



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
DKG

Serving Women Educators from Western Wayne County
Gamma Alpha is a Proud Member of Detroit Metro Coordinating Council
February - March 2021
Volume 41, Issue 4

GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN

Presidents' Message
Amy Wright and Carole Lower
Co-Presidents



Gamma Alpha Friends,

Well, if we would have been back to school in person, we would have been crossing our fingers and hoping for a snow day from the last snowfall of January! I was a little disappointed by the amount of snow. Those weather predictions had me ready for several more inches. Since I was already stocked up on the essentials, I enjoyed quite a nice, lazy weekend. On Sunday, I ventured out only to snowplow my driveway and make a rather impressive snow angel in the side yard. I hope you were able to enjoy some winter shenanigans as well.

My weekend was full of hot chocolate and Hallmark movies! I put away the snowmen decorations and brought out the Valentine's Day hearts, candles, and a red table cloth. I am ready for February!

Our Gamma Alpha February Happy Hour is this Wednesday, and I am looking forward to seeing you. Our January meeting had our highest turn out yet with 21 members in attendance. It was filled with

stories of great vacation getaways and travel tips. I look forward to enjoying a beverage and catching up at our virtual happy hour later this week!

Amy



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REMINDERS

Just a reminder, if you have not sent in your donation for the Annual Auction, please send your check to Cindy Dietz.



CALENDAR 2020-2021



February 3, 2021 (Wednesday)

Virtual Happy Hour

Place: The comfort of your home via Zoom.us

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Program Virtual Trivia—email Amy Wright 3 multiple choice trivia questions:
amosande@hotmail.com

March 11, 2021 (Thursday)

Place: The comfort of your home via Zoom.us

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 PM



Professional storyteller and teacher, Deb Woodard, has been animating stories for children for over thirty years. She believes in the power of the written word and the ability of books to ignite readers' imaginations. This principle seeps into Deb's work; through her books and presentations, she encourages children to read, write, engage their imaginations, and discover their potentials. Deb is from Ionia and is the author of children's books about a family of bunnies - creating an opportunity for parents have meaningful conversations with their kids. In 2018, Deb released "**Naughty Pants Believes a Lie.**" Since then she has written two more books about a family of rabbits who learn lessons; "**Fancy Pants Finds True Beauty**" in August 2019, and "**Smarty Pants, Are You Listening?**" in July of this year. Two more books are in the works about two other rabbit sisters Sassy Pants and Antsy Pants. Join us via zoom for an entertaining evening of storytelling from the comfort of your home.

April 30 - May 2, 2021 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

DKG Michigan State Organization Executive Board and State Convention

DoubleTree by Hilton Riverfront Bay City

One Wenonah Park Place

Bay City, MI

Registration information will be in the Wolverine and in our newsletter

May 15, 2021 (Saturday) Metro Council Field Trip

Program: **Wild Women of Detroit Bus Tour**

Cost: \$65.00

Time: 10:00 am to 2:30 pm

Join Metro Council for the Detroit History Tours on a 4 hour bus tour of some "Wild Women of Detroit" and their stories. We will enjoy a mini-sub lunch, chips, cookies, and a soft drink. 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 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. DKG members and their guests are welcome (although DKG members will have priority.)

May 20, 2021, (Thursday)

Gamma Alpha Chapter's 42nd Birthday Dinner

Place:

Karl's Cabin
6005 Gotfredson Road
Plymouth, MI

Time: 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Cost: \$33

Program:

- Birthday Dinner
- Chapter Woman of Distinction presentation
- Grant-in-Aid presentation
- Induction of New Members
- Service Project Donation
- Friend of Education award
- Honor Retirees
- Present Lifetime Service Award
- More news about Service Project donations in a future newsletter.

June 12, 2021 (Saturday)

Planning

Place: Carole Lower

45766 Fermanagh
Northville MI 48168

Time: 11:00 - 2:00

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

DKG State News



Bay City State Convention

The last time we had a state convention in Bay City, the tall ship SS DKG sailed into town with Captain Dot Sample at the helm. Although we will not be resurrecting the SS DKG, planning is full speed ahead for the State Convention on April 30 - May 2, 2021 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Bay City Riverfront Hotel.

Relieve 'Pandemic Fatigue' and enjoy DoubleTree's warm chocolate chip cookies. Menus and meeting room set-up will follow our "New Norm." You will be present for the pomp when Alpha Iota's New Officers are installed at the banquet on Saturday. Amy Wright will be the state's new Corresponding Secretary. Come to support her! Join us for fellowship, sisterhood, and laughter. First VP Dr. Elena Ivanova has arranged a variety of workshops you are sure to enjoy.

Registration forms will be at the end of the newsletter!!

February

- 12 Nancy Schuyten
- 17 Elizabeth Bunner
- 29 Marge Braun

BIRTHDAYS



March

- 1 Diane Frangie
- 13 Esther Loskowske
- 14 Marilyn Wallenmaier
- 15 Jessica Walker

January 21, 2021 Zoom Meeting



Co-presidents Amy Wright and Carole Lower led our January 21 virtual meeting. The executive board met at 5:45 to complete annual report forms and discuss chapter business. The Cruising into January membership meeting started at 6:30. Jessica shared pictures of her favorite getaway, Outer Banks, NC. Lynne E. gave us some useful information about Disney Resorts. Cindy talked about “Up North.” Linda C. shared the beauty of Denmark. Jackie shared some snowbird information from Ft. Pierce, FL. Lastly, Joanna took us to Nepal. (Note, Pam Sayre is missing from the above picture.)

We will be using Zoom for future meetings. Below is the info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5760748757>

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757

or

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 576 074 8757

Gamma Alpha Zoom Meeting

January 21, 2021 Minutes

Business Meeting

The Board Members completed the DKG forms to be sent to the state. The Award of the Rose and President Awards were completed and emailed to the state president. Chapter Woman of Distinction was selected and will be announced at the Birthday Dinner. The Cherry/ Buckeye Challenge winner has not been decided yet. Cindy has not yet heard from the DKG member in Ohio. Cindy will receive the list of new members from the state treasurer. Cindy said no one has dropped from Gamma Alpha membership.

Minutes from Regular Meeting

Amy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Update on Service Projects

Beverly House

Judy Morante explained how the money for the girls during Christmas was spent. She delivered Christmas gift bags to the girls and had enough money left over to buy an Air Fryer for the home. An extra \$360 was left. So members discussed how to use this money. Suggestions were: Valentine gifts, Easter gift bags, manicure/pedicures for the girls, or Welcome bags. It was decided to spend the money on Welcome bags. Suggestions: Toiletries, Bath kits, Hand cream, Towels and Wash Clothes. Margie and Judy will do the shopping.

Seedlings Project

Judi Fisher discussed our contribution to the Seedlings' Adopt a Reader Project. We adopted a 3 year-old boy and he used \$100.00 for his books. There may be a Bowling for Braille fundraiser in the future.

21 members signed on Zoom for this meeting. Carole Lower discussed efforts being made to reach members who do not attend Zoom meetings. Lynne Elsesser and Linda Clark attempted to contact missing members. Amy suggested to tell some members to connect by phone if they didn't have a computer. Jackie suggested that she write a letter to members (snail mail) who haven't been attending with explicit directions to help them connect with Zoom.

Program: Cruising Through January

This was such an informative and delightful discussion about trips our members have taken! Jessica Walker explained why she loved visiting the Outer Banks every year. She showed absolutely beautiful pictures of the Ocean and landscape, and explained that spending time in nature gave her a sense of peace.

Lynne Elsesser visited Disney World and explained the benefits one receives in buying a Disney Pass. It is beneficial to belong to Vacation Club which entitles members to stay at Disney Resorts. She said that Disney Springs has many free shops. She gave great advice to those who haven't been to Disney World recently.

Cindy Dietz went to Northern Michigan. She saw many beautiful trees which were covered with snow. She explained that there are great wine and hard cider tasting sites as well as Casinos to visit. Carole Lower also mentioned that having a Winter Bonfire is an enjoyable experience.

Linda Clark showed souvenirs of her trip to Denmark: A picture of a Windmill and other collectible items. Denmark is a lovely place to visit.

Jackie Smart talked about her extended two month stay in Florida. She and her husband are renting a condo at Ocean Village in Ft. Pierce in overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. The seafood is wonderful and there are plenty of activities in which to participate such as golf, bocce ball, tennis, shuffleboard as well as other games.

Joanna Eiwien shared her pictures of Nepal with our group. The scenery was very beautiful, but one needs to watch out for the monsoons! Joanna's sister is a doctor in Nepal. This was a fascinating report because many will rarely have the opportunity to see Nepal as a local.

The meeting was adjourned and members were invited to continue visiting on Zoom.

Linda Dobrzeniecki

Joanna Eiwien, Recording Secretary

Linda Dobrzeniecki, Recording Secretary



DKG Fine Arts Gallery

The submission period for submitting art work to the DKG Fine Arts Gallery is currently in progress. Your work can be submitted until February 15, 2021. Photos, paintings, drawings, mixed media, crafts, sculpture, printmaking, poetry, essays, and music can all be submitted on the international website. If anyone has any question or needs assistance entering their work they can call me.

Kathleen Rodak 248-225-5014

Michigan Liaison to the International DKG Gallery



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Key Lime Pie

Made with ordinary limes, this “Key lime” pie tastes every bit as authentic as the real deal — plus it’s easier to make.

Servings: 8 to 10

Prep Time: 20 Minutes

Cook Time: 25 Minutes

Total Time: 45 Minutes, plus at least 3 hours to chill

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE CRUST

- 1-1/2 cups finely crushed graham cracker crumbs, about 12 whole graham crackers
- 1/3 cup packed light brown sugar
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

FOR THE FILLING

- Two 14-oz cans sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt (2% or whole milk)
- 1 tablespoon grated lime zest
- 3/4 cup fresh lime juice

FOR THE TOPPING

- 1 cup cold heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon grated lime zest
- 8 to 10 thin lime slices



INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE CRUST

1. Preheat oven to 375 °F and set an oven rack in the middle position.
2. In a medium bowl, combine the graham cracker crumbs, brown sugar, and melted butter; stir with a fork first, and then your hands until the mixture is well combined. Using your fingers and the bottom of a glass or dry measuring cup, press the crumbs firmly into the bottom and up the sides of a 9 x 1.5-inch pie pan. The crust should be about ¼-inch thick. (Tip: do the sides first.)
3. Bake for 10 minutes, until just slightly browned. Let the crust cool on a wire rack

FOR THE FILLING

1. Lower the oven temperature to 350°F.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the sweetened condensed milk, yogurt, lime zest, and lime juice.
3. Pour the thick mixture into the warm graham cracker crust.
4. Bake for 15 minutes, until the filling is almost set; it should wobble a bit.
5. Let cool at room temperature for 30 minutes, then place in the refrigerator to chill thoroughly, about 3 hours.

FOR THE TOPPING

1. In the bowl of an electric mixer, beat the heavy cream until soft peaks form. Add the confectioners' sugar and beat until medium peaks form.
2. Top the pie with the whipped cream.
3. Decorate with the lime zest and lime slices.
4. Store the pie in the refrigerator until ready to serve.
5. Slice the pie into wedges, wiping your knife clean between slices, and serve cold.

BOOK SHELF

The Graveyard Book

By Neil Gaiman

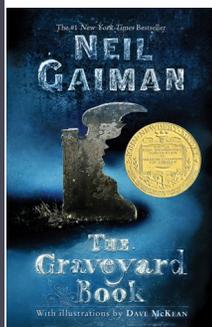
While in Florida, I listened to a children's book that won the Newberry Award for the most distinguished contribution to children's literature.

The story opens with a pretty terrifying situation: a man has slaughtered a family in the middle of the night, all save a toddler who escapes unnoticed, walking out the front door and away from the mayhem. (Don't worry about the violence. The action isn't described.)

Up the hill trots the toddler, to a graveyard full of ghosts who take him in. The tone shifts elegantly from horror to suspense to domesticity, and by the end of the first chapter Gaiman has established the graveyard as the story's center. Within its reassuringly locked gates, the boy finds a safe and cozy place to grow up. (Gaiman has said that "The Jungle Book" was one of his influences.)

Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a perfectly normal boy. Well, he would be perfectly normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the world of the dead.

Among the dead are teachers, workers, wealthy prigs, romantics, pragmatists and even a few children - a village ready to raise a living child. And they do, ably led by Silas, an enigmatic character who is not really one of them, being not quite dead and not quite living. In this moonlit place, the boy - who is given the name Nobody Owens, or Bod for short, has adventures, makes friends (not all of them dead), and begins to learn about his past and consider his future.



While "The Graveyard Book" will entertain people of all ages, it's especially a tale for children in grades four and five.

The audio Graveyard Book was beautifully performed by a full cast of English actors. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to this book.

GAMMA ALPHA EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMITTEES



Co-Presidents: Amy Wright & Carole Lower

Co-Vice-President & Membership: Linda Clark & Lynne Elsesser

Co-Recording Secretary: Joanna Eiwen & Linda Dobrzeniecki

Co-Corresponding Secretary: Jackie Smart & Liz Frazier

Treasurer: Cindy Dietz

Parliamentarian: Pam Sayre

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 Amy or Carole.

WEBSITES

DKG Gamma Alpha
www.migammaalpha.org

DKG Michigan
www.dkgmichigan.org

DKG International
www.dkg.org

A Recap of 2020 in the Life of a Teacher

It's hard to believe just how much has happened to teachers over the last year. This past year has been one for the books. Let's take a look back at where teachers were at the beginning of the 2020 and how they got to where they are now.

January – Teachers were all excited about the New Year, the new decade, 2020. It was a much simpler time. They were all so young and foolish. Watching the ball drop as the year changed over in 2020, there was no way of knowing what portal to hell they were clearly opening.

February – On top of being flu season, they find out there's now another virus starting to spread around the world. They didn't need the CDC to tell us that washing hands and disinfecting is critical. Teachers have been preventing the spread of viruses for years. Why do you think they go through so many bottles of hand sanitizer and Lysol spray every year? Schools are germ factories!

March – The “extended spring break” turned into a whole new world of hurt. For one brief moment, teachers thought an extra week or two of spring break would be awesome. Who doesn't need an extra break around March? Although no travel vacations were allowed or eating out at your favorite restaurant .

April – By the time April rolled around, normal had flown out the window. Normal packed its bags, hopped on a spaceship, and flew to a distant planet never to be seen again. Suddenly classroom teachers had to magically learn how to teach virtually. Teachers were trying to teach children who were home driving their parents crazy. Many were homeschooling their own children while teaching remotely. It was sheer insanity! Teachers turned shower walls into whiteboards, phones wedged between cans of soup became document cameras, and no one really knew what the heck was going on.

May – This was when teachers were treated like royalty and heroes. Amidst the chaos of virtual schooling, there was a brief, fleeting period of time where parents suddenly realized that teachers do a lot for their children. It took a global pandemic, but suddenly teachers were being lauded, praised, and honored for all the hard work they do each and every day.

June – This was when the most challenging school year finally came to an end! Every teacher looks forward to summer, but this year they had earned it like never before. They looked forward to sleeping and social distancing from their computers.

July – Teachers went from being hardworking heroes to lazy babysitters almost overnight. As summer progressed a weird thing happened. This whole pandemic thing didn't go away. In fact, in a lot of places it got worse... a lot worse. All of a sudden teachers were faced with having to return to school when many thought it wasn't safe to do so. What do they do? What's the plan? Turns out there wasn't really much of a plan except for having school district officials and politicians yelling at each other, while parents all decided it was time to go back to treating

teachers like crap. Yep, teachers went from revered professionals to lazy good-for-nothings in two short months. All because they had the nerve to say they didn't want to die

August – Teachers started coming back to school and realized what a mess this year was going to be. As the summer progressed it was pretty obvious no one had any idea what was going to happen when schools reopened. So officials started throwing ideas into a blender, pressing the “frappe” button and pouring it on teachers’ heads, which was a gigantic disaster. Teaching in person? Teaching virtually? Teaching both at the same time? Who knows?

September – The literal floating dumpster fire happened in September. Schools reopened and no one really had a clue as to what was going on and how anything was going to work. Some teachers had to figure out how to teach a classroom full of students AND run a zoom classroom at the same time.

October – The universe tried to break teachers in October. They were still getting used to hybrid schedules, remote teaching, and social distancing. There were daily policy changes and a constant shuffling of students.

November – November started with a huge election that dragged on (and on). They survived Friday the 13th (extra terrifying in 2020) and started counting down the days to Thanksgiving break. Then they spent the week off becoming one with the couch and catching up on Netflix, too exhausted from the first months of the school year to do anything else. I think most teachers slept through Thanksgiving break!

December – Teachers had big mixed feelings about the holidays. There was a sense of relief in knowing 2020 was coming to an end. They had survived the year! They can get through just about anything!

Where does it go from here? One would think 2021 could only get better. I mean it's hard to imagine things getting any worse. Then again... didn't we just say that a few months ago?

Taken from bored teachers.com with a few minor changes.

<https://www.boredteachers.com/humor/a-recap-of-2020-so-far-in-the-life-of-a-teacher>





DKG-Michigan State Organization State Convention

April 30 - May 2, 2021
DoubleTree by Hilton Bay City Riverfront
One Wenonah Park Place Bay City, MI 48708
Creating Hope



Please Print: Use one form for each person

First	Last	Chapter
Address	City/State	Zip
Preferred Phone	Email	Years of Membership
Chapter Position	State Position	International Position
Is this your first state convention? Yes No	If yes, please attend the first timers meeting Friday evening.	Will you be in the Presidents' Procession? Yes No
Are you substituting for your chapter president at Executive Board and Presidents' Procession?		Yes No
Do you plan to arrive Friday evening? Yes No		
All participants must register to attend, even workers.		
* To help us "go green" please bring your neck wallet name badge holders. If you do not have one or forget yours, plastic holders will be available.		

Registration Fee Postmarked by April 9, 2021	\$80	\$
Late Fee (Postmarked after April 9, 2021)	\$40	\$
Corsage Order (Complete the form on the next page.)	\$15	\$
Friday Buffet <i>Baked Potato Bar (Toppings: Grilled Chicken, Beef Chili, Broccoli, Sour Cream, Cheese, Tomato, Bacon,) Beef Barley Soup, Mixed Green Salad, Cavatappi Pasta Salad, Cookies, Brownies, Coffee, Tea</i>	\$24	\$
Saturday Breakfast	<i>Pay-by-Item Buffet or Riverfront Grille</i>	
Saturday Lunch <i>Potato Salad, Kale and Napa Slaw, Tomato Bisque, Artisan Sandwiches (Turkey, Chicken Salad, Grilled Veggies,) Kettle Chips, Cookies, Brownies, Coffee, Tea</i>	\$24	\$
Saturday Banquet <i>Michigan Salad, Rolls, Chicken Roulade or Wild Rice Risotto (veg option,) Chef's Starch and Seasonal Vegetables, Strawberry Cheesecake, Coffee, Tea</i>	\$35	\$
Sunday Brunch <i>Assorted Pastries, Fresh Fruit, Assorted Juices, Cinnamon French Toast and Maple Syrup, Scrambled Cage-Free Eggs, Smoked Bacon, Sausage Links, Home Fried Potatoes, Coffee, Tea</i>	\$24	\$
Total amount enclosed: Check payable to Delta Kappa Gamma	<i>(Note: Checks will not be deposited until March 30 in case of event cancellation)</i>	\$

*Cost of the meals helps to defray the cost of the room rentals
Please continue on the next page.

Corsage Orders		\$15 each
Person Ordering	Chapter	
Ordered for whom	Wrist	Pinned
Total number ordered @ \$ =	Please record total on previous page.	

Dietary Needs:

Dietary needs must be listed on this registration form in order to inform the hotel staff of your special needs. If you sign up for a special meal, please do not switch your selection at the banquet since the meal count is predetermined by registration. Special tickets will be provided in the registration packets of those who indicate the following needs. All meals except the banquet are buffet. CHECK DIETARY NEED, IF NECESSARY:

Gluten Free: ___ Vegetarian: ___ Diabetic: ___

Handicap Assistance:

There is elevator service to guest rooms. If you require special guest room accommodations, please notify the hotel staff directly when you make your overnight reservations.

Photo Release: By your attendance at this event you are granting your permission to be photographed by Alpha Iota State of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and granting the use of your likeness, without compensation, in the *Wolverine* and/or on the Society website.

Please mail this completed form and your check, payable to Delta Kappa Gamma, to:

Registrar:
 Judi Fisher
 20180 Rippling Lane
 Northville 48167
 judifisher@yahoo.com 248-808-0477 (C)

Cancellation Policy:

*"A person having to cancel will receive a refund provided her written request is posted **fifteen** days prior to the event"* which would be **April 15, 2021**. (Standing rule 7:01 of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.) Requests for cancellations must be sent in writing to the same person to whom the registration form was sent. If it is necessary to cancel after **April 15, 2021**, you should attempt to get someone from your chapter to attend in your place. **No refunds will be made after the cancellation date.**

NOTE: HOTEL REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE BEFORE APRIL 9, 2021 FOR CONVENTION RATE

(You must personally make and/or cancel your hotel accommodations.)

Room Rate: \$107.00 + 6% sales tax and 11% local tax

To make reservations:

Phone the hotel directly at **989-891-6000** or 800-222-TREE. Please mention *Delta Kappa Gamma Society International* when making your reservation. All reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit, or guaranteed with a major credit card. We have 70 discounted rooms until March 8, 2021 or until the room block is full, **whichever comes first.**

Cut-Off Date: All reservations must be made on or before **April 9, 2021** to receive group discount or until the room block is full, whichever comes first.

Check-In Time: 4:00 PM

Check-Out Time: NOON

Cancellation Policy: All reservations must be cancelled 48 hours prior to the day of your arrival date to avoid a cancellation fee.