



# Gamma Alpha Bulletin

## "Let's G.A.B."

### February 27 Service Project for M.C.V.

The Methodist Children's Village warmly received our "Winter Hugs" last month. Thank you for being so generous in your donations. The boys will be toasty when playing outside or going to school. On February 27, the Service Project Committee has decided to hold a "Cottage Kitchen Shower" for the MCV. Esther has communicated with Steve Dingman, Assistant Executive Director who suggested some priority items that were needed from the *Cottage List* that was distributed at our October meeting.

#### Kitchen Items

Baking sheets  
Blender  
Dish Towels  
Pot holders  
Oven Mitts  
Electric Griddle (cool touch)  
Hand Mixer  
Iron/ironing board  
Microwave oven  
Masculine aprons  
Mixing Bowls

Placemats  
Pots & pans  
Rubber Maid containers  
Serving ware  
Cupboard organizers

Esther suggests that members should partner up on some of the more expensive items.

If you don't have time to shop, or can't be at the February meeting, the Service Projects committee will accept donations to purchase some of the items. Send money to Esther Loskowske or Jackie Smart. So, select an item or two and bring your "Cottage Kitchen Shower" gifts to the February 27 meeting. Gifts should not be wrapped.

Remember, it feels good to give to those less fortunate.

*No one should teach  
who is not a bit awed  
by the importance  
of the profession..*

*George E. Frasier*

### **Mission Statement**

*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*

#### *Inside this issue:*

*Minutes* 2

*President's Message & Agenda* 8

*Sunshine Birthdays Recipes* 3

*International, State & Metro Council News* 4

*Chapter Calendar & Neologisms* 5

*Amy's Audio Books* 7

*Metro Council Flyer for April 19 Luncheon* 6

#### **January 30**

Meet at the Leather Bottle for dinner at 4:30. Meeting and Seedlings field trip will follow after dinner.

#### **February 27**

Meet at the Leather Bottle at 4:30. Meeting and the Cottage Kitchen Shower will follow dinner.

RSVP to Judi if you plan on attending:

[judifisher@yahoo.com](mailto:judifisher@yahoo.com)



## Minutes in a Minute



### Minutes in a Minute November 26, 2007

56 persons attended, including members and guests. Jackie led the group through a light-hearted icebreaker called the Lipstick Personality Test. After a family style dinner, an evening of fun followed with the annual Holiday auction. Good-natured bartering over popular items was encouraged by many in attendance. Talented auctioneering by several chapter members provided added entertainment. Together, they led to a successful evening of fundraising for the Grant-In-Aid fund. \$1728 was earned from the auction and raffles. Kudos to Barb Broadley and her committee who worked hard to make this event so enjoyable and well-organized. Many thanks to all of the generous members who donated such delightful items and to those who brought guests. Several members were heard to comment that this is one of their favorite meetings of the year.

### December 12, 2007

Jackie brought her mother-in-law to the meeting. Daphne Smart is a retired teacher from Nottingham, England. We began our meeting with a craft project led by Lynne, Grace, and Judi. The ladies provided holiday material, ribbon, buttons, and hot glue guns for members to make fabric pinwheel ornaments.

We initiated three new members. Amy Wainwright led the Initiation Ceremony for Lisa Austin, Lynda Neuroth, and Karen Burrill. Welcome to Gamma Alpha and The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Danielle Jopek presented a slate of officers for the 2008-2010 biennium. There were no nominations from the floor prior to voting. The slate was accepted. The new officers (listed below) will be installed at the Birthday Luncheon in April.

President: Fran Saenz  
 1st VP: Amy Wainwright  
 2nd VP: Carol Anderson  
 Rec. Sec.: Mary Jo Dreffs  
 Cor. Sec.: Jackie Smart

Jackie announced that Gamma Alpha has been selected to provide the Founders' Birthday Ceremony at the President's Banquet during the convention.

A motion was passed to use the profits from the basket raffle and 50/50 to pay the Alpha Iota registration fee for members who will be attending the convention in Kalamazoo. This would be an incentive to encourage members attend state events.

Amy took the huge bag of "Winter Hugs" to the Methodist Children's Village. Thanks to all who donated hats, gloves, and scarves.

January 30th meeting will be a field trip to Seedlings Braille Books for Children, located on Farmington Road (just before Schoolcraft.) We will eat dinner at The Leather Bottle and caravan to Seedlings. Debra Bonde will give us a tour.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Carol A. Anderson  
 Recording Secretary

## Best Sellers

Winter is always a good time to snuggle up with a book. Here are a few best sellers from the *New York Times*.

### FICTION

1. **Double Cross**, by James Patterson
2. **A Thousand Splendid Suns**, by Khaled Hosseini
3. **T is for Trespass**, by Sue Grafton
4. **The Darkest Evening of the Year**, by Dean Koontz
5. **For One More Day**, by Mitch Albom

### NONFICTION

1. **I am America (And So Can You!)**, by Stephen Colbert
2. **An Inconvenient Book**, by Glenn Beck and Kevin Balfe
3. **BOOM!**, by Tom Brokaw
4. **Born Standing Up**, by Steve Martin
5. **Quiet Strength**, by Tony Dungy with Nathan Whitaker

### ADVICE

1. **The Dangerous Book for Boys**, by Conn Iggulden and Hal Iggulden
2. **The Daring Book for Girls**, by Andrea J. Buchanan and Miriam Peskowitz
3. **Deceptively Delicious**, by Jessica Seinfeld
4. **You: Staying Young**, by Michael F. Roizen and Mehmet C. Oz
5. **Jim Cramer's Stay Mad for Life**, by James J. Cramer with Cliff Mason



### Kitchen Talk

Here is another recipe that Amy got from Heritage Park Inn.

## Baked Coconut Cinnamon French Toast



#### Ingredients:

- 1/2 stick of softened butter
- 8 ounces of cream softened cheese
- 1/2 cup of maple syrup , divided in half
- 1 loaf of cinnamon raisin bread
- 8 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups of milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

- 1/4 cup of coconut
- 4 tablespoons of brown sugar
- Cinnamon
- Powdered sugar

#### Procedure:

Mix butter, cream cheese and half of the maple syrup. Heat in microwave until softened to a creamy texture. Mix well with a whisk. Place sliced raisin bread in a well-buttered (do not use spray) 13x9 glass baking dish. Spread the cream cheese mixture on top of the bread slices. Top with another slice of raisin bread.

Beat the eggs, milk, remaining maple syrup, and vanilla together. Pour this mixture over the bread and sprinkle with the coconut, brown sugar, and then the cinnamon. Cover

and refrigerate overnight. (The egg mixture will be absorbed through the cream cheese.)

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Uncover the baking dish and bring to room temperature. Bake for 50 minutes. Cut into 8 squares and serve with apple cider syrup. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

## Apple Cider Syrup

#### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 4 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup of apple cider or apple juice
- 1 tablespoon of lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 1/2 cup of dried cranberries or raisins

#### Procedure:

In a small saucepan, stir together the sugar, cornstarch, cider, and lemon juice and cook over medium heat until the mixture is thickened and bubbly. Then cook for 2 minutes more. Remove from the heat and stir in the butter until it is melted. Then add the dried cranberries and simmer until you are ready to pour it over the French toast.



## Sunshine Committee Birthday Greetings for December (belated) & January

Happy Birthday to you!



### December

- 8 Karen Scott
- 12 Barbara Broadley
- 30 Judi Fisher

### January

- 1 Carol Anderson
- 7 Donna Colaianne
- 13 Mary Jo Dreffs
- 31 Marie Canzoneri

## International, State & Detroit Metro Coordinating Council News

### Metro Coordinating Council Update

On Saturday, April 19, 2008 Detroit Metro Coordinating Council and Gamma Alpha will hold a Founder's Day Birthday Luncheon at G. Subu's Leather Bottle in Livonia. From 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The luncheon will cost \$20 and will be served family style. A flyer is included in the newsletter. We will honor retirees and Chapter Women of Distinction at this joint council meeting. Bring a book(s) suitable for a boy 5-16 to the luncheon. We will donate the books to the library at the Methodist Children's Village. Mark your calendar and plan on attending.

### Alpha Iota State



On May 2 - 4, 2008 the Alpha Iota State Convention will be in at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at Kalamazoo Center. The registration form will be in the Winter *Wolverine* and Jackie will attach the forms to the email and it will also be on our website [www.migammaalpha.org](http://www.migammaalpha.org) We want Gamma Alpha to be well represented at convention this year. Our chapter is in charge of the Founder's Day Birthday Ceremony at the President's Banquet. So mark your calendar and plan on attending.

### International News



#### "National Legislative Seminar"

The U.S. Forum of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International will hold its 6<sup>th</sup> National Legislative Seminar (NLS) April 20-23, 2008 in Washington, DC. This is a chance for members to actively participate in the legislative process and to meet other members who wish to participate in shaping national legislation. To register for NLS and learn more about the Seminar go to:

[http://www.deltakappagamma.net/US-Forum/legislative\\_seminar.htm](http://www.deltakappagamma.net/US-Forum/legislative_seminar.htm)

A registration form is downloadable from that site.



## Calendar 2007-2008

**January 30, 2008**

*G. Subu's for dinner*

*Field Trip/tour to Seedlings following dinner.*

Debra Bonde will join the membership for dinner at 4:30 at the Leather Bottle. After dinner (between 5:30-6:00) , we will drive three miles down the road to the Seedlings office for a tour and presentation by Debra..

Seedlings Braille Books for Children  
14151 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48154  
734-427-8552

**February 27, 2008**

*Dinner at G. Subu's*

Service Project for Methodist Children's Village  
"Cottage Kitchen Shower"

**April 2, 2008**

*Theater outing*

*Location & Cost TBA*

**April 19, 2008 (Saturday)**

Family style luncheon at G. Subu's  
(We need to prepay for this event.)  
Metro Council Birthday Luncheon  
More information to come.

**May 2-4, 2008**

Kalamazoo

State Convention

More information available  
in the winter *Wolverine*.

**June 16, 2008**

Executive Board & Members  
Planning for 2008-2009  
Location TBA

## Neologisms .....

*The Washington Post publishes a contest for readers in which they are asked to supply alternate meanings for various words. You might get a giggle!*

Coffee (n.), a person who is coughed upon.

Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.

Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.

Flatulence (n.) the emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.

Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.

Circumvent (n.), the opening in the front of boxer shorts.

Pokemon (n), A Jamaican proctologist.

Bustard (n.), a rude bus driver.

Perplexed: adj., lost in a movie theater.

Racket: n., a small pair of breasts.

Nincompoop: n., the military command responsible for battlefield sanitation.

Pontificate: n., a document given to each graduating pope.

Discussion: n., a Frisbee-related head injury.

Flattery: n., a place that manufactures A and B cup brassieres only.

Cabbage Patch: A patch for those trying to stop eating cabbage.

Sudafed: A software program on how to file a civil action against the government.

**Detroit Metro Coordinating Council**  
Cordially invites  $\Delta\text{KT}$  members and guests to attend the  
Metro Council Birthday Luncheon

On  
April 19, 2008, 11:30-2:00  
At

**G. Subu's Leather Bottle**  
20300 Farmington, Road  
Livonia, Michigan  
(Located south of Eight Mile Road on the east side of Farmington Road)

**Family Style Luncheon \$20**

Mixed Green Salad w/ choice of dressing  
Breadsticks  
Chicken Piccata  
Penne w/ Marinara  
Roasted Redskins w/ Rosemary & Garlic  
Green Beans Almondine  
Birthday Cake  
Coffee or Tea

Help us celebrate the 79<sup>th</sup> Birthday of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.  
We will be honoring the 2008 Chapter Women of Distinction from each of our chapters.  
Gamma Gamma Chapter will provide entertainment.  
Bring a book(s) suitable for a boy 5-16 to the luncheon.  
We will donate the books to the library at the Methodist Children's Village.

Chapter members should pay Cindy for the luncheon. Make checks payable to Gamma Alpha.

Cindy Dietz  
7329 Gilman  
Westland, MI 48185  
(734) 427-9399

Members RSVP by April 1, 2008.



## Amy's Audio Book Recommendations

By Amy Wainwright

Last year I discovered a new use for the CD player in my car. It suddenly dawned on me that I could go to my local library and check out a selection from their modest collection of audio books. So, after lining up the CDs like rockettes in my 6 disc-changer, I became a devoted recorded books reader. I know that I am hardly the first to do this, but I was so glad to find a new, free source of entertainment, that I felt I should share this tip. Best of all, I got to enjoy an additional 20 books last year.

When I was setting up my classrooms at the beginning of the school year, I would also use my classroom computer to listen to audio books. One word of caution though, don't try this with anything by Nora Roberts. A student or well-meaning custodian is sure to wander in during a steamy scene, and you will be diving towards the computer to mute it!

Two of my favorite books are An Ordinary Man by Paul Rusesabagina and The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield. The film Hotel Rwanda is based on the story told in An Ordinary Man. It is the true story of a humble hotel manager who single-handedly managed to save 1268 of his fellow countrymen by providing them refuge in his hotel during the 100 days of genocide that took place in Rwanda in 1994.

Paul Rusesabagina was that hotel manager. The story he tells is his own. He claims he is no hero. He is an ordinary man, who, under the worst of circumstances, followed his conscience to do what was right and kept his composure. Armed only with his powers of persuasion and a cellar of expensive liquor, Paul miraculously wards off the murderers who repeatedly come to his hotel, the Mille Collines in Kigali, intent on killing everyone in it. Paul's story is inspirational. It reminded me of the power of one. One person can make a difference. It reminded me I can make a difference too. Armed with a piece of chalk or a dry erase marker, I too can change lives.

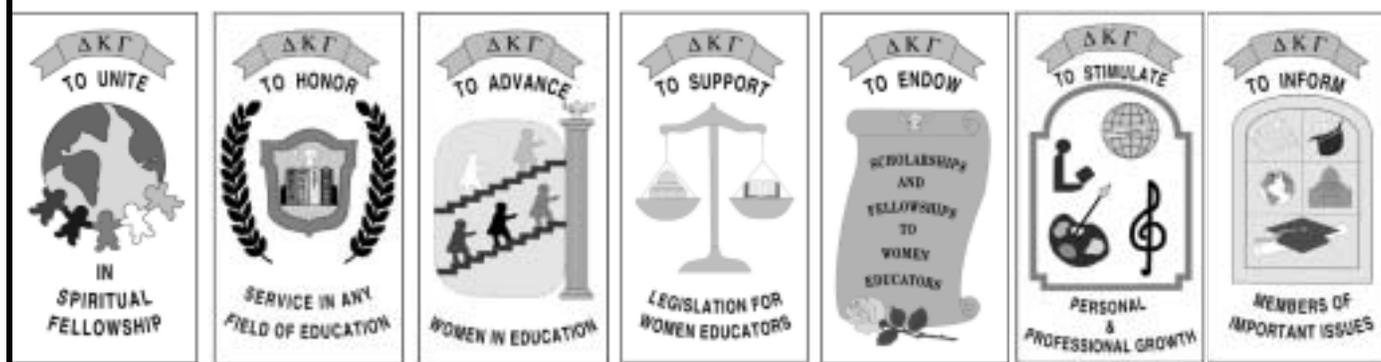
Paul's conclusion, like the rest of his book, is quietly amazing. It still gives me chills.

"I am a hotel manager trained to negotiate contracts and provide shelter for those who need it. My job never changed – even in a sea of fire. And so, when Evil dropped in for a drink, I was able to have a conversation. I could find its weaknesses and seek out its soft spots. I could see the vanity and insecurity and even the ghost of common decency inside the minds of killers that would allow me to save lives. Whenever the killing season should next begin, and people become strangers to their neighbors and themselves, my hope is still that there will be those ordinary men who say a quiet, "No." and open the rooms upstairs."

Diane Setterfield's novel The Thirteenth Tale is read beautifully by two women. Their voices give the story an extra quality and depth unequal to any other audio book I have "read." The young biographer Margaret Lea is mysteriously chosen to write the biography of the ailing, best-selling, and utterly reclusive author, Vida Winter. Miss Winter invites Margaret to stay at her estate so that she may record her story and the truth of the little girls of Angelfield. As Miss Winter recounts her last story, perhaps her famed, unpublished "thirteenth tale," Margaret discovers a secret of her own. A secret that makes her the perfect candidate to receive Miss Winter's story, her truth. The Thirteenth Tale unfolds slowly and unexpectedly. It details the fall an eccentric, aristocratic family. Their family secrets and crimes are laid bare and placed in the care of a stranger, Margaret Lea, for her to publish for the whole world to snatch up and greedily devour.

Read, or preferably, listen to the book and understand the words that haunted Vida Winter, "Tell me a story. Tell me the truth."

## Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



### President's Message

Are you sick of making the same resolutions year after year that you never keep? Why not promise to do something you can actually accomplish? Here are some humorous resolutions that you can actually keep.

- Stop exercising.
- Put on at least 30 pounds this year.
- Read less.
- Watch more TV.
- Procrastinate more.
- Take up a new habit like smoking.
- Spend more time at work.
- Eat out more often.
- Start being superstitious.

### Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committee Chairmen

#### Executive Board

Jacquelyn Smart:	President/ Newsletter
Judi Fisher:	First Vice President
Amy Wainwright:	Second Vice President
Carol Anderson:	Recording Secretary
Cindy Dietz:	Treasurer
Barbara Broadley:	Parliamentarian
Judi Fisher:	Past President

#### Committee Chairmen

Barbara Broadley:	Personal Growth
Esther Loskowske:	Service Projects
Marge Braun, Amy Wainwright:	Professional Affairs
Lynne Elsesser:	Research
Cindy Dietz:	US Forum/Legislation
Chris Smith:	Music
Mary Jo Dreffs:	Grant-in-Aid
Helen Mate:	Birthday
Carol Holland:	World Fellowships
Colleen Retherford:	Yearbook
Sherry Green:	History
Carol Anderson, Donna Colaianne & Nancy Chiasson	Sunshine
Grace Morgan	Finance
Bonnie Franka, Joan Murray & Carol Palk:	Ice Breakers
Danielle Jopek	Nominations

But seriously, make involvement in  $\Delta K\Gamma$  activities one of the resolutions you plan to keep this year. Our chapter and the Society needs you!

*Jackie*

### January Agenda

- Welcome– Jackie
- Ice Breaker Activity– Bonnie, Joan, Carol P.
- Dinner—off the menu
- Brief Meeting
- Field Trip to Seedlings Braille Books for Children  
14151 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48154  
734-427-8552

*Seedlings is nestled in the set of office buildings on the west side of Farmington Road, north of Schoolcraft.. Heading south on Farmington from the restaurant, you'll pass Lyndon, (and on your right) Ford Field and a church. Turn right into the driveway with the row of blue mailboxes immediately after the church..*