about Rue begin to spread. "Through complex characters and bewitching prose," *Publishers Weekly* says, "Atakora offers a stirring portrait of the power conferred between the enslaved women."

### **Such a Fun Age**

Kiley Reid

Though it was technically released on the last day of 2019, *Such a Fun Age* has turned into one of the buzziest books of 2020. A Reese's Book Club pick and *New York Times* bestseller, it follows a young Black woman who's accused of kidnapping the white child she's babysitting. When the incident goes viral, the false accusation changes the lives of everyone involved. Reid's debut is engaging, insightful, and impossible to put down

### **Wow, No Thank You**

Samantha Irby

Described by *Trick Mirror* author Jia Tolentino as "stay-up-all-night, miss-your-subway-stop, spit-out-your-beverage funny," Irby's essay collection is filled with humor and heart. In the *New York Times* bestseller, Irby touches on everything from chronic illness to marriage to moving from big-city Chicago to small-town Michigan. Readers will have no trouble speeding through *Wow, No Thank You.*, only to find themselves wishing for more.

### **The Book of Lost Friends**

Lisa Wingate

Jumping between 1875 and 1987, *The Book of Lost Friends* connects three women searching for their families in the post-Civil War South with a Louisiana teacher who learns their story. Wingate draws on real-life events for her compelling novel, including the "Lost Friends" advertisements used by formerly enslaved people searching for news of loved ones after the war.

## GAMMA ALPHA EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMITTEES



**Co-Presidents:** Amy Wright & Carole Lower

**Co-Vice-President & Membership:** Linda Clark & Lynne Elsesser

**Co-Recording Secretary:** Joanna Eiwen & Linda Dobrzeniecki

**Co-Corresponding Secretary:** Jackie Smart & Liz Frazier

**Treasurer:** Cindy Dietz

**Parliamentarian:** Pam Sayre

### **Committees**

**Grant-in-Aid -** Joanna Eiwen

**Newsletter & Yearbook Editor –** 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 –**Margie Sievert

**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 Amy or Carole.

### **WEBSITES**

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

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

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

## Gamma Alpha Annual Auction Cancelled!



After contacting Laurel Manor to make arrangements for the annual auction, we were advised by the management to postpone our yearly event until next November. They do not have the necessary permits to open at 50% capacity like restaurants.

Because the auction is our only fundraiser, the executive board is asking that you make a donation of \$50-65. If we held the auction, you would undoubtedly spend more on the meal, your raffle donations, purchasing raffle and 50/25/25 tickets, and perhaps a glass of wine or two.

The money we make from the annual auction covers are grant-in-aid awards, projects for Beverly House, donations to Seedlings Braille Books for Children, Schools for Africa, World Fellowships, Member Supporting Member, and the Educational Foundation. Your generosity is appreciated.

Please send your donation check payable to Gamma Alpha to our treasurer:

**Cindy Dietz**  
**7329 Gilman**  
**Westland, MI 48185**