



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

June-July, 2021  
Volume 41, Issue 6

# GAMMA ALPHA BULLETIN

**Presidents' Message**  
**Amy Wright and Carole Lower**  
**Co-Presidents**



## Gamma Alpha Friends,

Today I took advantage of one of the perks of working from home, and I went for a quick walk. My neighbors have been busy planting and mulching. I admired their work as I strolled along. My jaw dropped and my heart soared when I approached Hoover elementary school. There were kids outside playing for recess! Yay! It was a delicious taste of the old, original normal.

We will be like the kids on the playground live, in person, and excited to see each other on June 12 at our planning meeting at Carole Lower's home. As we plan our activities for next year, we will have some decisions to make. We can pick and choose the best of the old normal and the new normal. Do we want to do what we have always done, or do we want to do something new?

### New Activities

Some suggested program ideas include: learning about organ and tissue donation, how to get tested, and how you can help someone in need; Will and estate planning, best practices and things to consider; a trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts.

### New Opportunities

What do you want to try and/or learn? Are there committees, offices, or ways you want to get involved and contribute?

## New Uses for Old Favorites

How could we use our chapter Zoom account to host remote speakers for our meetings at the Northville public library? Do you want to take advantage of our chapter Zoom account and use it for your book club; or use it to visit with some friends who are close to your heart but far away?

Please bring your calendar, your clever, fun program ideas, and a yummy picnic lunch for yourself to enjoy. I

*(Continued on page 12)*

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### REMINDERS

Planning meeting and picnic at Carole Lower's home on June 12 at 11:00. BYOP (Bring Your Own Picnic.) RSVP to Carole.

carole\_lower@yahoo.com  
or  
248-302-1006



## CALENDAR 2020-2021



### **June 12, 2021 (Saturday)**

Planning

Place: Carole Lower

45766 Fermanagh

Northville MI 48168

Time: 11:00 - 2:00

Bring: Your own picnic and Program ideas . Carole will provide beverages.

### **Dues News from Your Chapter Treasurer**

**It is time again for news about dues. This is just a heads up since I won't begin collecting dues until the end of April. The dues are the same:**

**\$85 for active members**

**\$35 for reserve members**

**(Reserve status is only granted to those who are unable to participate due to physical disabilities or who are far, far away from ANY DKG chapter. Snow birds are not eligible for reserve status. Send dues to me:**

**Cindy Dietz**

**7329 Gilman**

**Westland, MI 48185**



**Stay safe! Stay well!**

### **MINUTES**

May 20, 2021

Gamma Alpha Meeting Minutes



Meeting was called to order by Co-president Amy Wright at 6:13 PM.

Present were: Amy Wright, Carole Lower, Judi Fisher, Jackie Smart, Fran Saenz, Judy Morante, Helen Mate, Linda Clark, Liz Frazier, Lynne Elsesser, Margie Sievert, and Rosa Russenberger.

**Previous Minutes:** A motion was made by Judy Morante and seconded by Judi Fisher to approve the minutes from the business meeting from January 21, 2021. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** A report was sent to our meeting by treasurer, Cindy Dietz.

Checking: \$2336.79

Savings: \$17634.78

Dues are due by June 15, 2021. The dues are \$85. The following have made their dues and get a gold star: B. Anderson, M. Braun, B. Broadley, M. Canzoneri, T. Cooper, S. Green, P. Husson, C. Lower, M. Sievert, M. Wallenmaier, and A. Wright.

Send your \$85 check payable to Gamma Alpha to:

Cindy Dietz  
7329 Gilman  
Westland, MI 48185

**Service Project Report:** A report was made by Service Project chairperson, Judy Morante. She gave the group an update on what has taken place this past year.

- Goody bags were dropped off at Beverly House at Christmas
- Welcome bags for new girls were made for Beverly House
- Snacks and a selection of teas were purchased for Beverly House

We have \$200 in donations left over and \$500 from auction earmarked for a large ticket item. Sumpter House (the home for pregnant teens/mothers) is requesting a large TV and some board games. We also would like to purchase some flowers for the planters at Beverly House.

Margie Sievert moved that we purchase a TV for Sumpter House (after Carole Lower investigates their specific needs), board games. Motion was seconded by Judy Morante. Motion passed. Judy Morante said she could donate a console for the TV, if needed.

Lynne Elsesser made a motion to purchase plants for Beverly House costing up to \$50. Motion was seconded by Judy Morante. Motion passed. Lynne will deliver and plant the flowers with the girls.

Judi Fisher reported that Seedlings Spring Auction was held online from April 20-27. Seedlings raised \$5,700, enough for **570** more braille books. Seedlings auctioned off gift baskets donated for its 2020 bowling event that was canceled due to Covid-19. Winners picked up their prizes from Seedlings' office, following health guidelines. If you missed their local spring auction, you will have a chance to bid on prizes in *Seedlings' annual fall auction*. That auction will be open to everyone nationwide.

**May Birthdays:**

May 5 – Liz Frazier Happy Birthday, Liz.



**Birthday Meeting:**

Amy shared some information regarding the founding of DKG and the Seven Purposes with the group. Our meetings should strive to serve these Purposes.

**Chapter Woman of Distinction:**

Amy virtually presented the Chapter Woman of Distinction Award to Carole Lower. Carole was inducted into Gamma Alpha on January 18, 2012.

Carole is always up for new roles and challenges. She has been an amazing hostess for multiple events. She has been Membership Chairperson for 2 biennia. She is an excellent bridge game and very competitive. She is a retired Literacy Coach from Dearborn Schools. Congratulations, Carole!

**New Retiree:**

Pam Sayre recently retired in January 2021. She was inducted into Kappa Chapter on June 13, 1998 and subsequently transferred to Gamma Alpha in 2018 when Kappa Chapter disbanded. Pam was a Professor of History & Religious Studies at Henry Ford College in Dearborn. She worked at the Italian Language Institute of Dearborn. Pam has held the position of chair for Membership and Legislation committees while in Kappa. She is Gamma Alpha's Parliamentarian. We discovered that Pam is an extremely talented photographer. Congratulations on your retirement, Pam.

**Announcements:**

We will hold our annual planning meeting in PERSON! Bring plenty of meeting ideas.

When: Saturday June 12, 2021

Where: Carole Lower's Home  
45766 Fermanagh  
Northville, MI 48168

When: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

What: Bring your own picnic (Carole will provide beverages.) Rumor has it there may be a prize for the most creative picnic.

Why: Because we finally can meet face to face!

RSVP to Carole Lower if you plan on attending. Here is her email: [carole\\_lower@yahoo.com](mailto:carole_lower@yahoo.com)  
Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Jackie Smart for Joanna Eiwen and Linda Dobrzeniecki, Co-recording Secretaries



**June**

- 19 Fran Saenz
- 19 Tara Cooper
- 25 Pam Sayre

**BIRTHDAYS**



**July**

- 4 Karen Marold
- 9 Joanna Eiwen
- 16 Suzanne Bacinski
- 20 Carol Holland
- 21 Judy Handley
- 30 Judy Morante



We had 12 members attend (Helen and Rosa left before the screen shot was taken.) We honored our most recent retiree, Pam Sayre; and our Chapter Woman of Distinction, Carole Lower. We are excited for the June meeting which will be in PERSON! Check your calendar for details.

If we use Zoom for future meeting, this is the link. Zoom for future meetings.

<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

## BOOK SHELF

Anti-Asian hate crimes have been on the rise since the beginning of the pandemic. As you consider what you can do in your classroom to combat Anti-Asian sentiments, consider expanding your bookshelves to include children's books that celebrate culture, promote Asian joy, and normalize the Asian-American experience. Here are our 9 favorite children's books to celebrate East Asian and Southeast Asian culture and normalize the Asian American experience and two adult books.

***Include stories of many different families, while keeping in mind that no group is a monolith.***

For toddlers: ***I Really Want To See You, Grandma!*** Yumi and her grandmother have the same great idea: They want to see each other. So they each head out to do just that, only to completely miss each other along the way! No problem—they'll just head back home and wait for the other to return. The trouble is that they have the same great idea—again—resulting in the ultimate missed connection! Will this duo ever find each other? This silly and sweet book is filled with the love between a grandparent and their grandchild.



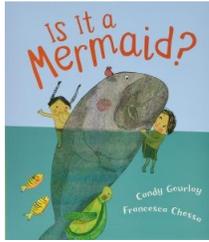
For the older child: *The Most Beautiful Thing* is drawn from author Kao Kalia Yang's childhood experiences as a Hmong refugee, this moving picture book portrays a family with a great deal of love and little money. Weaving together Kalia's story with that of her beloved grandmother, the book moves from the jungles of Laos to the family's early years in the United States. When Kalia becomes unhappy about having to do without and decides she wants braces to improve her smile, it is her grandmother—a woman who has just one tooth in her mouth—who helps her see that true beauty is found with those we love most. This book is about all the tender things about a grandparent-child bond.

***Celebrating joy is an act of revolution and a counter to trauma stories.***



*Big Mooncake for Little Star* beautifully depicts the bond between a parent and child, the celebration of special moments, and the excitement and impatience of a young child. Little Star loves the delicious Mooncake that she bakes with her mama. But she's not supposed to eat any yet! What happens when she can't resist a nibble?

***Stories with BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) characters should not always have to center on their culture.***



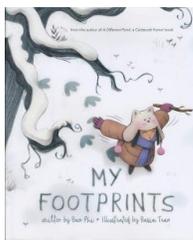
*Is It A Mermaid?* "I am a beautiful mermaid!" declares the Dugong (a relative of the manatee), and she shows Benji and Bel her mermaid tail (rather big) and her mermaid singing (very bad). Is she really just a "sea cow"? Come to the ocean and get a magical surprise... Could the Dugong be a mermaid after all? Set in the Philippines, this sun-drenched picture book is about kindness and friendship - with a touch of magic.

***A culture is more than its festivals and food. It is also history, revolution, and empowerment.***



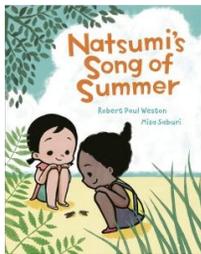
*Eyes That Kiss In the Corners* is about a young Asian girl who notices that her eyes look different from her peers'. They have big, round eyes and long lashes. She realizes that her eyes are like her mother's, her grandmother's, and her little sister's. They have eyes that kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and hope for the future. Drawing from the strength of these powerful women in her life, she recognizes her own beauty and discovers a path to self-love and empowerment.

***Be specific with your students, children, and grandchildren about issues that may come up as they make friends. Practice conversations, give them specific phrasing and build their awareness so they can interrupt bullying.***



*My Footprints* Every child feels different in some way, but Thuy feels "double different." She is Vietnamese-American and she has two moms. Thuy walks home one winter afternoon, angry and lonely after a bully's taunts. Then a bird catches her attention and sets Thuy on an imaginary exploration. What if she could fly away like a bird? What if she could sprint like a deer, or roar like a bear? Mimicking the footprints of each creature in the snow, she makes her way home to the arms of her two moms.

***Stories of inclusive friendship counter the narrative of the perpetual foreigner.***



*Natsumi's Song of Summer* Two young cousins who are separated by language, continent and culture meet for the first time when Jill's family travels from America to Japan to stay with Natsumi's family during the summer holidays. Natsumi's nervousness about meeting her cousin from across the sea quickly disappears when she discovers that her cousin is a lot like her: they both love summertime's hot sandy beaches, cool refreshing watermelon, festivals and fireworks. This is a tender, evocative story that

celebrates the special pleasures of summertime and of reunions with faraway family and friends. .

***Asian-American history is American history.  
Learn about it.***



*It Began With A Page* is about new beginnings. In this biography about illustrator Gyo Fujikawa, we learn how she was one of the first U.S. illustrators who drew characters of color in children's books.

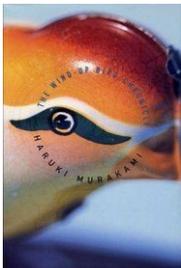
***Counter the model minority myth by learning about the nuance, variety, and diversity of the Asian American experience.***



*The Paper Kingdom* is a tale straight from the heart and a tender memory of childhood. Inspired by the childhood memories of following her parents to their work as night-time office janitors, Korean American author, Helena Ku Rhee, writes a powerful and imaginative story.

**For Adults**

**The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle** by Haruki Murakami

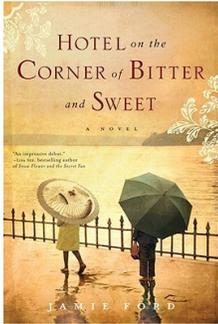


Japan's most highly regarded novelist now vaults into the first ranks of international fiction writers with this heroically imaginative novel, which is at once a detective story, an account of a disintegrating marriage, and an excavation of the buried secrets of World War II.

In a Tokyo suburb a young man named Toru Okada searches for his wife's missing cat. Soon he finds himself looking for his wife as well in a netherworld that lies beneath the placid surface of Tokyo. As these searches intersect, Okada encounters a bizarre group of allies and antagonists: a psychic prostitute; a malevolent yet mediagenic politician; a cheerfully morbid sixteen-year-old-girl; and an aging war veteran who has been permanently changed by the hideous things he witnessed during Japan's forgotten campaign in Manchuria. Three books in one volume: *The Thieving Magpie*, *Bird as Prophet*, and *The Birdcatcher*. This translation by Jay Rubin is in collaboration with the author.

# GAMMA ALPHA EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMITTEES

## Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford



The country is grappling with Asia-American hate crimes. I recently reread a book which explores this subject. Henry Lee is a 12-year-old Chinese boy who falls in love with Keiko Okabe, a 12-year-old Japanese girl, while they are scholarship students at a prestigious private school in World War II Seattle. Henry hides the relationship from his parents, who would disown him if they knew he had a Japanese friend. His father insists that Henry wear an "I am Chinese" button everywhere he goes because Japanese residents of Seattle have begun to be shipped off by the thousands to relocation centers. This is an old-fashioned historical novel that alternates between the early 1940s and 1984, after Henry's wife Ethel has died of cancer.

A particularly appealing aspect of the story is young Henry's fascination with jazz and his friendship with Sheldon, an older black saxophonist just making a name for himself in the many jazz venues near Henry's home. Other aspects of the story are more typical of the genre: the bullies that plague Henry, his lack of connection with his father, and later with his own son.

You care about Henry as he is forced to make decisions and accept circumstances that separate him from both his family and the love of his life, with whom he forged a bond of friendship and innocent love that transcended the prejudices of their Old World ancestors.

*"It's an universal law - intolerance is the first sign of an inadequate education. An ill-educated person behaves with arrogant impatience, whereas truly profound education breeds humility."*

*– Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn*



**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](http://www.migammaalpha.org)

**DKG Michigan**  
[www.dkgmichigan.org](http://www.dkgmichigan.org)

**DKG International**  
[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

## Recipe of the Month

### PERFECT SCONE RECIPE



**MAKES 16 TO 20**

#### *INGREDIENTS*

During the pandemic, I have gotten into baking. Those who know me, know this usually doesn't end well. I spent way too much time trying different scone recipes. Most were too dry for me and my family's taste. After a dozen attempts at tweaking recipes, I found recipe yielded moist scones (which is what I was looking for.) I used a scale for accurate measuring. This scone recipe is mostly from Jamie Oliver with a few tweaks from other recipes. Cooking is an art, baking is science which is why my baking usually is a crap shoot.

- Zest of an orange
- 1 cup of Golden Raisins soaked in orange juice (from the orange you zested)
- 1 teaspoon of orange flavoring
- 150 grams cold unsalted butter (10.582 TBS)
- 500 g self-rising flour, plus a little extra for dusting
- 3 level teaspoons baking powder
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 8 ounces of cream, plus a little extra for brushing

#### *DIRECTIONS*

1. Put the raisins into a bowl. Zest the orange with a rasp grater. Then squeeze the juice of the orange into the bowl of raisins. Add the teaspoon of orange flavoring and let sit for ideally a couple of hours.
2. Preheat the oven to 400°F
3. Sift the flour, baking powder, sugar, and a good pinch of sea salt into a mixing bowl.
4. Add the cubed cold butter and use your thumbs and forefingers to break up the butter and rub it into the flour so you get little cornflake-sized pieces.
5. Beat the eggs and cream with a whisk.
6. Make a well in the middle of the dough, add the eggs and cream, and stir it up with a spatula. Do a little at a time.
7. Add your soaked raisins to the mixture.
8. Add a tiny splash of cream if needed, until you have soft, dry dough. Move it around as little as possible to get it looking like a scruffy mass – at this point,

## May

you're done.

9. Sprinkle over some flour, cover the bowl with plastic wrap and pop it into the fridge for 15 minutes.
10. Roll the dough out on a lightly floured surface until it's about 2 to 3 cm thick.
11. With a 6cm round cutter, cut out circles from the dough and place them upside down on a baking sheet - they will rise better that way (so they say).
12. Re-roll any offcuts to use up the dough.
13. Brush the top of each scone with the extra milk or some melted butter and bake in the oven for 12 to 15 minutes, or until risen and golden.
14. At that point, take them out of the oven and leave them to cool down a little.

### Tips

*If you don't want to bake a whole batch, freeze the scones after you've cut them out. That way, another day you can just pop the little rounds of frozen dough into the oven and cook them at 350°F for 25 minutes, or until golden and lovely.*

Substitutes for heavy cream.

#### **Milk and Butter**

Combining milk and butter is an easy, foolproof way to substitute for heavy cream that'll work for most recipes. The butter adds extra fat to the milk, making its fat percentage similar to that of heavy cream. Combine 1/4 cup (57 grams) of melted butter with 3/4 cup (178 ml) of milk and mix thoroughly to make 1 cup (237 ml) of heavy cream. You can also add a tablespoon (8 grams) of flour to thicken the liquid, especially if you're using low-fat milk. Keep in mind that this substitute works well for cooking and baking recipes in which heavy cream is used to add flavor and creaminess. However, it won't whip the same way that heavy cream does.

How you make others feel says  
a lot about who you are.



Leave them with a smile,  
a hug, and a kind thought.

(Continued from page 1)

am looking forward to seeing all of you in person at our June planning meeting.



Yours in DKG,  
*Amy*

## **DKG Michigan Virtual Convention Updates**

Dear Gamma Alpha Friends,

Our chapter was well represented at tonight's General Membership Meeting. Of the 69 members present, 7 were from Gamma Alpha!

Here are some highlights from the meeting:

- J-Jay Pechta received the State Woman of Distinction award
- Jackie Smart is the Nomination Chair from 2021 - 2023.
- I (Amy Wright) was installed as the Corresponding Secretary for the DKG Michigan
- Cindy Dietz gleefully announced Michigan's narrow, but certain victory over Ohio in the Cherry-Buckeye Challenge
- Women in the Arts will be an in person event October 15-17 at the Ralph MacMullan Center in Roscommon. Get your registration in early if you want the good cabin.

Other news:

- Invitation to join **Illinois' Virtual Arts Retreat:**

We get to attend the Illinois Creative Arts Retreat virtually June 21 until June 24. Rumor has it that this one will be spectacular, especially with Sue Dion and Mary Stayner, the Illinois organizers of the event. If you want to make a presentation or attend, take a few minutes to register on the DKG Illinois website at the following link:

<http://www.deltakappagamma.org/IL/WomenintheArts/index.html>

There will be no charge and no special registration. You can just zoom in and out at your heart's content, but I suspect you will be zooming in a lot. There will be sessions that award professional development credit.

**Amy**