



**"CARING Makes
A Difference"**

Gamma Alpha Bulletin

"The G.A.B."

WHAT TO DO TO PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT

1. The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your checkbook, they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your checks.
2. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put **"PHOTO ID REQUIRED"**.
3. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, **DO NOT** put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers of the credit card. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to your complete credit card number.
4. Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address.
5. Never have your SS# printed on your checks. (DUH!) You can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.
6. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards.

WHAT CAN BE DONE IF IDENTITY THEFT OCCURS

1. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.
2. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen/lost. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).
3. But here's what is perhaps most important of all : (I never even thought to do this.) Call the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number (See below for names and telephone numbers of these organizations. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.
4. Numbers you always need to contact if your wallet, etc., has been lost or stolen:
 - 1.) Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
 - 2.) Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742
 - 3) Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289
 - 4.) Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

Information from *U.S. Forum Connection*

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Reminders

Check out our yearly calendar, forms and photos on Gamma Alpha's website at:

www.migammaalpha.org

October 28, 2005 Meeting

4:30- Hayes School

(Directions to Hayes in President's Message.)

4:30- New Member Orientation

4:50- Light refreshments (\$4.00) & CPR Demonstration to follow orientation.

Last call for dues before Cindy contacts the *Repo man*.

\$73 for Active Members

\$58 for Retired Members

Next Meeting

November 30, 2005 at Elliott Elementary

4:30 Initiation of New Members

5:30 Holiday Auction

Judi's Gems

Dear Gamma Alpha Sisters,

Apple orchard visits, cider, doughnuts, colorful leaves, sweaters...it is fall. To begin the season right, several members and I attended the Fall Workshop in Frankenthum earlier this month. I won two items from the World Fellowships auction and Esther won one! Even though Birch Run was having sidewalk sales, shopping did not get in the way of Workshop sessions!



This month's meeting will be beneficial to everyone. Amanda Quinn from St. Mary-Mercy Community Outreach will speak to us about CPR. Amanda gave us an informative talk about Heart Health last year. We have a link to the Women's Heart website on Gamma Alpha's website. This time Amanda will demonstrate the correct way to resuscitate infants through the elderly using CPR. As a health educator, we should try to persuade Amanda to join Gamma Alpha! The meeting will be held at **Hayes Elementary**. *Hayes is located east of Merriman and south of Ann Arbor Trail. Going north on Merriman, turn right onto Ann Arbor Trail. After a quarter of a mile, turn right onto Hillcrest, then right onto Louise.*

Prior to the meeting, three prospective members **Linda, Jan and Pam**, will have a brief Society orientation using the new member information PDF on our website. We are so high tech! Remember to wear your nametags to this meeting so new members can get to know you.

Light refreshments will be provided for the low cost of \$4.00. This was suggested at the planning meeting in June as a means to defray costs.

Judi

P.S. I want to thank each of you for your kind thoughts, cards and the red rose I received after my mother passed away. It was very comforting to me and my family.

P.P.S. Remember to **RSVP** to Lynne 5 days before the October 26 meeting.

Minutes in a Minute

Minutes for September 28, 2005

A flyer for the State Convention at the Grand Hotel is included in the newsletter and on the website. Start saving those pennies. The Grand Hotel is worth it!

- Jackie wrote a grant and Gamma Alpha received a

\$300 stipend from the Wilma Adams Fund for our Service Project in February. The stipend will help to defray the cost of purchasing items for the *Women's Essential Needs* bags we will be making for the women residing at Wayne County Family Center.

- Colleen R. had members check Yearbook information: snail and email addresses. Yearbook will be ready soon.
- Grace reported that Mission Heath (7 Mile and Newburgh) needs people to read to children who are waiting for immunizations. Books are provided, but you can bring your favorites to read. This happens the third Thursday of each month from 4-7 pm. See Grace for details.
- Amy W. volunteered to head the Nominations Committee. Her mission, with the help of Past Presidents, will be to seek out members willing to take Leadership roles in Gamma Alpha. If you are interested, please contact Amy or any Past President. The new slate is presented for approval in December and voted on in January.
- In November, Personal Growth and Development will sponsor the Holiday Auction. This is our only "money-making" project for the Grant-in-Aid awards we give to Women seeking an education degree. Chairman Barbara says we need auctioneers, money collectors, donated items, guests (so we don't spend all the money) and our checkbooks. The auction will be at Elliott. This is a change in venue. Auction starts at 5:30.
- Prior to the auction In November, we will initiate 3 new members from Wayne-Westland. **Linda Fullerton** (WMHS), **Jan Tomlinson** (Outward Bound) and **Pam Hudson** (Business Ed.). Initiation will be at 4:30 at Elliott Elementary. Directions: Go south on Merriman. Turn left on Parkwood. Proceed to the stop sign. Turn left onto Bennington. 30800 Bennington. (Parkwood is between Cherry Hill and Palmer Roads.)
- Marie reported on the Fashion Show. Dress Barn is the sponsor. Models are needed in all sizes. Elliott will host the Fashion Show because there is a stage. Although this is not a money making project per se, we would like to have an audience. Please invite friends and colleagues to the show to watch us strut our stuff on the catwalk.
- We received thank you notes from last year's two Grant-in-Aid recipients.
- We discussed the possibility of having babysitters at some of our meetings that are held at schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Duke

for Christine Smith, Recording Secretary



International Update



www.deltakappagamma.org

STAMPS SUPPORT BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

The U.S. Postal Service recently released its new "*Fund the Cure*" stamp to help fund breast cancer research. Instead of the normal 37 cents for a stamp, this one costs 40 cents. The additional 3 cents will go to breast cancer research. A "normal" book of 20 stamps costs \$7.40. A book of "*Fund the Cure*" stamps costs \$8.00 (\$0.60 more for the book of stamps). It takes a few minutes in line at the Post Office and means so much to so many individuals and families. If all the books of stamps are sold it will raise \$35 million for breast cancer research!

Do two things TODAY:

1. Go out and purchase some of these stamps.
2. E-mail your friends to do the same.

Source U.S. Forum Website

October Birthdays

- 21 Alice Duke
- 22 Laura Oliver
- 26 Mary Lou Flynn
- 30 Cindy Dietz
- 30 Joan Lyon



Good Read

The Stone Diaries

by Carol Shield



The Stone Diaries is a beautifully written (1995 Pulitzer Prize), satisfying and thought-provoking novel. It's a pseudo-autobiography of sorts, narrated omnisciently, telling the life story of Daisy Goodwill Flett, a woman born in 1905. Every once in a while Daisy intrudes as an active narrator, but for the most part the narrator separates herself from actually having lived the story. Daisy leads an ordinary life, full of both good and bad times, she marries, has children, grows older, nothing special or unique really, yet the story of her life, the way it is told to us, is special, is unique. Reading the novel is almost like flipping through a family photo album--stories begin, lead back into the past, come back to the present--yet, the narrative voice is so strong and clear in the novel, that you won't ever lose your way. I read this wonderful novel during vacation and enjoyed every word.

It's a Gas

Judi F. sent me this information to help ease the pain of your next trip to the pump. Think a gallon of gas is expensive? This makes one think, and also puts things in perspective.

Diet Snapple- \$1.29 ...	\$10.32 per gallon
Lipton Ice Tea- \$1.19 ...	\$9.52 per gallon
Ocean Spray- \$1.25 ...	\$10.00 per gallon
Brake Fluid- \$3.15 ...	\$33.60 per gallon
Vick's Nyquil- \$8.35 ...	\$178.13 per gallon
Pepto Bismol- \$3.85 ...	\$123.20 per gallon
Wite Out- \$1.39 ...	\$25.42 per gallon
Scope- \$.99...	\$84.48 per gallon
Evian water- \$1.49...	\$21.19 per gallon

So, the next time you're at the pump, be glad your car doesn't run on water, Scope, Wite Out, or God forbid, Nyquil!

?? Mystery Members ??

Initiated in 1997. Former Special Education Teacher Consultant employed by Wayne-Westland. Retired for one year. Volunteers at St. Mary-Mercy Hospital in Livonia on Fridays. (I've seen her there on duty.) Serves on the Empathy Committee.

Who Am I?

Initiated in 1980. Chapter Woman of Distinction in 1991. Served on almost every committee in Gamma Alpha and currently chairs Service Projects. Employed by Wayne-Westland. Quilting, gardening, bowling are some of her interests. She loves the color purple. We haven't been able to get her to serve as President yet.

Who am I?

Initiated in 2003. Employed as a S.L.I. Teacher in Livonia. We haven't seen too much of her because of a new addition to her family and her district commitments. We are confident that Gamma Alpha will be juggled into her busy life in the near future.

Who Am I?

Gamma Alpha Executive Board 2004-2006

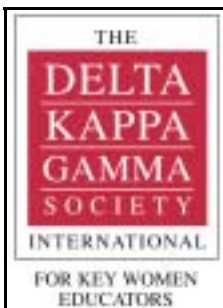
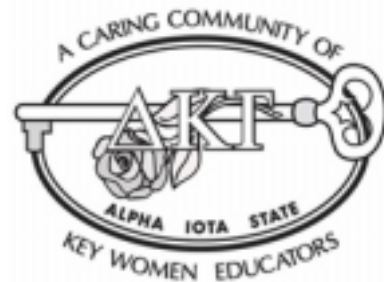
Caring Makes a Difference

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

Gamma Alpha Newsletter, Forms, Photos, and
Archives at:

www.migammaalpha.org

Contact Jackie with information/corrections/accolades



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