



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
DKG Michigan State Organization
Serving Women Educators from Western Wayne County
Gamma Alpha is a Proud Member of Detroit Metro Coordinating Council
Winter 2022
Volume 43, Issue 2

GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN

Presidents' Message



**Judi Fisher
&
Jackie Smart
Co-Presidents**

chapter meetings when you can? Have you recently attended a conference or a convention? (Gamma Alpha helps cover the registration fee.) We need your unique and creative ideas for group outings, engaging speakers, and interesting programs. But most importantly we need. **YOU!** Enjoy your winter!

Jackie & Judi

Gamma Alpha Members,

Winter is the downtime of our lives. We slow down. We go outdoors less. We hunker down at home, especially during bad weather. In general, we have less activity in our lives during this season. And while we may think of winter as cold, dark and dreary, it's also the perfect time to conduct a reflection of your life.

Some examples of self-reflection questions:

- What worries me most about the future?
- Am I waking up ready to take on the day?
- Am I holding on to something I need to let go of?
- Am I taking care of myself physically?
- Do I let matters out of my control stress me out?
- Am I taking anything for granted?
- Am I putting enough effort into my relationships?
- What matters most in my life?

Winter is the time to take stock of yourself. Like every living thing, gather your strength during winter for the seasons of growth and bloom to come. So take this time to reflect on your involvement in DKG? Firstly, are you planning on attending our Holiday Happy Hour at the home of Linda Clark this month? This promotes one of purposes: Camaraderie. Are you doing your part to make **YOUR** chapter strong? Do you try to regularly attend

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NEXT MEETINGS

December 15, 2022
See Calendar for Details

January 18, 2023
Executive Board via Zoom

February 15, 2023
Virtual Scavenger Hunt
Via Zoom
See Calendar for Details

Zoom link for meetings
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5760748757>
Meeting ID: 576 074 8757
or
Dial by your location

CALENDAR 2022-2023



December 15, 2022 (Thursday)

Membership Meeting - Holiday Happy Hour

Time: 5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Place: Linda Clark's Home

777 Spring Drive
Northville, MI 48167
248-349-6945



Hostess: Linda Clark

Meeting: Gamma Alpha members will meet at the home of Linda Clark for an evening of fun and food. Amy will be a Sign-up Genius sheet in early December for hearty hors d'oeuvre or dessert. Judy Morante spoke with Beverly House. At this time, they have only one resident at this time, but they are expecting two more. Suggestions for the resident who is there: My Chemical Romance Band and Hello Kitty tee-shirts, pullover hoodies with pockets (all in size 3x.) She also likes art and jewelry making. We will be making three gift bags. Since we don't know the sizes of the two incoming girls, clothes are not a good idea. The following items are always welcome: art supplies, fun socks, bath and body personal care products, journals, young adult books, and hats and scarves. If you don't feel like shopping, you can make a cash donation and we will buy restaurant and movie gift cards. Thank you for your support of Beverly House.

January 18, 2023 - Executive Board will meet via Zoom (Wednesday)

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: The comfort of your home

Zoom link for meetings

<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

Meeting: Complete annual reports for the state, finalize plans for remainder of the year

Hostess: Amy Wright, Zoom Master

Meeting: Executive Board will complete annual reports and finalize plans for the remainder of the year.

February 15, 2023 (Wednesday)

Membership Meeting - Virtual Scavenger Hunt

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Place: The comfort of your home (See January for Zoom link.)

Hostess: Amy Wright, Zoom Master

Meeting: Pour yourself your favorite beverage and join our tech wizard, Amy Wright, as she leads Virtual Scavenger Hunt. There was a request for a repeat of this since everyone who attended had such a nice time. We will 'unite in a genuine spiritual fellowship' and probably have a laugh this evening.

March 16, 2023 (Thursday)

Membership Meeting at Archie's Restaurant

Time: 5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Place: Archie's Restaurant

30471 Plymouth Road

Livonia, MI 48150
More information as the date nears.

Hostess: Carol Anderson

Meeting: March is Women's History Month - commemorating and encouraging the study, observance, and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. The nurses who served in the Vietnam War are among the least recognized of American military veterans. Despite the long hours and sometimes horrifying wounds these women had to face, many nurses found their service rewarding. They were able to serve their country and save and comfort the wounded men in their facilities. During the Vietnam War 98% of the men who were wounded and made it to the hospital survived. Carol Anderson's sister, Peg, will share her experiences as a M*A*S*H nurse during the Vietnam War.



April 21-23, 2023 (Friday-Sunday)

DKG Michigan State Convention and Spring Executive Board Meeting
DoubleTree by Hilton, 800 Harker Street
Port Huron, MI 48060

May 18, 2023 (Thursday)

Membership Meeting - 43rd Annual Birthday Dinner

Place: Genitti's Hole-in The Wall
108 E. Main Street
Northville, MI

Time: 5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Cost: \$25 (Flyer will be available – Prepay for dinner)

Hostess: Linda Clark & Carole Lower

Meeting: We will be honoring our Chapter Woman of Distinction and the local Friend of Education. We will be presenting the Grant-in-Aid Recipient check and Anniversary pins for some members. We will honor our Chapter Woman of Distinction. We will be conducting some business, e.g. Induction of New members, collect Service Project donations and **dues**.

Dues are **\$85** cash or check payable to 'Gamma Alpha.' More information as the date nears.

June 17, 2023

Membership Planning Meeting and Luncheon

Time: 11:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Place: TBD

Hostess: TBD

Meeting: We will meet for our annual planning meeting from 11:00 to 2:30 PM. Amy will create a 'Sign-up Genius' for the luncheon. Bring or email program ideas to this fun end of the calendar year activity.

Winter Birthdays

December

3 Pam Husson
12 Barbara Broadley
30 Judi Fisher

January

1 Carol Anderson
6 Rosa Russenberger
7 Donna Colaianne
8 Margie Sievert
31 Marie Canzoneri

February

29 Marge Braun



September 22, 2022 MINUTES

Minutes of the September 22, 2022 meeting at St. Rafka's Church

The meeting was called to order by Co- President Jackie Smart at 6:04. Jackie introduced the officers. There were 19 members present and one guest. Pre meeting pizza, salad, brownies, cookies and drinks were served. Cindy Dietz collected money for the 50/50 draw and Judi Fisher sold auction tickets.

Carole Lower did an ice breaker "What kind of animal would you want to be and why?" Members shared their answers from a moose, turtle, lion, cat and more. Amy Wright and Jennifer LaRose did the auction draws. Cindy Dietz did the 50/50 draw which was won by Linda Clark. The 50/50 money goes to the World Fellowship Fund. Diane Frangie told us about St. Rafka's Catholic Church. Languages spoken are Arabic, English and Aramaic.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes of the June meeting were approved and filed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The annual audit was held in August. Balance in savings is \$20,208.61. Treasurer's report of proposed budget as printed, approved and filed.

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT: Jackie and Judi passed out the chapter directory. Please keep them updated when your contact information changes. Gamma Alpha has a Facebook group. Let Jackie know if you are interested in joining.

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS' REPORT Amy Wright and Jennifer LaRose are working on:

- A post meeting survey and a Spring survey
- Membership files
- Prospect cards for contacting new members

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Service Projects:

- Beverly House – They love the big screen TV that we gave them. Suggestions for gift bags: PJs, slippers, lotions, bath and body products, and nail polish. More details as to sizes and number of girls to follow nearer Christmas.
- Lynne Elsesser talked about planting the pots with Amy this summer.
- Seedlings - Judi Fisher visited Seedlings to get ready for our visit in October. We are looking for a restaurant. Seedlings online auction coming up in November

September 22, 2022 MINUTES, cont.

Auction Committee: Your checks are due by next meeting. Brings guests and items for the auction. Jobs and auction procedures will be emailed to you.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The updated strategic plan was presented.
- A Public relations chairperson is needed.
- The Fall Conference that is being held in Grand Rapids was discussed. Gamma Alpha will pay for the registration fee for any member who wants to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Upcoming events listed in the agenda.
- Birthdays are also listed in the agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:08

Respectfully submitted

Margie Sievert, Co- Recording Secretary



Gamma Alpha provided pizza, salad, and beverages. Pam Husson made brownies. Members brought items from their summer vacation to be raffled.

October 20, 2022 Meeting Recap

Here's what you missed if you didn't attend the October meeting!

Gamma Alpha had a field trip to Seedlings on October 20. For those who don't know, Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a 501(c)3 non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to increasing the opportunity for literacy and education by providing high quality, free and low cost braille books for children. In 1984 when Debra Bonde founded Seedlings, braille materials were scarce and expensive. Her goals were to increase the availability and lower the cost of braille books for children in order to promote their literacy skills and the love of reading. In 1985, the first year of book production, where learned that Debra made 221 books in her basement office using an old fashioned stylus. Her father, an engineer, made a braille typewriter for Debra. By 1990, Seedlings was producing 5,000 books per year, which precipitated its move out of Debra's basement and into the Bentley Center in Livonia and eventually to their present location on Farmington Road in Livonia. In 2021, with a small staff, and a group of loyal volunteers, Seedlings produced over 35,300 braille books and articles. In 2017, Debra was name Person of the Year by Channel 7 news. We watched a video in which Seedlings was featured in PBS' award winning show, *Under the Radar*. Debra has received other awards from community, church, and schools. She has also received the Distinguished Service Award from DKG Michigan State Organization. After the tour of the facility, the group went to Los Tres Amigos for dinner.



Debra Bonde

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart

Annual Auction

Our Annual Auction was held on November 6. Seventy-three members and guests attended. Members and some guests (!) donated excellent items. Cindy has finished the 'accounting' and it was a successful event.

Here is the report:

Income

Dinners	3,285
Donation	80
Cup Sales	1,810
Silent Auction	823
50/25-25	275
Bar	196
Total	6,469

Expenses

Laurel Manor	3,767.50
Supplies	113.76 (agenda paper, bar napkins, sunflower boxes)
Cakes	49.98
Total	3,931.24

Bottom Line 2,537.76



Annual Auction



Annual Auction



Annual Auction



Thanks, Amy Wright, for the
great pictures !



*"Fundraising is the gentle art of
teaching the joy of giving"*

-Hank Rosso

NEA Read Across America



The NEA sponsors Read Across America starting March 2 throughout the month. They no longer have a licensing agreement with Dr. Seuss Enterprises and can no longer use the *Cat in the Hat* leaning over the U.S. map. Take time volunteering to read to a group of children this year.

*You're never too old, too wacky, too wild,
To pick up a book and read with a child.
You're never too busy, too cool, or too hot,
To pick up a book and share what you've got.*

Tips for Reading to Young, School-Age Children from the Story Ladies and Librarians



Esther, Jackie Cindy, and Pam preparing to read Halloween stories at Elliott

Making reading a pleasurable habit is one of the most important things you can do for the child and sets them up for lifelong readership. Here are some tips for reading aloud according to librarians.

ALL READING IS GOOD READING.

Story time offers a chance to model good reading and thinking strategies. It exposes young learners to a rich variety of literature. When accompanied by supportive and engaging discussions, children are able to extend their world view and develop important critical thinking skills. Choose stories or texts that respond to children's interests and experiences. For very young children or emergent readers, choose books with vivid pictures, a strong story line, engaging characters, and evocative language. Humorous and predictable books are particularly successful.

Preview the book.

Practice reading the book through so you can decide where to pause for emphasis and where to elicit questions, predictions, or reactions. Twenty minutes is optimal for a session.

INTRODUCE THE BOOK

Point out the cover, title, and author. Invite the children to predict what the book is about. You can also give a brief explanation of why you chose to read this book.

WATCH YOUR AUDIENCE.

If they look bored or confused, you may need to change the book.

READ WITH EXPRESSION.

Let your voice reflect the tone of the story or the personalities of the characters. Don't read too fast. Vary your pace so you can pause for emphasis. Allow time for children to think about what's happening or what might come next.

EMBRACE WORDLESS PICTURE BOOKS.

Wordless picture books are a great opportunity to think and talk about what is happening—and to predict what will happen next!

MOST IMPORTANT, HAVE A GOOD TIME!



RECIPES

Glazed Bacon 'Cheese-mas' Cob Loaf

♪ Oh Christmas cob, oh Christmas cob! If you want to impress this festive season, look no further, because this bacon and cheese cob loaf is about to change the Christmas appetizer game for good. The maple glaze, the crusty bread, and the ultra-cheesy filling... it's a serious showstopper. FYI, a cob loaf, sometimes called the Bishop's cap, has a distinctive cross cut in the top before baking. Some have suggested it is so named after Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

INGREDIENTS

1 TBS olive oil
5 ounces of bacon, finely chopped
1 small brown onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 block of cream cheese, at room temperature, chopped
1/2 cup of sour cream
1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley leaves, save a little for garnish
1 cob loaf of bread (round loaf)
18 bacon strips
1/3 cup maple syrup
Salt and pepper, to taste
Persian cucumber wedges, to serve
Peeled baby carrots, to serve



DIRECTIONS

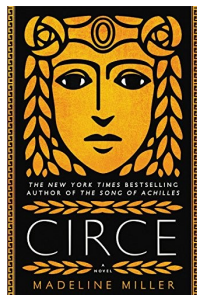
1. Preheat oven to 425. Line a baking tray with parchment paper.
2. Heat the olive oil in a frying pan over medium-high heat. Add the cut bacon and onion. Fry the onions and bacon for 4-5 minutes or until the bacon is brown. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, for 30 seconds or until aromatic. Transfer to a heatproof bowl and set aside to cool slightly.
3. Add the cream cheese, sour cream, and parsley to the fried bacon/onion/garlic mixture. Season the mixture with salt and pepper to taste. Stir until combined.
4. Cut the top off cob loaf, about an inch and a half from the top and reserve. Scoop out bread inside, leaving an inch-thick shell. Cut inside bread into large pieces and the reserved top into wedges.
5. Place the cob on prepared tray. Wrap 1 rasher over side of cob, tucking end under to secure. Repeat with remaining rashers, overlapping slightly. Brush with syrup. Bake for 20 minutes.
6. Spoon the bacon/cream cheese mixture into loaf. Brush rashers again with syrup. Place chopped bread on tray.
7. Reduce oven to 350 degrees. Bake for 20 minutes or until golden. Brush rashers with remaining syrup. Top with extra parsley. Serve with carrots, cucumbers, and bread.



What Are We Reading?

Circe **By Madeline Miller**

I bought this book on the recommendation of Fran Saenz at the September meeting. If you are a mythology fan, and who isn't, it won't disappoint. *Circe* by Madeline Miller is a feminist retelling of Homer's *Odyssey*. The novel reveals the Greek goddess's quest for self-discovery and change. She is despised by her family for not being as powerful as her father or alluringly beautiful as her mother. Her father is Helios, the sun god. Her mother Perse is a beautiful ocean nymph. Helios banishes Circe to the underground halls of the palace to keep her out of sight. She is teased, taunted, and bullied. If you remember *The Odyssey* from freshman English, you know Circe is as beautiful as she is dangerous. Zeus is threatened and banishes her to Aea, a deserted island. There she hones her occult craft, tames wild beasts, and crosses paths with many of the most famous figures in all of mythology, including Daedalus and his son Icarus, the Minotaur, Jason and the murderous Medea, and, of course, Odysseus. She was able by means of drugs and incantations to change humans into wolves, lions, and swine. Remember how she changed Odysseus' companions into swine? Circe learns so many lessons from her life. Every incident that happens either at the halls of Helios or the deserted island of Aea has left her with a valuable lesson. Her long term suffering leads to the discovery of her rightful place in the world. She subsequently stands up to those who had mistreated her in the past. The tough times she faces since her childhood have left her with ultimate strength and boldness. The ending was satisfying. By the way, you can still enjoy the book if you don't know much about Greek mythology.



Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committees



Co-Presidents: Judi Fisher & Jackie Smart

Co-Vice-President & Membership: Amy Wright & Jennifer LaRose

Co-Recording Secretary: Linda Dobrzeniecki & Margie Sievert

Treasurer: Cindy Dietz

Parliamentarian: Pam Sayre

Committees

Grant-in-Aid - Joanna Eiwen & Amy Mullins

Newsletter & Yearbook Editor – Jackie Smart

Service Projects - Judy Morante, Lynne Elsesser, Carole Lower, Linda Clark, & Judi Fisher

Finance - Judi Fisher

Sunshine - Fran Saenz

50/50 - Cindy Dietz & Fran Saenz & Beth Banker

Gamma Alpha Annual Auction - Jackie Smart, Carol Anderson, Margie Sievert, Carole Lower, Pam Husson, Diane Frangie, Lynne Bemer, Sarah Elsesser, Judi Fisher, Lynne Elsesser, Beth Banker, Cindy Dietz (& all Gamma Alpha Members)

WEBSITES

DKG Gamma Alpha
www.migammaalpha.org

DKG Michigan State Organization
www.dkgmichigan.org

DKG International
www.dkg.org

MISC.

Sarah Elsesser hit the bricks in Northville and found quite a few donors for our auction this year. I think we all need to hear about her strategies for getting establishments to loosen their purse strings! Below is a card from one of her vendors and I thought I would share it with the group.





Abigail Leigh Designs

 abigailleighdesigns.com  [Abigail Leigh Designs](https://www.etsy.com/shop/AbigailLeighDesigns)  [@abigailleighdesigns](https://www.instagram.com/abigailleighdesigns)

Thank you so much for your purchase! As a new business owner it really does mean so very much. I hope you love your new prints, cards and other products and find the perfect place/use for them. If you have a few moments to share on social (please tag Abigail Leigh Designs) that would be amazing! If you ever find yourself needing more art please comeback and use the code BUYYOURFAV for 10% off anything in my Etsy shop. I also do commissions on a regular basis and would love to chat about something special you may want painted.

Feel free to reach out anytime!
Thanks again!

Visit us @ AbigailLeighDesigns.com