



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

PENNSYLVANIA STATE

ALPHA BETA CHAPTER

Alpha Beta Bits

Volume XXXI Number 3

November 2020

President's Message:

When you reach a certain age the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons seem more and more to vividly evoke the memory of past seasons, of nostalgic moments that dart by in the blink of an eye. The following story consistently pops into my mind when I am in one of my seasonal reflective moods:

When Mrs. Klein told her first graders to draw a picture of something for which they were thankful, she thought how little these children, who lived in a deteriorating neighborhood, actually had to be thankful for. She knew that most of the class would draw pictures of turkeys or of bountifully laden Thanksgiving tables. That was what they believed was expected of them.

What took Mrs. Klein aback was Douglas's picture. Douglas was so forlorn and likely to be found close in her shadow as they went outside for recess. Douglas's drawing was simply this: A hand, obviously, but whose hand? The class was captivated by his image. "I think it must be the hand of God that brings us food," said one student.

"A farmer," said another, "because they grow the turkeys."

"It looks more like a policeman, and they protect us." "I think," said Lavinia, who was always so serious, "that it is supposed to be all the hands that help us, but Douglas could only draw one of them."

Mrs. Klein had almost forgotten Douglas in her pleasure at finding the class so responsive. When she had the others at work on another project, she bent over his desk and asked whose hand it was. Douglas mumbled, "It's yours, Teacher."

Then Mrs. Klein recalled that she had taken Douglas by the hand from time to time; she often did that with the children. But that it should have meant so much to Douglas ...

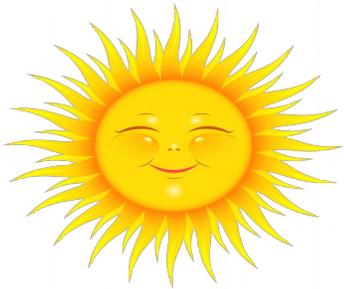
Perhaps, she reflected, this was her Thanksgiving, and everybody's Thanksgiving—not the material things given unto us, but the small ways that we give something to others.

As teachers, we all have our share of students like Douglas. We have all been the 'hand' that has helped our students move beyond a stumbling block, move forward, move in the right direction, and move to understand care and compassion. In DKG, and especially in Alpha Beta, we continually 'give something to others;' we seem to always be willing to lend a helping hand.

I am so grateful for your willingness to share your time, talents, and resources to the work that our chapter is doing. The recent successes of our Weekend Backpack food collection, the awesome donations to the Jabulani School to feed its students, and the work of those making our fleece blankets show just how willing we are to lend that helping hand. The work that is being done by all of our committees makes my heart smile for through that work, your passion for and dedication and commitment to the purposes and values of DKG comes shining through. You continue to make magic happen and the ripple effects of that magic will be far reaching. May your days in the coming months glow with goodwill and kindness, and may the holiday season leave you with blessings that will warm your heart throughout the year!

Appreciating the magic of your helping hands,
Becky

Rays of Sunshine



Our thoughts and prayers continue for all of our active members in the field who continue to provide enriching teaching and learning moments amid all the health and safety measures that are in place as a result of Covid-19.

Heartfelt gratitude to all the sisters who are sending cards, trinkets and notes of encouragement to our members active in the field. The active members in the field greatly appreciate the uplifting and encouraging words.

Congratulations to Carol Dereemer on the publication of her fourth book titled: *Are You Listening?* Carol announced at the October meeting that the book is available at Amazon.



Congratulations to Tina Smith-Gilbert on her new position as PreK Counts teacher for Child Advocates of Blair County (CABC). Tina started in her new position at the end of October. Tina's new classroom is located in the Claysburg School District and is located at the Claysburg Elementary School.

Kudos to Linda Clapper and her fleece blanket committee and Kris Walters and her Girl Scout Troop 43009 on making 40 blankets in the past year! Special thanks to Jane Brown and Susan Trimeloni whose hard work has helped to increase the blanket total.

Two thumbs up to Kristen Hall and Susan Clark for a moving necrology ceremony for Barbara Allison and Nancy Fowler. Appreciation also goes to Emily Dereemer for giving Barbara's eulogy and to Arlene Fuller for Nancy's eulogy.

Hats off to our Ways and Means Committee – Lois Stoner, Kris Walters, Yvonne Bowser, Royce Boyd, and Linda Clapper – for their coordination of the November 17 Fund-Raiser Night.

Gratitude is sent out to the members of Alpha Beta who donated food items to the Weekend Backpack program and donated money to the Jabulani School at the October meeting. A big thank you goes out to the following sisters who delivered the food or monetary donations to our local backpack programs or sent the funds collected to our friends in Africa: Jenn Harclerode (Bedford Middle School); Kristine Walters (Claysburg-Kimmel); Lois Stoner (Everett Elementary); Sonya Browell (Tussey Mountain Elementary); Judy Conrad (Chestnut Ridge Central Elementary); Linda McElroy; Jabulani School in Zimbabwe.

Thank you goes out to the Hospitality Committee members who took time on the evening of November 4th to put together the table favors for the upcoming Christmas Tea. Members present were Jennifer Harclerode, Trudy Snyder, Pat Brenner, Sandi Hoenstine, Carol Fritz, Becky Johnen, Wanda Clark and Tina Smith-Gilbert.



Rays of Sunshine Continued ...



Denelle Diehl

It is with great pleasure and much excitement that I share the following with you:

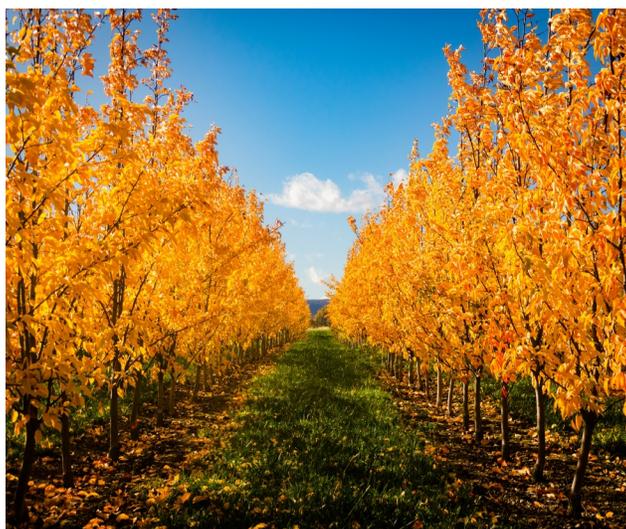
The Arts & Humanities Jury of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International announced the publication of photography 'Playing Spoons' and an 'Autumn Walk Through The Orchard' by Denelle Diehl in the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts. The DKG Gallery of Fine Arts is an online gallery of works of art and letters at www.dkg.org. The gallery will be up by mid-November and Denelle's work will be displayed there for six months!

Way to go Denelle and congratulations on this great honor! We are so very happy and proud of you!

-Becky Johnen



Thank you to Melissa Flynn for introducing our local author; Shirley Stuby to our group at our October 6th meeting. Shirley shared about the theme of her book, how the idea of her book came about and the struggles she encountered to get her book published. Shirley is shown here posing with her book, mascot and our President; Becky Johnen at the end of the meeting.



Ways and Means Committee

At the October 6 meeting Delta Kappa Gamma items that had belonged to Barbara Allison and a few other Alpha Beta members were made available for a monetary donation to benefit the Ways and Means Committee. Members enjoyed looking at pins, bags, and other items and then donating to the cause. In all \$67.00 was donated to benefit the Ways and Means Committee.



The Ways and Means Committee would like to remind members that our first fundraiser for the Ways and Means Committee is going to be held at Pizza Hut in Bedford on November 17th from 4-9 PM. Thank you to all chapter members for their assistance in getting the word and coupons out to prospective Pizza Hut customers for our first fundraiser. Hopefully, all goes according to plans and it is a successful fundraiser for our chapter.

Flyer is attached to this email if you need to print out any additional coupons.



The traditional December raffle will be held at the Christmas tea. Chapter members are encouraged to contribute items worth at least \$5. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$1 apiece or 6 tickets for \$5. Remember to bring address labels and cash.

- Lois Stoner and Kris Walter; Co -Chairs

Projects Committee

"Operation Toasty Tootsies"

It warms our hearts that our chapter has provided 40 fleece blankets to those less fortunate since December 2019! Thanks to the members who have helped cut and knot fleece blankets and for their monetary donations to our Project!



On October 28th while talking with Stan Howes; a representative from Children & Youth Services I asked if there is something else that is needed by the children and teens in Bedford County. He replied "Socks"! It is such a need by those who benefit from Children & Youth Services. So if you are shopping in the coming month the Projects Committee asks that you purchase a few pairs or packages of socks. The sizes needed are for infants to teens. Please bring them to the December meeting. It is such a great feeling to know that we will warm the feet

of those in need through our "Operation Toasty Tootsies" donations at our December meeting.

-Linda Clapper

A Little Change Makes A Big Difference for Jabulani School

"Give Two Cents and Make Change" for the Schools for Africa Project was a very successful project chaired by Pat Brenner in 2012-2013! Linda McCahan helped me with making the cloth bags to save money for the project. We are pleased to be able to "recycle" those bags as we



are now collecting money to help provide meals for the students at the Jabulani School in Africa! At the October meeting the bags were distributed to the members who were present.

Please return your bag to the December meeting with your donation to the Jabulani School. As we know "A Little Change Makes A Big Difference" in the lives of others. Your donation is very much appreciated.

-Linda Clapper



L to R: Jennifer Harclerode, Linda Clapper, Kris Walters, Lois Stoner, Sonya Browell, and Judy Conrad pose with some of the donations made by our chapter to the Weekend Backpack.

Making A Difference In Our Communities

Weekend Backpack donations that were collected at the October meeting for the local school district's Weekend Backpack Programs. Members have collected food items for delivery to area schools and have also donated \$450 to the Jabulani School in Africa to provide the students there with one meal a day for five months.

State Convention Basket



'Tis the season for giving! Because we have observed our first sightings of the "white stuff" it might be an appropriate time to think of donations to our "Snow Day"-themed basket for State Convention for this coming June. Items will be collected at upcoming chapter meetings in December, March and May.

- Lois Stoner and Kris Walters

World Fellowship

Until International releases information identifying the 2020-2021 World Fellowship recipients, please continue to keep Zhanar in your thoughts. As far as the World Fellowship State Committee knows Zhanar will be at Lehigh at least until Thanksgiving.

Grant-In-Aid for Women College Students

As a reminder -The completed applications for Grant-in-Aid are due by **Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020**. The Grant-In-Aid award is up to \$700 for women college juniors or seniors who are majoring in education.

The student's home residence must be in one of the following school districts: Bedford, Chestnut Ridge, Northern Bedford, Everett, Claysburg, or Tussey Mountain.

Applications require a brief essay, current transcript, and resume. Further information regarding the application can be obtained by contacting Linda McElroy.

At this time, several applications have been received. The Grant -In-Aid Committee will review the applications and the reward will be presented at the March meeting.

-Linda McElroy

Benefits of DKG Membership

In our last edition of the newsletter, this column highlighted two membership benefits: The AIM liability policy and ID Theft Assist. This month, we'll explore two other insurance related member benefits.

Working with the Society since 1969, Boon-Chapman administers several programs underwritten by top-notch insurance companies. Choose from the following, offered to you at group rates: cancer insurance plan, hospital plus plan, surgical assistance plan, excess major medical plan, travel accident plan, accidental death/dismemberment policy, and International travel insurance.

Long Term Care Resources (LTCR) has partnered with Delta Kappa Gamma to assist in determining the best provider for your future healthcare needs.

For more details visit <https://www.dkg.org/> .

-Becky Johnen

US Forum

Kudos to those still actively involved in the field of education. Quote from Susan Fritz, PA US Forum Chair "Hats off to all the educators who were thrust into an unimaginable situation with no planning and limited resources when schools closed in March and found a way to care for and teach their students."

Legislative Updates:

S.1160 Supporting Family Mental Health was passed on 9/17 and was sent to the House.

S.2661 National Suicide Designation Act of 2020 was signed by the President on 10/17/2020. The UNIVERSAL hotline number for suicide prevention and mental health crises is **9-8-8**.

Global Initiative:

H.R. 4864 Invest in Early Childhood Development and Global Assistance was passed in the House on 9/22/20 and sent to the Senate. Aims to help developing countries with reduction of childhood mortality rates and increase prevention. Also aims to help with early childhood programs.

-Pat Brenner

Creatively Recruiting

Letters have been sent to the 19 principals in our seven districts as well as to the school superintendents asking them to send us the name of at least one outstanding women educator in each of their districts. We anxiously await hearing from them.

Our members active in the field have submitted 19 names of colleagues they consider outstanding women educators. Recognition certificates will be sent to everyone and when Covid-19 is more under control, these educators will be invited to one of our meetings or to a meet-and-greet activity.

Remember to be on the lookout for someone with whom you work or have worked who would be a great fit for our chapter as well as benefit from membership in DKG. Recommendation for Membership forms or prospect cards are available from Laurie and Becky.

-Laurie Criswell and Becky Johnen

Fine Arts Gallery Submissions

Remember that the deadline to submit work to the Arts & Humanities Jury is [February 15, 2021](#).

In a nutshell, categories for submission include:

- Literary efforts: Original essay, play-writing, poetry, short story
- Performance art: Dance, dramatics, film-making, music original composition, oratory
- Two-dimensional art: Acrylic, charcoal, color pencil, graphite, oil, pastel, pen and ink, print-making, watercolor
- Three-dimensional art: Basketry, ceramics, jewelry, pottery, quilts, sculpture, textiles, wood-carvings, installation, mixed media 3D
- Photography: Black and white, color
- Mixed media

Descriptions of each category are available on the DKG website. After signing in, click on the APPLY/SUBMIT tab and once in that section, click on the ART GALLERY SUBMISSIONS area and you will find submissions procedures, rubrics for each category, and the submission form.

I hope you will strongly consider showcasing your talent!!! If you have any questions, let me know.

Watching for the "Magic",
- **Becky Johnen**

Important Pennsylvania State Deadlines

- December 15, 2020 Bulletin: Journal Submissions Due
- January 3, 2021 Deadline to apply for the DKGIEF Project
- February 1, 2021 Deadline to apply for the DKGEF Cornetet CIPD Application
- February 1, 2021 Deadline to apply for PA State Scholarship
- February 1, 2021 Deadline to apply for PA State Enrichment Grant
- February 1, 2021 Deadline to apply for the Nancy Grove Visionary Fund
- February 15, 2021 Arts and Humanities Submissions for Spring Gallery
- March 1, 2021 Deadline to apply for PA State Album of Distinction
- March 1, 2021 Bulletin: Journal submissions
- March 1, 2021 Deadline to recommend a sister for the State Achievement Award

NEWSLETTER

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Next newsletter deadline for Alpha Beta Bits is [February 25, 2021](#) for articles of submission.

For the next newsletter please submit pictures of any projects that your committee might be working on. It would be nice to have pictures to go with our news articles to help better preserve the history of our chapter.

- *Tina Smith-Gilbert*

Creative Arts Retreat

Information on the April 23-25, 2021 Creative Arts Retreat being held in Ludlow, PA can be found on the state website (dkgpa.weebly.com) under the MORE heading.

State Convention 2021

Scranton, PA

June 11-13, 2020

It has been announced that state convention is headed to Scranton. The convention will be held on the following dates: June 11-13, 2021. The convention will be held at the Hilton Scranton and Conference Center. Details about Scranton, the hotel and the convention events can be found in the Powerpoint that was emailed to you in late October or on the state's webpage (dkgpa.weebly.com).

Please be advised that more information will be coming about PA State Convention after the Convention Team's planning meeting December 10- 11, 2020.

The new convention team includes our Chapter President, Becky Johnen. She is serving as the Convention Coordinator. It also includes Candace Clear who is serving as the Convention's Treasurer.

- *Becky Johnen*

Upcoming Dates /Next Meeting

Saturday, December 5, 2020

Alpha Beta Annual Christmas Tea

Slick's Ivy Stone Restaurant

10:45 Executive Board Meeting

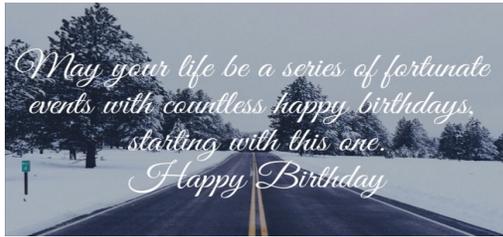
11:15 Business Meeting

12:00 Christmas Tea

12:45 Program By Visual/Performing Arts Committee



Alpha Beta Upcoming Birthdays



We would like to wish the following Alpha Beta Sisters a very happy birthday. We hope you have a great birthday!

December 2020

1st: Judy Conrad
24th: Kristen Hall
25th: Lois Stoner

January 2021

9th: Linda McCahan
26th: Yvonne Bowser
29th: Royce Boyd
30th: Linda Clapper

February 2021

12th: Melissa McDonald

Alpha Beta Bits

Composed, Edited and Printed By

Tina Smith-Gilbert

Judy Conrad

Royce Boyd

Joan McGreevy



