



Serving Women Educators from Livonia and Wayne-Westland Schools

Member of Detroit Metro Coordinating Council

Volume 35 Issue 1 September 2014

# Gamma Alpha Bulletin

## The G.A.B. “Let’s Talk”

### President’s Message



Lynne’s Presidential Challenge 2014-2016

Two years ago, I did not anticipate again being chosen as your president for the next biennium, yet here I am. Honored by the opportunity to again serve such a talented group of women whose focus during much of their lives was and is to be dedicated, innovative, creative guides for the students entrusted to their care. You are what epitomizes our field and our organization—outstanding women educators, no matter what your area of expertise. Whether you are retired or not, you never stop being a teacher. You see a child or other person in need and you help—not just with “lip service”, but with your time, energy and, of course, other needed donations. You are Gamma Alpha and should be very proud of what you and other sisters have accomplished since Sherry, Ev, Susanne and the other Charter Members got together and formed this chapter 35 years ago in 1979! Our job, and I know we will accept it, is to keep our chapter strong and growing while striving to meet the needs of all our members.

I sincerely hope that as your President I have continued to make both old and new members feel welcomed. I and my Executive Board have presided over great programs suggested by you!—with

one notable exception that was a bit of a “washer” out in that I neglected to add an alternate activity for those not creating jewelry. I know I have learned a lot and will continue to do so over the next two years. I am heartened by the members who have already mentioned that they are inviting more key women educators to join us. I know we will go out of our way to make them feel a part of our group and to encourage them to stay with us as members. I would also encourage each of you to reach out to our sisters who, for whatever reason, left the group. If their situations have changed, they may again want the camaraderie and opportunities to do “good works” that we offer.

I feel Gamma Alpha will continue to grow and thrive because we are not afraid of facing challenges—we see what would benefit from change and try to facilitate it—for example, the majority of our communications are now done electronically--saving money and time; when it was suggested to switch from giving scholarships to prospective teachers to giving grants to early career educators, we did it and saw a successful outcome which led to possibly life-changing experiences for students in one of our districts; we changed the focus of our Special Project to the Beverly House and have definitely made a change in the lives of some young women who have now had some positive experiences they might never have had without YOU!

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Inside this issue:

Calendar	2-3
Birthdays	3
Minutes	4
Service Project	5
Recipe	5
Mindset List	6

### Meeting Info

See calendar for details



#### September 17

#### Vacation Auction

Cassel’s Family Restaurant

43003 7 Mile Rd.

Northville, MI

5:30pm

#### October 8

#### Remembering One Room Schools

Greenmead

5:30pm

RSVP to

Judi Fisher at

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

(248) 808-0477



## Gamma Alpha Bulletin

Mark your calendars now!



**August 23, 2014**

Summer PAC Meeting in Lansing

**September 17, 2014**

**Place:** Cassels Restaurant in Northville

43003 7 Mile Rd

Northville, MI 48167

(248) 348-1740

**Time:** 5:30-7:00

**Program:** Business Meeting

Vacation Auction

Used book sale

- *Bring prospective members!*
- *Holiday Auction Meeting-after the meeting those interested in helping with the auction will meet to discuss assignments.*



**October 8, 2014**

**Place:** Livonia's Historic Greenmead School and Quaker Meeting House

**Time:** 5:30-7:30

**Program:** Rochelle Balkam "Remembering One-Room Schools"

We start the meeting at the school. A docent will speak to us about Greenmead's school. At 6:00 we walk to the Quaker Meeting House for Rochelle's program

- ***Bring items for "Fall Colors" Basket!***



**October 10-11, 2014**

State Executive Board & Fall Conference

Firekeepers Casino

Battle Creek

**October 17-19, 2014**

Women in the Arts

Higgins Lake

**November 5, 2014**

**Place:** Cassels Restaurant in Northville

43003 7 Mile Rd

Northville, MI 48167

(248) 348-1740

**Time:** 5:30-7:30

**Program:** Linus Quilt Project and Initiation of New Members.

Used book sale

- *Amy Wright's Birthday*



**December 3 2014**

**Place:** Laurel Manor

Laurel Manor

39000 Schoolcraft

Livonia, MI 48150

(734) 462-0770

**Time:** 4:30 - 7:30

**Program:** Annual Holiday Auction

· Arrive at Laurel Manor at 4:00 to set up registration and set up auction items.

· Guests arrive at 4:30.

· Appetizers/Cocktails/Bid on Silent Items/ Tickets in Cups: 4:30-5:00

· Start pulling cup tickets 5:15-5:30 and between dinner courses

· Dinner: 5:30-6:30 (Silent auction ends)

Live Auction 6:30-7:30

*Pam Husson's birthday*



**January 21, 2015**

Gamma Alpha Executive Board & Chapter Meeting

**Place:**

Cassels Restaurant in Northville

43003 7 Mile Rd

Northville, MI 48167  
(248) 348-1740

**Time:** 5:30 pm

**Program:** Jackie Smart-Jane Austen and Her Fictional Men

50/50



*(Executive Board meets one hour prior to the meeting to complete annual reports.)*

**March 18, 2015**

**Place:**

Cassels Restaurant in Northville  
43003 7 Mile Rd  
Northville, MI 48167  
(248) 348-1740



**Time:** 5:30 pm

**Program:** Nancy Higgins and Women's Health  
50/50

**April 25, 2015 Metro Council Meeting**

**Place:** TBD

**Time:** TBD (approximately lunch time)

**Program:** TBD

**May 1-3, 2015**

Annual State Convention  
Auburn Hills Marriott, Pontiac at Centerpoint

**May 20, 2015**

Birthday Dinner

**Place:** Plymouth Crossing

**Time:** 5:00 pm

**Program:** Installation of New Officers  
Grant-in-Aid Presentation



Honor Retirees  
Friend of Education Award  
Gamma Alpha Birthday Program  
Linus Quilt Project  
Beverly Girls' Group Home

**June 17, 2015**

Executive Board & Planning Potluck

**Place:**

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



**Time:** 11:00 am

**July 8-11, 2015**

Northeast Regional Conference (NERC)  
Baltimore, MD

- Joanna Eiwani's birthday

**Happy Birthday Ladies!**

**August**

8/20 Grace Morgan

**September**

9/9 Cindy Dietz

9/16 Carole Lower

9/19 Helen Mate

9/30 Jackie Smart



*(President's Message from page 1)*

Ask Grace Morgan what the young woman she worked with on the Fleece Blanket Project asked her about us! So many members have worked directly on these projects and others, have donated to and supported our causes, have volunteered in classrooms and for Seedlings, have helped facilitate great Metro Council Meetings, have served as State Officers and State Committee Chairs/Members, have attended and worked at State, NE Regional and International Conventions, Fall Workshops and Women in the Arts that Gamma Alpha is known and respected throughout Alpha Iota State and DKG International! Your challenge is to continue doing what you do, at whatever level you can, and mine and that of my outstanding Executive Board is to help in whatever way we can!

Yours in DKG,

Lynne

### Minutes June 25, 2014



The following women attended the meeting: Lynne, Colleen, Marie, Lisa, Grace, Jackie, Judi, Carole L., and Mary Jo. Thanks to Carole for hosting this meeting. The food was delicious!

Lynne shared thank you cards with us from Ev and the girls from Beverly House.

We tentatively planned an exciting and informative year of meetings. Here are the ideas that are being planned:

**September 7** Business meeting/ Vacation auction (remember to collect great things from all of your trips this summer!) (Invite your prospective members)

**October 8** Rochelle Balkam will be speaking about one room schoolhouses in Michigan.

We hope to meet in an actual one room schoolhouse. Jackie and Colleen will let Lynne know by July 9.

**November 5** Marie is setting up our involvement in Project Linus. At the meeting we would decorate quilt squares which will be put together and given to children with cancer. The finished quilt will be displayed for us to see at the Birthday Dinner.

We discussed making up quilt kits of materials to give to the girls at Beverly House so that they could make some for themselves and other children. Grace will check into this project.

Initiation of new members will take place at this meeting but future members may be invited to September and/or October meetings.

**December 3** Holiday Auction/Soiree

Currently scheduled for Laurel Manor but Jackie is checking on other places.

**January 21** We persuaded Jackie to put on her presentation about Jane Austin because so many of us were unable to attend the state convention.

**No February meeting**

**March 18** Our guest will be Nancy Higgins speaking about women's health.

**May 1-3** State convention

**May 20** Birthday Dinner (Marie is checking into Antonio's in Canton. If anyone has other ideas please let Lynne know ASAP so we can schedule.)

**June 17** Planning meeting

**Other dates of interest:**

April 25 (tentative) Metro Council

May 1-3 State convention

Respectively submitted  
by Mary Jo Dreffs



## Beverly House Summer Service Project



Grace Morgan organized a craft event, held this August at her church, for the girls of the Beverly House. Each girl is proudly holding the blanket she made.



Helen Mate and Jackie Smart hard at work meticulously cutting and tying the fringe edges.

## Here's What's Cooking: Husson's Hasty Tasty Banana Bread

Pam Husson maintains one hour is *too long* to wait for a delicious loaf of banana bread to emerge from the oven. Here is her favorite go-to recipe for dealing with those pesky over-ripe bananas lingering on the kitchen counter.

### Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened  
2 eggs  
1/4 cup milk  
2 cups unsifted flour  
1/2 tsp salt

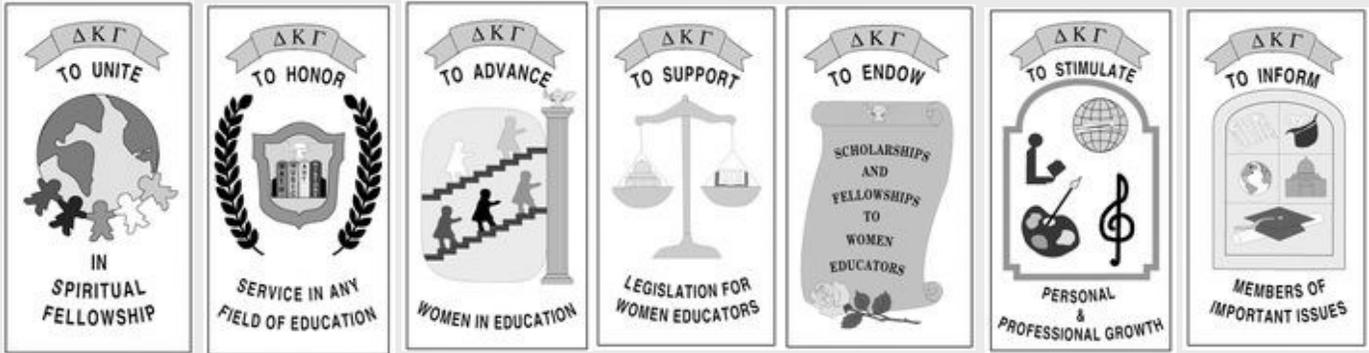
1 cup sugar  
1 cup (2 medium) mashed bananas  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 tsp baking soda  
1/2 cup chopped nuts

Preheat oven to 350°

Cream butter & sugar. Beat in eggs one at a time. Stir in banana, milk & vanilla. Add remaining ingredients and stir by hand just until combined. Pour into a greased 9 x 13 pan. Bake 20-23 minutes, until batter pulls away from sides.



## Seven Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International



### Beloit College Mindset List

The Beloit College “Mindset List” has been released annually since 1998. It was created by Ron Nief, former Public Affairs Director, and Tom McBride, Humanities Professor, and distributed to the faculty to help them to better connect with the incoming freshman class. Highlights from this year’s list include:

- The Biblical sources of terms such as “Forbidden Fruit,” “The writing on the wall,” “Good Samaritan,” and “The Promised Land” are unknown to most of them.
- They have never seen an airplane “ticket.”
- For most of their lives, maintaining relations between the U.S. and the rest of the world has been a woman’s job in the State Department.
- Having grown up with MP3s and iPods, they never listen to music on the car radio and really have no use for radio at all.
- Their folks have never gazed with pride on a new set of bound encyclopedias on the bookshelf.
- Exposed bra straps have always been a fashion statement, not a wardrobe malfunction to be corrected quietly by well-meaning friends.
- Outdated icons with images of floppy discs for “save,” a telephone for “phone,” and a snail mail envelope for “mail” have oddly decorated their tablets and smart phone screens.

Find the complete Mindset List at [www.beloit.edu/mindset](http://www.beloit.edu/mindset)

## September Meeting

### Meeting Location

Cassel’s Family Restaurant  
43003 7 Mile Road  
Northville, MI 48167

<http://casselsrestaurant.com/>

### Map/Directions:

<http://mapq.st/12CYRAF>

### Program

#### Vacation Auction

Bring a memento of your summer fun!

#### Used Book & Media Sale

Bring the books, magazines, CDs, & DVDs you have enjoyed and ready to share with others.

**\*\*\*Please bring prospective members**