



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
DKG

Serving Women Educators from Western Wayne County
Gamma Alpha is a Member of Detroit Metro Coordinating Council
January/February, 2020
Volume 40, Issue 4



GAMMA ALPHA
BULLETIN

Presidents' Message

Gamma Alpha Friends,

It's a brand-new year and a brand-new decade! New Year's resolutions abound. January is a time for new beginnings and new projects, however, remember to be kind to yourself. Don't force yourself into a gloomy austerity plan. Give yourself fun and enjoyable goals to have something to look forward to during the cold, gray winter days. Plan a trip, or, better yet, a cruise with a DKG sister! We Gamma Alpha girls do enjoy a good cruise in good company!

As you are switching over to your 2020 calendars and day planners, don't forget to pencil in the Gamma Alpha events that we have planned.

Our January meeting is reserved for fellowship. Claddagh Irish Pub (our original venue for the meeting) closed for business in December so we needed to find another place for the meeting. We have arranged for a private room at the Sports Den in Northville. The restaurant is located on the corner across from the library. The Executive Board (chapter officers) will start one hour before the meeting. We need to have a slate of officers for the next biennium to present to the membership. Rosa Russenberger is chair of the Nominations Committee. Let Rosa know your intentions if you are willing to serve as an officer the next biennium (July 1, 2020—June 30, 2022.) Please consider volunteering or recommending another member to serve as a chapter officer.

I hope you are looking forward to our Wild Women of Detroit Bus Tour. Get your money to Cindy this month to reserve your spot.

Today I was contacted by the president of the Ann Arbor chapter about one of their upcoming events. Details will be forthcoming. I look forward to seeing all of you at our January meeting. If you are unable to attend because you are off somewhere sunny and fabulous, send a picture of you on your travels to include in the newsletter. If you are babysitting a grandchild, send a photo of you both wearing your sunniest smiles for the newsletter.

Yours in DKG,
Amy Wright

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REMINDERS

The January meeting will be held at the Sports Den located at 133 W. Main Street Northville

While Jackie is gone, RSVP to Judi Fisher.

judifisher@yahoo.com

2019-2020 MEETING CALENDAR

January 23, 2020 (Thursday)

Place: Sports Den

133 W. Main Street

Northville 48167

Livonia 48152

Time: 5:30 PM-7 :30 PM

Short Business Meeting

New Slate of Officers presented by Nominations Chair, Rosa Russenberg

Dinner and Fellowship

(One hour prior to meeting, Executive Board meets to complete reports)

March 25, 2020 NEW date

Place: Northville Library

Time: 5:45 PM - 7:30 PM

Another group has the room until 5:30 so arrive at 5:45.

Speaker will begin at 6:00 PM.

Program:

Erin Bartells is the author of *We Hope for Better Things*, a Christy Award finalist, and *The Words between Us*, which was a finalist for the 2015 Rising Star Award from the Women's Fiction Writers



Association. Her short story "This Elegant Ruin" was a finalist in *The Saturday Evening Post* 2014 Great American Fiction Contest. Her poems have been published by *The Lyric* and The East Lansing Poetry Attack. A member of the Capital City Writers Association and the Women's Fiction Writers Association, she is former features editor of WFWA's *Write On!* magazine and current director of the annual WFWA Writers Retreat in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

She grew up in the Bay City area waiting for freighters and sailboats at drawbridges and watching the best 4th of July fireworks displays in the nation. She spent her college and young married years in Grand Rapids feeling decidedly not-Dutch. She currently lives with her husband and son in Lansing, nestled somewhere between angry protesters on the Capitol lawn and couch-burning frat boys at Michigan State University. And yet, she claims it is really quite peaceful. Please join us for an interesting evening with a wonderful author.

7:00 PM - Dinner following meeting in Northville

April 2, 2020

Place: Northville Library

Time: 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Speaker: Carol Anderson's sister-in-law, Peg Flatt will speak to the group about her experiences as a Vietnam M.A.S.H. nurse.

April 24-26, 2030

DKG Michigan State Organization Executive Board and State Convention

DoubleTree by Hilton Port Huron & Blue Water Convention Center

500 Thomas Edison Parkway

Port Huron, MI 48060

Information will be in future newsletters and the *Wolverine*

Saturday May 2, 2020 Metro Council Field Trip

Program: Wild Women of Detroit Bus Tour

Cost: \$65

Time: 10:00 am to 2:30 pm

Detroit may have been founded in 1701, by the French explorer and adventurer Antoine Laumet de La Mothe sieur de Cadillac, but it was his wife Marie who decided much of the town's original layout. From the very beginning Detroit has been a dame's town. Home to broads, women, cats, ladies, and Rosies, the Motor City's story is interlaced with the triumphs, adventures, dalliances and deeds of its female inhabitants. Join Metro Council for the Detroit History Tours on a 4 hour bus tour of some "Wild Women of Detroit" and their stories. You'll hear about Madam Cadillac to Motown greats, prostitutes to murderers, cults to saints, and so much more. Our tour guide will share stories about civil war spies and prohibition smuggling. You'll learn the verdict of the first all-female jury in Michigan and the story of a woman known as "Rocking Chair."

Together we will enjoy a deli tray from Dan and Vi's with chips and a cookie. It promises to be a wonderful day on The Detroit History Tours "Wild Women of Detroit" tour. Because a bit of swearing comes with the history, all public bus tours are a strict 21 years old and older. Alcoholic beverages are NOT allowed on the bus (DARN.) Bottled water is provided at no cost and guests may bring snacks or nonalcoholic beverages on board.

The tour leaves promptly at 10:00 am and returns at 2:30 pm from Millennium Park in Livonia. Millennium Park is located on Middlebelt and I-96. We will park near the service drive in front the Home Depot parking lot. Home Depot is directly behind Costco. There will be a sign. Boarding starts at 10:00 AM. The bus holds 52 passengers and we need 46 attendees to make the trip less costly.

DKG members and their guests are welcome (although DKG members will have priority.) We will not honor our Chapter Women of Distinction or Lifetime Service Awardees at this time. We'll do this at the Birthday Dinner. **See flyer in the newsletter.**

May 21, 2020 (Thursday) Birthday Dinner

Karl's Cabin

6005 Gotfredson Road

Plymouth, MI

Time: 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Cost: Approximately \$33

Program: Gamma Alpha Chapter's 41st Birthday Dinner will be held at Karl's Cabin. We will honor Chapter Woman of Distinction, Friend of Education, Retirees, and, Lifetime Service Awardee. We will meet our Grant-in-Aid Recipient. Carole Lower will induct new members. Judy Morante will collect the baby clothes for Beverly Home for Pregnant Teens. New Gamma Alpha officers will be installed.

June 13, 20, or 27, 2020 (Date TBD) Planning Meeting

Place: TBD

Time: 11:00 - 2:00

Bring: Sign-up Genius for Dish to Pass, Program ideas



July 7-11, 2020 International Convention in Philadelphia, PA (More details later)

BIRTHDAYS

January

- 1 Carol Anderson
- 6 Rosa Russenberger
- 7 Donna Colaianne
- 8 Margie Sievert
- 13 Mary Jo Dreffs
- 31 Marie Canzoneri



February

- 12 Nancy Schuyten
- 17 Elizabeth Bunner
- 19 Carol VandenBrul
- 29 Marge Braun

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Chai-Spiced Chicken Breast



This satisfying chicken dish calls for just five ingredients. One of them is chai tea, which is mixed into a paste with oil and spread under the chicken skin to flavor the meat as it roasts.

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
 - 2 tablespoons crushed loose chai tea (from 6 bags, if using)
 - 2 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
 - 3/4 teaspoon pepper
 - Six 8-to 10-ounce bone-in skin-on chicken breast halves
 - 1 cup chopped cilantro
 - Lime wedges, for serving
1. Preheat the oven to 450°.
 2. In a bowl, whisk the oil with the tea, salt and pepper.
 3. Rub the chai mixture all over the chicken breast halves and under the skin.
 4. Set the chicken skin side up on a large rimmed baking sheet and roast for about 30 minutes until browned.
 5. Insert an instant-read thermometer in the thickest part of each breast registers. It should read 160°.
 6. Let rest for 10 minutes.
 7. Then transfer to a platter.
 8. Scatter the cilantro on top and serve with lime wedges.



Metro Council Flyer

"Wild Women of Detroit" Bus Tour

Join Metro Council on a 4-hour bus tour of some "Wild Women of Detroit" and their stories. It is mainly a "driving" tour, but the bus stops at Belle Isle to view one of the public sculptures and a few other places of interest.

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2020

Time: 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Boarding is at 10:00 AM and returns at 2:30 PM from Millennium Park in Livonia. Millennium Park is located on Middlebelt and I-96. We will park near the service drive in front of the Home Depot parking lot. Home Depot is directly behind Costco.



Cost: \$65

(Price includes lunch and the cost of the bus.)

Additional information

1. The bus holds 52 passengers
2. We will open the tour to DKG members in Metro Council, Oakland Coordinating Council, and River Lake Council, and guests. Metro Council members will have priority if we have a "flood" of people. Wanting to attend our field trip.
3. As far as handicapped access, the bus company Detroit Historic Tours uses said they can place a wheelchair in the storage area under the passenger compartment. (Obviously, she would need to be able to get on the bus.)
4. There is some walking, but it is mainly a driving tour.
5. Lunch will be on the bus to save time.
6. There is a bathroom on the bus.

Send your check to your chapter treasurer now so you don't miss out!

To save your seat on the bus, give your check for \$65.00 payable to Delta Kappa Gamma to your chapter treasurer and all chapter treasurers will send **ONE** check with names of those attending to Metro Council Treasurer, Cindy Dietz.

REMEMBER

RSVP to your chapter treasurer.

Chapter treasurer sends one check to Cindy by January 31, 2020.*

Cindy Dietz
7329 Gilman
Westland, MI 48185
cdietz02@comcast.net
734-427-9399

EDUCATION NEWS

Every two years, results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) - also known as The Nation's Report Card - are released. The report card is based on NAEP's test of math and reading skills for students in grades 4, 8, and 12. This year's results show that 4th - 8th grade proficiency is declining, as only about a third of students in grades 4 and 8 were found to be reading at a proficient level.

U of M School of Education professor Nell Duke and colleagues Liana Loewus (Education Week), Emily Hanford (education correspondent for American Public Media), and Kelly Butler (Barksdale Reading Institute) were interviewed on National Public Radio's *On Point* program to comment on these recently announced results.

NPR host Meghna Chakrabarti asked the experts about the possible reasons for low proficiency scores, and they acknowledged that NAEP's results are similar to scores from other national reading tests, demonstrating that the country's young students indeed struggle with literacy, just as some educators struggle with teaching it.

Learning to read, mentioned Chakrabarti, is not a process that people learn naturally—in the same way that we learn to talk. She said that most reading challenges stem from this and from the fact that reading comprehension requires both decoding (the ability to recognize words in print) and language comprehension (which is limited by the extent of one's vocabulary). Young students who are new to school know the meaning of many words, but they are most challenged by the decoding aspect, or the reading of these words, added Emily Hanford. "There are pieces that need to be put together that lead to skilled reading."

When asked what effective reading instruction ought to look like, Duke replied that foundational skills, including phonological awareness and phonics, do need to be a focus. She said that experts recommend spending 30 to 60 minutes of a school day on phonics. She maintained that teachers should also spend significant time developing students' academic vocabulary and content knowledge in areas like science and social studies. "We know from scientific research that those also have a big impact on literacy levels and reading achievement," she said.

"We also need to teach kids about texts," Duke added. "There's quite a bit of scientific research that if you teach children how text is structured, for example, that sometimes it compares and contrasts a topic, or sometimes it presents a problem and then a solution, then it raises reading comprehension achievement as well. So, I'm just giving you a sense of the many different things that need to happen over the course of a school day, in order to develop strong readers and writers."

Reading education is most effective when teachers are working with research-backed content as well as utilizing scientifically-aligned professional development practices, Duke emphasized.

BOOK SHELF

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek

*The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek is a powerful message about how the written word affects people - a story of hope and heartbreak, raw courage and strength splintered with poverty and oppression, and one woman's chances beyond the darkly hollows. Inspired by the true and historical blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service, **The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek** showcases a bold and unique tale of the Pack horse Librarians in literary novels - a story of fierce strength and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere - even back home.*

In 1936, tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives blue-skinned 19-year-old Cussy Carter, the last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry. The lonely young Appalachian woman joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a librarian, riding across slippery creek beds and up treacherous mountains on her faithful mule to deliver books and other reading materials to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky.

Cussy befriends hard-working and complex fellow Kentuckians. She is fiercely determined to bring the joy of reading to those who have nothing but a desire to retreat into a book.



GAMMA ALPHA EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMITTEES



Co Presidents Liz Frazier & Amy Wright
amosande@hotmail.com

Carole Lower, Vice-President & Membership
carole_lower@yahoo.com

Joanna Eiwen, Secretary
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Jackie Smart, Corresponding Secretary
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Cindy Dietz, Treasurer
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Barbara Broadley, Parliamentarian
Bebrib@aol.com

Committees

Grant-in-Aid - Joanna Eiwen

Newsletter & Yearbook Editor – Jackie Smart

Service Projects - Judy Morante, Lynne Elsesser, & Judi Fisher

Finance - Judi Fisher

Sunshine - Esther Loskowske

Vacation Auction - Mary Jo Dreffs, Carol Palk, Sherry Green

50/50 - Cindy Dietz & Esther Loskowske

Used Book Sale –Margie Sievert

Gamma Alpha Annual Auction - Jackie Smart, Pam Husson, Esther Loskowske, Cindy Dietz (& all Gamma Alpha Members)

If you would like to be part of a committee, please contact Colleen or Amy.

WEBSITES

DKG Gamma Alpha
www.migammaalpha.org

DKG Michigan
www.dkgmichigan.org

DKG International
www.dkg.org

Funding, Literacy Top Launch Michigan Recommendations

Amid a contentious political scene nationally, a diverse group of Michigan leaders from the education, business, civic, and philanthropic realms – often at odds in the political arena – have spent the past 18 months seeking common ground on education policy.

On Wednesday, the unusual coalition known as Launch Michigan released its first set of recommendations for rebuilding a public education system battered by years of underfunding and punitive accountability approaches.

The phase-one agenda for 2020 includes a focus on elementary literacy and increased funding based on need, commonly referred to as weighted funding, in which all schools receive the same base amount with additional money allocated for at-risk and underserved students.

Beginning the coalition’s advocacy work with an emphasis on providing adequate and equitable resources is an important start, said MEA President Paula Herbart, a co-chair of Launch Michigan’s steering committee.

“To be successful we must fund our students, we must fund our educators, and we must value and respect what they do for our economy in the state of Michigan and for the global society at large,” Herbart said – echoing themes from her Detroit News column about Launch’s focus on literacy and poverty published Wednesday.

For too long, “fixes” to the education system have been mandated without the input or broad support of educators, said Doug Rothwell, a Launch Michigan co-chair and CEO of Business Leaders for Michigan.

“Launch Michigan represents a different approach,” Rothwell said. “Never before in Michigan’s history has such a diverse coalition aligned behind a common set of education improvement recommendations.”

Next the panel will begin the work of advocating for the recommended changes at the Legislature even as efforts continue to devise more specific strategies for long-term system improvements.

“The past year’s (state) budget process was not pretty, to say the least,” Rothwell said, referring to a recent two-month standoff between Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Republican leaders in the House and Senate over a lack of negotiations.

“I’m hopeful the governor and the legislature can use our recommendations as a way to make next year’s budget process less contentious and more impactful by adopting these as a whole,” he concluded.

In her budget proposal last March, Whitmer recommended a weighted funding formula to allocate what would have been the largest investment in public education in a generation if passed by lawmakers.

In 2020, the Launch Michigan panel is recommending the establishment of a new “Equity in Literacy” fund to provide additional support to K-3 readers – particularly those students living in poverty or in geographically isolated regions.

Strategic planning at the district level would determine how best to use the money locally, employing evidence-based practices. The goal is to address “opportunity gaps” in the state, said Tonya Allen, a Launch co-chair and president and CEO of The Skillman Foundation.

“This state is such a diverse and rich place,” she said. “We have so many talented young people, and one thing I know to be true is that talent is distributed equally but opportunity is not.”

By focusing additional resources on students who are furthest from their aspirations, all children benefit, Allen said.

“A lot of times when we talk about addressing these problems, we talk about how we can come up with a one-size-fits-all solution, an equal solution, where every child gets the same thing. But equity is about giving children what they need.”

Nothing will change, however, without everyone across the political spectrum pushing in the same direction, said Don Wotruba, executive director of the Michigan Association of School Boards. The Launch Michigan coalition has given him hope, he added.

“We have under-invested in our students that need the most help,” Wotruba said. “We need to change how we are doing things. We need to move from funding schools in Michigan to funding the needs of students.”

The panel’s recommendations grew out of a survey conducted last spring of nearly 17,000 Michigan educators. In that query, 75 percent of teachers said they would not recommend the profession to young people. Enrollment in teacher preparation programs has plummeted in recent years, and 40 percent of educators leave in their first five years.

“These are staggering statistics that Launch Michigan hopes to change,” said Herbart. “We are thrilled to bring forth real solutions to legislators that we believe will make a difference in tandem for both our students and our educators.”

