



**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*  
Summer 2023  
Volume 43, Issue 4

## **GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN**

### **Presidents' Message**



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

Gamma Alpha Members,

When the final school bell rings for summer vacation and the buses have all departed, it doesn't take long for the staff parking lot to empty. Most of Gamma Alpha Chapter are retired. I'm sure you remember what it felt like to end the school year. A message for our working teachers. You made it through another school year. Head home for a stress-free summer holiday where you think of nothing but sunshine, family, and friends. Enjoy your summer vacation. You **DESERVE** it!

We hope many of you will take the opportunity to attend the International Conference at the Westin Book Cadillac in Detroit July 11-16, 2023. Gamma Alpha is offering a \$100 stipend to defray costs. Go down for a day. See what is happening in the 'D'. Go to [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) to register. Click on "Events."

June 17 is the date of our upcoming Planning Meeting. Amy Wright will send a Sign-up Genius for a Maurice Salad Luncheon. This is a great way to end our year of meetings. Excellent food, maybe a little wine, and the camaraderie of women educators. We will discuss plans for the 2023-2024 calendar year. Many of you are in

other organizations and have heard speakers. Bring some ideas and chat and chew with us. Come even if you don't have any ideas. We want to see you.

Until the Planning Meeting...

Jackie & Judi

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### **Next Meeting**

June 17, 2023  
11:00 A.M.  
Home of Sarah Elsesser  
17300 Oak Hill Drive  
Northville 48168

See Calendar for Details

## Calendar 2022-2023



**June 17, 2023**

Membership Planning Meeting and Luncheon

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

**Place:** Home of Sarah Elsesser  
17300 Oak Hill Drive  
Northville 48168

**Meeting:** We will meet for our annual planning meeting from 11:00 to 2:30 PM. Amy Wright will create a 'Sign-up Genius' for the Maurice Salad Luncheon and RSVPs. Bring or email program ideas to this fun end of the calendar year activity. Join us for fun and food.

**July 11 - 16, 2023 International Conference** (Information on [dkg.org/events](http://dkg.org/events))

Westin Book Cadillac Hotel

1114 Washington Blvd, Detroit, MI 48226

*"Moving Forward with Vitality, Relevance, and Sustainability in Our Changing World"*

The energetic and inspiring atmosphere of Motor City and Motown await conference participants in this beautiful city! Join your DKG colleagues at the historic and newly renovated Westin Book Cadillac Hotel in downtown Detroit to relax and strengthen your well-being. Gamma Alpha is offering a \$100 stipend toward expenses to encourage your attendance at this International Conference.





## **Summer Birthdays**

### **June**

Fran Saenz 19

Tara Cooper 19

Pam Sayre 25

### **July**

Karen Marold 4

Joanna Eiwen 9

Suzanne Bacinski 16

Judy Handley 21

Judy Morante 30

### **August**

Beth Banker 22



## May 18, 2023 Birthday Dinner Meeting Minutes

DKG Birthday Dinner May 18, 2023 Meeting was called to order by Co-President Jackie Smart at 5:20.

- Co-President Judi Fisher introduced and welcomed our Guests from State organization.
- Outgoing State President Elena Ivanova spoke about upcoming events for DKG.
- Jackie reminded all that dues of \$85 are due to Cindy, our treasurer.

After dinner, we had some presentations.

- CHAPTER WOMAN OF DISTINCTION - Lynne Elsesser spoke about our Chapter Woman of Distinction, Sarah Elsesser, who is on a field trip to D.C. Sarah is a very active volunteer working with schools plus a champion skater . She convinced community businesses to donate gift cards and services to our annual auction.
- GRANT-IN -AID PRESENTATION - Joanna Eiwen presented Grant-In-Aid awards to Karen Mosca and Morgan Klabunde. Karen is a first time awardee. Morgan received a grant last year and is receiving the second half of the grant tonight.
- ANNIVERSARY PINS - Cindy presented anniversary pins this evening. They were awarded to Marie Canzoneri for 35 years, Lynn Elsesser for 25 years, and Amy Wright for 20 years of membership.
- FRIEND OF EDUCATION AWARD - Judy Morante presented the award to Jan Purtell. Jan is a Northville resident and has been very active in the Northville schools and other community organizations that benefit the Northville Schools.
- NEW MEMBER INDUCTION - Karen Mosca was welcomed into the group. Amy held a beautiful Induction Ceremony. Welcome, Karen.
- SERVICE PROJECTS - Judy Morante spoke about the Beverly House. There are only 3 girls living there right now. It was moved by Amy Wright and seconded by Carole Lower that each girl get a \$35 gift card to Barnes and Noble. Motion passed. It was moved by Cindy Dietz and seconded by Amy Wright that Lynne Elsesser be given up to \$100 for planting supplies for Beverly house. Motion passed. Any help planting would be appreciated. Contact Lynne Elsesser for further information.
- WHITE ROSE CEREMONY - Amy led a beautiful ceremony honoring members that we have lost, Carol Holland, Grace Morgan, and Debbie Ervin. White roses were placed for them in a vase with white roses for all members of Gamma Alpha who has passed away since we were chartered in 1979.
- FOUNDERS' TRIBUTE - Jackie led a Founder's Tribute to end the Birthday Dinner. Various members opened 'gifts' from each founder.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS - Our planning meeting is June 17th at 11:00 at the home of Sarah Elsesser. Amy Wright will set up a "Sign-Up-Genius" for a Maurice Salad luncheon.

Respectfully submitted, Margie Sievert, Co-Recording Secretary





## Birthday Dinner Pictures



Some pictures from the  
Birthday Dinner.  
Thanks, Margie!



## Friend of Education



Judy Morante presented the certificate to Jan Purtell, Gamma Alpha's Friend of Education for 2023.

Jan Purtell was our Friend of Education recipient. Retired Curriculum Director of Northville Schools said, "The **J** stands for 'jump'. Jan is an invaluable member of the Northville community. She jump-started technology when it was in its infancy. She jump-started, organized, and created service learning which emphasized real world learning. Jan jumped in helping the Office of Instruction, Heritage Festival, and Northville Education Foundation. She played a pivotal role in Mother's Club awarding scholarships and grants to innovative and deserving recipients. If there is a need, she is always there and people know they can count on you. It is your turn to be honored for all your years of service. It's a well-deserved honor and I applaud you. Thanks for all you do."

Congratulations from Gamma Alpha, Jan!



## Grant-in-Aid



Joanna Eiwen presented the second half (\$500) of Morgan Klabunde's 2022 grant to her at the Birthday Dinner. Morgan is teaches grades 6-8 in an EI classroom in Wayne-Westland Community Schools. She has spent some of the grant money on classroom incentives to motivate her students. Working in an EI room, students frequently rely on extrinsic motivation. She also plans to use the remainder of the grant for field trip opportunities in the community. This is a wonderful opportunity for her students to work on using proper social skills within the community. Morgan and son, Grizzly, accepted the grant.

Karen Mosca is 2023's grant recipient. Karen is a first grade teacher from Wayne-Westland Community Schools. Karen indicated that she would like to use the funds to provide real life experiences, such as field trips, for students. Children can learn about resources in the community. Joanna presented the first half of her check at the Birthday Dinner.

## Chapter Woman of Distinction



Our 2023 Chapter Woman of Distinction was unable to attend the Birthday Dinner at Genitti's this year. She had an excellent excuse. She was chaperoning a field trip to Washington, D.C.! Her mother-in-law, Lynne Elsesser, gave us some information about Sarah.

Sarah is married to Lynne's son and has three children. Nothing is more important to her than her family. She is very active in her children's schools. She is part of the PTSA. She has volunteered for the auction committee, Math Pentathlon training coach, Junior Achievement leader, Junior Grade Books leader, and was Box Tops coordinator. She has been a room mother for all three of her children.

Sarah has a B.S. from MSU Dietetics, and a M.A in Curriculum and Instruction from University of Detroit Mercy. She has had a varied teaching career in the classroom and as a curriculum consultant. Sarah is currently a part-time consultant for GPS Solutions. GPS Solutions provides expertise, personnel, and programs for education and nonprofit organizations. They take a unique approach that creates a culture of trust and creativity for the individuals, families, and communities we serve. They grow learners, support schools, and transform communities.

Sarah has been vital in suggesting program for Gamma Alpha. She had been able to get businesses to contribute to our annual auction. She is a tireless worker and always follows through on an assignment. Congratulations, Sarah!



# Recipes

## Creamy Corn Pasta

*With summer comes fresh corn on the cob. Here is a quick recipe you might enjoy.*

### Ingredients

**6** ears fresh corn, shucked  
**12 oz.** orecchiette pasta  
**1 oz.** Romano cheese, finely grated, plus more for serving  
Kosher salt  
**2** scallions, chopped  
**1/2 c.** basil, plus more for serving  
Hot sauce, for serving

### Procedure

#### Step 1

Bring large pot of salted water to a boil. Add corn and cook 2 minutes. Transfer to cutting board.

#### Step 2

Add orecchiette to same pot and cook per package directions. Reserve 1 cup cooking water, then drain pasta.

#### Step 3

When corn is cool enough to handle but while pasta is still cooking, cut off kernels (you should have about 3 cups). Transfer 2 cups to blender along with Romano cheese, 3/4 cup pasta cooking water, and 1/4 teaspoon salt; puree until very smooth.

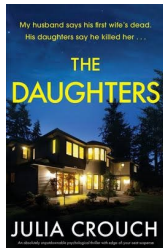
#### Step 4

Toss pasta with corn puree, adding some reserved pasta water, 1 Tbsp at a time, if pasta seems dry. Fold in reserved corn, scallions, and basil. Serve sprinkled with additional cheese and basil and with hot sauce if desired.



## What Are We Reading?

### **The Daughters** By Julia Crouch



There are secrets and lies in abundance in **The Daughters**. Carys marries Bill after his first wife, Alice, apparently commits suicide. She accepts his two daughters Sara, who is only five years younger than she is, and Lucy as her own. Sara moves away as soon as she is able.

Lucy was only six when her mother died and subsequently grew up with several mental health issues. Carys finds Lucy after a possible suicide attempt of her own. While out walking the dog, Carys meets someone who specializes in hypnotherapy. Carys thinks this is the perfect solution and gets Lucy an appointment.

Sitting in the waiting room, Carys allows herself to hope this will help Lucy. Then Lucy comes running out of the therapist's room, her eyes wild. She had a memory that leaves her shaking. She sees her father...a woman she doesn't recognize...a knife! Lucy says she saw her father kill someone. Carys is certain that the memory isn't real. Bill wouldn't hurt anyone. But then a body is found buried in overgrown woods near their home. And Lucy says if they keep looking they'll find her mother next.

Carys really wants to help Lucy, but she feels pushed out when Sara returns. She has been living in Australia and worked as a police officer. When Sara discovers that their mother may not have committed suicide, she wants to investigate more.

I liked that the characters each had their own secrets they were trying to keep from the others. The escalation of events and the twists and red herrings towards the end was enjoyable, too.

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

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

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

## Self-Care

**“You can’t change who you are, but you can change what you have in your head, you can refresh what you’re thinking about, you can put some fresh air in your brain.”**

**– Ernesto Bertarelli**

**Self-care** means taking the time to do things to help you live well and improve your physical and mental health. By practicing self-care you will manage stress, be more productive, and have more energy! A Google search for self-care can yield many “what you can do lists.” Here is one list that seems especially relevant, even though it came out during Covid. (<https://www.bustle.com/wellness/types-of-self-care-how-to-practice-experts>) You know that taking care of yourself is important for your mental health, but let’s face it - there’s kind of a lot going on right now. Practicing self-care, though, doesn’t have to be “me time,” or reading a book because you think you “should.” Knowing the different types of self-care means you can switch up your routine to meet your body and mind where they’re at.

♦ **Physical Self-Care:**

*This is important. You need a strong foundation to build the rest of your self-care house. Be good to yourself. Find some time to exercise or go for a walk.*

♦ **Intellectual Self-Care**

*Learning something new can recharge your brain.*

♦ **Professional Self-Care**

*Learn to identify priorities and communicate boundaries, as well as giving yourself time to transition from work to home. Know when to say no. Just because you are retired doesn’t mean you are at your family’s beck and call.*

♦ **Financial Self-Care**

*Financial self-care can help you approach an emotionally healthy relationship with money. Stop buying things you don’t need.*

♦ **Spiritual Self-Care**

*Tap into your spiritual side through meditation, helping others, or being in nature, ultimately leading to that sense of deep calm.*

♦ **Social Self-Care**

*Social interaction can help you feel fulfilled, validated, and loved, but setting boundaries is extremely important.*

♦ **Environmental Self-Care**

*Taking care of the environment around you.*

♦ **Emotional Self-Care**

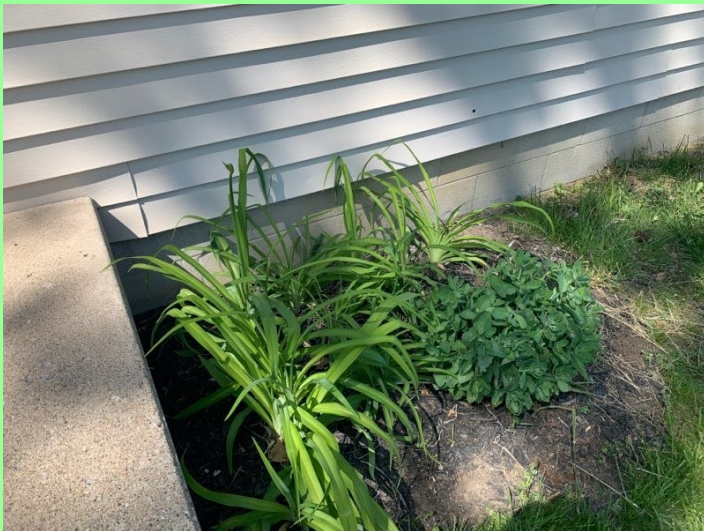
*Take time to partake in activities that make you feel happy and emotionally fulfilled.*



## Beverly House



With the help of the Beverly House girls, Lynne Elsesser and Amy Wright planted flower pots with annuals and tended the perennial beds they planted from previous years. They said the girls really enjoyed the gardening activity.



Gamma Alpha also donated gift cards for Barnes & Noble so they girls could have an outing and buy some books for summer reading. All of this is possible because of the proceeds from the annual auction in November.

## Induction of New Member



*L-R: Joanna Eiwen, Judi Fisher, Karen Mosca, Jackie Smart, Carole Lower, and Amy Wright.*

Karen Mosca, a first grade teacher from Wildwood Elementary in Wayne-Westland Community Schools was inducted into Gamma Alpha Chapter of the DKG Michigan State Organization at the Birthday Dinner. Karen's sponsor is Donna Colaianne. Donna was unable to attend because of the passing of her mother. Joanna Eiwen stepped in to represent Donna during the ceremony. Karen has been a frequent attendee at the annual auction. Amy Wright led the Induction Ceremony with the help of Past Present Carole Lower, Co-Presidents Jackie Smart and Judi Fisher. It is our hope that Karen will take pride in DKG and realize the intrinsic value of membership, including:

- Making lifelong friends,
- That she will benefit from the personal opportunities for grants, scholarships, and leadership training,
- That she will experience DKG's educational impact, in the community, state, and the world.

Enter our company, share our friendships, our hopes for education, and goals. We offer you hearty congratulations and warm wishes as you begin your membership in DKG.

## In Memoriam

The Membership Committee, led by Amy Wright, held a Ceremony of Remembrance for Carol Holland, Grace Morgan, and Debbie Ervin. We mourn their passing because we will miss them; but death is another beginning for our dear friends. They have left a part of themselves with those they loved, with their colleagues, and with all of us. They are missed by all who knew them.



Carol was born in Rochester, New York. She was majoring in Home Economics, but her husband's work had them move to Alabama, then Ohio, before eventually settling in Redford, and finally Livonia. Carol completed her coursework on a part-time basis and earned her BA in Education, as well as her MA from Eastern Michigan University. She completed her 30-year career as a first grade teacher in Livonia Public Schools teaching at Hoover, Buchanan, and finally Tyler. Carol joined Gamma Alpha in 1981. Barbara Broadley was her sponsor. Carol served as First and Second Vice President, and as Recording Secretary. She was also the World Fellowship Chair. She was Chapter Woman of Distinction in 2000 and 2007! Carol was an avid traveler exploring the US and abroad and would bring a little globe bank to meetings collecting coins from those who forgot to wear their pins to contribute to the World Fellowship Fund. In retirement, Carol volunteered at the Northville Library and performed alongside other seniors in community musical products as part of Beyond Belief Senior Theater, often playing her beloved ukulele. She retained her quick wit and sense of humor until her final days. Carol touched the lives of hundreds of children and made many lifelong friends with her fellow educators.



Grace was a member of Gamma Alpha for 39 years. She was initiated in April 1980. Grace was supposed to be initiated in 1979 as a charter member, but ended up having an emergency with one of her kindergarten students and was unable to attend the initiation. Grace taught kindergarten for Wayne-Westland Community Schools, and retired in 1995. She served as chapter president from 2000 to 2002. In 1987, she was honored as the chapter's Women of Distinction. Grace enjoyed doing crafts, especially anything to do with card making. Her basement had numerous shelves filled with stampers, colorful stamp pads, glitter, decorative paper punchers, glue, embossers, cri-cut machines, and beautiful paper for her card making groups. It looked similar to scrapbook store! Grace was a regular attendee and presenter at Women in the Arts and the state convention. Grace led card making sessions at Beverly House Girls Group Home. She organized no-sew fleece blanket making for the girls. Grace made arrangements for us to use her church for a few meetings and the baby shower for teen mothers at Sumpter House. Grace loved to travel. She and Carol Holland were frequent travel buddies. One of her favorite trips was visiting Australia with Carol. Grace was a very loving, kind, giving, and helpful person to all. Grace was also a member of the Beyond Belief Senior Theater with her Gamma Alpha friend, Carol.





Deborah Ervin was born in Detroit. Debbie taught in Livonia Public School District for over 30 years. She said that she blessed to be given the opportunity to teach grades K-12 as a Learning Specialist and Teacher Consultant. Debbie was a member of DKG since 1980. Marcia Scarr was her sponsor and friend. She dropped out of the chapter for a few years when life got too hectic, but reinstated in 2007. Debbie chaired many committees over the years: Empathy, Hospitality, History, Nominations, Personal Growth, and World Fellowship. Debbie was the Chapter's Woman of Distinction for 1998. She enjoyed attending State Conventions and Fall Conferences. Debbie was an avid bridge player. She enjoyed reading and belonged to a book club. She loved to travel. Debbie and her husband, Bob, were able to travel around the U.S. and abroad. Bob was involved with a number of musical groups. Debbie was his 'roadie' and attended gigs and concerts with him. Finally, being a grandparent was one of Debbie's greatest joys.

*When I die  
Write but one word on my headstone:  
Write "Teacher" ...  
Never mind a date or name,  
For only in this way would I be known.  
Without a title, timeless, without fame  
Perhaps some who wander through the grounds  
Where I lie sleeping,  
And as they pass through  
May read the brief tributes above the mounds,  
And note the word,  
They speak of some they knew.  
"Now my first teacher taught me how to read,"  
"I remember how my teacher smiled."  
"My teacher took my thoughts above the world I knew."  
And, as these thoughts are stirred, above my head,  
I shall be teaching...though mortals call me dead.*

