



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International DKG

Serving Women Educators from Western Wayne County
Gamma Alpha is a Proud Member of Detroit Metro Coordinating Council
December 2020 - January 2021
Volume 41, Issue 3

GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN

Presidents' Message Amy Wright and Carole Lower Co-Presidents



Gamma Alpha Friends,

I hope this finds you healthy and well! First, I would like to inform all of you that our Holiday Happy Hour (H3) scheduled for December 10th will now be held as a virtual event via Zoom. The Executive board decided this would be the safest course, and Governor Whitmer promptly agreed. To make H3 a virtual sensation, please email me at amosande@hotmail.com with any ideas you have for holiday-themed icebreakers, games, and songs for our playlist. Additionally, I would like to thank everyone who ordered DKG masks to support the Alpha Rho chapter. We'll inform you when they have another batch for sale.

I hope you are all able to enjoy a safe Thanksgiving celebration this year. The smaller guest list makes it seem so exclusive. I don't know about you, but I feel special for making the cut! Things will look a little different this holiday, but my family looks forward to starting a new, silly tradition this Thanksgiving. I'm not sure what we'll come up with, but it is certain to make us all smile. Nothing makes me smile more than seeing my littlest nieces standing on a chair, wearing an apron, and helping with the cooking. If you need a great recipe for cranberry sauce, watch this FlavCity cooking video starring the adorable toddler, Rose and her daddy. I just discovered this darling cooking duo on Facebook. You will love them!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTY86aPc2MA>

Is your house all decked out for the holidays? Which one? The warm weather seems to have caused the Christmas decorations to emerge earlier than usual causing turkeys and Christmas trees to vie for our attention! As turkeys and Christmas trees were never meant to coexist, this is most certainly an abomination! Please check on our elementary teacher friends. They are not OK.

Now that the wonderful warm weather has given way to gently falling snow and 2020 is (finally!) drawing to a close, I seem to have the

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REMINDERS

Holiday Gathering at Margie Sievert's home in Northville on December 10. Watch for emails.

Only 11 members have sent checks to donate to our cancelled Annual Auction. Just a reminder. Set your donation to Cindy Dietz.



CALENDAR 2020-2021



December 10, 2020 (Thursday)

Gamma Alpha Holiday Happy Hour and Service Project Donation

Place: Zoom from the comfort of your home

Time: 6:30 PM

A message from Judy Morante, Service Projects chair:

Gamma Alpha Members,

In the spirit of the holiday season, we will follow our annual tradition of donating items for the girls of Beverly House. Since we are unable to meet, Amy, Carole, and I are discussing logistics of collecting the donations.

The gifts bags are very much appreciated by the girls. The residents are between the ages of 12-18. As of now, there are no babies living at Beverly House. Here are a few suggestions for your shopping list:

Winter gloves, hats, scarves, fun socks, lotions (especially Bath and Body Works items,) YA books, craft kits, Target gift cards, etc.

If you know a teen, ask her for suggestions or just use your imagination. Thank you all for your amazing support for the girls of Beverly House. If you are unable to attend our Holiday Happy Hour, but still want to donate, send a check to Cindy Dietz and indicate in the memo this is for Beverly House and Cindy will let get the money to me.

Judy Morante

January 21, 2021 (Thursday)

Cruising into January

Place: The comfort of your home via Zoom.us

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 PM Amy will send an invitation and password prior to the meeting.

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—email Amy Wright 3 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

Professional storyteller and teacher, Deb Woodard, has been animating stories for children for over thirty years. She believes in the power of the written word and the ability of books to ignite readers' imaginations. This principle seeps into Deb's work; through her books and



presentations, she encourages children to read, write, engage their imaginations, and discover their potentials. Deb is from Ionia and is the author of children's books about a family of bunnies - creating an opportunity for parents have meaningful conversations with their kids. In 2018, Deb released **"Naughty Pants Believes a Lie."** Since then she has written two more books about a family of rabbits who learn lessons; **"Fancy Pants Finds True Beauty"** in August 2019, and **"Smarty Pants, Are You Listening?"** in July of this year. Two more books are in the works about two other rabbit sisters Sassy Pants and Antsy Pants.

Join us via zoom for an entertaining evening of storytelling from the comfort of your home.

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: \$65.00

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 presentation, Grant-in-Aid presentation, Induction of New Members, Service Project Donation, Friend of Education award, Honor any Retirees, and Present Lifetime Service Award. More news about Service Project donations in a future newsletter.

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

DKG State News



Top Ten Reasons to Attend the Bay City State Convention

We're hoping for good attendance for State Convention on April 30 - May 2, 2021 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Bay City Riverfront Hotel. Why should YOU come?

1. Time to relieve 'Pandemic Fatigue' and attend the state convention. Menus and room set-up will follow our "New Norm."
2. Enjoy the DoubleTree Hotel's signature warm chocolate chip cookies in the lobby.
3. Witness the pomp when Alpha Iota's New Officers are installed at the banquet.
4. Join us for fellowship, sisterhood, and laughter.
5. You will enjoy a variety of workshops and opportunities to earn SCECHs.
6. You may be lucky and win a Funding Our Purposes raffle basket.
7. Come early on Friday and enjoy Bay City's charm. Shop the largest antique mart in the state. For a taste of nostalgia, visit the State Theatre, a sister to Detroit's Fox Theatre.
8. You can say that you have visited Madonna, the Material Girl's birthplace.
9. Get inspired and revitalized for your teaching, your chapter, and your life!
10. Did I mention the warm chocolate chip cookies?

At this point in time, the Alpha Iota State Executive Board and Convention are scheduled to take place in beautiful Bay City. We made need to cancel, but planning is full-speed ahead.

December
3 Pam Husson
12 Barbara Broadley
30 Judi Fisher

BIRTHDAYS



November
1 Carol Anderson
6 Rosa Russenberger
7 Donna Colaianne
8 Margie Sievert
13 Mary Jo Dreffs
31 Marie Canzoneri

October 15, 2020 Zoom Meeting



Co-presidents Amy Wright and Carole Lower led our October virtual meeting. We began with a business meeting followed by a sometimes emotional panel discussion about “Education in the Time of Covid” featuring our working teachers, Joanna Eiwen, Pam Sayre, Jessica Walker, and Jennifer LaRose. These women are definitely Key Women Educators with their adaptability and dedication.

We will be using Zoom for future meetings. Below is the info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5760748757>

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757

or

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757

Gamma Alpha Zoom Meeting

October 15, 2020 Minutes

Call to Order

Virtual Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Carole Lower and Amy Wright

Presidents' Report

Items will be discussed in **New Business**

Minutes

There was a correction to the minutes. The current dues are \$85, not \$80. Motion made to approve the corrected minutes was made by Jackie Smart and seconded by Lynne Elsesser. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report

Cindy Dietz sent the 2019-20 Financial Report and 2020-2021 Proposed Budget. Pam Sayre made a motion to approve the Financial Report and it was seconded by Jackie Smart. Motion carried. After an open discussion, there were changes made to the Proposed Budget. It was decided to include the website fee, increase printing, postage, special projects, Gamma Alpha's annual donations to International and State projects: Schools for Africa, DKG Education Foundation, World Fellowships, and the state's Members Supporting Members (\$100 each). Amy efficiently made changes to the Proposed Budget in real time for members to review and emailed copies to everyone after the meeting. Jackie Smart made a motion to approve the updated Proposed Budget and it was seconded Fran Saenz. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Corresponding Secretary Report – Jackie Smart reported that the yearbook has been sent in for judging as well as two newsletters. Both are posted on the chapter website. Have a look at the yearbook. Members may want to consider updating their biographical information. The yearbook is password protected. The password can be found on the cover of the chapter calendar/phone booklet. The Strategic Plan has been sent in to J-Jay Pechta for review. Liz Frazier reviewed the last newsletter. Switching hats, in my role as State Executive Secretary, the State Convention for 2021 is still being discussed, but may be cancelled.

Grant in Aid

Be sure to encourage new women educators to apply for the grant. The application is found on the website. Cindy will send the second part of the grant-in-aid to Jessica Walker. Jessica bought Kami (a digital classroom app built to transform any existing document into an interactive learning experience,) Screencastify (enables teachers to make learning more personal in their blended and flipped classrooms by recording full and/or bite-sized lessons, assignment solutions and explanations, verbal student feedback,) Math Posters, a plug-in white board, and PPE.

Seedlings- Judi Fischer reported that a Seedlings email was emailed to the membership featuring a virtual open house. This was an "Under the Radar" segment for a couple of years ago. They are also having a virtual silent auction as a fundraiser.

Beverly House- Judy Morante gave them the money for the take-out meal and Disney + for the year. She was able to set it up on their television. Lynne Elsesser and the girls planted some fall flowers.

Annual Auction- Jackie reported the annual auction is not happening this year. We are requesting a donation of \$50-\$65 which is less than you would spend if you attended. About five people have already sent donations. Send your checks to:

Cindy Dietz
7329 Gilman
Westland, MI 48185

Membership- Continue to seek out women educators who may be interested in joining Gamma Alpha. Our website is full of helpful information: Gamma Alpha Chapter Brochure, DKG and New

Member Orientation, Gamma Alpha and the Community, Gamma Alpha Strategic Plan, New Member Prospect Card, Recommendation for Membership form, Orientation and Induction information. In Ranae Beyerlein's State President newsletter, she included information for the World Fellowship Drawing. Also, our own Amy (tech wiz) volunteered to assist in facilitating Zoom Meetings for chapters who need some help. Linda Clark and Lynne Elsesser will meet with Carole Lower about membership.

Old Business- None

New Business

- **DKG's Virtual Fall Workshop** was held 9/25 and 9/26. Jackie attended two of the three sessions. **"Putting Me First"** was presented by International Speakers Fund, Cynthia Moore (Canadian member.) She helped show attendees how we can adapt our schedules to make time for personal wellness. We experienced ways to relax and exercise through accessible movement activities, like relaxing through breathing, cardio exercise, strength training, yoga, and meditation. She shared current wellness research, personal reflection, and self-care resources! The second session was **"Experiencing International Education as a Curriculum Director and Teaching Consultant in Hong Kong, Qatar, and UAE."** Carla Gipson, Beta Gamma, shared personal stories about her educational adventures traipsing the world and meeting people from a myriad of nationalities. She said the tragedy of 9/11 and its aftermath-the quest for a new 'enemy' compelled Carla to put to test her belief that people were beautiful (heart, soul, and, mind) everywhere. Attendees were able to glean ideas for discussing issues of cultural diversity in the classroom and in their personal lives.
- The state is hosting a workshop **"Cooking Healthy and Delicious Food"** on Zoom Wednesday, November 11th- 7:00-7:30 pm. The invitation was emailed. The email has a link to register. You must register at least 24hours in advance to attend.
- Gamma Alpha's **Holiday Get Together** is December 10th Holiday Happy Hour Meet. Margie has a large living room and dining room so we can social distance and wear masks. The decision to cancel or proceed can wait till November and we can do a vote by email since things keep changing.
- January 21st Zoom Meeting- "Cruising into January." Please send photos to Amy or you could share your screen when talking about your cruise or tips for cruising.
- February 3rd- "Virtual Happy Hour." Send Trivia Questions to Amy with multiple choice answers.
- Birthday Celebrations
October- Lynne Bemer, Alice Duke, Lisa Austin
November- Linda Dobrzeniecki, Amy Wright, Sherry Green, Sarah Elsesser, Jose Engle, Pam Emerson

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Jackie Smart and seconded by Margie Sievert. Motion carried. Business meeting adjourned at 7:35.

Our program for the evening was **"Education in the Time of Covid."** The traditional classroom setting has vanished. It has been replaced by distance learning and hybrid distance learning (class combines a traditional class with some students attending in person and instruction captured in the classroom that is then shared with students viewing the class and completing coursework remotely.) Teachers' adaptability and dedication have been tested. Pam Sayre, Jennifer LaRose, Jessica Walker, and Joanna Eiwen shared their experiences teaching in this crazy, ever evolving time. Each had similar and different challenges to face. Our hearts go out to these incredible educators.

Joanna Eiwen, Recording Secretary
Linda Dobrzeniecki, Recording Secretary



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

CRAB RANGOON DIP

*This warm and cheesy Crab Rangoon Dip is so easy to make (even I can do it!) and is served with golden oven-fried wontons for dipping. This is a great holiday appetizer that you can prepare up to **two days ahead of time** and pop it in the oven when you're ready to serve it!*

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (12-ounce) package 2-inch won ton wrappers, halved diagonally
- 8 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 12 ounces lump crab meat
- 1 cup shredded white cheddar cheese, divided
- 1/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 3 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- 1/2 teaspoon Sriracha
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

PROCEDURE:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F
2. Place won ton wrappers onto a baking sheet; coat with nonstick spray. Place into oven and bake until golden brown and crisp, about 5-6 minutes; let cool and set aside.
3. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Lightly coat a 9-inch baking dish with nonstick spray.
4. In a large bowl, combine cream cheese, mayonnaise and sour cream. Stir in crab meat, 1/2 cup white cheddar cheese, Parmesan, green onions, Worcestershire, soy sauce, sesame oil, Sriracha and garlic powder; season with salt and pepper, to taste.
5. Spread crab mixture into the prepared baking dish; sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup white cheddar cheese.
6. Place into oven and bake until bubbly and golden, about 20-25 minutes.
7. Serve immediately with won ton wrappers.



BOOK SHELF

Time's Fool *By Leonard Tourney*

William Shakespeare is perhaps the most famous and prolific playwright of all time. Millions have read and seen his works, but few know the man behind the works. For all his fortune and fame, little did he know that the greatest drama of his life would not be performed on stage!

Welcome to Shakespeare's London, a world where the stage captures the hearts of every citizen, where darkness hides dangerous and vengeful creatures. It is in the darkness that Shakespeare finds himself the victim of treachery most foul.

When Shakespeare is contacted by his dark mistress, the former love of his life, he is excited to see her again after so long a separation. Much to his horror, he finds that the years have not been kind; she is now disease-ridden and near death... and she intends to blackmail him, threatening to expose their affair to the world unless he pays her considerable doctor's bills. A sudden fire cuts their meeting short and takes her life.

Torn between grief and anger, Shakespeare learns that the fire was no accident, and that he is being stalked by a person obsessed with bringing his life to ruin. Hope soon comes in the form of a small boy, a would-be actor who happened to witness the arsonist. As quickly as hope appears, it is snuffed out when the boy is violently murdered. Worse yet, Shakespeare is the primary suspect.

Out on bail, Shakespeare finds himself in a desperate race to uncover the truth behind the murder. With his reputation and his life itself on the line, Shakespeare must put down his quill and brace himself for a mystery like none other.

This was a fun read for me. Rich in suspense, period detail, and intrigue, *Time's Fool* takes you on a journey through Shakespeare's world, a world you won't soon forget.

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

DKG Michigan
www.dkgmichigan.org

DKG International
www.dkg.org

DKG International News

Anatomy of a Leader

By Yvonne Gatley

At first thought, “anatomy” makes one think of a study of the human body. According to *Webster’s New World Dictionary*, “a study of the structure or internal workings of something” applies to “anatomy” as well. When referring to a leader, the anatomy highlighted here will indeed examine the internal workings and structure of a leader through consideration of appropriate parts of the human body. Effective leaders have been defined through multiple words and characteristics. Conversely, not so effective leaders are associated with other descriptions and words. Leaders are not single dimensional, nor do they always perform in the same way. Leadership is situational and varied. By inspecting the following body parts, an effective leader - attainable by all - is described in full form.

Eyes



Eyes look carefully. Eyes take in their surroundings, knowing the importance of presence. The eyes of a leader make eye contact. Eyes are associated with vision, and vision refers to forward thinking, direction, and accomplishing goals.

Ears



Ears listen. What is being said? What is not being said? An active listener is engaged and “hears” what the speaker is conveying. An active listener is not forming a response while listening or working to get his or her own thoughts in place. An active listener takes in all the sounds made by the group and responds accordingly. Active listening involves follow-up inquiry, questions, or clarification.

Mouth



Words matter. An effective leader speaks when necessary and measures his or her words for the effect they will have either on the situation or the audience. When a leader listens (see “ears” above), then the words that follow reflect what he or she heard. Additionally, words of positive encouragement and specific praise by a leader inspire movement and action.

Neck



Stick it out. Leaders know when it is time to stick their necks out for the good of the group. Leaders display a confident stance with neck and back straight, ready to stand up for what is right. Leaders are ready to back someone up when the situation dictates.

Arms



Arms open. Open arms signal a leader's invitation to connect and come together. Crossed arms signal the opposite and close off a leader from the group. Sometimes it's even necessary for a group to feel their leader has wrapped them in his or her arms to share strength and unity.

Hands



Hands are helping. A leader shows commitment by providing a helping hand. A leader doesn't mind getting his or her hands dirty and can be counted on when times are tough. Hands joined together make a strong link for the betterment of the group.

Legs.

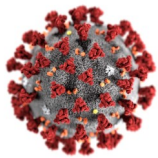


Walk the walk. The legs of a leader show the way. They show actions that follow their words. A leader's actions provide an example and guidance for others to follow.

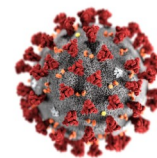
This article was taken from:

The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin
Collegial Exchange 2020, Volume 86-4.

Yvonne Gatley is a member of Kappa Chapter in Wyoming State Organization, where she is the chair of the Leadership Development Committee. Retired from a 40-year career in elementary education specializing in literacy instruction, she now serves as a supervisor of student teachers through the University of Wyoming. Gatley has been a member of several international committees, including Communications and Marketing, Non-dues Revenue, Credentials, and, currently, Leadership Development.



What Can You Do to Cope with Stress During COVID-19 Pandemic?



To put it lightly, these are unprecedented times. Scientists around the world are working for a vaccination and essential health care workers toil around the clock to reduce the coronavirus spread and care for the sick. In the midst of everything, it's hard not to get overwhelmed by all the uncertainty and unknowns.

It seems like every minute we face nonstop news reports, updated health statistics and social media posts intended to keep us updated. However, these best intentions can bring worry and undue stress. Spattered within the messages of hope are unfortunate panic-inducing reports. While it's important that we stay informed, it's also important to do what we can to personally manage our stress and help our loved ones do the same.

The CDC recommends there are important steps you should take to help manage and cope with stress. To take care of others, you must be feeling well and thinking clearly. Here are some tips from the CDC on how reduce stress and anxiety in order to take care of yourself:

- Eat a healthy diet
- Avoid using drugs and alcohol
- Get plenty of sleep
- Get outside (No matter what the season, take an opportunity to get outside and experience nature, but be sure to follow any shelter-in-place and social distancing guidelines.)
- Schedule daily exercise
- Establish and maintain a routine
- Include a positive or fun activity in your schedule that you can look forward to each day or week.
- Throttle your media consumption (Seek out reliable news sources, such as the CDC or your state health board, for the latest information about COVID-19. Limit the news to less than a few times per day. Check first thing in the morning and the late afternoon. But not before bedtime. Constantly tuning into the news increases stress and often draws attention to things that you have little control over.)
- Control what you can (Take the opportunity to control what you can in your home environment. Organized closets and drawers. Sort through your clothing and set aside any donations for when donation centers open back up. Do some cleanup outdoors. Rake the yard. Clean up the flower beds.)
- Get creative (Using your hands and your creative brain can be a great way to relieve stress. It helps you focus on the present and create something new.)
- Seek help when needed (If your stress is causing you to feel more anxious or depressed, don't be afraid to reach out. Many experts are available to provide virtual support.)
- Set aside time to breathe (It may seem silly, but when we face anxiety, our body activates our sympathetic nervous system, which prepares us to fight, flee or freeze. Setting aside time to practice deep breathing—slow breaths in through the nose counting to four and exhaling for 4 counts—can be the easiest way to reduce what is called a “sympathetic burst” and physically activate a self-soothing response by inducing the parasympathetic nervous symptom. Think of it as a way to recharge your batteries so you can have more “emotional bandwidth” to manage the inevitable stress ahead. There are many apps that offer guidance on deep-breathing. Here are three:

Prana Breath: Calm & Meditate, Breathe2Relax, Universal Breathing: Pranayama)



TEACHER AND SUPPORT STAFF COVID-19 GRANTS

Amy Wright brought this article to my attention. It is a bit long, but worth the read for our working educators.

Program Description

Pursuant to Public Act 166 of 2020, legislation was passed that appropriated funding for the Teacher COVID-19 Grant and School Support COVID-19 Grant Programs.

The **Teacher COVID-19 Grant program** was created by Public Act 166 of 2020 to recognize the additional time classroom teachers in a district or nonprofit nonpublic school spent outside of normal working hours and additional costs classroom teachers have incurred or experienced to provide a continuity of learning during the period of school closure in 2019-2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was funded under Article 5, Section 949p for grants to eligible K-12 classroom teachers.

The **School Support COVID-19 Grant program** was created by Public Act 166 of 2020 for grants to eligible K-12 school support staff to recognize the additional time spent outside of normal working hours, hazardous conditions, and additional costs school support staff have incurred or experienced to provide services to students during the period of school closure in 2019-2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note if you work for a nonprofit nonpublic school you are not eligible for this grant. The program was funded under Article 5, Section 949q for grants to eligible K-12 school support staff.

Key Terms

Classroom Teacher

- A K-12 full-time or part-time teacher with an assigned class who provided continuity of learning to students during the 2019-2020 period of school closure that resulted from COVID-19. For the purposes of this section, classroom teacher does not include substitute teachers, para-professionals, support staff, or administrators.

School Support Staff

- A K-12 full-time or part-time para-professional, aide, or non-instructional staff, according to the registry of educational personnel, who provided services to students during the 2019-2020 period of school closure that resulted from COVID-19. School support staff does not include substitute teachers or classroom teachers.

District

- A local school district as that term is defined in section 6 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.6, or a public school academy as that term is defined in section 5 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.5. For the purpose of these Grant Programs, school district includes local and intermediate school districts and public school academies.

Nonprofit Nonpublic School

- A nonprofit private, denominational or parochial school.

PROGRAM DETAILS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

School Districts and nonprofit nonpublic schools are required to identify eligible classroom teachers and support staff and email eligible grant recipients Form 5734, the Teacher and Support Staff COVID-19 Grants Certification, by **November 9, 2020**.

Eligible Classroom teachers must return Form 5734, the Teacher and Support Staff COVID-19 Grants Certification, to the district or nonprofit nonpublic school in the form and manner the district requires by **December 4, 2020**.

School districts and nonprofit nonpublic schools are then required to compile the list of eligible classroom teachers and electronically submit the list by **December 16, 2020** using the electronic submission system and form provided by the Michigan Department of Treasury.

GRANT FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

Next, the Michigan Department of Treasury will distribute funding allocated under the Act directly to eligible classroom teachers in an equal amount up to \$500.00 per FTE K-12 classroom teacher employed by the district or nonprofit nonpublic school or assigned to regularly and continuously work under contract in a public school operated by the district or in a nonprofit nonpublic school.

The Michigan Department of Treasury will distribute funding allocated under the Act directly to eligible school support staff in an equal amount up to \$250.00 per FTE school support staff employed by the district or assigned to regularly and continuously work under contract in a public school operated by the district.

Grant funding checks will be sent directly to the eligible classroom teachers and eligible support staff. Checks will be mailed on or about **February 25, 2021** to the address of residency provided by the school district or nonprofit nonpublic school. Eligible recipients are encouraged to ensure the information on file with the district or nonprofit nonpublic school is accurate and up-to-date.

Teacher and Support Staff Grant Program Resources *(www.michigan.gov/tssc19grants)*

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- Teacher and School Support COVID-19 Grant Checklist
- Public Act 166 of 2020
- Section 949p of Public Act 166 of 2020
- Section 949q of Public Act 166 of 2020

DISTRICT AND NONPROFIT NONPUBLIC SCHOOL RESOURCES

- Registry of Educational Personnel
 - TSSC19 District Template including Instructions
 - Registry of Educational Personnel Data Field Descriptions Manual
- TSSC19 Grant Excel Submission System (Michigan eSignature Solution)
 - TSSC19 Grant Submission Instructions

CERTIFICATION

Form 5734, Teacher and School Support Staff COVID-19 Grants Certification
Form 5734 must be submitted to the School District or Nonprofit Nonpublic School no later than **December 4, 2020**.

Do not send to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

KEY DATES

2020

- **October 23 – November 9:** Districts and nonprofit nonpublic schools must determine eligible Teacher COVID-19 Grant and Support Staff COVID-19 Grant recipients. Districts and nonprofit nonpublic schools should pull draft eligible lists and reporting template from the CEPI portal system.
- **November 9:** Last day for school district to distribute Form 5734, the Teacher and Support Staff COVID-19 Grants Certification, to identified eligible Classroom Teachers and School Support Staff for execution. Districts and nonprofit nonpublic schools must also post notice on the school district website and at least 1 other means of widely used communication that eligible grant recipients have been identified and to provide an opportunity for written appeal of eligibility status to district.
- **December 4:** Eligible Grant recipients must return Form 5734, the Teacher and Support Staff COVID-19 Grants Certification to district or nonprofit nonpublic school in the form and manner directed by the district or nonprofit school. This is also the deadline to file an appeal to the district or nonprofit nonpublic school regarding eligibility.
- **December 4 – December 16:** Districts must review Form 5734, the Teacher and Support Staff COVID-19 Grants Certification, and compile finalized eligibility lists for both grant programs retaining a copy of Form 5734 fully executed for each eligible recipient.
- **December 16:** Deadline to upload and electronically submit the eligibility lists to the Department of Treasury utilizing the TSSC19 submission system.

2021

- **February 25:** Checks are estimated to be mailed on or about February 25, 2021 to the address of residency provided on the eligibility lists by the school district or nonprofit nonpublic school.

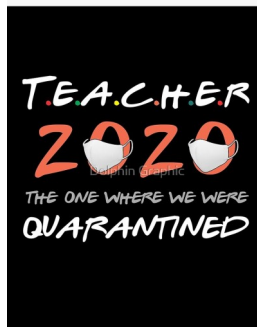
CONTACT

Teacher COVID-19 Grant and Support Staff COVID-19 Grant Programs

Email: TSSC19Grants@michigan.gov

Phone: 517-241-6000

www.michigan.gov/tssc19grants



Netflix Holiday Movies, Specials, and Shows for 2020



As an official member of the couch potato club and am personally looking forward to this holiday season. Hallmark and Lifetime aren't the only holiday players gifting us with Yuletide programming. Netflix also has been cranking up the holiday cheer. They have casts that include Dolly Parton, Forest Whitaker, Phylicia Rashad, Ricky Martin, Vanessa Hudgens, Emma Roberts, and Christine Baranski.

Santa's sack of TV toys also contains a Debbie Allen documentary titled *Dance Dreams: Hot Chocolate Nutcracker*, along with the new romantic comedy series *Dash & Lily*, plus a new season of *The Great British Baking Show: Holidays*.

Here is a list to keep you glued to your couch. I know I will be there! (I have already watched a few!)

Movies

Oct. 28	Holidate
Nov. 13	Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey
Nov. 19	The Princess Switch: Switched Again
Nov. 22	Dolly Parton's Christmas on the Square (Dolly is an honorary DKG member)
Nov. 25	The Christmas Chronicles: Part Two (I saw Part One and it was a laugh)
Dec. 3	Tudo Bem No Natal Que Vem / Just Another Christmas

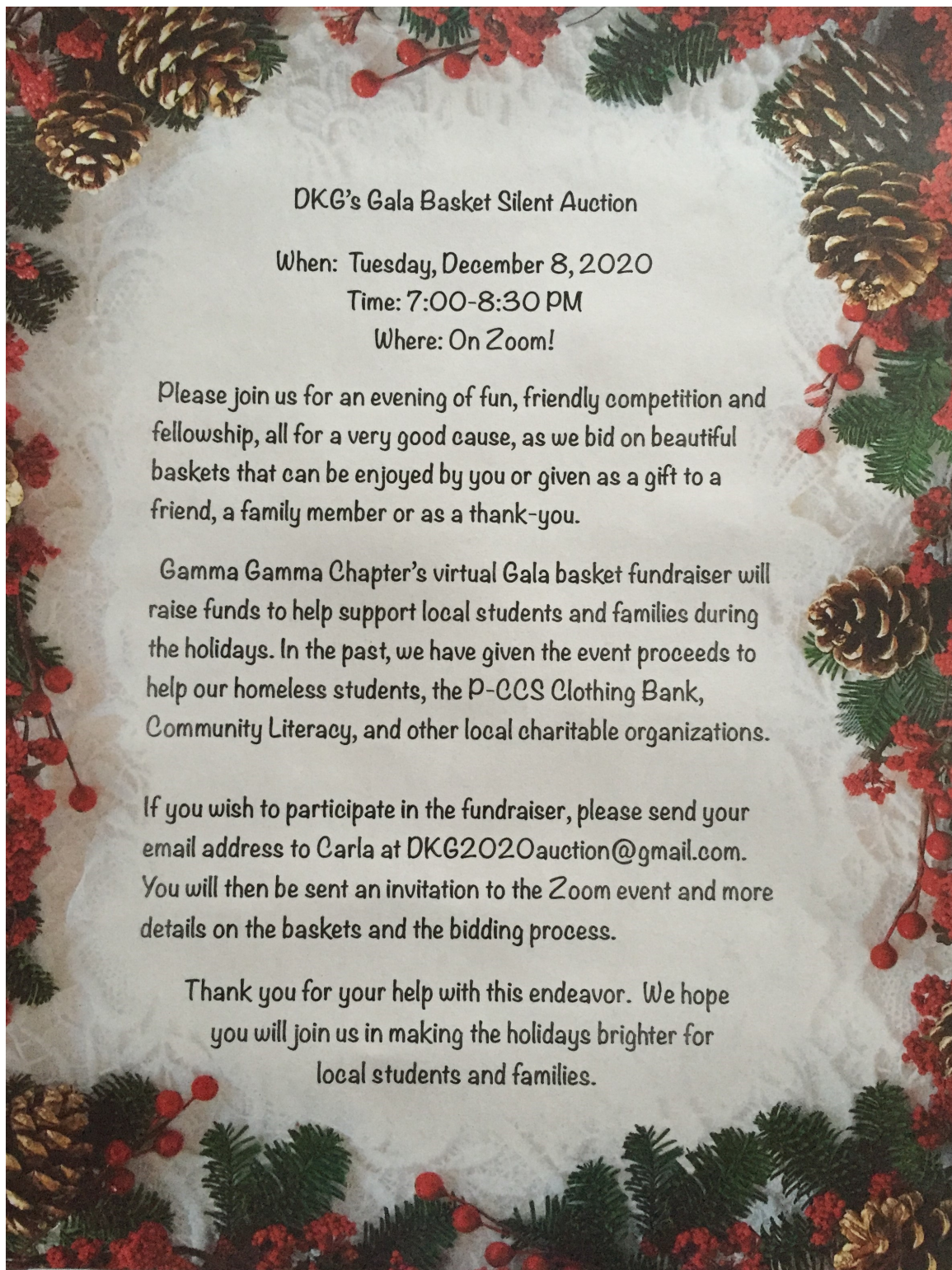
Series

Nov. TBA	Überweihnachten
Nov. 10	Dash and Lili
Nov. 18	Holiday Home Makeover with Mr. Christmas
Nov. 27	Sugar Rush: Christmas: Season 2
Dec. 1	The Holiday Movies that Made Us (Behind the scenes of Elf and The Christmas)
Dec. 4	The Great British Baking Show: Holidays: Season Three
Dec. TBA	How to Ruin Christmas: The Wedding

Documentary

Nov. 27	Dance Dream: Hot Chocolate Nutcracker
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Gamma Gamma Chapter located in Plymouth-Canton and a member of our Metro Council wanted me to include this invitation to their Gala Basket Virtual Silent Auction. We often try to support our sister chapters any way we can.



(Continued from page 1)

overwhelming sensation that I must have something to show for all of the “me time” and self-reflection this year has afforded me. My takeaways are as follows:

- I have more than enough. Not only that, but I simply have too much set aside for “just in case.”
- I really should be kinder to myself and take better care of myself. I need to sleep more and move more. I need to give myself a manicure at least as often as I gleefully dig in the dirt of my garden.
- I am ok. Even when I blow all the electrical circuits in my kitchen, have water running onto the floor due to a leaking faucet, have lost a contact lens in my eye and can’t call the electrician, plumber or ophthalmologist because I am waiting on the results of my COVID test, I AM OK. And when wind causes all the power to go out, and hours later there is still no estimate as to when it will be restored, I am ok. I pack up my suitcase, my laptop along with my 2 monitors and head to my parent’s house 2 ½ hours away. I set up my technology and teach on Zoom for 2 days from parents’ basement without missing a beat.

In 2020, I have learned I am blessed with a loving family and wonderful friends across 3 continents. I have become a better teacher. I have more than enough and I am ok. For that, I am thankful. For as much as 2020 may have taken from you this year, I hope it gave you some beauty as well.

Happy Holidays and, most of all, Happy New Year!

Amy

