

# Gamma Alpha Bulletin

## President's Message



May, beautiful May! May is a month of warm days and cool nights. May has fields of green trees and spring flowers. May allows us to wear light sweaters and no more winter coats. We see the change in our students in May. The freedom they feel is shown by their choice of clothing - sandals and bare arms. They are late with assignments because there is too much pleasant outdoor time to spend with friends. We find we are reining them in again as we did at the beginning of the school year. A teacher's job is never boring.

A good teacher takes the challenges and builds on them. Maybe an elementary teacher gives each child a sunflower seed and a cup of soil. They watch as the seeds sprout and grow. They chart their growth rate and illustrate their plants. They take them home with the assignment to watch a big flower grow. Middle school and high school teachers have the challenge of matching a unique assignment with the specific subject they teach. Language Arts teachers can pique

the interest of students by having them compose haiku on the subject of first love. Math teachers can ask their students to find a way to accurately tell the height of that mature maple tree in the school yard.

Teaching has its challenges and the time of year presents some of those challenges. If we as teachers are very aware of the impending end of the school year, there is no doubt that our students are just as aware and even more eager.

Now is a time for teachers to look over the school year that has its final run in view. We ask ourselves if we consider ourselves successful in our attempts to help our students become lifelong learners. We ask ourselves if we did our utmost to teach to the needs of all of our students. We ponder what changes we know we must make to ensure that the rest of this year and the years that are coming are the best possible for our students and ourselves. We know that once we

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## Meeting Info

See calendar for details



**May 16**

**Birthday Dinner**  
\$20 to treasurer by  
May 5th

**June 23**

Planning meeting

RSVP

jackie@mymartfamily.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!**



**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-Aid
- Bring Service Project Donations for MCV
- Initiation of New Members
- Installation of New Officers
- Recommitment Birthday Ceremony
- Door Prize

**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 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@mysmartfamily.com**

*(Continued from page 1)*

feel that we cannot improve on what we are doing it is time to step aside.

We know that the same can be said of our personal lives, as well. We always have room for improvement. Once we decide that no improvement is needed, we are not much good for ourselves or those around us. How fortunate we are that we are a part of a group of key women educators! We remind each other that we share a responsibility to help everyone become lifelong learners. The world will be better for our efforts.

**So says the prez!**

**Carol A. Anderson**



**Summer Reads**

Looking for a good summer read? These books were selected by librarians.

**Fiction**

***The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*** by Aimee Bender

Rose has a magical gift; she can taste others' emotions in the food she eats. But can you know too much about those you love?

***The Passage*** by Justin Cronin

After a military experiment goes very wrong, only a six year old girl can save the world from a man-made virus.

***The Lake of Dreams*** by Kim Edwards

A young woman is emboldened to live her life more freely after her visit home reveals that the family history she always believed isn't true.

***Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self***

by Danielle Evans

In her debut short story collection, the author tells what it's like dealing with family, relationships, race, belonging, and coming of age in America today.

***Faithful Place*** by Tana French

Rosie Daly ran away that night in 1985, didn't she? Twenty-two years later her suitcase is found abandoned nearby, but what happened to Rosie?

***Say Her Name*** by Francisco Goldman

A Brooklyn novelist keeps the memory of his wife, a Mexico City-born aspiring writer, alive after she dies in an accident before their second anniversary.

***The Surrendered*** by Chang-rae Lee

In 1950s Korea, an orphaned Korean girl and a former American soldier are saved by the attention of a missionary wife, herself orphaned by enemy soldiers.

***The Distant Hours*** by Kate Morton

Visiting the haunted English castle where her mother stayed during the London Blitz, a woman meets the three mysterious sisters who live there with their secrets.

***The Tiger's Wife*** by Tea Obreht

A woman in the Balkans searches for the cause of her grandfather's mysterious death and comes upon a fantastic story about a man who claims immortality.

***Foreign Bodies*** by Cynthia Ozick

In 1952, a divorced teacher leaves NYC for Paris to search for and bring home her estranged brother's son, but makes a mess of everything.

***Dreams of Joy*** by Lisa See

In 1957, a Chinese-American mother bravely tries to rescue her headstrong daughter, who has recklessly run away to China to find her real father.

***The Story of Beautiful Girl*** by Rachel Simon

A deaf man and a woman with a developmental disability go on the run together after falling in love and escaping from an abusive institution.

***A Curable Romantic*** by Joseph Skibell

A young doctor's experiences in Eastern Europe include romance, a meeting with Freud in Vienna, and the terror of the Warsaw Ghetto.

***Still Missing*** by Chevy Stevens

Annie O'Sullivan, a 32-year-old realtor, kidnapped and held hostage in a remote cabin for a year, escapes and then desperately tries to regain her own life.

***Vaclav & Lena*** by Haley Tanner

In Brighton Beach, a boy's mother calls authorities concerning his abused female classmate, and the two Russian émigré children are not reunited for seven years.

**Non-Fiction**

***The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*** by Isabel Wilkerson

From 1915 to 1970, almost six million African-Americans move from the South to Northern and Western states in a historic migration that changes our country.

***Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story of a Band of U.S. Soldiers Who Rode to Victory in Afghanistan*** by Doug Stanton

U.S. Special Forces soldiers secretly enter Afghanistan after 9/11 and ride horses against the Taliban to capture a strategically key city.

***Blood, Bones & Butter: The Inadvertent Education of a Reluctant Chef***

by Gabrielle Hamilton

A woman chronicles her path through a New Jersey childhood and a dysfunctional family life to become the successful chef / owner of NYC's East Village Prune restaurant.

***Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal***

by Conor Grennan

Volunteering at an orphanage in Nepal, a young man uncovers a terrible secret that turns into a dangerous rescue mission that will change his life.



### April 25, 2012 Minutes

Our meeting last night was well attended at Hayden's in Canton. Carol Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm. Carol Anderson shared a thank you note sent regarding the Metro Council Luncheon and how well it went. Amy Wainwright shared how well the service project is going and reminded us to have all of our donations for the house warming in by the May meeting.

At our 33rd Anniversary Birthday Dinner at Eastside Mario's on May 16th we will honor our 2 grant-in-aid recipients, Alyssa Sandoval and Kendall Carter. Also at our dinner we will be initiating 2 new members, honoring women of distinction and members that will be retiring. Please have your check to Cindy by May 5th for this event. The cost is \$ 20.00.

Sandy Becher won the 50/50 raffle of \$41.00. Pam Emerson will be sending us each a link to Capital Comments to help us stay current on the happenings in Lansing about the state of education in Michigan. The meeting as adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Andi Brancato, the Michigan Lottery Director of Public Relations, was our speaker. Our state lottery began in 1972 and is charged with generating revenue. The money generated goes to 4 funds, school aid, commissions, operating costs, and prizes. The school aid fund gets about 32% of what money is left after prizes are paid out. That money is given to the State Legislature and then given out to the districts. The lottery is always looking for new ways to improve. Andi reminded us that many prizes go unclaimed. Winners have 1 year to claim their prizes. Thanks to Marie for arranging this fun and informative speaker.

Submitted by Carol Palk

Recording Secretary



### May

4 Sandy Becher

4 Colleen Retherford

8 Carol Palk

**Happy Birthday, ladies!**



### 2011 Highlights for MCHS

- Provided a safe haven for 141 in their foster homes
- Helped heal 82 young men who came through the residential program
- Helped 49 children find adoption families
- Created “Bridge Builders Volunteer Program”
- 11 residents participated in SEMCA Summer Youth Employment Program. The program allows the teens to learn valuable life skills and real work experiences.



Amy with the first batch of MCHS “Apartment Shower” donations from our generous members.

## Mothers' Day Thoughts

A boy's best friend is his mother. - Joseph Stefano

A father may turn his back on his child, brothers and sisters may become inveterate enemies, husbands may desert their wives, wives their husbands. But a mother's love endures through all.- Washington Irving

A man loves his sweetheart the most, his wife the best, but his mother the longest. - Irish Proverb

A man's work is from sun to sun, but a mother's work is never done.

A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child. - Sophia Loren

A mother holds her children's hands for a while, their hearts forever.

A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie. - Tenneva Jordan

A mother is one to whom you hurry when you are troubled. - Emily Dickinson

A mother is someone who dreams great dreams for you, but then she lets you chase the dreams you have for yourself and loves you just the same.

A mother laughs our laughs, sheds our tears, returns our love, fears our fears. She lives our joys, cares our cares and all our hopes and dreams she shares.

A mother should be like a quilt--keep the children warm but don't smother them.

A mother understands what a child does not say. - Jewish Proverb

A mother's arms are made of tenderness and children sleep soundly in them - Victor Hugo

A mother's love is like a circle. It has no beginning and no ending. It keeps going around and around ever expanding, touching everyone who comes in contact with it. Engulfing them like the morning's mist, warming them like the noontime sun and covering them like a blanket of evening stars. A mother's love is like a circle. It has no beginning and no ending.

A mother's love is not blind; it's just very nearsighted.

All mothers are working mothers.



## You Can't Win if You Don't Play



“You can't win if you don't buy a ticket,” is the advice we received from our guest speaker, Andi Brancato, spokesman for the Michigan lottery. The three Mega millions winners weren't the only winners from the record \$656 million jackpot. The single drawing raised about \$10.6 million for the Michigan School Aid Fund. Last year the Michigan Lottery contributed \$727.3 million to the school aid funding; about 6.5 % of the total state funding for schools. However, the overall fund has slumped in recent years following the recession.

*Pictured are Andi and Marie Canzoneri. Marie arranged for Andi to come to our chapter meeting.*

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## Capital Comments

### Legislature Can't Agree on How Schools Can Spend Limited New Monies



Budget season is in full bloom in the Legislature, with votes being held on budget bills moved by various appropriations committees. In most cases, those committees were stingier in their proposals than Gov. Snyder's \$48.2 billion proposed budget. A budget must be in place by Sept. 30, but legislators plan on beating that deadline by having one in place by June 1.

While both the House and the Senate want to give more money to K-12 districts than the Governor does, they don't agree on how the money should be spent. Under the Senate proposal, richer districts would get \$100 more per pupil and low-funded districts would get \$200 more. The House is allocating \$248.5 million to cover a piece of each school district's employee retirement costs. Both fall far short of filling the \$1 billion hole left by last year's school cuts, made to help pay for a \$1.8 billion tax cut for corporate special interests.

The Governor and the Legislature agree that there should be a 3 percent increase in funding for community colleges and universities, but there is great disparity on what those institutions have to do to earn the money. There is \$36 million in performance funding for higher education at stake. House Republicans want the University of Michigan to disclose how many embryonic stem cell lines it has to get an extra \$4.78 million in state aid. They want Michigan State University to stop requiring students to carry health insurance or lose \$6.79 million in extra funding. Democrats aren't supporting the requirements.

**Gamma Alpha Chapter 33<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Birthday Dinner**

**May 16, 2012**

Arrive at 4:15 p.m. for meeting. Order dinner at 5:00



**Eastside Mario's  
31630 Plymouth Road  
Livonia, Michigan  
(734) 513-8803**



(Located on Plymouth Road between Farmington and Merriman Roads)

**Choice of:**

**N.Y.Strip**

**Eggplant Parmigiana**

**Fettucine Alfredo (w/ Chicken or Shrimp)**

**Lasagna al Forno**

**Tortellini**

**Seafood Linguine**

**Entrée choice will be made at the restaurant.**

**Dinner Includes:**

**Unlimited family-style garden salad**

**Freshly baked garlic home loaf**

**Pop, Coffee or Tea**

**Birthday Dessert**

**Before Dinner**

**Initiation of New Members**

**Award Scholarships/Grant-in-Aids**

**Certificate for Friend of Education**

**Honor Chapter Woman of Distinction &**

**Retiring Teachers**

**After Dinner**

**Installation of New Officers**

**33<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Celebration**

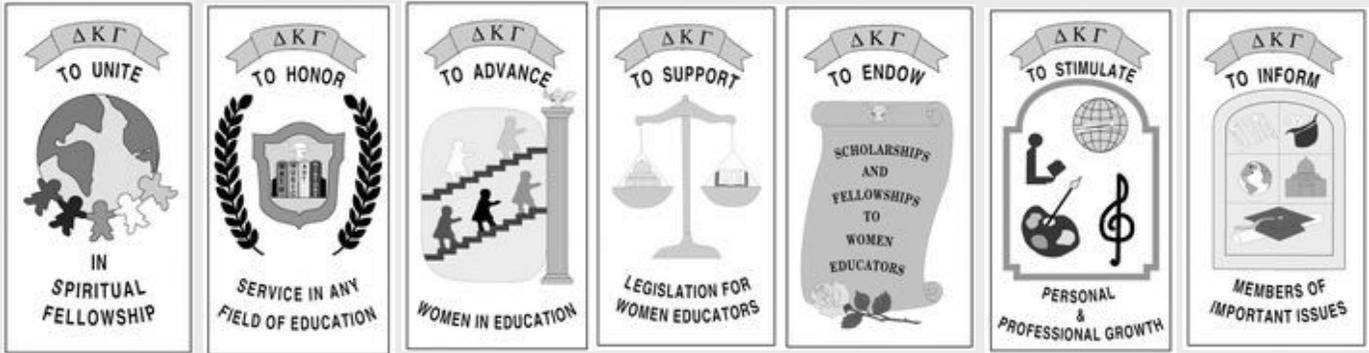
**RSVP by May 5, 2012**

**Send \$20 check made out to Gamma Alpha to treasurer:**

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

**Name \_\_\_\_\_**

## 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

### Movie Review

#### “Bully”

The documentary *Bully* is every bit as blunt and straightforward as its title. The director travels the country, introducing the audience to the kids being bullied by their classmates and to surviving parents whose children could no longer handle the relentless taunting and took their own lives. Sometimes you get glimpses of the bullies themselves, timid in the presence of adult authority, but outrageously aggressive as they punch and spew slurs at their victims.

The film has its faults, but it manages to make a ferociously political point. Whether it's the clueless vice principal who chides a bully's victim for not readily accepting his bully's "apology," or the parents who insist that their bullied son stand up for himself, the film shows us adults who just don't get it, or who don't have the integrity or intelligence to effect large-scale culture change. If you thought *Waiting for Superman* presented a critical portrait of public school teachers and administrators, wait until you see this. Be warned, *Bully* doesn't have you leaving the theater feeling optimistic.

