

**Gamma Alpha Bulletin
"The G.A.B."**

2004 CALENDAR

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Reminders

- Check out our website at: www.migammaalpha.org for pictures from November's meeting.
- Please send your current email address to Jackie Smart so the newsletter can be sent directly to your computer. jackie@mysmartfamily.com

January 28

Business Meeting and **Field Trip** to Twelve Oaks to Build-a-Bear. We will meet at the Build-A-Bear store in Twelve Oaks at 4:30. The store is located upstairs in the Sears Wing. We will be making teddy bears for dialysis patients at Mott Children's Hospital. Plain bears will cost you approximately \$10-25. You can make bears for your own cuddling, too. The new slate of officers will be presented. Dinner will be after we have built our bears! If you have not already done so, please let Lynne Elsesser know if you plan to attend so the store can have enough staff to assist. Type this **carefully** when you email: elsessl@yahoo.com or (248) 348-0335.

February 18

Professional Affairs will sponsor Chef Larry Janes at Hayes for a cooking demonstration. Members are asked to pay \$5 for a meal of Chef Janes' appetizers. We will purchase beverages to accompany the appetizers. Chef Janes assures us that no one will go home hungry. State President Judy Foster will attend the meeting, as well and will let us know what's happening at the State level. Meet at Hayes Elementary at 4:30. This is also the month we will send cards of encouragement and a gift certificate to Annah Molosiwa, World Fellowship recipient from Botswana.

March 24

Reading Month activities with the residents from the Wayne County Family Center. Meet at Elliott School at 4:30. Bring books for children and adults. Magazines are welcome, too. Pizza and salad will be provided. We need lots of members present to make this a successful project. Details discussed at the February Meeting.

April 21

Birthday Dinner Details TBA.



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Judi's Gems

Dear Gamma Alpha Sisters,

The U.S. Forum has provided some information about a new program. **F.I. T. -Females In Training** is the theme of U.S. Forum. **F.I.T.** has two purposes. The first purpose is the continued training of our members to advocate actively for pertinent issues that affect women, children and education. As we learn and develop the "strength" training for advocacy, the second purpose will spotlight our personal physical health and well being. Delta Kappa Gamma members are intellectually strong and the target of the Forum is to build and improve physical capacity and health, too.



Judi Fisher

Minutes in a Minute

Minutes for November 20, 2003

Meeting was held at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. There were 24 members present. Meeting called to order by President Judi Fisher at 4:45 p.m.

Guest presenter Susan Bresler told us about Seedlings- Braille Books for Children. Seedlings have translated about 165,000 books into Braille for blind children. Books are available for families of blind children at a reasonable price. Seedlings not only help blind children read, but they enable families to read together. This is the only company that produces Braille strips for preschool books. There are many volunteers who work for Seedlings. If interested in volunteering to translate books into Braille, call Sue Bresler at Seedlings in Livonia (734) 427-8552 or E-mail: seedlink@aol.com.

New Business:

New members who were initiated are: Dr. Cindy Swift, Karen Dodds, Nancy Chiasson, Laura Oliver and Amy Wainwright. Missing were Tracy Vaughn and Chris Morin who will have to be initiated in January. New members were welcomed by Delta Kappa Gamma members after dinner.

Old Business:

26 quilts and 45 scarves were completed for the residents of the Wayne County Family Center.

Grace and Judi will deliver them to the shelter.

Calendar:

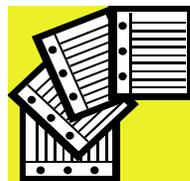
- December 10 (4:30)- Hayes for Executive Board
- January 28, 2004 (4:30)- Meet at 12 Oaks at Build-a-Bear
- February 18, 2004—Chef Larry Janes at Hayes for a cooking demonstration.
- March 24, 2004 Reading month activities- Elliott School. We need more control in the rooms after dinner. We also need something for parents to do as well as activities for older students. Need books, magazines and comic books donated.
- April 30, May 1 and May 2, 2004 State Convention in Kalamazoo. Information is in the *Wolverine* and in the newsletter.
- July 27-31, 2004 International Convention in Minneapolis. Diamond Jubilee. The Society is looking for people who play instruments or sing at the convention.

Yearbook: We are going digital!. Colleen Retherford took pictures of members present at the November meeting. If you didn't have your picture taken, there won't be a picture of you in the yearbook.

News: Cindy Dietz had a detached retina in one eye and a tear in her other eye. She had to have eye surgery.

More Minutes in a Minute

Minutes from Executive Board December 10, 2003



Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Judi Fisher at Hayes Elementary. Nine members were present.

We began by filling out bi-annual forms for Delta Kappa Gamma.

The slate for 2004-2006 was presented:

- President: Judi Fisher
- First Vice-President: Lynne Elsesser
- Second Vice-President: Marie Canzoneri
- Recording Secretary: Chris Smith

(Continued on page 4)

Legislative Update



Education Insider

A weekly review of progress on the Quality Public Schools Agenda and other legislation that impacts our students, classrooms, and public education.

December 12, 2003

*****Congress has adjourned for the year and returns on January 20, 2004*****

ASSESSING SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

On December 9, 2003, the U.S. Department of Education issued its final regulation for assessing students with disabilities under ESEA/"No Child Left Behind." The bottom line: This regulation allows much more flexibility than previous Department guidance, following much of the NEA advice.

NEA is calling on the Administration and the Department to allow states and school districts that missed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) solely due to the performance of the students with disabilities subgroup to review their AYP calculations in light of this new rule. Since the new rule allows more appropriate assessments for students with significant cognitive disabilities, including out-of-level testing, NEA believes fewer schools will be inappropriately labeled.

NEA is pleased that the Administration has finally recognized how building much greater flexibility into the ESEA/"No Child Left Behind" education law is essential to

improving overall student achievement and closing the achievement gap. These much-needed changes in assessing special-needs students were strongly urged by NEA, teachers, parents and many others across the country over the last two years.

NEA urges the Department to establish the same flexibility for states and schools in other areas of assessment, especially for English language learners, as well as for additional changes to the law to ensure that schools are not measured just on test results on one day.

FUNDING

The NEA-opposed catch-all **funding bill** that shortchanges schools and includes private school vouchers for the District of Columbia will come up for a Senate vote on January 20, 2004.

December	6	Laura Barrett
	12	Barbara Broadley
	28	Amy Story
	30	Judi Fisher
January	1	Carol Anderson
	7	Donna Colaianne
	13	Mary Jo Dreffs
	31	Marie Canzoneri

Happy Br-r-r-days!



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- Corresponding Secretary: Jackie Smart
- Treasurer: Cindy Dietz

Motion by Barbara Broadly (seconded by Mary Jo Dreffs): to accept the slate. Motion passed.

International Convention. 75th anniversary. July 27 to August 2, 2004 in Minneapolis. We are encouraging members to attend. They are looking for musicians to play for this event. See "International Dates" below for further information.

Motion by Barb B. (seconded by Mary Jo) that \$100 be given in February to the World Fellowship Recipient: Annah Molosiwa by Valentine's Day. Motion passed. Bring a card or note of encouragement to the January meeting for Annah and her family so World Fellowship can forward it for you.

Motion by Marie (seconded by Barb): ΔΚΓ Society ribbons for holding pins: 10 will be ordered for new members for past 2 years. Motion passed. After this new members automatically get ribbons when they join. Cindy will ask in January if any other members want to purchase a ribbon, too. Ribbons cost \$10.

January 28, 2004: Twelve Oaks Shopping Center. We will be building bears for the dialysis unit and its sick children. Details need to be finalized. Please let Lynne Elsesser know if you will be attending the

meeting.

February 18th meeting: Will be at Hayes School at 4:30 with Chef Larry Janes. People who will be attending will be asked for \$5.00 to go towards food for the presentation. This will be collected at the January meeting or it can be sent to Cindy. We will also be giving Larry an honorarium for his time.

Motion by Barb (seconded by Mary Jo) that \$50.00 be donated to Seedlings. Motion passed. We received a very nice thank you note from Seedlings.

March 24, 2004 meeting at Elliott School for Reading Month. Details will be coming.

May 22, 2004- Metro Council Meeting at Holiday Inn by Laurel Park. The cost will be \$24 for the American Harvest Buffet. We hope charter members and many others will attend.

April 21, 2004 At the Birthday dinner we will be signing up people for committees for next year. Details soon.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Chris Smith, Recording Secretary



International Dates
July 27-31 -75th Diamond Jubilee
"From the Sparkle of the Past
To the
Brilliance of the Future"
 Greater Minneapolis Convention Center
 Minneapolis, Minnesota

The goal is to have one member from each chapter present at the convention in Minneapolis. Interested travelers should see Judi Fisher or www.deltakappagamma.org for more information regarding the convention.

State Dates



April 30, May 1 & May 2-
 The State Convention will be held in Kalamazoo. We will be staying at the newly renovated Radisson in downtown Kalamazoo. The registration information is in the Winter *Wolverine* and also on the State website. I have enclosed a registration form for your convenience. Go to www.deltakappagamma.org/MI further information.

Registration Form

Alpha Iota State Convention

“Bridging the Gap”
Radisson Plaza Hotel
Kalamazoo, MI
April 30 – May 2, 2004

Please Print: Use one form for each person

Name: _____

(Last, First, Title)

Mailing Address:

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

Nametag should read:

Chapter: _____ City: _____

Present Office: Chapter: _____ State: _____

International: _____

Are you participating in the President's Procession? (Check One) Yes No

As incoming Chapter President: As outgoing Chapter President:

As my chapter's substitute: Explain: _____

Is this your first DKG Convention? (Check One) Yes No

Years of Membership: _____

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND

Registration Fee:

Postmarked by March 15, 2004 \$40 (nonmember: \$60) \$ _____

Postmarked after March 15, 2004 \$10 late fee, plus above \$ _____

President's Banquet on Saturday \$40 \$ _____

Awards Breakfast on Sunday \$25 \$ _____

Certified Educational Units Registration Fee: \$10 \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to Delta Kappa Gamma

Dietary Needs:

Requirements must be listed with this registration form to avoid duplicate costs.

Special tickets will be provided in the registration packets of those who indicate the following needs:

Vegetarian: ____ Diabetic: ____

Handicap Assistance:

There is elevator service to guest rooms. There is elevator service and an escalator to all convention functions. If you require special guest room accommodations, please notify the hotel staff directly when you make your reservations.

Please mail this form and payment to:

Ms. Jody Pratt
2984 5th Street
Shelbyville, MI 49344
(269) 792-0481
prattj@wayland.k12.mi.us

Cancellation:

A person having to cancel will receive a refund provided her written request is postmarked by April 17, 2004. (Standing rule 7:01 of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.) Requests for cancellations must be sent to the same person to whom the registration form was sent.

**Radisson
Plaza Hotel
At
Kalamazoo
Center**



William D. Ford Career Technical Center Hosts Initiation Ceremony



New Initiates: Nancy Chiasson, Cindy Swift, Amy Wainwright, Laura Oliver and Karen Dodds after initiation into The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Missing are: Tracy Vaughan and Chris Morin.

The following are the symbols of Delta Kappa Gamma. These symbols are used during the initiation ceremony. It is important for new members to know (and older members refresh their memories) our symbols. The descriptions are taken from the "*Ceremonies*" handbook.

The colors of Delta Kappa Gamma are crimson and gold. Crimson is for the courage which must those who achieve success and attain leadership in our profession. Gold is for the faith and the loyalty, which we pledge to our fellow members and to the high ideals of our Society.



Our flower is the red rose, a fit emblem of mature womanhood and of the beauty of mind and spirit which ennobles the true.



Our key is the golden ellipse. It is emblematic of the two foci from which is drawn the orbit of the activities of Delta Kappa Gamma- *organization and work of each for all*. Across its center, the ellipse bears the Greek letters for Delta Kappa Gamma. A wreath of laurel leaves symbolizes the distinction, which those who

wear this key have achieved and must continue to deserve. The scyphus symbolizes the cup of knowledge, which we hold to the lips of youth.



Our coat-of-arms consists of a red shield across which is a band of gold. Three Tudor roses symbolizing the basic ideals of the Society- Friendship, Loyalty, and Helpfulness- are superimposed on the band. The flaming lamp in the upper right signifies scholarship. The open book in the lower left signifies knowledge. The laurel sprays, issuing from the scroll on which is inscribed the Greek name of the Society, are the traditional symbols of achievement. Above the shield surrounded by a smaller wreath is the graceful cup, important symbol of Delta Kappa Gamma. Below this wreath is a "torse" of red and gold, signifying inspiration.

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April 30, May 1 & May 2

Alpha Iota State Convention will be held in Kalamazoo. I am a member of the State Program Committee and many fine sessions are being offered at this convention. For those teachers who need CEUs, sessions are being offered to fulfill those requirements. The city of Kalamazoo has many wonderful museums and excellent shopping, too. See you in Kalamazoo.

May 22- Metro Council Birthday Luncheon celebrating the 75th anniversary of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Our Chapter Founders are requested to attend in order to be part of the 75th Birthday Celebration. It will be held at the Holiday Inn on Six Mile and I-275. The Holiday Inn is located next to Laurel Park. We want a good turnout, so mark your calendars. Cost is \$24 for American Harvest Buffet.

June 3- Planning meeting for 2004-2005 at Hayes Elementary. Executive Board, committee chairmen and interested members should attend. Bring exciting meeting ideas for 2004-2005. Details TBA.

A child miseducated is a child lost.

John F. Kennedy

One's work may be finished some day, but one's education, never.

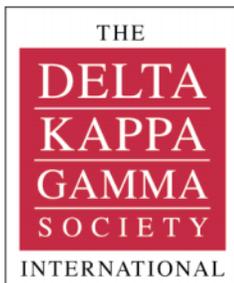
Alexander Dumas

Gamma Alpha Executive Board 2002-2004

Empowerment Through Literacy and Numeracy

Judi Fisher:	President
Lynne Elsesser:	First Vice President
Joan Cady:	Second Vice President
Chris Smith:	Recording Secretary
Jackie Smart:	Corresponding Secretary
Cindy Dietz:	Treasurer
Grace Morgan:	Past President

Gamma Alpha Newsletter and Archives can be found online at:
www.migammaalpha.org
Contact Jackie Smart, with information for future newsletters.



FOR KEY WOMEN
EDUCATORS