



Gamma Alpha Bulletin

The G.A.B. "Let's Talk"

President's Message



What is a cornucopia? It is a strange looking, oddly shaped container the we see so often during the holiday season. We see it filled with the plenty that we use at our holiday celebrations. Most of the time there is a large pumpkin and probably some other good-sized items that show our pride in what we have. Most of us use this container to show off our biggest and best. Often we tend to try and get most of the big items in mostly for show and we pay less attention to the smaller twisting little spaces. We enjoy our cornucopia until after the holidays and then we slide them off the side and perhaps pick them up near the end of winter and perhaps we find some dried fruits and maybe a couple nuts that come in handy for a tasty fruit bread. When we come to spring and we see that nature is on her way to a new season life, we pine for the fresh taste of new foods. Reaching down into our cornucopia we may find some remnants of dried onions and other veggies that work together as a wholesome soup. Soon we pay little attention to the container because summer provides us with so much fresh and satisfying foods. Fall creeps back into reality and we remember to pull out that cornucopia and fill it with the things that should help us through the year. Hopefully we will learn that we need to store more of the little but so

important things that make our life more pleasant. In between the turkeys and the big pumpkins, we will remember to squeeze in as many of the seeds and berries and pieces of veggies and fruits and grains that may not make a showy display but will be there throughout the year when it will be appreciated. Most of us have no need to actually fill a cornucopia to save for our pantry. However, we have our own individual cornucopias to save the important things we need to go through our life. We are pleased to load up with our biggest talents and activities but we should stop and fill in as many spaces as possible for things that may get very little notice but have a tremendous effect. Little thing like kind words, volunteer time, small monetary donations, frequent smiles, compliments, times when we can assist others when no one else will know. Too many pumpkins in our personal cornucopia will leave little room for the small but so important things. Be mindful of that as we plan what we will do with all that we have. There is no doubt that we all have what it takes to do a wonderful job. We are recognized as key women educators, key women. You have what it takes. I have what it takes. We can do wonders.

So says the prez!
Carol A. Anderson

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Calendar | 2-3 |
| Birthdays | 4 |
| Seedlings | 4 |
| Local Author | 5 |
| Meeting Pix | 6-7 |
| Minutes | 8 |
| Auction Assignments | 8 |
| Auction Flyer | 9 |
| Tea Recipes | 10 |
| Certification Changes | 11 |

Meeting Info



December 7

RSVP

November 23

Holiday Auction

Bring guests and \$\$\$\$ or checkbook.

See flyer for details.

January 18

Initiation

Speaker on bullying.

See calendar for details.

RSVP to Jackie at:

jackie@mysmartfamily.com

Mission

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

Vision

Leading women educators impacting education worldwide.

Don't forget these dates!



December 7, 2011 (FLYER in Newsletter)

RSVP by November 23

4:30 p.m. Dinner/Holiday Auction

Arrive 4:00 for set-up

Laurel Manor

39000 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia

(Prepayment of \$25 is necessary for this event.)

Holiday Auction Reminders

1. For the smaller items, we will sell raffle tickets and have people put tickets into cups and winners will be randomly selected.
2. Some of the larger items will be in the "silent auction" format with pad, pen, a starting bid, and a time cut-off for bids.
3. And lastly, some items will be put on the auction block.
4. Members still need to bring a 3x5 card for each item they donate. On the card, they should describe the item, list the value, and name of the donor. Members should try to bring more than one donation so we will have a variety of auction items. We need to guarantee Laurel Manor at least 50 will be in attendance, so we encourage you to bring guests so we meet our quota and so we aren't the only ones spending money!

January 18, 2012

4:30 p.m. Please arrive on time.

Hayden's Grill and Bar

39895 Ford Road

Canton (east of I-275)

Executive Board (President, 1st, 2nd, Vice Presidents, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, and the Treasurer) will meet prior to the meeting at 3:30 to complete biennial reports.

Agenda:

- 50/50 Raffle

- Book Sale
- Initiation of New Members (if any)

Speaker: Maria Dismody is a primary teacher in Plymouth-Canton and author of "The Juice Box Bully" and "Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun." Maria stated that in today's society, it's important to remind children that, although we are different on the outside, we are very much alike on the inside. Unfortunately, bullying has become a major problem in the United States. It's not only painful for children, but occurring at an increasingly young age. Both of her books are meant to empower children to positively handle tough situations through their timeless messages. Books will be available for purchase. Whether or not you are currently teaching this is still a very important issue so please plan on attending.

March 21, 2012

4:30 p.m.

Hayden's Grill and Bar

39895 Ford Road

Canton (east of I-275)

Agenda:

- 50/50 raffle
- Book Sale
- Flower Orders (More information in future newsletters.)
- Speaker:

Community gardens are "hot" ideas, especially after the attention they received on *60 Minutes* and by the First Lady. Not only do community gardens defray the rising cost of produce, but the freshness of your crop is superior to anything you can buy at the grocery store. A portion of the harvest is donated to local pantries and community gardens help our country go green.

April 21, 2012

Metro Coordinating Council Luncheon

More information will follow in future newsletters.

April 25, 2012

4:30 p.m.

Hayden's Grill and Bar

39895 Ford Road

Canton (east of I-275)

- 50/50 Raffle
- Book Sale
- Discussion regarding our Service Projects and donations
- Speaker: In Michigan, the lottery is big business. So, why is there still a barrage of school closings and major cutbacks, including layoffs? When you buy that lottery ticket, how much goes to fund education? Our speaker is a representative from the Michigan Lottery will give us the lowdown on the lottery and education.

May 4-6, 2012

Alpha Iota State Convention

Radisson Plaza in Kalamazoo

Convention and hotel registration will be available in the Winter *Wolverine* and in future newsletters. Please plan on attending.

May 16, 2012

Gamma Alpha Birthday Dinner

4:30 p.m.

East Side Mario's

31630 Plymouth Road in Livonia

Agenda:

- Chapter Birthday Dinner
- (Pre-payment of \$20 will be necessary)
- Honor Friend of Education
- Honor Retirees
- Award Grant-in-Aids
- Installation of New Officers
- Recommitment Birthday Ceremony

June 23, 2012

Planning Meeting

All of our programs are planned by the membership. Be

reminded that this meeting is **not** just for Executive Board, but for members who wish to make our chapter vital. Come to our planning meeting armed with ideas **or** suggestions you want Gamma Alpha to be involved with for 2012-2013. Let us know where you would like our meetings to be held. If you know of a speaker, please bring the contact information. The more cooks in this case the better the soup!

Planning meeting and pot luck luncheon will be held at Carol Anderson's at 11:00. Bring your favorite potato, pasta, fruit, or green salad to pass. We will need rolls and some healthy snacks to munch on while we are meeting. Carol will have dessert and beverages for us. Carol lives in Canton. Take I-275 to Ford Road (west.) She is off Ford Road approximately 2 miles west of I-275. The sub is Nottingham Forest between Lilley and Morton Taylor Roads. From Ford Road turn north on Willow Creek and then left on Wedgewood. Her address is 5855 Wedgewood. Carol's house is on the left. (734-981-3741) Please RSVP your intentions and what you are bringing to Jackie:

jackie@mymartfamily.com



Reminder!

Volunteer Opportunity

If you are interested in a volunteer opportunity working with the boys at the Methodist Children's Home Society in reading for two hours weekly (M/W or T/Th from 3:30 - 4:30) please contact Heather Karschner, Development and Marketing Associate at (313) - 531-7462. When you help a child you change a life!

A good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others.

Author Unknown

Seedlings Wins Cash

Seedlings Braille Books for Children received \$15,000 from Art Van Furniture. Art Van hosted an online charity challenge event among 150 Michigan charities and Seedlings was chosen as one of the top recipients, thanks to thousands of online votes.

“We are so thankful to Art Van and to our amazing supporters,” said Debra Bonde, Seedlings' founder and director. “This generous grant will enable us to make thousands of braille books for blind children who yearn to read and who generally have so few books that are accessible to them.”

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a Livonia based non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to increasing the opportunity for literacy by providing high quality children's literature in braille. Each year, more than 22,000 braille books are made and shipped to blind children across the country and around the world from their Livonia office. For more information on Seedlings Braille Books for Children, visit www.seedlings.org or call (800) 777-8552.

October 16, 2011 Observer & Eccentric



Seedlings is one of Gamma Alpha's service projects.

December Birthdays

- 3 Pam Husson
- 11 Sandra Brock
- 12 Barbara Broadley
- 30 Judi Fisher



Zeta Member Wins Spelling Bee

It wasn't quite the national spelling bee, but it seemed like it for Wayne County seniors who competed in the fourth annual **Wayne County Spell-Off**. The competition was fierce with 18th District Judge Sandra Cicirelli officiating the event and handling challenges of the spelling a word. In the end Evelyn Nash of Westland proved her mastery of words, placing first in the competition.

October 16, 2011 Observer & Eccentric



Evelyn Nash, Zeta Chapter, is third from the left and the Wayne County Senior Spelling Bee Champion.

Colleen Fisher, Local Author

Judi Fisher's daughter-in-law, Colleen Murray Fisher, a fourth-grade teacher at Hayes Elementary School in Livonia, signed her latest award-winning children's book, *Miss Martin is a Martian*, on October 22, at Barnes & Noble Bookstore. *Miss Martin is a Martian* is about a boy who believes that his new teacher is a Martian. He makes it his mission to stop her before she takes over the planet. After undertaking a thorough investigation, complete with scientific tests of his theory and a detailed journal, he realizes the "truth" and along the way discovers just how amazing her "teacher powers" really are. The book won the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association's (MEMSPA) Children's Picture Book Award. Colleen also wrote and illustrated *The One and Only Bernadette P. McMullen*, a USA News Best Book Award finalist, and she illustrated *Oh No! Ah Yes!* which won a Silver Medal Mom's Choice Award and *I Can Dance, Too!* which won a Gold Medal Mom's Choice Award.



Submitted by Cindy Dietz

Four Characteristics Usually Found in Those Who Impact Our Lives

By Charles R. Swindoll

"Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life"

- 1. Consistency.** These folk are not restless flashes in the pan—here today, gone tomorrow. Neither are they given to fads and gimmicks. Those who impact lives stay at the task with reliable regularity. They seem unaffected by the fickle winds of change. They're consistent.
- 2. Authenticity.** Probe all you wish, try all you like to find hypocritical flaws, and you search in vain. People who impact others are real to the core; no alloy covered over with a brittle layer of chrome, but solid, genuine stuff right down to the nubbies. They're authentic.
- 3. Unselfishness.** Mustn't forget this one! Hands down it's there every time. Those who impact us the most watch out for themselves the least. They notice our needs and reach out to help, honestly concerned about our welfare. Their least-used words are "I," "me," "my," and "mine." They're unselfish.
- 4. Tirelessness.** With relentless determination they spend themselves. They refuse to quit. Possessing an enormous amount of enthusiasm for their labor, they press on regardless of the odds...virtually unconcerned with the obstacles. Actually, they are like pioneers – resilient and rugged. They're tireless.

**Gamma Alpha
October Tea**



Kathy Muench, State Visitation Chair; Carol Anderson, Gamma Alpha Chapter President; Olive Horning, State President; and Jackie Smart in the kitchen after the October Tea. Thanks for helping wash dishes, Kathy! Our speaker, Melissa McDermid, Beta Eta Chapter; shared “Reflection on Educators” and her yearlong experience as a primary teacher in England. Her presentation about the Fulbright Teacher Exchange program was honest, heartfelt, and humorous. Thank you, Melissa.



Gamma Alpha October Tea

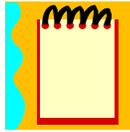


Colleen took some great pictures during the October Tea. Esther and Grace wore hats to the meeting. Lynne, where is your hat?

Esther, Lynne, Grace, Jackie, and Carol put finishing touches on the table of goodies. Trifle is keeping cool in the fridge.



Minutes for October 19, 2011



The meeting began with a wonderful selection of food and flavored teas which we enjoyed on lovely teacups and plates. As we were eating we played a game called "Why Can't the English Learn to Speak?" where we tried to guess our explanations of some British words and phrases. Even with a lot of cheating going on most of us were not able to come up with the correct answers but it was really fun!

We were introduced to Carole Lower, an Intervention Coach from the Dearborn Schools, who was being presented for membership from Judi Fisher. Colleen did a great job on her presentation and we look forward to Carole's initiation in January.

Our speaker was Melissa McDermid from Beta Eta who spent a year teaching in England as part of the Fulbright Classroom Teacher Exchange Program. Her presentation was very informative and entertaining.

An **AUCTION MEETING** was held after the tea. Workers should arrive at 4:00. Below are the assignments:

Auctioneers/Helpers

Auctioneers are in bold type and in order of appearance. Shifts are 20 minutes. Helpers will take turns holding up items being auctioned and delivering items to winners. We will not be walking around with items this year (sorry, no Vanna White wannabes).

- **Marie:** Ev & Amy
- **Fran:** Barbara & Carol H.
- **Cindy:** Carol A. & Carol V.

Front Desk Workers

Two members will remain at the desk helping pass name tags and auction cards. Two will be at the door helping the guests with info about the set-up of the room.

- Carol Holland
- Carol Palk
- Stephanie Smith
- Joanna Eiwen

Auction Table Helpers

Will help members decide where to place items for bidding (auction block, silent auction, items with cups for tickets.) They will direct guests where to purchase tickets, how to bid on silent items, where to view the auction block items, and the drawing cup table.

- Colleen Retherford
- Mary Jo Dreffs
- Jackie Smart

Drawing Cup Table Ticket Sellers

Will walk around and sell tickets for the items that are in the cup drawing.

- Pam Emerson
- Nancy Chiasson
- Donna Colaianne
- Helen Mate
- Cindy Dietz

Announcing winners from drawing cups and delivering prizes: Jackie, Colleen & Mary Jo

50/50 Raffle

- Esther Loskowske (will be selling 50/50 tickets only)

Money Collectors

At the end of the auction they will collect money from our buyers.

- Judi Fisher
- Lynne Elsesser
- Sherry Green
- Cindy Dietz

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Dreffs for Carol Palk, Recording Secretary

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Gamma Alpha Annual Holiday Auction



December 7, 2011

Register/Set-up/Cocktails/Social 4:00

Hors D'Oeuvres 4:30

Dinner 5:00

Auction Following dinner 6:00



It's here! Gamma Alpha Chapter's Annual Holiday Auction. You can do your Christmas shopping early this year! Proceeds will be used in part for scholarships given to women continuing or seeking a degree in education, for Early-Career Educators, and for our community service projects.

Laurel Manor Banquet & Conference Center

39000 Schoolcraft Road

Livonia, Michigan

Plated Dinner Entree \$25

Garden Salad w/ Ranch or Italian Dressing

Homemade Bread

Chicken Boursin

or

Vegetarian Choice: Baked Tronchetto w/ Vegetable

Potatoes Anna

Bean Medley

Peppermint Stick Ice Cream w/ Fudge Topping

Coffee, Tea, Decaf

Cash Bar (Wine and Beer)

1. Indicate entrée choice: Chicken Boursin or Baked Tronchetto.
2. Make checks payable to "Gamma Alpha."
3. Send to treasurer, Cindy Dietz, by November 23, 2011.
4. Please list names of guests and their entrée for name tags.
5. If you fill a table (8) we can reserve the table for your party.

**Note
RSVP
date**

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

October Tea Recipes

Sausage Rolls

Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground pork (spicy) 1/4 cup parsley
- Dijon Mustard
- 1 package thawed Pepperidge Farm Puff Pastry
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 teaspoons cold water

Procedure:

In a large bowl mix pork and parsley.
Cut the two pastry sheets along fold lines to form 6 portions. Brush the pastry with the mustard.
Shape handful of pork mixture into sausage shape about 1 inch in diameter; place along long edge of pastry. Roll up jellyroll style.
Dampen edge of pastry with water to seal.
Place roll, seam side down, on tray and refrigerate for 10 minutes.
With sharp knife, cut roll into 1 1/2 inch lengths.
Preheat oven to 450 degrees.
Place rolls seam-side-down on parchment-lined baking sheet.
Beat egg yolk and brush over tops of rolls. This will give the sausage rolls a shiny golden brown when they are baked.
Bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes.
Then reduce heat to 375 degrees and bake for 15 minutes longer, or until golden.
Makes about 24 sausage rolls.



Jackie

Smoked Salmon Sandwiches

Ingredients:

- 1 cup soft cream cheese
- 20 slices bread, thin-sliced
- 1/4 cup of chives
- 12 ounces thin-sliced smoked salmon
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- Black pepper

Procedure:

Mix cream cheese and chives. Spread on one side of 10 slices of bread. Arrange the smoked salmon on 10 slices of the bread and brush with lemon juice. Pepper generously. Top with the cheese bread slices. Remove the crusts and cut into quarters.

Jackie

Berry Trifle

Ingredients:

- 1 (5 ounce) package instant sugar free vanilla pudding
- 3 cups cold fat free milk
- 1 (9 inch) angel food cake, cut in cubes
- 1 (16 ounce) package frozen mixed berries, thawed
- 1 (12 ounce) container frozen light whipped topping, thawed

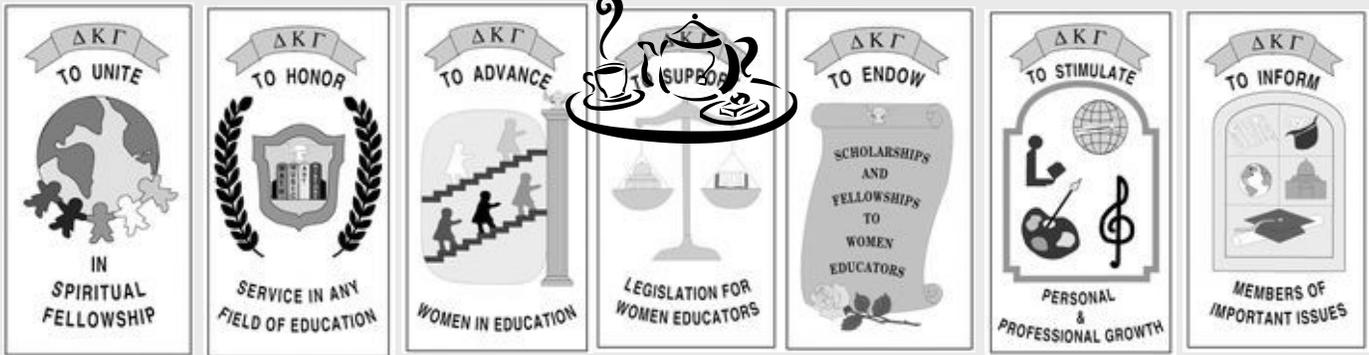


Procedure:

Prepare pudding with milk according to package directions. In a trifle bowl, layer half the cake pieces, half the berries and half the whipped topping. Repeat layers. Cover and chill 4 hours or more before serving,

Esther

Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Committee Chairmen

Executive Board

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| President | Carol Anderson |
| 1st VP/Program | Mary Jo Dreffs |
| 2nd VP/Membership | Colleen Retherford |
| Recording Secretary | Carol Palk |
| Corresponding Secretary | Jackie Smart |
| Treasurer | Cindy Dietz |
| Parliamentarian | Fran Saenz |

Committee Chairmen

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Personal Growth & Service | Amy Wainwright |
| Professional Affairs | Lynne Elsesser |
| US Forum/Legislation | Pam Emerson/ Cindy Dietz |
| Grant-in-Aid | Debbie Ervin |
| Birthday | Esther Loskowske Helen Mate |
| World Fellowships | Esther Loskowske |
| Yearbook/Newsletter | Jackie Smart |
| Sunshine | Donna Colaianne & Nancy Chiasson |
| Finance | Judi Fisher |
| Nominations | Amy Wainwright |
| Holiday Auction | Mary Jo Dreffs |

Teacher Certification Changes Could End Careers

MEA Voice Online Posted on 10/25/11 at 6:15pm

The Michigan Department of Education will be conducting public hearings across the state in November on proposed rule changes to teacher and administrative certification. These administrative rule changes will dramatically impact teachers and their careers.

In addition to providing alternate routes to an interim teaching certificate and creating a three-tier licensure system, the new rules would tie teacher certification advancement or certification renewal to administrator's evaluations of teachers. Teachers must be rated highly effective or effective for three consecutive years in order to renew their certificate and there would be no appeals process. If a teacher is not evaluated for three years, he or she is at risk of losing their certificate!

This rule change alone jeopardizes a teacher's career. An unscrupulous or inexperienced administrator could get rid of teachers and end their careers by withholding a highly effective or effective rating. That's why it's so important that MEA members have a strong presence at these hearings and express opposition to these changes. MEA will be distributing more detailed talking points later this week.