

# NEW JERSEY NEWS

— THE NEW JERSEY STATE ORG. - DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTL. —

**SPRING/SUMMER 2021**

**CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE DKG NJ WEBSITE**



**FROM THE DESK OF INGRID WILLIAMS,  
DKGNJ PRESIDENT**



WE CAN . . . WE WILL . . . and WE DID! If you attended the virtual state convention, you understand how “WE DID” is an appropriate addition to my president’s slogan. Many thanks again to everyone who had a hand in contributing to all that happened to make the convention a success. It was great to see so many sisters from all over the state, even if it was in a small “box.” We are surrounded by such an accomplished group of women and it was wonderful to have the time to recognize and honor sisters, both past and present. I don’t want to reiterate the information about the convention that you will read about in the other articles in this newsletter. Please be sure to check the reports from our state chairs about the convention.

“WE DID” also describes the way everyone persevered during these precedent times. Your chapter presidents deserve special kudos for learning new technology to keep your chapter moving forward and chapter members deserve credit for supporting their presidents. Let’s face it. We all had to learn new technology. But WE DID! And now it’s hard to remember a time before zoom.

I cannot begin to express what an honor it was to serve as your 2019-2021 state president. When I went to Iowa for my president’s training and then onto Connecticut in the summer of 2019 with 20 other DKG NJ sisters, there was no thought of (or training for) a pandemic. No mention of how to share a screen during a zoom call. What did happen in both of those locations was planning, bonding and some “sister time.” I am truly looking forward to having the opportunity to share those in-person times again. Many, many thanks to my incredible executive committee: Dr. Nora Pollard, Irene Maskaly, Dr. Pamela Albert Devine, Gail Starr, Ellen Hahn and Carol Ritter. We tackled new situations and they were a tremendous problem-solving group to work with. Out of necessity, we “met” many more times than most executive committees, keeping us moving forward together and assuring that we were always on the same page.

Let’s take a look back at some of the accomplishments during the biennium. We have members whose articles and artwork were accepted into the Collegial Exchange, the Bulletin, and the DKG Humanities and Art Jury. We have members serving on International DKG committees. We have talented and hardworking committee chairs who found creative ways to stay in touch with their committee members. We updated our state bylaws and standing rules. Both the state and chapters awarded scholarships and grants-in-aid to help women continue their education. We donated over 25,000 children’s books to under-privileged children. Despite



not meeting in person for the past year, chapters found ways to continue donating to food banks, women's shelters, Schools for Africa, Early Educators, World Fellowship and numerous other local projects. And best of all, I'm ending my presidency the way I began it, with in-person chapter visits. It doesn't get any better than that!

Your newly elected state president Dr. Nora Pollard, along with her executive board and committees, are a group of enthusiastic and knowledgeable leaders. To all the members of our state organization, thank you for your support, energy, and friendship. I can't express how fulfilling and energizing these past two years have been. I know that all of you, along with me, will show our support and wish our new officers the very best for a successful biennium.

## **WELCOME TO THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM OF DKGNJ**

**BY DR. NORA POLLARD**



I am so honored to have been selected as the next president of DKGNJ. The love and support that has been expressed since the election during our virtual convention is truly appreciated. One of the first tasks the new state president must complete is to find chairs for all state committees. I would like to thank those who have agreed to stay on in their previous position and those who have volunteered to fill some of the vacancies. A few positions are still not filled, however, and I am seeking the help of our members. The committees that do not yet have a chair include World Fellowship, Committee on the Arts, Installation of Officers, Exhibits and Record Books, and State Motivator.

The chair of Exhibits and Record Books is responsible for assembling and exhibiting materials significant to the current state activities. In other words, this committee is responsible for arranging to have exhibits at convention showing the work that is DKGNJ does throughout the year. In odd numbered years, the exhibits are the Chapter President's Books which are displayed to show what the chapter has accomplished during the Chapter President's biennium. In the alternate years, this committee arranges for various committees to display what that chapter has done. For example, there could be a display created by the UN Liaison showing how DKGNJ has interacted with the UN.

The Installation Committee consists of 2 or 3 members, designated as state chairs. The responsibility of this committee is to plan and execute the installation of new state officers at the DKGNJ state convention which takes place in odd numbered years.

One of the initiatives of DKG International provides support to non-members pursuing higher education in our member countries. The chair of the state World Fellowship communicates with the chapters to advise members of World Fellowship recipients and encourages members to communicate with World Fellowship recipients. If a recipient is studying at a university near one of our DKGNJ chapters, the chair of World Fellowship could encourage that chapter to attend a chapter meeting.

The Arts Committee Chair will coordinate an art exhibit at state convention to highlight the works of our many talented members. She would determine an application process, the type of medium to include in the exhibit, and work with the chapter representatives to select pieces to be displayed. The chair of the committee along with the chapter representatives are also encouraged to provide a workshop at convention.

The State Motivator gets us in the right frame of mind before meetings. She provides uplifting messages that encourage and motivate us to accomplish our goals.

If you are interested in chairing one of these committees, I encourage you to contact me, Nora Pollard DKGNJ 2021-2023 State President. You can email me at [nora.pollard@att.net](mailto:nora.pollard@att.net) or [dkgnjvp1@gmail.com](mailto:dkgnjvp1@gmail.com). I would also be happy to talk to anyone who wants more details about the responsibilities of the committees. My phone number is 908-692-5409.

Wishing everyone a happy summer and a wonderful 2021-2023 biennium!

**IRENE MASKALY, DKGNJ SECOND VICE  
PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**





## **DKGNJ MEMBERSHIP NEWS: EMBRACE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP**

The women of DKGNJ would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest members to our elite group of women educators making a difference in the world we live in! This past April 17th, 45 inductees from the 2019-2021 biennium were inducted at our first ever virtual state induction. The following members were inducted:

**Alpha;** Brittany Lissemore, Colleen McElroy, Jameelah Wright.

**Beta;** Delise Dare.

**Gamma;** Jessica Belardo, Kristine Braender, Karla Bulovcsak, Dana DiQuinzio, Dr. Karen Gischlar, Betty O'Neil, Janet Stapleton.

**Epsilon;** Deborah Gianuzzi, Linda Paladini-Mole, Deborah Reidmiller, Patricia Taranto, Michelle Visco.

**Zeta;** Erinn Byers, Molly Schaller, Brianne Bates, Susie George-Horn.

**Iota;** Toni Benecchi, Katelynn Dickstein Brotz, Ibis Deniken, Jessica Graham, Jennifer Grimaldi, Jamie Grookett, Colleen Verton.

**Eta;** Nichol McCarty, Dianna Morris.

**Lambda;** Melva Bruce, Antoinette Finley, Manuela Petoia, Felicia Querrey, Darlene Tammara.

**Mu;** Cathy Longano, Doreen Sisolak

**Nu;** Maureen McMichael, Susan Powell, Shelley (Michelle) Brown Rowe.

**Omicron;** Robyn Catalano, Joan Melega, Cindy Omelczuk, Joan Pujol, Beverly Skodi, Taylor Sprague.

All meaningful journeys begin with a first step which is why I encourage you to begin with getting involved with the leadership and dynamic of your chapter. By visiting the following Web sites: <https://www.dkgnj.org/>, our state website. Your chapter website link is also located on the top navigation bar on that page. Check out the International Web site:

<https://www.dkg.org/> and you will have a better understanding of the opportunities for personal growth as well as how to connect, live and educate with enthusiasm. The DKD *Collegial Exchange* and *The Bulletin* and *The Journal* offer opportunities to publish. The DKG Arts Gallery offers visual artists, poets, playwrights, writers, filmmakers, and musicians' opportunities to have your work exhibited. The Don't forget to complete your membership profile!

Where do your strengths lie as an educator? Are you a good motivator, great with technology, a social influencer, musical, artistic or a super organizer? These are all desirable traits and skills that promote growth and understanding within our organization. Reach out and share your skills and talents so we may help each other grow!

Be proactive, and network within the organization; Delta Kappa Gamma provides many opportunities to reach out to fellow women educators for support, inspiration, and motivation creating a synergistic effect to ignite a spark of excellence and accomplish more than one person could ever imagine.

Now that you've researched online and become involved with your Chapter, it's time to think about attending the Conventions available to all members. Meeting members with various backgrounds and interests will enable to expand your horizon and work with others for meaningful change. The 2021 International Conventions will be held in San Antonio, Texas, July 22nd -24th and Portland, Oregon July 7-10th this summer with an in person as well as virtual option. We hope you will be able to attend one or more days of the convention and experience a broader sense of the global community you have joined. Please contact your sponsor, mentor or me with any questions or information you may need about registering for the convention.

Your next steps could be attending and possibly presenting a workshop at the DKGNJ State Convention this coming April 1st -3rd 2022. Be sure to follow DKG on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or LinkedIn.

Take advantage of the opportunities and connections of your membership. You will see how these opportunities, along with active participation, can not only reignite your passion as an educator but help you create change globally.

We are so glad you have accepted your invitation to membership and joined our society! Thank you for joining DKG and I look forward to meeting you all. Now it's your turn to spread the word and share the gift. If you know of another exceptional woman educator, please encourage them to reach out directly to me at [dkgnjvp2@gmail.com](mailto:dkgnjvp2@gmail.com) or contact us via our *Want to Become a Member* Page at DKGNJ.org!





## **OUR NEW 2021 - 2023 STATE OFFICERS**

President - Dr. Nora Pollard (Lambda)

First Vice President - Irene Maskaly (Iota)

Second Vice President - Annabelle Boehm (Lambda)

Recording Secretary - Dianne Papidinec (Iota)

Corresponding Secretary - Gail Starr (Omicron)

## **DKGNJ DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT**

**DR. MARILYN GONYO, 2020 WINNER,  
LAMBDA CHAPTER**



## DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

1990 Dorothy Harp (Gamma)  
1992 Helen Casterlin (Epsilon)  
1994 Mary Cudema Schurig (Sigma)  
1996 Harriet DiLeonardo (Eta)  
1998 Carol Corby (Alpha)  
2000 Lorraine Hall (Gamma)  
2002 Laura Lewis (Sigma)  
2004 Helen Barrett (Beta)  
2006 Claire Swanson (Alpha)  
2008 Margaret Anzul (Tau)  
2010 Marion Heath (Beta)  
2012 Ellen Hahn (Beta)  
2014 Jan Paxton (Alpha)  
2016 Michele Contala (Lambda)  
2018 Carmela DeMarco (Gamma)  
2020 Dr. Marilyn Gonyo (Lambda)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 ROSEBUD  
AWARD RECIPIENT**



# 2021 JESSI OLIANO, GAMMA CHAPTER

Photo by Michele Contala



**MARGARET ABLE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD  
WINNER FOR 2021**



The Margaret Able Scholarship is an award given to provide grants-in-aid to assist outstanding women preparing to enter the education profession. In the winter of 2021, after reviewing many applications, the committee selected one outstanding woman to receive the Margaret Able Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500.00. This award was presented virtually at our 2021 Virtual Convention in April of this year.

The Scholarship Committee would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the 2021 recipient of the Margaret Able Scholarship Award, Anna Schwattauer Paille. Anna is currently a graduate student in the Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant Program at Montclair State University. Anna was a well-rounded candidate with strong academic qualifications, as well as impressive professional and personal recommendations. Anna expressed an interest in becoming a teacher as early as the third grade. She initially started her career in affordable housing and education-based non-profits. Anna's desire to become a teacher stems from her drive to make positive differences in the world and to contribute to making our society more just, equitable, and democratic for all students. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology/ Anthropology, and Women's Studies from St. Olaf College.

Anna is someone who can advocate for her community as is evidenced by her varied background. She is committed to providing engaging and meaningful opportunities for all students. Therefore, the Scholarship Committee has no doubt that she will be an inspirational and positive force among our next generation of educators.



This past year, once again, the committee once again found themselves trying to maintain some form of normalcy despite the impact of Covid-19. With colleges and universities functioning remotely, it was challenging to distribute information to our applicants but we persisted. These future educators met the challenge and we once again found women who presented the best in the field.

Submitted by Susan Relles and Wilhelmina Bryant  
Margaret Able Scholarship Co-Chairs



## **IOTA CHAPTER CONGRATULATES...**

### 2020 new members:

Toni Benecchi-Music Teacher, Washington Township

Katelyn Brotz -History Teacher, Moorestown HS

Jessica Graham-Reading Specialist, MS English Teacher Delsea Regional MS-HS

Jennifer Grimaldi-Director of School Counseling Washington Township HS

Jamie Grookett-Camden County College Writing Educator, Haddonfield BOE

Colleen Verton-Teacher ELA 6-8 Guardian Angels Regional School Paulsboro

### 2021 new member:

Ibis Deniken-Spanish Teacher-Delran School District

## **MEET OUR NEWEST NU MEMBERS**

Shelly (Michelle) Rowe is a principal at Baker Elementary School in Moorestown, NJ. She is a resident of Mount Laurel. Shelly was a Math teacher in Lawrence Township before making the move to Moorestown. She is a graduate of Trenton State College (TCNJ).

Susan Powell, the principal of Moorestown Upper Elementary has also joined us this year. Susan is a resident of Medford, NJ. She comes to us with degrees from Juniata College and Rowan University. Susan has also taught math at Clearview Regional. Maureen McMichael joined us last year during the pandemic. She is a resident of Southampton, NJ, and a math teacher in the Lenape District at Seneca High School. Maureen is involved with Girl Scouts, PTA, and coaching youth field hockey.



## DKG MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

DKG membership requirements have changed. **Membership is an honor that is offered by invitation from a local chapter.** A candidate for membership must:

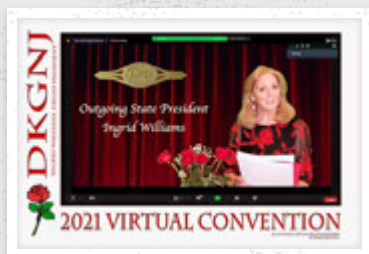
1. Identify as a woman.
2. Be employed as a professional educator at the time of her election, OR
3. Be retired from an educational position.

What positions qualify as "educational" or "professional"?

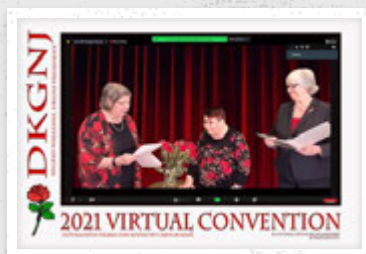
- Administrators—public and private schools
- Alternative-school teachers
- Art/Music/Dance instructors
- Classroom teachers—public and private
- Collegiate members (who meet the criteria described in the International Constitution)
- Consultants
- Counselors / Media Specialists
- School nurses
- Educators from Pre-school (PK) through university levels (16+)
- Head Start teachers
- Leisure arts teachers (Zumba, yoga, swimming, skiing, etc.)
- Master Gardener teachers
- Medical teachers
- Paraprofessionals: aides, assistants
- Religious teachers
- Trade-school teachers

**A SUCCESSFUL VIRTUAL CONVENTION**

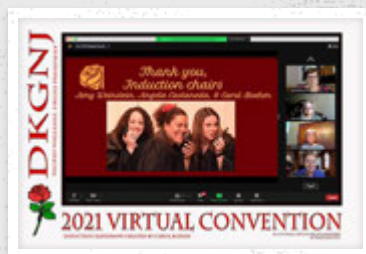




**INGRID  
WILLIAMS,  
PRESIDENT**



**L-R: PAM  
RAYNOR,  
ANNABELLE  
BOEHM,  
JANE  
MURPHY**



**INDUCTION  
CHAIRS**

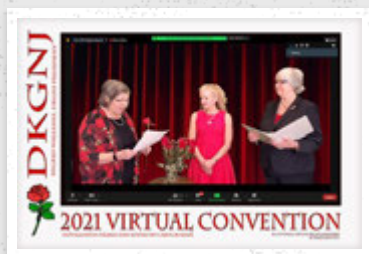
DKG-NJ's first ever virtual convention is in the books!

After cancelling the 2020 convention, our State President Ingrid Williams and her officers were determined to hold a virtual convention for 2021. Through dedication and hard work, it happened! Thanks to EVERYONE who participated in making this event a total success. A total of 228 members registered for the convention. Participants enjoyed on-line workshops, a business meeting, induction ceremony, awards ceremony, induction of new state officers, and a celebration of life, all from the comforts of our own homes. In addition, we came through in a BIG way with our donations to designated funds. Due to the absence of "basket ticket sales" for two years, our designated funds account (fueled by ticket sales) took a hit. The generosity of our members in donating a total of \$4,753.57, above and beyond the registration fee, is a shining example of our dedication to keeping DKG-NJ strong.

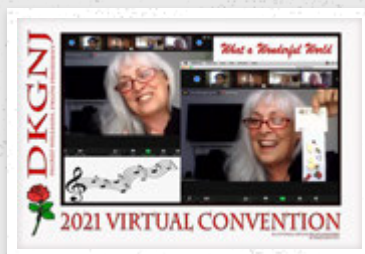
Please mark your calendars for the 2022 DKG-NJ Annual Convention on April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd next year. It will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset, our traditional venue. Looking forward to seeing you all IN PERSON!

Angie Belmont  
Convention Chair

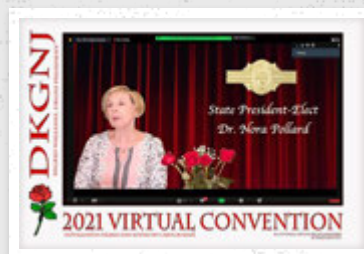
**THE FIRST EVER VIRTUAL CONVENTION  
WAS A HIT!**



**L-R PAM  
RAYNOR,  
IRENE  
MASKALY,  
JANE  
MURPHY**



**CATHERINE  
SCHOFIELD,  
STATE  
MOTIVATOR**



**DR. NORA  
POLLARD**

We did it! The 2021 DKGNJ State Convention went virtual (like most everything else this year). It was good to see so many smiling faces at our Zoom convention. A special thank you goes out to the Ad Hoc Virtual Convention Committee for all their hard work to bring this convention to fruition.

Although we were unable to have the typical number of workshops available during the virtual convention, we did have three fabulous presentations. Patti Rahn, Omicron Chapter, shared her exciting trip to Antarctica. I get cold just looking at some of these pictures. Argine Safari, Alpha Chapter, took us to Finland and shared her experiences in that country as a Fulbright Scholar. It was a pleasure to learn about the education system in a progressive country. Dr. Amy Fratz, Pi Chapter, helped us navigate the education maze. As teachers, parents, and grandparents, Amy provided information we can use to assist children to get the school services they need. Thank you to Patti, Argine, and Amy for taking on the challenge of creating pre recorded presentations to educate and entertain us.



**NEWS FROM OUR CHAPTERS**



## GAMMA CHAPTER

Gamma recently hosted school administrator and author Jay Billy at their general meeting. Currently a principal in Lawrence Township, Jay speaks passionately about the importance of school culture. His book Lead with Culture is a concise and real-life based compilation of “what matters” in schools and how administrators and educators can accomplish each goal.

He cites 16 areas that matter in a school focused on “being a champion of your school and a cheerleader of those who work and learn there”:

- Culture and Expectations Matter
- Learning and Thinking Matters
- Enthusiasm and Joy Matter
- Community and Celebrations Matter
- Intentionality and Honesty Matter
- Evolving and Being Connected Matter
- Relationships and Wellness Matter
- Passion and Inspiration Matter
- Kindness Matters

Gamma enjoyed the presentation and the give-and-take discussion that followed. The opening exercise was to text a friend in education who you haven’t talked to in a while, and tell them how much you appreciate them and what kind of impact they have made in your life. By the end of the presentation, most of us had text responses!

Picture below is Jay Billy with Gamma President Angie Belmont.



## ZETA CHAPTER

As teachers, we are committed to creating innovative lessons developed from our curriculum. We are also responsible to share these lessons with our administrators. However, some of our very best lessons are those that we learn, as individuals, because through these lessons, we learn to be more resilient, more compassionate, and more mindful.

The sisters of Zeta chapter learned a myriad of lessons during the past 15 months, and whether the lesson was more personal, physical, professional, economic, social, or spiritual, *it was and is important* for all to heed. Some of the lessons that Zeta sisters shared were:

- To surrender to those things in which we have no control
- To appreciate every single day
- To treasure our family time, at home, because it is so important
- To reflect on the importance of social-emotional activities with our students
- To be cognizant that you can only control yourself
- To make time for you
- To look at the glass as half-full rather than half-empty
- To live with your shadow: little commitment and less social obligation
- To learn to be alone more
- To be thankful for God's gifts
- To put family first
- To realize that gardening makes everything better
- To realize that life's simple, little pleasures are the best
- To not take anything for granted
- To allow for self-reflection
- To come to the realization that we *still* love teaching

President, Johanna McCauley

## IOTA CHAPTER

"You're on mute!" If your chapter has been meeting virtually, this is probably a new phrase you have heard multiple times this year. Even though we have been meeting virtually, no one can mute our IOTA members! The IOTA chapter has been quite busy since our last update. We have held all chapter meetings online and have even added some extra workshops into the mix to keep our sisterhood strong. Our president, Stacy Kasse, keeps us well informed with upcoming meetings and events through her "Monday Morning Musings," a blog-like email that comes out each week. IOTA hosted a virtual tour of the Tea and Spice Exchange in Haddonfield, a Personal Narrative Writing workshop, hosted by current member Jamie Grookett, as well as many Book Club meetings! Our Book Club, organized by Sharon Gardner and Dianne Papadinec, has read and discussed 5 books so far and these meetings are getting more and more popular each month. Our retirees have started having in-person luncheons and field trips again too. Together we inducted a new member, Ibis Deniken, this year and are excited to meet her in person soon! Our finance committee, Margie Maines, Camy Kobylinski, and Denise McDermott have been very busy auditing our chapter finances. And finally, our chapter historian, Margie Maines, has also been very committed to organizing the amazing accomplishments of the members of our chapter. Their hard work and dedication to our chapter has been invaluable!

Outside of our IOTA meetings our members are making moves as well! Jamie Grookett has had multiple poems published, and is working on a historical fiction novel, as well as a poetry collection. Sharon Gardner has published a children's book titled *Max's Tree* about a little



boy's adventure watching the seasons change throughout the year. The book is now available on Amazon! Shannon Pizzuta, as the NJEA Pride chair in her district, has completed many projects this year building relationships between her district and the community. Her projects include organizing 13 "Drive-Through Book and Breakfast" events at 6 different schools as well as building a Little Free Library for the community to use at each of the 8 schools in her district. Thousands of free books have been given to the children in her district through these projects. And finally, Kimberly Dickstein Hughes was not only awarded the NJ 2020 California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence, named a "Victorious Champion" of the Alicia Rose Foundation for her work with the charity, but she was also on the cover of the magazine, Real Women! The spring issue article is titled "Kim Possible" and it details how this NJ Teacher of the Year brings her classroom to life. We are so proud of our members that continue to shine even during this difficult year.

Last, but definitely not least, IOTA would like to congratulate member, Nancy Riti. This year marks Nancy's 40th year with IOTA. She was honored at our last meeting with a 40-year pin, a donation to a charity of her choice, and flowers. She is an inspiration to us all! Congrats Nancy!

We are very excited to be getting vaccinated and the world opening back up. We look forward to our in person meeting starting again soon!

## LAMBDA CHAPTER

What a year of reflection and perseverance!

Lambda sisters have stayed connected through the creative use of Zoom meetings. Dr. Alan Gertner presented an educational program on hearing loss. Larry Abrams from BookSmiles shared the vision and purpose of this unique opportunity to get books into the hands of children. Lambda has collected 444 books so far for BookSmiles. The Gift Card Club has held monthly meetings to raise funds. The Book Club met on Zoom during the cold weather, however, looks forward to outdoor monthly lunch meetings. Creative sisters, Linda Walton and Joan Stuart, hosted two Zoom Game Nights. Sisters competed in Trivia and Bingo (DKGNJ). Lambda held an engaging and fun Pajama Party on Zoom the Friday evening before the state convention. As April marks National Poetry Month, sisters shared recitations of their favorite poems with all during the virtual get together.

As our connection and sisterhood remained consistent throughout the year, nothing replaces true presence. The annual Lambda Business Meeting and Picnic will be held outdoors on June 19th at Linda Walton's house. This will give us a chance to see each other in person again.

Lambda proudly acknowledges our sisters. Congratulations go out to:

Dr. Nora Pollard, DKGNJ elected President

Annabelle Boehm, DKGNJ elected Second VP

Dr. Marilyn Gonyo, DKGNJ Dedicated Service Award

Wilhelmina Bryant, Lambda 2020 Rose Award

Our Carol Boehm's valuable contributions, outstanding PowerPoints for the Induction Ceremony and the Celebration of Life during the state convention were magnificent. Three talented sisters had work accepted to the Spring DKG Arts Gallery: Felicia Query in Drawing, Michele Contala in Photography, and Miranda McMahon in Mixed Media. Last year two Lambda sisters achieved 50- year membership status. We formally recognize and honor Dr. Marilyn Gonyo and Judy Jordan for their service and dedication to our organization.

Susan Muniz, Lambda 1st VP, has completed the course to become an active listener for Caring Contact in Westfield, a suicide prevention hotline.

Lastly, congratulations to Manuela Petoia on the birth of her first granddaughter.

Wonderful year, Lambda Ladies! Let's continue our energetic excitement for a balance of treasured traditions and new endeavors.

Cathy Fortunato, President

## NU CHAPTER

Happy 50th to NU Chapter!

Nu Chapter was born April 24, 1971. Parent Eta Chapter installed officers of "baby chapter #13" in Atlantic City. Nu Chapter was known as the mavericks and led by Laura Lewis (1971-94) during its early years.

In 1971, there were twenty-eight members which swelled to sixty-six members by 1986.

President Laura Lewis (1984-86) suggested an expansion and in 1988, Nu Chapter became the parent to Sigma.

Since 1988, there has been an ebb and flow of membership. In 2021, our small but mighty group now stands at 41 members who represent a varied cross section of outstanding women educators from several towns/districts in Burlington County. It is with great pride we can say that 19 Nu Chapter sisters have held 8 State Offices, 29 State Chair positions and 1 International.

Our Service and Outreach to school and community is constant and strives to address the Seven Purposes of the Society. The annual Holiday tradition in honor and memory of a dedicated sister, The Doris Garland Project, runs in conjunction with Saint Vincent De Paul. Members consistently show their overwhelming generosity by fulfilling holiday wish lists for as many as 4 families per year. We have given to schools after Hurricanes Sandy (NJ) and Florence (NC), Book Smiles, Food Pantries and local Educational Foundations. We have had several professionals speak at our chapter meetings on Leadership, Self-Defense for Women, Enhancing Curriculum and Communication in the Tech Age.

Nu Chapter has another annual tradition – a Combined Workshop with Beta, Eta, Iota, and Sigma Chapters which is always a great time of fellowship and learning. Our last Workshop (March 2019) was held at Riverwinds Restaurant on the Delaware River in West Deptford. Our speaker was a very interesting author, Mr. Hal Taylor, who spoke about the history of the Delaware River. . . right outside the window!

We are hopeful and yearning to finally gather face-to-face starting this June with a Covered Dish Luncheon. Nu Chapter sisters will continue to do our good works and promote the fellowship that we so dearly missed these last 15 months!

Submitted by Gail Griffin, Immediate Past President (2018-20)



## OMICRON CHAPTER

Congratulations to Anne Flynn, Principal of the Robert C. Wood Early Childhood Center in the Little Egg Harbor School District, on receiving her Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership from Stockton University.

Beverley Skodi, teacher and French Club Advisor at Southern Regional High School, took activities outside the classroom with the club's participation in a Mini Tour de France from the high school to Manahawkin Lake. The club's next planned activity is a visit to a creperie in Beach Haven.

Congratulations to Sara Dreher and her husband Dan on the birth of their daughter on May 4; 2021. Sara teaches general, instrumental and vocal music in the Little Egg Harbor School District.

Omicron celebrated its 40th birthday at their May 17th meeting held at Mill Creek Park in Manahawkin. Patti Rahn and Joanne Hill presented Omicron's history from inception through today and honored current President Diane Roberts with a rose. Omicron sisters also welcomed state officers Ingrid Williams, Nora Pollard and Irene Maskely to the meeting as well as Sigma member Peggy Madison. Newest member Joan Pujol, who was inducted into Omicron at the DKG NJ Virtual 2021 April Convention, was welcomed into the group and presented with a rose. All meeting attendees received lunch bags with the DKG logo and 40th Happy Birthday pins.

Milestone awards were presented to Barbara Smith for 35 years and Patti Senk for 25 years. Pins will also be presented to Eileen Mahan and Betty Gill, 45 and 40 years respectively. Their service and commitment to Omicron and DKG is commendable!

Omicron sisters collected and donated books as part of their participation in the State's initiative "For the Love of Books". In addition, they raised \$235.00 through a basket raffle to benefit Schools for Africa and collected food to be donated to a local food pantry.

## PI CHAPTER

In spite of the pandemic and not being able to meet in person, Pi sisters focused their service projects on children. During the fall Pi collected money to help provide food for the KidzPack program operated by the Kitchen of Hope. Every Friday, the backpack program provides school-aged children with nutritionally balanced meals to sustain them and their families over the weekend. These packs are carefully designed to allow children (with minimal supervision) to prepare meals for themselves easily.

The winter project involved the Together Teen Center, a walk-in shelter in southern New Jersey, providing 24-hour emergency shelter for youth, ages 9-18, who find themselves in need of a safe place to live. Together provides emergency housing for youth who have experienced abuse, neglect, human trafficking or those youth who have runaway or are in need of safe housing due to a variety of circumstances. Pi sisters collected money to provide pajamas, underwear and/or Christmas gifts for teens at the center.

The spring project involved the Food Bank of South Jersey's Mobile Meals program. Nutritious food is delivered to low income neighborhoods to feed children and their families. The money collected was the equivalent of 4200 meals!

Pi's service projects were an absolute success. The total amount given to the projects was \$2540.



## SIGMA CHAPTER

Sigma did not let the pandemic prevent us from celebrating milestones. Keeping socially distant, thirty-year pins were delivered to Elle Hecht, Nancy Ireland, and Roberta Sallee. Thank you for your years of loyalty to DKG!

Support of the state project kept us going to book drops. At last count, Sigma members donated 3,573 books! Teachers who retire (Maria Zacher) and move (Roxanne Adinolfi) helped to swell our numbers!

In 2004, under the leadership of president Linda Dix, Sigma began to honor Women of Distinction. For a donation to our grant fund, members were able to single out some outstanding women who were acknowledged and awarded certificates at one of our functions. Realizing that some of the people who impressed us were men, the name was changed to The

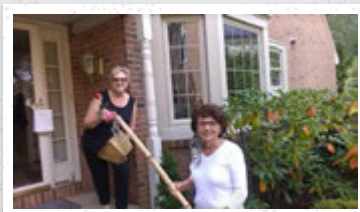


Linda M. Dix Person of Distinction award. To date over 70 people have received this award. This year we have honored three people – Sky McClain (Sigma), Ingrid Williams (Nu), and Carol Boehm (Lambda). All three women stand out for giving distinctive service to DKG NJ. In December we took time for some laughter as we learned more about each other. We had a Zoom happy hour and played Two Truths and a Lie. Each member made three statements about themselves, and we had to guess which was the lie. We learned some interesting things about each other! Here are some samples of extraordinary truths:

- I was abducted in the Casbah
- I fell asleep on a date at a *Chicago* concert
- I toilet papered a school bus

Our February Zoom meeting was a Zoom book talk. The topic was The Unveiled Truth, the DKG 2020 Educators Book Award Winner. We saw some similarities to our own teaching experiences, and many differences!

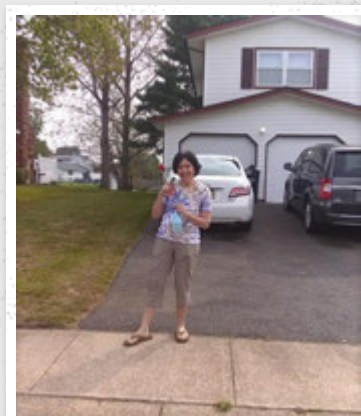
We are looking forward to another backyard gathering where we will once again honor a graduating senior who plans to enter the teaching field. On May 26 Ms. Aniya Davis from Willingboro High School will receive the Roxanne Adinolfi Grant in Aid. She will be given a check for \$1,500 to use toward her tuition at Rutgers.



**ELLE HECHT**



**NANCY  
IRELAND**



**ROBERTA  
SALLEE**



**NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL**

Both of the DKG International Conferences in July 2021 will be in-person event and are going to be held in Portland, OR from July 7 – 10 and in San Antonio, TX from July 21- 24. Registration forms for both conferences can be found on the DKG website ([www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)).

Virtual content from both conferences will be offered during one of the conferences – site to be determined. At this time, members who register for virtual attendance at either conference will be automatically provided access to the content from both conferences and will be able to both attend virtually at the conference that is live-streamed and view content on-demand at the time most convenient for the member.

More details will be provided as soon as possible via the DKG Website, social media, and President's Page. Questions should be directed to Society Headquarters via email, phone, or chat.

## DKG: “OPPORTUNITIES, CONTRIBUTIONS, IMPACT.”

The theme of this year's Conference in San Antonio, July 22-24, encourages us to take advantage of the many *opportunities* to make *contributions* and have a positive *impact* on our society. Join us for this Conference in a perfect place for a reunion with our DKG sisters - after some very challenging times. This beautiful city is a destination for so many with its famous Riverwalk and charming sites. We're always told that everything is bigger in Texas, and this conference is no exception!

You can register right now by going to [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) and clicking on Events and then on San Antonio. Don't forget to make your room reservations at the beautiful San Antonio Marriott River center. That link is also on the Delta Kappa Gamma website.

Keynote speakers will include: Becky Sadowski, Diane Phillips, Eva-Marie Kangro, and Wendy Gates Corbett.

A preconference workshop sponsored by the Foundation will be held on Thursday, July 22. You will “Experience Historical San Antonio.” The kick-off welcome reception will be held that same evening with yummy desserts and a chance to reunite with our sisters. Friday and Saturday will provide full days of sessions, keynotes, and more.

And don't miss out on these additional opportunities:

1. Be a vendor in the Marketplace. Contact Belinda Clift at [belindaclift@mail.com](mailto:belindaclift@mail.com) or Tracey Crawford at [randytracey@bellsouth.net](mailto:randytracey@bellsouth.net)
2. Be a sponsor or having an advertisement in the program book. Contact Dr. Debbie LeBlanc at [dleblancedd@gmail.com](mailto:dleblancedd@gmail.com) or Candi Martin at [going2bigflat@yahoo.com](mailto:going2bigflat@yahoo.com)
3. Be a volunteer. Contact Kay Stuart at: [dkg.stuart@gmail.com](mailto:dkg.stuart@gmail.com)
4. Be in the chorus on Saturday night. Sign up online at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)





## **IT'S A WONDERFUL WORLD - DKG VERSION 2.21...(ORIGINAL BY LOUIE ARMSTRONG)**

### **SUNG BY STATE MOTIVATOR CATHERINE SCHOFIELD AT THE DKG NJ STATE CONVENTION.**

Do you remember when we met  
In a big open space  
Making eye contact  
With each sister's face  
And we thought to ourselves, what a wonderful world

Then Covid-19 struck  
With restrictions everywhere  
Now we meet each other  
In our own private square  
Still we think to ourselves, what a wonderful world

I'm so glad to hear your voices  
And thrilled to see your smiles  
Even if they're packaged  
In tiny zoom tiles  
I'm grateful for the bandwidth,  
WIFI and computer powers  
As long as we share time  
These few convention hours

We won't forget the challenges  
The things we've learned and seen  
We'll wear our crowns proudly  
Each a "Covid-Techno-Queen"  
And we'll think to ourselves, what a wonderful world



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

June 6th CTAUN Webinar	International Conferences July 7-10 Portland, Oregon July 21-24 San Antonio, Texas	September 1 Deadline for Lucile Cornet Award for Professional Development
DKGNJ State Meeting Dates (Tentative) September 11 January 8 June 4	April 1 -3 DKGNJ State Convention	July 12 -16 DKG International Convention New Orleans, LA

[CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE DKGNJ WEBSITE!](#)



## CONNECT WITH ME

 @HeatherLieberm2

Please send all items for future newsletters to me, Heather Lieberman, Gamma Chapter.

 [liebermandkg@gmail.com](mailto:liebermandkg@gmail.com)