

New Jersey News



Volume 66 Issue 3

Spring 2020

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The Delta Kappa
Gamma Society
International
promotes
professional and
personal growth of
women educators and
excellence in
education.

To Your Good Health!

It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver. Mahatma Gandhi

Normally our Spring newsletter would be filled with all the wonderful events that took place at our recently held DKGNJ Convention. It would be loaded with beautiful pictures of smiling faces and detailed recaps of the special traditions and moments that we shared in.

This year we were unable to hold the convention due to the outbreak of Covid-19 across the state and the country. As disappointing as this may be, it was the right thing to do for the health and safety of our sisters. Despite this setback, we have found ways to connect and remain involved with not only each other but educating children.

DKG prides itself on being a philanthropic society and we are now presented with a unique opportunity to show our stuff. As so many people around the state are struggling we can do what we have always done, and help. If you go to <https://www.foodbanks.net/state/nj.html> you will find a statewide directory of food banks in every county. You can donate to those that are hungry and in need. Food banks in NJ are amazing organizations that are mostly run by volunteers with big hearts with one goal only: to help those in need.



A Message from our NJ State President, Ingrid Williams



Sisters,

The luncheon program, banquet programs and convention booklets were all printed. The flowers were ordered. Two hundred thirty-four members were registered. Twelve of our own members were presenting workshops. Twenty-nine new members were excited to be inducted into our Society on Saturday night. Becky Sadowski, International First Vice President and our scheduled guest, had her plane reservations. Everything was right on schedule. And then . . . we had to stop in our tracks, not once, but twice, to assess the COVID-19 situation across the state of New Jersey. With the health and welfare of our sisters being our first priority, your officers decided to first postpone, and then cancel, our state convention. Disappointed? Of course. But hopefully this finds you and your loved ones safe, and that is exactly what we were hoping to accomplish.

If ever there's been a time for gratitude, this is it. I'm grateful for the heroic efforts from those serving on the front lines: military, first responders, doctors, nurses, delivery drivers, grocery store workers, fulfillment center workers, and everyone else who is out there working to help us do our job - staying home. I'm in awe of their courage and commitment not only throughout the world, but particularly in New Jersey where our COVID-19 numbers are so high. They deserve our unending thanks and appreciation. I'm also grateful and proud of our teachers. In a very short time, with very little notice, teachers went from standing in front of classrooms filled with students to sitting in front of computers delivering instruction. From what I've heard from those in the "trenches," it takes more time and energy to plan and deliver virtual lessons. Many of these teachers also have their own children at home that they need to care for and help with their schoolwork. I'm sure there have been moments of feeling overwhelmed and under-prepared. Focusing on the good helps us keep our perspective. It's gratitude that keeps our spirits high during this time

of uncertainty. We are all in this together. Phone calls, Facetime with family, and Zoom meetings with friends and DKG sisters keep me feeling connected during this time of isolation. I'm also grateful for all of you and your support during this unprecedented time. In keeping with my theme, I know that WE CAN . . . and WE WILL . . . come out of this stronger. We are resilient. We are Jersey Girls. We are DKGNJ.

By now, those who were registered for the convention should have received their refund. Kudos to Jan Paxton and Angela Belmont for getting those refunds in the mail in record time. Those who registered for the convention can pick up their convention booklet at the next state meeting. No doubt it will be a collector's item! This newsletter is usually filled with reports and pictures from the convention. In lieu of those reports and pictures, we decided to include things we missed out on. Since the chapter presidents are finishing their biennium's, it was decided to print their reports from the convention booklet in this newsletter. Many thanks to all of them for leading their chapters for the past two years. I thoroughly enjoyed working with this energetic and creative group of women. We also decided to print the names of the members who would have been honored at the Celebration of Life ceremony on Sunday morning. They will be honored at next year's convention, along with any members who pass away in the coming year. Finally, we are printing the names and some photos of our new inductees. We welcome them to DKG New Jersey with virtual hugs!

The officers have already begun to plan next year's convention. It seems only right that we combine things that would have occurred at this year's convention with things that are scheduled to occur at next year's convention. We will honor both the Rose and Key awardees as well as the Distinguished Service and Rosebud awardees next year. We don't want to miss an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our sisters. I hope you have April 16-18, 2021 marked on your calendar. For those of you who don't want to wait until next year to eat a Doubletree Signature Chocolate Chip cookie, check out the recipe included in this newsletter. Many thanks to Wilhelmina Bryant for getting this recipe for us. For some, the cookie is the highlight of the convention. Enjoy!

Finally, I want to thank everyone who had a hand in planning this year's convention. A lot of behind-the-scenes work goes into a convention and I truly appreciate the work of both individuals and committees. Let's do it again next year, shall we?
With sincere gratitude,
Ingrid

Book Drive

Being ordered to stay at home has definitely put a crimp in our book drive but we won't let it stop us once we are permitted to move about again. We will continue the Book Drive into next year. Who knows, maybe we can increase our goal?

NEW JERSEY STATE ORGANIZATION NEWS

Official publication of the NJ State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (published three times per year)

2019-2021 NJ STATE ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

Ingrid Williams, *President*

Dr. Nora Pollard, *First Vice-President*

Irene Maskaly, *Second Vice-President*

Dr. Pamela Albert Devine, *Recording Secretary*

Gail Starr, *Corresponding Secretary*

Ellen Hahn, *Treasurer*

Carol Ritter, *Parliamentarian*

Carol Schwartz, *Immediate Past President*

2019-2021 NJ STATE ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

Heather Lieberman, *Editor*

Barbara Smith, *Staff*

Jane Tallmadge, *Circulation*

If you want to submit a story, news, or a noteworthy event please send all submissions to Heather Lieberman, Gamma Chapter
liebermandkg@gmail.com



DKGNJ Membership News: Keeping Connected and Moving Forward

The sisters of DKGNJ would like to extend a warm welcome to our 45 new sisters to the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. We welcome them to an elite group of women educators who are making a difference in the world we live in!

In reflection of the last 6 months, the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly created an extreme amount of uncertainty in our world. One glimmer of light that has come forth from all of this, is that it has created effective change in DKG as well as our overall way of communicating that none of us could have predicted a year ago. Our members at all levels are embracing technology in order to stay connected with one another both personally and professionally. Today ZOOM, GoToMeetings, and Webex have become the latest buzzwords in our efforts to reach out virtually since sheltering in place has now become the new norm. Like it or not, technology is making it happen! The virtual classroom has now extended its reach not only to our educators currently working but also to our membership outside the classroom.

In true DKG fashion, our membership has embraced this change as an opportunity to learn and extend our caring and nurturing nature to connect, share, and move forward with our Society's mission. This Spring our newest members were inducted virtually into our society. While this experience pales in comparison to our State's traditional ceremony as well as the in person experience at the chapter meeting, they on the hand had the opportunity to meet the majority of their chapter sisters who might not have had the chance to attend a regular in person meeting. Though there are pluses and minuses to every situation, we are resourceful women who "crush" every obstacle and see it also as an opportunity to get creative.

As an example, Illinois Key Women Educators have been posting inspirational video messages on their state Facebook page which in turn have been shared to the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Facebook page. DKG Wisconsin has posted videos of concerts entitled "Music for Your Soul". The opportunities are endless!

I encourage you to visit DKG international's website (www.DKG.org) to complete your member profile. By doing this you will receive up to date DKG information from international. Make sure to follow DKG on Facebook (New Jersey State Organization DKG), Twitter (@NJSTATEORGDKG), Instagram(dkgnewjersey), or LinkedIn (DKG: The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International). Last but not least, let's not forget a little of the "old school charm" and reach out through phone calls and snail mail cards to our sisters who don't have the technology available, especially if they are in a Care Facility.

To our newest sisters, we are 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 in person. Now it's your turn to spread the word and share the gift of membership. If you know of another exceptional woman educator, please encourage them to reach out directly to me at dkgnjvp2@gmail.com or contact us via our Want to Become a Member Page at DKGNJ.org!

To all our sisters, be well, continue to be diligent and stay safe. To paraphrase our International President Cathy Daugherty from her latest blog post, "find happiness from around us and within".

Irene Maskaly, DKGNJ Second Vice President, Membership Chair

Meet our 2020 Inductees!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new sisters!

ALPHA

Elizabeth Giblin	Tenafly High School - Supervisor of World Languages
Jody Inglis	Cedar Grove High School - Vice Principal
Brittany Lissemore	Thomas Jefferson Elementary School – Resource Room Teacher
Colleen McElroy	Cedar Grove High School - Mathematics Teacher
Lisa Petruzzi	Forest Avenue School (Glen Ridge) - Kindergarten Teacher
Jameelah Wright	Three Stages Learning Center - Head Lead Teacher/Asst. Director

BETA

Delise Dare	Lower Alloways Creek Township School (retired) – 7 th & 8 th grade math
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GAMMA

Jessica Belardo	University Heights Elementary School (Hamilton Township) - Gifted & Talented Teacher
Kristine Braender	Reynolds Middle School (Hamilton Township) - Math Teacher
Dana DiQuinzio	Kuser Elementary School (Hamilton Township) – 3 rd Grade
Karla Bulovcsak	University Heights Elementary School (Hamilton Township) - Basic Skills
Dr. Karen Gischlar	Rider University - Associate Professor - Department of Graduate Education, Leadership and Counseling
Betty O'Neil	Pond Road Middle School (Robbinsville School District) - Special Education Teacher
Janet Stapleton	Robbins Elementary School (Trenton School District) - 1st Grade Teacher

EPSILON

Deborah Gianuzzi	Sparta High School, Sussex County Community College - Music Educator
Linda Paladini-Mole	Stillwater Township School (retired)
Deborah Reidmiller	Lenape Valley Regional HS (retired) - Special Education
Patricia Taranto	Professional Counselor (previously a counselor at Newton High School)

ZETA

Erinn Byers	Lacey Township Schools - 2nd Grade Teacher
Molly Schaller	Jackson Township Schools - 2nd Grade Teacher
Brianne Bates	Toms River Schools - 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher
Susie George-Horn	Toms River Schools - 7th Grade Science Teacher

IOTA

Toni Benecchi Chestnut Ridge Middle School (Washington Twp.) – Music Teacher
Katelynn Moorestown High School – History Teacher
Dickstein Brotz
Shari Douglass Deptford Twp. Schools – 4th Grade Teacher
Jessica Graham Delsea Regional HS District - Reading Specialist / MS English Educator
Jennifer Grimaldi Washington Township High School - Director of School Counseling
Jamie Groomett Educator at Camden County College; Haddonfield School District BOE member
Colleen Verton Guardian Angels Regional School (Camden Diocese) – 5th Grade Teacher

ETA

Nichol McCarty Westampton School District – Art Teacher K-3
Dianna Morris Cherry Hill School District – Special Education Teacher

LAMBDA

Melva Bruce Piscataway School District – Job Coach
Antoinette Finley Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School (Bridgewater) (retired) - Teacher and Guidance Counselor
Manuela Petoia Piscataway School District - Paraprofessional and District Translator for the Child Study Team
Felicia Querrey The Matheny School in Peapack - Teacher
Darlene Tammara The Matheny School in Peapack - Teacher

MU

Cathy Longano Holy Cross Academy (Rumson) - Middle School ILA Teacher.
Doreen Sisolak Meadowbrook School (Eatontown) - 1st grade Teacher

NU

Maureen Seneca High School (Lenape Regional HS District) – Math Teacher
McMichael

OMICRON

Robyn Catalano Robert C. Wood, Sr. Early Childhood Center (Little Egg Harbor Twp. School District) - Preschool teacher
Joan Melega Beach Haven School District (retired) - Music Teacher
Cindy Omelczuk Barnegat High School - Media Specialist/Librarian
Beverly Skodi Southern Regional High School - French Teacher
Jackie South Barnegat High School – Math Teacher
Taylor Sprague Robert C. Wood, Sr. Early Childhood Center (Little Egg Harbor Twp. School District) - Preschool teacher



Newsorthy Notes

It's Time to Pay Your Dues!

Just a reminder to all members that DKG dues will again be collected in the spring. This change was made to align the financial timelines and windows of the chapters, the State and international organizations. Your chapter treasurer may start collecting dues as early as April and she will continue accepting dues throughout May and early June.

Knowing that many chapters have had to cancel their planned spring meetings, which no doubt included induction of new members along with the installation of new officers, this is a reminder that someone becomes a member of DKG as soon as she pays her dues. New members do not have to participate in an induction ceremony to join DKG. They simply need to pay their dues.

Please be sure to help your chapter treasurers by paying your dues on time, as your chapter treasurer needs to complete the posting of the dues in a timely fashion. When you finish paying your dues, why not sign into the International website and check to make sure that your profile is correct. You can find it under "My DKG" and "My Account". There you can make any changes needed to your mailing address, phone number and/or email address. This ensures that the state organization and International have correct contact information for you. Thank you!

Convention Registrar and Website News

Convention didn't happen this year! Who would have predicted this set of events? By now you all should have gotten your refunds from DKGNJ. Angie Belmont and I processed the 240 checks as quickly as we could once the official cancellation was finalized.

This did, however, leave a big gap in our plans. If your chapter was planning to sell things at convention, you may have inventory to unload or a big hole in your budget. I can help you with that! If you send me the information (and photo), I can put the sales on the website with the appropriately revised information and we can publicize them. You probably need to add charges for shipping or else specify delivery at the September State Meeting, if we can have that.

Committees that were planning to make reports, announcements or set up projects can send me information for the website. I can even add a web page for your committee if that is what you need. Communication doesn't have to stop, so contact me: alphazetastate@dkgnj.org.

Jan Paxton
Convention Registrar, State Webmaster
alphazetastate@dkgnj.org
201-851-1428



Newsworthy Notes

NOMINATIONS 2021-2023

DKGNJ

It is not too early to think about electing officers to lead the State Organization of New Jersey for the 2021-2023 biennium. The State Nominations Committee, which is composed of Chapter Nomination Chairs, will meet in September.

In the meantime, if you are interested in serving as an officer, reach out to your chapter nominations chair or the state nominations chair concerning the process. The Nomination Form for the 2021-2023 biennium is posted on the state website.

The deadline for submission of applications is September 30, 2020.

Thank you

Carol S. Schwartz.

Jersey Girls Dinner Update

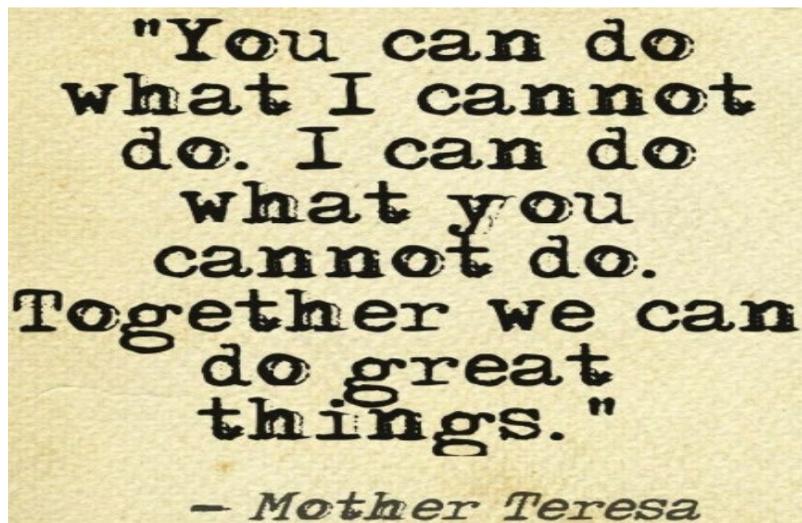
As this goes to press, no final decision has been made about the International Convention in Philadelphia. Your chapter presidents should have forwarded an email from Cathy Daugherty a few weeks ago.

If the convention is cancelled and you are still registered to attend at the time of the cancellation, you will have the option of receiving a full refund or applying your registration to the 2022 International Convention in New Orleans. If the convention is cancelled, the Jersey Girls dinner will also be cancelled.

Ellen Hahn has not deposited any of the checks she received and will only deposit them if the convention is going to be held. Keep watching your emails and checking the International and state websites for news.

Leadership Development Conference

The Leadership Development Conference, originally planned for June 6, has been moved to Saturday, September 12th. It will be combined with our regularly scheduled state meeting. Margaret Niemiec and Jeanne DelColle have planned to have the same keynote speaker. How fortunate are we that she was still available in September? We are still hoping to have not only the chapter officers attend, but many of the chapter members as well. Since lunch will be served, you will be asked to register ahead of time. Watch for more information this summer.



Newsworthy Notes

Members with 50+ Years of Membership

Beta



Doris Salati
April 1957



Beulah Brinker
April 1962



Marion Heath
April 1967



Ann Saienni
March 1968



Dr. Beth Ann Richey
April 1970

Gamma

Kathleen Minch - April 1970

Epsilon

Kathryn Bedell - April 1965

Suzanne Hunt - April 1967

Zeta

Mary D. Clarke - April 1961

Lois Schoeck - April 1970

Eta

Harriet Di Leonardo - April 1958

Gwendolyn Jones - April 1968

Lambda

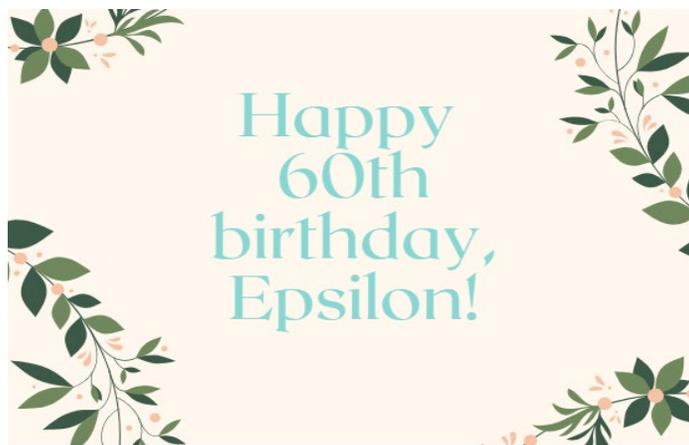
Mary Ann Mironchik. - 1967

Mu

Lillie Hendry - April 1967

Sigma

Hattie Green - April 1970



In Memoriam

White Roses

	INITIATED	DECEASED
<u>BETA CHAPTER</u>		
Christina Hursey Miles	April 1977	February 3, 2017
<u>GAMMA CHAPTER</u>		
Mary Elizabeth Reilly	April 1973	February 24, 2017
<u>EPSILON CHAPTER</u>		
Susan Jane Green	April 1983	October 25, 2017
Helen Ouellette	April 1967	March 17, 2017
<u>IOTA CHAPTER</u>		
Betty Rosell	April 1966	December 14, 2017
<u>KAPPA CHAPTER</u>		
Vilma (Vickie) Haring	April 1974	December 1, 2017
<u>XI CHAPTER</u>		
Cathleen Foster	April 1979	December 30, 2017
<u>RHO CHAPTER</u>		
Ella Margaret Haver	June 2013	March 1, 2017
<u>IOTA CHAPTER</u>		
Elizabeth Donahue	April 197	January 29, 2016
<u>XI CHAPTER</u>		
Tricia Carmen	March 2007	November 2015
Judith Gibson	April 1959	April 2015

DoubleTree Signature Cookie Recipe

Makes 26 cookies

Ingredients

½ pound butter, softened (2 sticks)
¾ cup + 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
¾ cup packed light brown sugar
2 large eggs
1 ¼ teaspoons vanilla extract
¼ teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
2 ¼ cups flour
½ cup rolled oats
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
Pinch cinnamon
2 ⅔ cups Nestle Tollhouse semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 ¾ cups chopped walnuts

Directions

Cream butter, sugar and brown sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer on medium speed for about 2 minutes. Add eggs, vanilla and lemon juice, blending with mixer on low speed for 30 seconds, then medium speed for about 2 minutes, or until light and fluffy, scraping down the bowl. With the mixer on low speed, add flour, oats, baking soda, salt and cinnamon, blending for about 45 seconds. Don't overmix. Remove bowl from mixer and stir in chocolate chips and walnuts. Portion dough with a scoop (about 3 tablespoons) onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Space about 2 inches apart. Preheat the oven to 300°F. Bake for 20 to 23 minutes, or until edges are golden brown and the center is still soft. Remove from the oven and cool on the baking sheet for about 1 hour. Cook's note: You can freeze the unbaked cookies, and there's no need to thaw. Preheat the oven to 300°F and place frozen cookies on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet about 2 inches apart. Bake until the edges are golden brown, and the center is still soft.

Many thanks to Wilhelmina Bryant for finding this recipe and passing it on!

DKG Publications

Did you know that your DKG membership affords you access to a variety of online publications? You can read these online periodicals by visiting www.dkg.org. You will need to login using your membership number and password. Below are five DKG publications available to you, all just a click away!



Chapter News from Around NJ

ALPHA CHAPTER

Jan Paxton, President

Alpha Chapter is getting ready to Zoom into May and the new biennium. We are delighted to announce that we elected our new officers in February: President, Megan Connolly, 1st VP Theresa Messineo, 2nd VP Laura Perrius, and Secretary Evelyn Oberndorf. They will make a great team as we move into this challenging future.

Congratulations are for Gayle Dunlap and Theresa Messineo, who are retiring from active teaching. Since no one in DKG ever really seems to stop, it will be fun to see what they are up to in the future.

As we head into the uncertain future, we congratulate all those who are working above and beyond what anyone ever expected as teaching is done remotely. Our chapter meetings for the near future, at least, will need to have a Plan A and a Plan B since we have no idea when we will be able to meet in person again. We will be counting on our genuine spiritual fellowship to see us through!

ETA Chapter

Irma Lorenz/Faith Steinfort

Kathy Fernandez has been hired as the Executive Director of NJTESOL/NJBE, the professional organization for ESL and bilingual teachers in New Jersey. She will be responsible for advocacy and professional development programming.

Nichol McCarty became a member of ETA at the *Initiate's Tea* held at the home of Tracey Holland on Jan. 26, 2020. Nichol, who holds a Bachelor's Degree in Art Education, has been a teacher for 21 years and is currently teaching Art in the Westampton Twp. School District.

Jeanne DelColle was officially conferred a PhD in Education by Walden University on August 11, 2019. Jeanne attended graduation ceremonies in Tampa, Florida in January of 2020. Her dissertation was titled, "***Mentor Teacher Development During a Co-teaching Model of Student Teaching***".

OMICRON CHAPTER

Diane Roberts, President

Congratulations to Nanette Cummings, 6th grade teacher in the Little Egg Harbor School District, who was named Teacher of the Year at the Frog Pond Elementary School.

Omicron sister Shelley Smith, technology teacher in the Long Beach Island Consolidated School District, was a presenter at TECHSPO 2020, the 25th annual statewide educational technology exhibition and training center. Shelley, along with colleague Cathy McBride and district Superintendent Peter Kopack, shared the district's endeavors to include "21st century digital learning" as part of its students' everyday experience. For the 2019/20 school year, the enhancement of a 3-D printer was added and has transformed the way teachers and students use technology at the elementary level. Students are part of the process in learning and building from the start and put 3D design thinking and computational skills to use to overcome obstacles and solve problems.



Become a Founding Luminary Giving to Educate the World

Contribute \$1,000 or more before June 1, 2020, to DKG International Educators Foundation to be designated as a “DKG Founding Luminary.”

Help educators and education, members and non-members, worldwide with your donation.

Founding Luminaries will be recognized during the Philadelphia Convention.

- Lucile Comtet Professional Development Seminar Awards
- Lucile Comtet Professional Development Individual Awards
- Projects of the DKG Educational Foundation: New
- Projects of the DKG Educational Foundation: Renewals



The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation has awarded over

\$4.1 million
since its inception in 1964

to improve, enrich, and encourage intercultural understanding and educational excellence.

2020 Biennium Reports

Alpha Chapter

Alpha has had a wonderful two years, starting with the unveiling of our new banner at the first meeting of the biennium. The quilted banner symbolizes our calling as educators with a book, as DKG members with a rose, and our status as first with "Chapter One" on the book page.

We were excited to be able to invite the 2019 New Jersey Teacher of the Year, Jennifer Skomial, to hold membership in Alpha. She and a local school administrator, Denise Tighe, were our two inductees in 2019. We all hit it off so well that we had to break up the Inductees' Tea well into a third hour as some of us did have to get home!

At our October 2019 meeting we were honored with the presence of our state President, Ingrid Williams, state First Vice President, Nora Pollard, and Fulbright Scholar Argine Safari. Argine is a member of Alpha Chapter and was the NJ State Teacher of the Year for 2016-17. She spent last winter in Finland as a Fulbright Scholar and treated Alpha to a delightful presentation on her work there.

Beta Chapter

While Beta's numbers may be decreasing, our incredible sisters are taking up the necessary tasks, with many filling multiple committee responsibilities.

Regina Gatson, our newest inductee, stepped up to fill Beta's Recording Secretary duties. In her professional capacity last spring Regina earned the NJCA Counselor of the County for Salem County award.

Beta's Dress Making project has continued for six years, with a new donation site. This year 50 dresses were assembled and sent to a Jamaican orphanage. This makes a total of 280 dresses lovingly made and delivered to those in need.

Some of our most memorable program topics included "Autism," which led to many retired members wishing they had this resource when they were in the classroom; "Women's Health," that reminded us to take care of ourselves first,

Our support of the Red Hawk Food Pantry at Montclair University continues. It is sad to know that this is a necessity. Our other service project is a book donation plan. A teacher in Paterson mentioned that she didn't think any of the students in her class had ever had a book of their own. We collected books at that grade level and gave them to her for her class just before summer vacation. The children were thrilled to get the books and almost just as thrilled to take the books that were too juvenile for them and give them to the younger children in the school. Since the project worked so well, we decided to do it again for Christmas 2019 and were delighted to find out that we were right on track with the president's book project. Love it when a plan comes together!

In the lessons learned category, we are learning to have a Plan B. We have had two meetings with unexpected speaker cancellations and one canceled due to snow. Our meeting dates now have "weather dates" pre-planned! Speaker contingencies are always going to be a problem, but Alpha has so many talented and generous members that we always seem to be able to pull through.

Jan Paxton
Alpha President 2018-2020

before helping others; and "The Use of Questioning in Teaching," allowing us to make a magical lit wand, while being mindful of our thought process in completing the task.

Beta's Historian, Judy Cirelly, embraced the task of visiting the Trenton Library, hoping to glean some historical perspective of Beta Chapter from the DKG documents housed there. On a recent visit she, our chapter President, Jo Ann Corvino, and long-standing Beta member, Ellen Hahn, were able to locate a former president's book. We look forward to archiving this treasure for our chapter records.

Beta is excited to have 5 members with 50/50+ years of DKG membership! Each of these cherished women is part of Beta's legacy.

Jo Ann Corvino
Chapter President, 2018-2020

2020 Biennium Reports

Gamma Chapter

In working to successfully accomplish our 2018-2020 biennium goals, our officers, executive board members and active members provided opportunities for involvement to all chapter members and their guests. Our Vice President for Programs and Program Committee offered a variety of high interest events, including guest speakers and visitations. Members shared enjoyable times together during BUNCO nights, holiday gatherings, Initiates' Tea, and SPARKS events. Gamma's first annual Rose Garden event included an introduction to the society for ten potential inductees. Gamma had the pleasure of inducting nine new members this biennium. A special thank you to Gamma's officers, as each woman worked hard to strengthen Gamma for this biennium and into the future. Gamma is thankful for its Executive Board's leadership and dedication, and for all member participation.

Gamma sisters' strong dedication to service has continued through not only annually supporting Schools for Africa, but additionally, Mision tu Puedes, a pre-K to 12 school in Nahajo, Dominican Republic. Gamma President Angie Belmont volunteered at Mision tu Puedes for three months teaching English. A donation is made annually to support the students and teachers of Mision tu Puedes. Donations have also been raised for the Sonja Hunt Foundation. Sonja Hunt was a Gamma member who recently passed away and a fund was set up for collecting money to privately tutor students, one of her passions! Additionally, Gamma sister Heather Lieberman initiated a new project titled Caring Closets. Personal healthcare items are collected at every meeting and event and donated to Trenton city schools to be kept in the nurse's office and used when needed.

The members of Gamma have celebrated numerous honors, recognitions and awards. Carol Schwartz served as DKGNJ Immediate Past President during 2019 and Carmela DeMarco received the DKGNJ Dedicated Service Award in 2019. Several members extend their dedication to Gamma by serving at the state and national leadership level, including; Carmela DeMarco, Carol Schwartz, Ruth Mooney, Diana Vasil, Heather Lieberman, Angie Belmont, Karen Gronikowski, Amy Weinstein, and Angela Castaneda. These sisters have all dedicated their time and effort to accomplish the progressive goals of Delta Kappa Gamma International.

Gamma's newest scholarship opportunity is the Reba Burrichter Award. Reba was a Gamma sister for many years and left Gamma scholarship money for a working or retired member to further their professional or personal education at an event or conference. The first two award recipients were Lora Durr and Jessi Oliano. Lora, an art educator, attended a Conference in Philadelphia, specifically to advance her skill in portraits. Jessi, an adjunct professor at Rider University, attended the Adobe MAX 2019 Conference in Los Angeles to advance her photography and artistic design skills.

This biennium has fostered leadership and provided authentic opportunities to help those in need, while educating others on providing support. Gamma has strengthened the bonds of sisterhood, friendship and collegiality. It has been an honor to serve as Gamma President!

Angie Belmont
Chapter President, 2018-2020

2020 Biennium Reports

Delta Chapter

Delta Chapter is in beautiful Cape May County where we were fortunate to welcome our new sisters at our May Dinner meeting, overlooking the beautiful Delaware Bay. This fall we participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. This walk helps to raise money for the American Cancer Society by funding research and providing patient services. We are looking for new organizations to partner with in our community. Things are ever evolving within our organization and it's very exciting to see what the future holds for Delta.

Epsilon Chapter

At the end of my second biennium, I had hoped that one of my Epsilon sisters would step up and become the new president, but there were no candidates. I contacted the State to find out what Epsilon could do, and I was told we had a few options; disband, find someone to take over or continue as president. Seeing no other option, I agreed to continue as president and the nominating committee would need to find sisters who would agree to move up to the office of president.

A goal for this biennium was to have a budget in place with line items for all to know how our money is being spent. I also wanted to have a banner stand that was easy to put up and take down after meetings and conventions. We continue to collect change for Schools for Africa and have sent a check for more than \$200 each year. I am so grateful for the generosity of my chapter.

Long before President Ingrid Williams created the book initiative, Epsilon was donating books to the local soup kitchen, called Manna House, and the shelters in Warren and Sussex Counties. The sisters spend time preparing and serving meals at Manna House 4 times a year. Twice a year the sisters are collecting food for Manna House and NORWESCAP. All told, we have collected over 200 pounds for the 2 locations.

We have added another event to create more socialization with the Sisters. In the Fall we have, "Meet the Inductees" and on a cold Saturday in February there is a "SOUPER Saturday Brunch" with soup, salad, bread, and desserts. We created a game day where sisters teach each other how to play Mahjong and Mexican Train.

We are very excited to be planning for our 60th anniversary on April 26. The committees have been meeting since September to work on all matters in making this a fantastic social event. On a sad note we lost our storefront on Main Street, Hackettstown, where we have conducted tutoring sessions for over 7 years for the elementary students of Hackettstown along with the help of Centenary University students majoring in elementary education. The storefront owner sold the building and the University was reluctant to give us space on campus due to insurance issues.

Once again, I want to thank all my Epsilon sisters who have helped me during the past 6 years. We have accomplished so much!!! Thank you for letting me be your president.

Pamela Raynor, Epsilon Chapter President 2014-2016, 2016-2018, and 2018-2020

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Zeta Chapter

Chapter goals that were accomplished this biennium included: continued to provide meaningful programs for professional and personal growth; created a chapter website to increase communication with members and give our chapter an online presence; and revised our chapter grant-in-aid qualifications and application. Four new members were inducted this biennium.

A new project we hope to continue annually is to provide individual "Gift of Comfort" bags to the women living at Dottie's House in Brick. Dottie's House provides shelter, education and job training to women survivors of domestic violence. We continued to collect non-perishable food items at each meeting and distributed them to food pantries throughout Ocean County. Zeta Chapter made its yearly donation to UNICEF-Schools for Africa, World Fellowship, Golden Gift Fund, International Speaker Fund, Scholarship Fund and the DKG Emergency Fund.

Thank you to our Educational Excellence/Program Planning Committee for their commitment to researching presenters, reserving meeting spaces and planning for and setting up our catered meals. Our quality programs and enjoyable social activities continue to enhance our professional and personal growth and are responsible for excellent meeting attendance. Many of our programs were facilitated by our own Zeta sisters including two book discussions, Travel with a Smile and Pallet Painting. Other programs with guest presenters included Integrated Healthcare for Women, Restorative Guided Meditation and Travels to Africa. We also gathered for a Holiday Celebration and our annual Summer Pizza Social, which has become an event where we often welcome potential inductees.

Zeta Chapter would like to recognize Charter Member Mary Drexler Clarke who has been a member for 59 years.

Serving as President of Zeta Chapter for the past two biennia has been an honor and a pleasure. I want to thank all my Zeta Sisters for their support and for their time and dedication to the continuing work and success of our chapter. Every member uses their unique talents to benefit our chapter which keeps our membership strong and our chapter thriving.

JoAnne Applegate
Chapter President, 2016-2018 and 2018-2020

ETA Chapter

This has been a busy and rewarding biennium as we have worked on meeting our goals of increasing membership, fostering a smooth transition of leadership, and involving newer members in leadership roles. We are excited that we had three new members last year and are welcoming another one this year. To meet our next set of goals, committee co-chairs were appointed so that newer members could be working with seasoned members. A portfolio exchange will be held in June so that outgoing chairs can meet with the new chairs to discuss their responsibilities and provide information that will enable the new chairs to have a clear idea of how to proceed.

Chapter programs were varied, informative, and enjoyable. Members requested some programs be relaxing and fun after a hectic school day. Consequently, our October meetings included wine glass painting and participating in a session of Laughter Yoga. At our joint chapter meeting, Dr. Claudine Keenan entertained, informed, and inspired as she presented and engaged us in a session on listening that included responding so the speaker felt heard. Just for fun activities included Bunco/game night and a swim party. This year's swim party was particularly special as we honored Harriet Di Leonardo's 99th birthday!

Eta sisters continue to be very supportive of our chapter projects. For several years now, we have been sewing dresses for "Dress A Girl," a program for providing dresses for vulnerable girls in countries

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where human trafficking is prevalent. To date we have contributed over one hundred dresses. We also continue to support Crossroads, financially and with contributions of necessities and Christmas gifts for residents. We are overlapping DKGNJ President Ingrid Williams's and our chapter projects by donating books to Crossroads and to area schools in need, in which some of our members teach.

We were thrilled to acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments of three members: Brooke Vermes became Supervisor of Public CST and Related Services at Burlington County Educational Services; Dr. Harlene Galen published as lead author for a chapter in the book *Impeding Bullying Among Young Children in International Group Contexts*; Jeanne Del Colle received her Ph.D. in Education from Walden University.

Thanks to our members and the DKGNJ leadership who are available so often for any involvement in projects and attendance at Eta's meetings.

Irma Lorenz and Faith Steinfort Co-Presidents

Theta Chapter

Theta may be a small chapter, but it is a mighty one. We are very active and have accomplished many of the goals we have set. Our chapter members come from all over the state and even Staten Island. Some of the counties in New Jersey where we have members living are- Bergen, Hudson, Monmouth, Ocean, and Hunterdon.

Theta enjoys incorporating many fun and innovative activities into our programs. During our annual Theta tea, we incorporated a regifting tricky tray to raise money that can be used to purchase pins for our new members. We also infused the Arts into our programs the past two years by painting inspirational quotes on wooden signs as well as having a great time at our cooking class at this year's welcome back meeting. Theta tries to utilize all our members when presenting programs. We have had members present programs on History, Bullying, and even reducing stress.

The past two years, during November, Theta has collected toiletries and food for our annual drive which goes to NJ Food and Clothing rescue group. Our chapter also collected gloves, hats and scarves for children and women that went to a shelter as well.

Some of our SAP plans have come to fruition: using technology for meetings and initiations, posting our meetings on Facebook, as well as trying to recruit new members. We also developed a chapter website.

As I prepare to begin a new chapter in my life as a retiree, I plan on keeping Theta and all its members in my heart. It truly has been my pleasure to serve as President of the Theta chapter as together we grow.

Michele Klamerus
Chapter President, 2018-2020

Iota Chapter

Iota Chapter has experienced much joy over the past two years. We are proud to have had Kimberly Dickstein Hughes selected as the 2019-2020 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year, and Catherine Schofield chosen as Deptford's 2020 Teacher of the Year. Marie Blistan was reelected as NJEA President, Dianne Papadinic is the NJREA's Treasurer, Denise McDermott is GCREA's President, and many other Sisters hold offices and serve on the Executive Committees of NJEA, NJREA, CCEA, CCREA, GCEA, GCREA. Joyce Albrecht, Dr. Karen Garrison, Chris Reilly, and Candice Zachowski were reelected to serve on their Township's Boards

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of Education. Irene Maskaly was installed 2nd Vice President of DKGNJ at our 2019 Convention last spring. She was also the 1st recipient of DKGNJ's Rosebud Award.

Many Sisters have worked within their communities volunteering their time to benefit those in need. We support the Alicia Rose Victorious Foundation for Teens with chronic and terminal diseases, the South Jersey Food Bank, Toys for Tots and Teens, Ronald McDonald House in Camden, Kids Alley, Angels of God Clothing Closet, CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocate in Camden County, and Kingsway Learning Center. We intend to continue with the aforementioned Charities into the next Biennium.

Our Membership Chair, Sharon Gardner, began having monthly luncheons for our retired Sisters last August. She extended the invitation to the Pi Chapter, and the luncheons have become a huge success. Margie Maines has offered to teach Mahjong to those who have shown an interest. Iota will continue with the 6 Chapters Combined Meeting held on the 1ST Saturday in March.

Iota mourns the passing of our beloved Sisters:

Kate Caldero Britton, Elizabeth "Betty" Rosell (Iota's last surviving Charter Member), Sharon Long, Thelma Long, Dr. Gertrude "Pidge" Saunders, and Dr. Wilma Farmer. All contributed to our Chapter's growth, service, and culture. All are missed.

Candice Zachowski
Chapter President 2014-2020

Kappa Chapter

Kappa is a small chapter comprised of mostly retired members. One of our members, Anne Murray sadly passed away this past year. Anne was a long time and much-loved sister.

Kappa women exemplify the Delta Kappa Gamma woman. A perfect example is Carolyn Smith, who was recently honored at a Gala for her, "Outstanding Contributions to Education in New Milford." Lynn spent almost forty years as an English teacher and Guidance Counselor. Two of our sisters have achieved the age of ninety; Bea Kettlewood and Betty Hoehne. Both continue to be active members.

Kappa members are generous with their time and talents. We annually collect a large number of gifts and clothing for The Center for Hope and Safety as well as donating to a Holocaust Study tour, run by one of our sisters.

Kappa is a small vibrant group of women educators. We enjoy each other's company and respect each other's talents.

The Leadership Team
2020-2022

Lambda Chapter

It has been an honor serving as Lambda Chapter's Co-Presidents during this biennium. We have had the privilege of working with amazing Executive Board members, Committee Chairs and supportive chapter members who have all helped to make this biennium productive and fun! Our goals included increasing member support and chapter growth, providing diverse opportunities for participation, developing leadership opportunities, supporting our service projects and building resources. Under the leadership of our dynamic membership chair, this year we will have surpassed our goal of having 50 members! Dr. Marilyn Gonyo is leading a recently formed task force which is exploring ways for the chapter to aid student teachers.

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Throughout this biennium, members participated in a wide variety of diverse events, including a self-defense workshop, pottery painting, wine tasting, afternoon tea, a visit to Grounds for Sculpture, and a program about NJ Lighthouses. Jennifer Laster, a chapter member and Fulbright Scholar, spoke at a dinner meeting about her teaching experiences in Peru. Francine Garson, a local author, spoke at our 2019 holiday gathering. Lambda Chapter celebrated its 50th Anniversary in May 2019 with a lovely luncheon at the Rutgers Club.

Our book club continues to meet monthly for lunch and lively literary discussions. Lambda sisters generously support our service projects. Monetary donations, collected through the Lambda Creates Change project, support the James O'Bryant Food Pantry. Winter coats and children's books were also donated to the food pantry. Lambda continues to support Dina's Dwellings, which provides housing and support services for victims of domestic violence and their children. A yard sale raised funds for the Dina's Dwellings scholarship fund, and members also attended a variety of fundraising events. Books and arts and crafts supplies were donated for the children in residence.

The members of Lambda Chapter have shared personal milestones and many professional successes throughout this biennium. In addition to being active at the chapter level, Lambda members also serve in various positions at the State level. Dr. Nora Pollard is currently First Vice President of DKGNJ. Dr. Barbara Glazewski and Annabelle Boehm serve as Co-chairs of the Rules and By-Laws Committee. Carol Boehm serves as Co-chair of the Induction Committee, and Wilhelmina Bryant co-chairs the Scholarships and Stipends Committee. Our own Michele Contala continues to do a superb job as DKGNJ photographer! We are thrilled that our Lambda website is about ready to be published, thanks to Dr. Sheree Reese and Cathy Fortunato. Lambda Chapter continues to be a vibrant and growing chapter, dedicated to service and to the personal and professional growth of its members.

Joan Stuart and Dr. Barbara Glazewski
Co-Presidents 2018-2020

Mu Chapter

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as president of Mu Chapter during the 2018-2020 biennium. Mu Chapter reached a milestone in April of 2019. Our chapter celebrated 50 years as part of DKG. It was our pleasure to have Carol Schwartz, DKG State president, join us at Melanie Minch-Klaus' lovely home where we partied and toasted our members, past and present. Our chapter was so fortunate to have Lillie Hendry join us as well. Lillie is a founding member of Mu and shared the tales of our history from its very beginning as it broke off from Zeta. It was such a fun time and we are so grateful to all those who have made Mu what it is today.

I am always impressed with the many talents of our members. We visited Jill's video recording studio and Samantha's library with its Maker Space. We learned about bees from Pam and listened to Dawn's workshop on Active Shooter Awareness. We also tried yoga and shared our favorite books. Mu members presented at the State Conventions during this biennium. Lillie presented the History of the Court Street School in Freehold and Dawn presented a workshop on Self-Defense. Mu Chapter's service project continues to support the girls of Sisters Academy in Asbury Park with supplies and volunteers.

We are honored to have members serving at the state level: Dr. Pamela Albert Devine, PJ Madreperl and myself.

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Although our chapter is small, it is the dedication of our members that has kept our chapter moving forward. Mu continues its goal to increase its membership, welcoming five new members during this biennium and two this spring. We are looking forward to continuing this trend.

I would like to thank all the members of Mu Chapter who contribute to making our chapter successful and who are always there when needed. It has been a rewarding experience.

Elizabeth Flynn
Chapter President, 2018-2020

Nu Chapter

Women Teachers to the Calling – It is with great pride that Nu Chapter sisters Ingrid Williams, Carol Ritter, Christine Musick and Jane Tallmadge have all said “yes” to State positions. We are also proud to have inducted six new members during this biennium.

Hand in Hand our Loyal Band – Nu Chapter sisters are a productive group, working diligently in their respective committees for the betterment of our chapter and to meet the 7 Purposes of the organization. Their work and dedication is much appreciated. Nu Chapter also works with the sisters of Beta, Epsilon, Eta, Iota, and Sigma Chapters to provide a meaningful and successful Combined Workshop & Luncheon each March.

Deeds of Others now We’re Reaping – As our group celebrates Founder’s Day, we are in awe of the women who have come before us to pave the way. We also recognize those who have led our own chapter since 1971. I have been honored to work with such an extraordinary executive team these past two years. A BIG thank you to Gail Gersie, Marianne Canellieri, Mary Ellen McCloy, Donna Layne, Terry Oberg, and Christine Musick.

Work for Others is Our Leven – Nu Chapter continues to support worthy causes such as, donating food items to the high school Food Pantry and generously giving holiday gifts and money to our Doris Garland Project. Over the biennium this project has helped approximately 7 families and 20 children. Toiletries are collected for the Crossroads Program which helps homeless, abandoned or abused youth. Our President’s Projects gave \$500 in gift cards to the teachers of Wilmington, NC after Hurricane Florence and made donations to several local Educational Foundations.

We Shall Win, for aye – Reflecting on the past two years, I can say with great confidence that Nu Chapter continues to grow and strengthen. My sisters have guided me along, making my “job” an easy one. I am so very proud to have been selected as their leader.

Gail H Griffin
President 2018-20

Xi Chapter

As I reflect on the end of my second biennium as Xi Chapter President, it is bittersweet but also time for me to pass the reins onto another sister. This biennium we inducted three new sisters who have stepped up to the challenge and become active members within the chapter right from the start. This is very encouraging for me to witness as our chapter needed some fresh faces on our executive board. This was also a goal I had set for myself.

We began and continue our collaboration and volunteer efforts with the South Jersey Field of Dreams. Being a special education teacher, this organization is near and dear to my heart. They are a baseball league for physically and cognitively disabled children and young adults. The children truly light up when they are

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playing ball. We enjoyed interacting with and cheering them on. Many of us have developed wonderful bonds with these children.

I am very proud of one of our sisters, Mrs. Kelly Petrucci, who was named Teacher of the Year in our district of Hamilton Township, Atlantic County. Not only did Kelly receive this honor but she also became active at the county level. Kelly oversees Professional Development for the ACCEA (Atlantic County Council of Education Associations). Kelly Petrucci has only been a member of Xi Chapter for a short time but eagerly stepped up to be our scholarship chair. I am excited to have her as one of our sisters.

This year, I had the honor of being asked to be part of the finance committee at the state level. Although, I feel a bit out of place with this wonderful group of women, I am doing my best to serve on this committee and to do my part to assist where needed.

Thank you to all my fellow Xi sisters for your support of our chapter and all of our ongoing activities and projects. I appreciate and love you all.

Jane Flanagan
Chapter President, 2018-2020

Omicron Chapter

Omicron chapter consists of sisters who mainly reside in the coastal Pine Barrens of Southern Ocean County. We have 39 educators representing a diverse spectrum of instruction that ranges from the pre-school to university level and includes teachers, counselors, administrators, and university professors. We are happy to still have three charter members, Betty Gill-Bailey, Joanne Hill and Patti Rahn among our numbers.

Kudos to member Dr. Barbara Wheeler, who recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Music Therapy Association and was also published in the journal Music and Medicine. Congratulations also to sister Rosalind Ribaud, a retired superintendent, who was inducted into Barnegat School District's Inaugural Hall of Fame.

Our Omicron sisters remain active in supporting education and community through Books for Babies, SEE gift bags, Ocean's Harbor House, Tina's House, Schools for Africa, and food pantry donations. This biennium we have added baby hats to our literacy bags for new mothers and are also collecting books for the state initiative. We collected 278 books at the first two meetings and are distributing them locally.

Our chapter strives to keep in contact with members through emails, evites, quarterly newsletters, a phone chain, and our website. Postcards and greeting cards have gone out to sisters we haven't seen in a while and members were presented with a pen and calendar with our web url. Our meetings have included a speaker from the Princeton Cooperative, instruction on making baby hats, an Antarctica travel log, and a fun Jeopardy type game with DKG information. State President Ingrid Williams joined us at a recent meeting where we played "3 Truths & a Lie" to get to know each other better.

I am truly thankful for Gail Starr, our past president, and all the sisters who have helped and encouraged me through this biennium. Their assistance has been invaluable. I feel honored to continue to lead Omicron through the next 2 years.

Diane Roberts
Chapter President, 2018-2020

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Pi Chapter

Pi Chapter celebrated its 35th birthday and began a new biennium with DKGNJ State President Carol Schwartz presiding over the installation of the new officers. Charter members Marie Plum and Sally Jordan shared the history of Pi and Trudy Wescott, President in 1983, shared the contributions of the many women in our organization.

Although only one new member was inducted in April 2019, Pi Chapter continues to be a strong, vibrant organization. Each year we hold four general membership meetings and two to three focus meetings on specific topics relevant to the membership's interests for personal and professional growth. We are kicking off 'Coffee Talks' for our working members and hoping to provide them with a system to network and share ideas related to education.

Service to others is at the heart of our organization. Projects and causes we continued to support and participate in were: Breast Cancer Walk at Cooper River Park; Pajama Drive for a local teen shelter, Gift Wrapping for Ronald McDonald House, and the Crayon Initiative. Two new service projects we adopted are: DKGNJ's For the Love of Books project; collecting supplies for Kidzpack, which provides food for children on the weekend in the Glassboro community; and our most recent newly adopted Day of Service Project is making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the Unforgotten Haven. Crystals for a Cause is a fundraiser for our chapter stipend program and was incredibly successful.

Members Babette Wise, Carolann Gallo, and Robin Atkins were recognized for 25 years of membership. Other members were recognized for milestone years of membership. Robin Atkins received a DKGNJ Stipend for her Multicultural Cinderella Project. Babette Wise was nominated for the 2020 DKGNJ Dedicated Service Award and served as the DKG NJ State Motivator during Carol Schwartz's biennium. Rebecca Schwartz served as Yearbook Chair on the DKGNJ level. We were honored to have President Ingrid Williams and First Vice President Nora Pollard attend our October 2019 general membership meeting.

Catherine Kelly
President, 2018-2020

RHO Chapter

It has been an honor, albeit a sometimes overwhelming one, to serve as president of the Rho Chapter. It has truly made me grow as a person, an educator, and a leader. I'm proud to be a Rho sister alongside so many talented, dedicated, hardworking, and wonderful educators and friends. I thank all of the DKGNJ chapter presidents for serving as such great role models this biennium.

Rho has continued our service project with the Center for Great Expectations started during the last biennium. The Center provides transformational mental health and substance use disorder treatment to women, children, men and families impacted by trauma, abuse, and neglect. Rho collected funding for the Center through our "Baby Bottle Brigade" organized and delivered by Mary Jean DiRoberto, fellow Rho sister and Program Manager of Katy's Place Child Development Center at the Center for Great Expectations.

Rho continues to award grants-in-aid to outstanding students at the five Hunterdon County high schools. Five students who plan on pursuing education at the college level are selected, one from each high school, and awarded the grant-in-aid at their senior awards night.

Rho has been fortunate to have had two-chapter meetings with Dena Breslin this biennium. As a business owner, Dena is a wonderful role model for women's leadership. She presented an inspiring workshop in October for our chapter on building leadership skills, and we look forward to hearing from her in the future!

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I would like to thank my Rho sisters for their support during my biennium and continued faith in me to continue as president for the next biennium!

Crystal DiBetta
Chapter President, 2018 -- 2020

Sigma Chapter

Sigma offered its members a variety of relevant programs during the 2018-2020 biennium to stimulate personal and professional growth. We offered a total of six programs, but the two I would like to highlight are the programs on “Technology Dependence” and “Mindfulness in Education”.

Beth Asbury, a Sigma Sister, presented the program on “Technology Dependence.” Technology dependence refers to the use of technology that interferes with physical, psychological, or social function. This dependence can impact not only the individual but also their relationships, and family interactions. In Beth’s presentation, we learned how our children are on tech overload between school and home. We learned strategies to monitor our children’s tech time and what is appropriate based on the child’s age. A great resource for parents and educators helping us learn how to harness the positive power of media and technology for children is an organization called Common Sense. Check out their website at www.common sense.org.

Another awesome program was on “Mindfulness in Education.” Susan Shute, a first-grade teacher in Gloucester Township, gave the presentation. Susan, who has been using Mindfulness in her classroom for several years, gave us practical applications for use in the classroom. Susan explained how incorporating Mindfulness techniques during the school day helps students learn to control their attention, help them manage stress, and bring about a calm environment in the classroom. Susan indicated that Mindfulness techniques will help students monitor their behavior into adulthood.

Sigma’s involvement in community service projects has been outstanding. We put together empowerment bags for a local domestic safe house, as well as bags that are distributed to chemo patients during treatments. Book bags, supplies for the homeless, hats and gloves for students of Urban Promise in Camden were generously donated by Sigma Chapter. The Annual School Supply Giveaway in the summer continues to provide teachers with free classroom supplies. It’s certainly been a productive two years for our Chapter.

Annette Harris
Chapter President – 2018-2020

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