



Serving Women Educators from Livonia and Wayne-Westland Schools

Member of Detroit Metro Coordinating Council

Volume 34 Issue 5 May 2014

## Gamma Alpha Bulletin The G.A.B. “Let’s Talk”

### President’s Message



Greetings, Gamma Alpha sisters,

Since March, we have been a very busy group! The location of our casual meeting to work on name tags, favors and table decor for the Metro Council Luncheon was moved to Judi Fisher’s home. Esther and Grace had done such a good job with the preparations that everything was put together in record time. Metro Council is also extremely fortunate Cindy Dietz, handles all the financial matters for them too! She collected the monies and dealt with each chapter’s food orders allowing the color-coding of all the nametags to indicate the meal chosen. As far as the Luncheon itself at Karl’s Cabin, it was quite lovely, due to the planning and organizational skills of our very own Jackie Smart—AKA—Jane Austen! She thought it would be interesting and educational for other sisters in the Metro Council to be entertained by the “Apron Lady”, first introduced to our chapter by Pam Emerson at our meeting at Carole Lower’s house. Everyone appreciated the program and was amazed our speaker made all the aprons herself. Many of the attendees got into the swing of things by wearing or bringing a special apron to the festivities—again Jackie’s idea. Jackie’s apron will be long remembered—ask her! Our same idea lady thought we should also

incorporate a variation of the White Rose Celebration of Life Ceremony to honor our two Metro Council sisters who passed away this year: Dr. Paula Dent of Zeta and Dr. Geraldine (Gerry) Green of Beta Delta. Jackie found a script appropriate to our setting and I led the Ceremony with help from Zeta member Theresa Lorio and Beta Delta member Gladys Coats.

Under Jackie’s guidance our chapter and other attendees also honored the 12 women who founded DKG long ago in Texas. As the meeting finished, we all enjoyed a variety of elegant, home-made desserts created by our own very talented Helen Mate! Many of us were also fortunate to win one of the Chive Baskets created by Esther as our table decorations. As usual our chapter was well represented—18 members!!!

I would like to thank all of you for choosing me this year as the “Chapter Woman of Distinction”, and I will continue striving to be worthy of the honor.

Gamma Alpha continued their participatory trend May 2-4 at the Spring Convention at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Our chapter had 37.5% who made the trek up to the island. Fortunately, the ice had finally been broken up, and though the ferry schedule was iffy up until the Friday, we went over, no one had to fly in or ride the supply ferries that brought in the horses, food, workers and whatever the previously icebound island needed.

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### Meeting Info

See calendar for details



**May 21**

#### Birthday Dinner—5pm

East Side Mario’s  
31630 Plymouth Rd  
Livonia, MI 48150

**June 25**

#### Planning Meeting-11am

Lynne Elsesser’s  
20440 Lexington  
Northville 48167

RSVP to

Judi Fisher at

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

(248) 808-0477



**Mark your calendars now!**



**May 21, 2014**

**Birthday Dinner**

**Place:**

East Side Mario's  
31630 Plymouth Rd  
Livonia, MI 48150  
(734) 513-8803



**Time:** 5:00 pm

**Program:**

- Installation of New Officers
- Grant-in-Aid Presentation
- Honor Retirees
- Friend of Education Award
- Gamma Alpha Birthday Program

**June 25, 2014**

**Executive Board & Planning Potluck**

**Place:**

Lynne Elsesser's home  
20440 Lexington  
Northville 48167  
elsessl2@wowway.com



**Time:** 11:00 am

**July 28-August 1, 2014**

**International Convention**

Indianapolis, IN



*(continued from page 1)*

Once on the island and at the hotel, everything went very well. The hotel was warm and hospitable, the company outstanding, the meals were “grand” and our speakers were knowledgeable and except for one who tried to condense his talk about the Grand Hotel’s history into an hour and failed by 45 minutes causing our meeting to last quite a bit longer than anticipated, enjoyed by one and all! Our favorite session among the many offered starred our own Jackie Smart as Jane Austen, dressed appropriately in clothing of the era created by Esther, and featuring memorabilia, photos, surprise guests (male) and personal insight into the author and her life. We will have to have Jackie present Jane’s story for all of us! Several members also helped at the Convention in other ways too. Amy and Esther were Scribes for sessions, Jackie worked as Chair of Personal Growth and Services, Judi as Chair of Funding Our Purposes made sure we had proper licensing for our auction and raffles as well as transferring funds to the State Treasurer and working in the auction/properties room, and I was part of the Celebration of Life/Ceremony of Remembrance honoring the 16 wonderful, accomplished women lost to our chapters throughout the state. At the Awards Brunch, Elizabeth Bunner was honored for her 44 (actually 46) years in DKG and I was again honored as Gamma Alpha’s Chapter woman of Distinction. Upcoming opportunities to get together include Fall Conference at Firekeepers near Battle Creek, Spring Convention in Pontiac, also, “Women in the Arts” the third weekend in October.

You will receive an email about the Birthday Dinner at East-Side Marios on the 21<sup>st</sup> ( with desserts by Helen) and the planning meeting on the 25th of June at my house. We all bring something and set the meeting dates and programs. Proposed ideas include: Rebecca, a scholarship recipient, speaking about China; Nancy Higgins (Zeta) speaking on women’s health issues, Rochelle Balkam’s presentation on one room school houses, Jackie’s Jane Austen presentation; Essential oils therapy session; and whatever ideas you have—perhaps pros and cons of “Common Core” or other current educational topics. Come to the meeting and we’ll decide together!

Yours in DKG,  
Lynne

# Happy Birthday Ladies!



After the chilly hike up to the Grand Hotel, Amy was glad she didn't have to pay the extra \$10 fee.



## May

- 5/4 Sandy Becher
- 5/4 Colleen Retherford
- 5/15 Carol Palk



Lynne, Linda, and Elizabeth at the Awards Brunch on Sunday

## June

- 6/11 Fran Saenz

### Please note

The date for the planning meeting has changed from Wednesday June 18th to the following week Wednesday June 25th.

Be on the look out for fun, creative program ideas!

### Longevity Award



Gamma Alpha Chapter Woman of Distinction  
Lynne Elsesser



Elizabeth Bunner was received a Longevity Award for her 44 years of membership in DKG!



Amy, Pam, and Marilyn were first-timers to the State convention at the Grand Hotel.

## Minutes of Gamma Alpha Meeting

**March 19, 2014**

Meeting was held at Cassel's Restaurant and called to order at 5:05 by vice-president Mary Jo Dreffs.

The agenda was adjusted so that our guest speaker was able to make his presentation before the business meeting. Gary F. Allen, Attorney at Law, specialist in estate and retirement planning spoke about the need to understand the options available for retirees and their assets. Different types of insurance, annuities, crisis planning and other issues were discussed. Many questions were answered and many others asked. Mr. Allen offered each member a free 1-hour consultation at his office.

The business meeting followed beginning with approval of minutes from the previous meeting.

Treasurer Cindy Dietz reported that there is \$10,000 in savings and \$2,000 in checking. Cindy asked for discretion to assign funds for regular projects such as the Beverly House, the grant-in-aid, etc. Mary Jo Dreffs moved and Judi Fisher seconded Cindy's request. Passed.

The Metro Council Luncheon will be held on April 26. \$20 must be paid to Cindy by April 1.

The flower fundraiser forms were available at the meeting. Payment for flowers just be received by Cindy by April 26.

The chapter birthday dinner will be held on May 21 at Eastside Mario's. Send RSVP and \$20 to Cindy by May 5.

Jackie informed us that Chris Smith has moved to Florida and has just discovered that she has colon cancer. She will be undergoing treatment. A card was passed for members to sign.

The death of Dr. Geraldine Green of Beta Delta chapter was announced. Dr. Gerry was known by many members.

Judi Fisher explained that the auction of gift baskets at the state convention is more closely monitored because of state gambling regulations. After some discussion, the chapter decided not to donate a basket for the auction this year.

Donna Colaianne has revised the grant-in-aid application form for this year. She will make the form available to members via e-mail. She announced that she will be traveling overseas to visit her niece who was a recipient last year and is now a teacher in China.

Judy Morante reported that the free passes to the Wayne Rec Center for the 6 residents of the Beverly House were used for swimming and ice skating. The girls were greatly appreciative. With a move by Cindy Dietz and a second by Carol Palk, it was decided that the chapter will provide money for manicure/pedicures for the girls in April. In May, summer bags will be filled with beach towels and other summer items for the girls.

19 chapter members reported plans to attend the Alpha Iota State convention on Mackinac Island in May.

The chapter agreed to continue meeting at Cassel's next year.

The planning meeting originally scheduled for June 18 is moved to

June 25. Time and place are not changed. All are encouraged to attend.

The April 9 meeting at Carole Lower's house will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 rather than the previously scheduled later time. No meal will be planned. Members will work on favors for the Metro Council Luncheon. (Thanks to craft artists Esther and Grace!)

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15.

Submitted by Carol A. Anderson

Recording Secretary

Gamma Alpha

