

NEW JERSEY NEWS

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

FALL 2020

CHECK OUT OUR STATE WEBSITE -CLICK ON THE
LINK BELOW!



Alpha Zeta State - NJ DKG

www.dkgnj.org

Delta Kappa Gamma in NJ



FINDING MEANING IN COMMUNITY BY HEATHER LIEBERMAN, GAMMA CHAPTER, STATE EDITOR

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." Coretta Scott King

We are a community of many things. We are a community of women educators, of course, but we are so much more.

We are a community of givers when there are others in need. Our organization is one rooted in performing philanthropy. One way we achieve this is through various scholarship opportunities for women pursuing higher education to become expert at their craft. We also are committed

to helping locally in a variety of ways. We give our time, resources, and expertise with no reservations.

We are a community determined to unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship. This means something different to each of us. We each experience our membership differently. Some of us are more active and involved than others, that doesn't mean we feel any less connected.

We, as a community, are connected and those connections mean more now than ever before. In a time when we are not always able to be physically connected to our friends, families, and loved ones, Delta Kappa Gamma helps to keep us connected. We are there for each other in a way that transcends physical proximity. This is what DKG means to me.



WHAT DKG MEANS TO ME - A MEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE

BETA CHAPTER - KELLY JOHNSON

When I attended the zoom meeting for the chapter presidents in August, I was struck by the fact that they reflected our DKG sisters across the state. Newly elected presidents showed their tentative "fear" at taking on such a huge responsibility. They all wanted to do a great job and didn't want to disappoint their chapters. The presidents who had held that office previously offered great support and ideas for the future. I could see in all of them, the one quality we all value...leadership. They were all quick to share information. They were all empathetic to different situations. They showed gratitude for helpful suggestions. They were all wonderful communicators, a skill I struggle with daily.

Everyone is too busy. Everyone is involved with a job, family, church and community. I firmly believe that if everyone makes a little contribution, the result will be a significant whole.

GAMMA CHAPTER - DIANA VASIL

Women in education need a strong foundation below them. To me, DKG is a huge part of my foundation. The women in my chapter are the epitome of success in the field of educational leadership. They have held almost every position imaginable in Educational Leadership and have experience with many different situations. When someone asks me what I like most about being a "Gamma girl" my response always is, "Being around like minded people

strengthens my resolve to be the best educator I can be." Time with my Gamma girls renews my focus, gives me strength, and feeds my soul.

DELTA CHAPTER - CAROL MACFEAT

In early 1994, I was approached by several well-respected teachers in the building where I worked as a Child Study Team Case Manager who inquired if I would be interested in joining a group called Delta Kappa Gamma. As I learned more about the organization, I realized that the members that I already knew were many of the leaders in my school district, including teachers and administrators.

These key women educators were outstanding in their positions, mentors to new teachers, provided innovative ideas to others and were leaders in supporting and enhancing the professional lives of their fellow teachers. When I learned of the philanthropic and social aspects that went along with membership, I realized that this was an organization that I would be honored to be a member of. I was initiated in a formal ceremony at convention, April, 1994.

DELTA CHAPTER - ERIN MAJANE

I joined Delta because colleagues let me know it would be a way to make connections and combine resources across districts and generations. Joining opened opportunities to make a difference through community service projects to benefit children and families.

ZETA CHAPTER - BARBARA SCHALLER

I have been an active member of DKG/Zeta Chapter since 1998. It was an honor to be asked to join this prestigious society whose mission is to promote the professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. I have served in various capacities within the chapter, including Zeta's president from 2008 through 2012.

During my tenure as Zeta's president, I was blessed to have my two daughters, Kimberley Corso and Melissa Miller be inducted into our chapter in 2010. They have been engaged in Zeta's work, serving on committees of interest and have enjoyed meeting many sisters from different chapters at our NJ conventions, especially the ice cream socials on Friday evenings. In 2015, Judy Schaller, my daughter-in-law was inducted into Zeta Chapter and Judy's daughter, Molly Schaller became a Zeta sister this past year. As Molly's grandmother, I could not be more proud to have her join our chapter. As a young teacher, Molly expressed her humility in receiving the invitation to become a Zeta sister at our Initiation Tea. Judy and Molly will be working together to enhance our efforts to provide Zeta scholarships for Ocean County residents pursuing Degrees in Education.

The warm fellowship and friendships we have experienced through our participation in Zeta Chapter's endeavors has been a true blessing. The support, camaraderie, and cooperation of our sisters to accomplish Zeta's goals has been inspiring. We are grateful for our membership in DKG NJ and feel privileged to be a small part of such an amazing group of women educators.

As a family of educators, we appreciate the spiritual fellowship we share and enjoy discussing and promoting the economic, social, political, and educational issues affecting our profession. Our membership in DKG NJ provides the perfect opportunity to participate in this mission.

ETA CHAPTER - KANDACE BAYRUNS

When approached by my friend and colleague about joining an organization of professional women educators, I was extremely excited. I was overjoyed to join women empowering each other, learning from each other, and supporting one another. What I found was a rich history of women educators, from all walks of life, with various skill sets. I found a place where I can be myself, a family of likeminded women who learn from each other, support each other in times of joy and sorrow, as well as a place I can call home.

Joining DKG was the best decision I have ever made. In these uncertain times, having my DKG sisters to lean on has been so helpful and makes my time in DKG even more meaningful.

ETA CHAPTER - FAITH STEINFORT

I joined DKG because I considered it an honor to be invited into an organization whose members shared my dedication to students and the education profession. What I discovered was that the women in DKG were not only the movers and shakers in all aspects of education; but that they were also inspiring, encouraging, and caring mentors, as well as a whole lot of fun. It has been a decision that has profoundly enriched my life.

IOTA CHAPTER - SHANNON PIZZUTA

I joined DKG because I was invited by a respected colleague. I was honored that she thought of me for membership, even a few years after she had retired. I was very impressed with the local chapter's focus on service to the community. After learning more about the organization on the state and international levels, I officially decided to join. Teaching is a career that only other educators truly understand and appreciate the depth of, so I knew I would immediately be among friends. DKG offers me support, camaraderie, and a well-understanding hug when needed. It's inspiring to be surrounded by such successful educators.

IOTA CHAPTER - CATHERINE SCHOFIELD

DKG offers a unique experience in educator associations. Although it is a massive organization in many countries and all 50 states, it offers a closer and more personal feel within individual chapters.

The chapters, themselves, offer an opportunity to serve within the organization (local, state and international) through grants and scholarships, as well as offering service to the community through charities that serve those in need. The organization transitions smoothly from members active in education into retirement, with a sense of "family" as you serve amid

your sisters. In a world of technology, that I am grateful for because it there to keep us close during this Covid-19 experience, there is also a "human touch" that keeps us grounded. Why join DKG...why not?

LAMBDA CHAPTER - ARLENE NOVICK

I was fortunate to have grown up in a culturally diverse neighborhood. Our community, through shared experiences, taught us tolerance and respect that later enriched and enhanced my future career as a special education teacher. I joined DKG because it promotes an international exchange of educational ideas and values. During this world pandemic, DKG continues to play a pivotal role in uniting women educators from 17 countries.

LAMBDA CHAPTER - MIRANDA MCMAHON

I met several Lambda sisters at a social gathering and was energized by the educational issues we discussed. I am honored to be a member of DKGNJ Lambda, delight in the continual opportunities to grow and contribute and love saying, "I am an educator", instead of "I was an educator".

MU CHAPTER - TERESA CUESTA

I was honored to be nominated to join DKG by a colleague I had collaborated with on many projects in graduate school. Accepting the invitation to join DKGNJ Mu Chapter was the best professional decision I've made after becoming an educator. I am surrounded by a sisterhood of like-minded, highly educated, philanthropic, forward thinking women.

Mu Chapter events and programs are socially enjoyable and provide professional growth and new experiences. These include: self-defense, book drives, cupcake making, and author visits. Most importantly, we support each other professionally and personally. Truly we are a sisterhood in name and spirit!

DKG gives back with opportunities such as; furthering your own education, traveling to promote workshops, and annual regional, state and international conferences. There are many ways to contribute, too. I even joined the DKGNJ State Choir! I get to use my passions and talents to serve others and continually grow. These ladies are the best! I'm honored to be a part of this amazing organization.

MU CHAPTER - ELIZABETH (PUDDY) FLYNN

I worked at Point Road School as well as Markham Place School for the first 10 years in Little Silver. Other educators would talk about DKG and upcoming meetings. One of the meetings was a technology fair with different workshops on different topics. I was invited to attend and was so impressed with the workshops that I wanted to be part of an organization so professional and willing to share their knowledge. I asked how one got to join and was told

that you had to be invited. I expressed my interest in the organization and was invited to join. It has been such a great organization to be part of and I have met so many wonderful women.

NU CHAPTER - CAROL RITTER

When invited to join DKG in 1988, I was unaware of its presence in the educational community. Upon learning of its mission and the caliber of educators I knew who were members, I humbly accepted the invitation and have attempted to honor and live up to its purposes during my 32 years of membership.

NU CHAPTER - AMY MOSSER

I joined DKG for professional development opportunities and to work with a group of like-minded educators. I was excited to be in a group of go-getters and leaders, teachers who are always striving to improve and achieve as opposed to sit back and just stay the same. One of the best parts was seeing that in Nu Chapter I would be joining a group of women who I admired and looked up to as some of the most renowned and best teachers from my upbringing in Tabernacle Schools and Shawnee High School.

OMICRON CHAPTER - MARY ELLEN KLAAS

I joined DKG because the organization was described to me as an honor society for women educators and invitation to membership meant that other members had recognized my commitment to teaching, my high standards for my students and for myself. Also, the support and resources of other professionals was a plus.

OMICRON CHAPTER - SARA DREHER

I joined DKG because I wanted to join a community and support system of local, experienced women educators. The sense of sisterhood and passion for educating today's youth shined through in every action of the organization.

SIGMA CHAPTER - VICKIE MATHAS

I respected the women who were members and was thrilled to be nominated to be a part of the organization. I also wanted a way I could give back to the educational community and do some charity work with others. I have never been disappointed.

SIGMA CHAPTER - JANE MURPHY

I was invited to a tea by someone I respected, and the women I met were interesting and friendly. When I learned more about the organization, I was honored to be invited to join. My mother was a member of Eta Chapter in California from 1966-2004, and I didn't know DKG existed outside of California. I love tradition, and the ladies were very welcoming. I hadn't lived in NJ for much more than a year, so it was nice to meet potential friends!

KEEPING THE PLATES SPINNING - REMOTE TEACHING



A DAY IN THE LIFE...AMY MOSSER - NU CHAPTER


When the coronavirus pandemic hit in March of 2020 I was in my 14th year teaching high school math at Seneca High School in Tabernacle, NJ and everything I knew about teaching was turned upside down and inside out! The best analogy I was able to make for people who didn't understand was this... Imagine you're a circus juggler and you have been practicing your act juggling tennis balls for years and you've gotten it down pretty well. You're always fine tuning things and trying to make them better, but overall you feel pretty confident that you can handle anything. Then, with zero notice, someone starts throwing bowling pins in right into the middle of your act (teaching online). Then they release the lions (your children, daycare is closed) and have them chasing you while you're doing your act. At any moment the circus may engulf in flames (getting sick) and you're also never allowed to leave center ring (quarantine). The ring master (administration) tries to be encouraging, but they don't truly understand what you're going through as they are standing outside the ring. They constantly remind you to keep the customers (students and parents) happy at all costs.

My typical day involved an early wake up to get my sons fed and ready for the day. Then from 7:30am-11:55am school was "in-session." This usually involved Google Meet live sessions for most of my classes to answer questions on video lessons that I had prerecorded and to work through some of the more challenging practice problems together. Then from 12-3 I was available for extra help (one-on-one Google Meet sessions), I met with my team teacher to plan lessons, we had administrative meetings and I completed a lot of my work as the math department coordinator (helping other teachers with technology, troubleshooting, checking in with teachers, etc.). The busiest part of my day was in the evening after my kids were in bed. I would frequently hold extra help sessions in the evening via Google Meet for students who were unable to attend during the day due to jobs, their sleep schedule and other obligations. I

also would use the evening to prep and record video lessons for the next day and grade papers electronically. A real challenge was the inability to reuse old materials that you've already prepped – nearly everything had to be made from scratch to be used in these extraordinary circumstances. Most nights I worked from 7pm until 1am or later to prepare for the next day. I certainly missed my prep periods that I have during a typical work day in the building! As time went on, by mid to late May I had gotten more into a groove and was able to find a better balance in my work/personal life and those late evenings were cut from 3-4 nights per week to 1 or 2 per week.

The biggest challenge of my day was also being thrown into the role of full time stay at home mom to my two sons, Grant (4) and Colin (2). While this was a role that I would have loved to have had at any other point, and looking back I value the time and memories so much, managing it while also being a full time teacher was certainly a challenge! There were many live classes that were taken from the backyard while pushing swings with one hand and managing a laptop with another. One of the funniest moments came when my two year old interrupted a live AP Calculus class with an announcement of "Mommy! I have a poopy diaper!" which I was able to ignore and hope my students didn't notice until my four year old burst into the room a minute later and yelled "holy smokes it smells SO bad in here!" At that point the class erupted into laughter and not much more Calculus was accomplished that day! That pretty much sums up virtual teaching with two toddlers at home. It didn't take long for people at school to find out that my kids nap from 1-3pm every day and that was my most productive period aside from late in the evening!

Looking back now it didn't seem that bad. My newest analogy is to compare it to childbirth. In the moment it seemed like the hardest thing you've ever done and you feel like it may never end, but as time passes so does the pain and you start to focus on the positives. We survived. I got a whole lot of bonus time with my family, making memories that will probably make quarantine the one of the highlights of my boys' childhoods. I forged stronger bonds with my students on a whole new level because we were both forced into putting a real conscious effort into connecting, as opposed to what sometimes happens just going through the motions in the classroom. We all survived this crazy thing together, and no one can take away that bond. Now, just like childbirth – I'm very nervous, but looking forward to going at it again this fall.



en·dur·ance (noun) the power to withstand pain or hardships; the ability or strength to continue despite fatigue, stress, or other adverse conditions.

**IT'S A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT... NU CHAPTER -
NOLA TOSTI**

I am a kindergarten teacher in the Southampton Township K-8 school district in Burlington County. When school closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, I was in my 14th year of teaching in Southampton and my 13th year of kindergarten.

When school first closed, my colleagues and I assumed it was only going to be for a couple of weeks, so there was almost an excitement of getting an "early" spring break to rest and catch up on things that had been put on the back burner. We were all shocked when we got the call that school would be closed until after our actual spring break...over 4 weeks! The students' last in-person day was an early release day on March 13th. I wish I had known that that would be our last school day spent together. There is so much more I would have said to them and so many supplies & materials I would have sent them home with.

Our grade level teams were given that Friday afternoon and the following Monday to develop 4 weeks of lessons for our students to complete remotely. Only 1.5 days!!! We developed a choice board of activities for each subject and tried to keep things simple for the students & parents to follow. The lessons were cute and fun such as writing sight words in sidewalk chalk outside or using Legos to practice addition & subtraction.

Life was very strange those first couple of weeks. I no longer had to set an alarm for 5:40 and I could "go" to work in my pajamas! My sons were certainly loving all their new free time, but I often reminded them that this was only temporary...or so I thought. Since I was no longer burning a lot of energy in my classroom, I found myself struggling to fall asleep at night and was often up until after midnight. I have always prided myself on being able to separate "school life" and "home life," but now my two worlds had collided. Some nights, I had to force myself to close my laptop when I realized I was still working at 10 PM!

I was required to be accessible to my students' parents from 9-2 Monday-Friday. I kept in touch with my students' parents using Class Dojo and email. I answered any questions that they had and tried to post supplemental activities every day. At first, there were a lot of questions to answer and time passed quickly, but as the weeks went on, I found myself just sitting in front of my laptop, staring at my screen. I was really missing my classroom and my students.

My district setup a homework hotline for the parents who were not able to contact teachers between 9-2. I manned the hotline on Tuesdays & Thursdays between 6-8 PM. I ate dinner on those nights with my phone by my side and my laptop open and ready to look up the answers to parents' questions. Bedtime routines with my sons had to be adjusted on those nights, too. At the end of March, we were told that school would not be opening for the foreseeable future and we would need to begin planning for "Phase 2" of at-home learning. After Spring Break, we would be posting weekly lesson videos and assignments in Google Classroom for our students to complete. For the older grades who were already using Google Classroom, this was a smooth transition. However, for our youngest learners and their parents, this proved to be one of the biggest challenges we had to face. Trying to talk parents through the process of using their child's Google email and password to join my Google Classroom was difficult, if not frustrating at times. I often found myself wishing I could be there with them to just show them how to do it. Eventually, we did get everyone set up and "Phase 2" began on April 20th. There are three teachers on our kindergarten team, so we decided to "divide and conquer" the curriculum. One teacher took care of the science and social studies lessons, one did math, and I oversaw the reading and writing lessons. Our plan was to post all our videos on Sunday nights so parents could get a head start on viewing the week's assignments, and then the students had until the following Sunday to submit their completed work. As you can imagine, just like doing a group project when you are a student, collaborating as a team can sometimes

be challenging as you try to blend different personalities and teaching styles together. This became a frequent source of stress for me and forced me to practice mindfulness strategies such as going for walks, deep breathing, and taking breaks when I would get overwhelmed/frustrated.

Technology was always something that I wanted to implement more of in my classroom, and honestly, the pandemic helped me to do it. I feel like I became rather tech savvy during those three months of at home learning. I learned how to set up and manage Google Classroom, I communicated with my students through Flip Grid and Zoom, I learned how to edit my videos using WeVideo, and how to post my videos to YouTube. I hope I will continue to use these tools in the future.

For the remainder of the school year, I developed a weekly routine for myself. On Sundays, lessons were posted in Google Classroom. I spent Mondays and Tuesdays checking last week's work and answering parents' questions about the new assignments. On Wednesdays, I planned out my one writing and two reading lessons for next week. Thursdays & Fridays were "showtime." After my sons finished their work, I would send them outside to play (or in the basement if it were raining) and I would record my videos for next week.

My dining room had become my "headquarters." It was where I spent hours in front of my laptop, and it was my "recording studio." I tried my best to keep my sense of humor while making my lesson videos. I had to accept that I do not live alone and so it is never going to be quiet in my house. You could guarantee that at some point during filming that my cat would start meowing at my feet, my puppy would go running through, or my sons would go riding down our brick walkway (right outside our dining room window) on a toy car with plastic wheels. Thank goodness for WeVideo and the ability to edit things out! I joked with my husband that I should create a blooper reel from my lesson videos!

And so, that is how life went on for the next couple of months. I could feel myself getting drained and worn out towards the end. I felt like I was running a marathon and I kept telling myself, "Just a little bit longer." I do not think I realized how emotionally and physically exhausted I had become until the last day of school. My students and I had a virtual picnic through Zoom. I sat on my porch, ate my sandwich, laughed with them, and talked about our hopes for the summer. When the call came to an end and we were all waving goodbye for the final time, I felt hot tears start to sting my eyes and got choked up. I closed my laptop and sat there crying quietly on my porch for several minutes. The marathon was over, and my students and I had reached the finish line.

**FROM THE DESK OF INGRID WILLIAMS, DKG NJ
PRESIDENT**



HAPPY FALL Y'ALL!

Ordinarily, the fall newsletter is filled with pictures and stories from the International Convention or Conference. I don't have to remind anyone that this is not an ordinary year. Since the International Convention was held virtually, there are no pictures of a Jersey Girl's Dinner or of our sisters attending workshops. That said, if you haven't had a chance to check out the workshops and keynote speakers that were featured at the virtual convention, I highly recommend you take some time to do so. For those of you who have never been to an International Convention or Conference, this is your chance to attend for free, all from the comfort of your own home. With very little time to prepare, I think our leadership at International put on an incredible convention.

Here are some notable speakers and workshops available to watch on the DKG website:

- Olympia Point's Presentation: *Answers Unleashed*
- *DKG's Core Value # 1 through 6* by Mary P. Sanchez, a DKG Honorary Member.
- You can be inspired by a Forum Event: *Inspir-ing Diversity*.
- *How Trauma Affects Learning*
- *Creating New DKG Chapters*
- *Relationships: The Key to Building a Positive Learning Culture a Survival Kit for Teachers.*

If nothing else, be sure to watch Jane Golden's presentation on the Mural Arts of Philadelphia. If you've been to Philadelphia in the past 15 years, you most certainly saw murals on the sides of buildings. This is right in our backyard. Jane talks about the history and background of many of the murals and has been a driving force in growing this urban transformation. I'll even make it easy for you by providing the link (you will need to sign into the DKG website in order for it to work):

https://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/Events/2020_International_convention/JaneGolden.aspx.

Speaking of conventions, it has already been decided that our 2021 state convention will be a virtual event. I know that it's six months away and it seems very early to make this call, but the executive officers and I feel that even if a vaccine were to be available early in 2021, many of us might not have the opportunity to receive it. Depending on which vaccine is released, it might take two doses to realize the benefits. We didn't want to take a chance on having to make a last-minute call and have very little time to put a virtual convention together. The health of our sisterhood is of utmost importance and we don't want to take any chances to jeopardize that by holding an indoor event during a pandemic. Not only that, we weren't sure anyone would come! By making the decision early, it gives us plenty of time to plan the virtual

energy of an in-person convention. Can you still have your chapter pajama parties? Absolutely! Chapter presidents can set up chapter zoom meetings for Friday and/or Saturday nights and I for one, hope they do. Maybe I'll even "party-hop!" Dr. Nora Pollard is leading an ad hoc committee to set up a schedule, determine what events we will have and when we will have them. Many thanks to Nora and her committee! We aren't changing the date of the convention. It's still April 16-18, but we aren't sure yet whether we will be using all three days. Stay tuned for more news. One more word about the convention. DO NOT FEEL SORRY FOR ME because I will have missed a chance to preside over a state convention. This is not about me. This is about YOU: YOUR health and YOUR safety. I'm just doing my job. And what other New Jersey past state presidents can say they presided over a virtual state convention?!?!?

I wish to thank all the women who served as chapter presidents for the previous two years. Six of them are staying on to serve another two years while the other chapters have new presidents at the helm. And what a year to learn of ropes! They spent their summer appointing committee chairs, submitting revised yearbook information, working on updating their SAPs and meeting with their executive committees to plan programs and other activities for their biennium. And since Zoom meetings are now the new normal, everyone quickly had to learn to navigate this new technology. I had two zoom meetings with the chapter presidents this summer, giving them an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas about the upcoming year. Many chapters managed to schedule their first meeting as an outdoor event at a park, under an open-air tent or in the backyard of a sister, while others found they got better attendance holding their meetings on Zoom. Either way, it's nice to be able to finally see each other, even if the hugs have to wait. I attended outdoor fall meeting for Sigma, Omicron and Gamma and zoom meetings with Iota, Beta, Mu, Lambda and my own chapter, Nu. We had our first state meeting on Zoom on September 8th and we had 81 people in attendance! There's one thing that's for certain about this year. It will like unlike any other.

We Can . . . and We Will . . . keep our society moving forward.

Thank you to our Leadership chairs Margaret Niemiec and Jeanne DelColle for bringing Dena Breslin to us to virtually present "The Language and Lens" of Leadership on Saturday, October 17th. Many of those present jumped in to share many thoughts and ideas. Anyone who missed the workshop may email Dena to request a link to the recording: denab46@comcast.net. She is making it available until November 7th.

Barbara Glazewski and Annabelle Boehm, our DKG NJ Rules and Bylaws co-chairs, have updated our state bylaws and standing rules. The bylaws have been submitted to International for approval and we are waiting for the green light to post them on our website. As soon as that is completed, each chapter should begin to align and update their chapter rules. Many thanks to Barbara and Annabelle for their work.

"For the Love of Books," my President's Project, enters its second year. We collected just shy of 15,000 books last year. If each chapter averages at least 25 books per sister over the course of this coming year, we will easily reach another 15,000. I hope you realize what an impact this project has on the children of New Jersey. Susan Murphy, our project manager, had the opportunity to tour the warehouse of Book Smiles in South Jersey, where some of the books are taken before being distributed. She was blown away by the volume and diversity of the books available. Be sure to check out her article and the book counts by chapter.

I asked each chapter president to find two members from their chapter, one who was recently inducted and another who has been a long-time member, to answer the question: "Why did I join DKG?" Their responses are in this newsletter. Think about why YOU joined DKG. What benefits do you find in belonging to DKG? Is it the comradery? The leadership opportunities?

The scholarship opportunities? The common bond you share with other educators? Knowing your own reasons helps you frame your “elevator speech” when inviting someone to join DKG. There’s no time like the fall to extend an invitation. I know that it’s a crazy year for anyone in the classroom. I’ve talked to more than one teacher who was physically and emotionally exhausted, and it was only the end of September. While we may think they can’t add another thing to their calendar, this might just be the boost and support they need to make it through this year. Don’t make any assumptions. Ask, and let them make the decision.

Speaking of educators, last spring many DKG sisters found they had to learn new technology to finish the 2019-2020 school year. Unfortunately, many are still learning new platforms as they navigate through virtual and hybrid school schedules. It is hard. Many are discouraged. They have had very little training for this set of circumstances and are finding that everything takes much longer to plan and execute. Please reach out to support your sisters. Send them a card, an email or an encouraging text message. Everyone actively working needs our support, our love and our concern. We may not be able to physically go into their schools to help, but we can reach out in support and recognition of all they are going through.

Finally, it is with sincere regret that I announce that Kappa Chapter has voted to dissolve. Kappa was founded in 1967 and just celebrated its 53rd birthday. The Executive Board voted to accept their dissolution on September 30th. Some of their members plan to transfer to other chapters but we will also be permanently losing others. It’s truly very sad, but like many other chapters, they struggled to find new members and sisters who would step up into leadership roles. We need to make sure we are supporting each other, not only in our professional lives but also in our chapters. When everyone pitches in, it lightens the workload of everyone.

2020 is certainly turning out to be a year we won’t quickly forget. Let’s start now to make 2021 a year that we want to remember.



DELTA KAPPA GAMMA PRESIDENT’S PROJECT 2019-2020 FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS – BOOK DRIVE

This Past year, Alpha Zeta State President, Ingrid Williams, initiated a president’s project titled “For the Love of Books.” The goal of objective of the project was for chapters to collect 15,000 gently used children’s books with the goal of repurposing them to local organizations. Chapters selected organizations that were in their region, such as Book Smiles, Bridge of Books, and local schools, to donate the books. Several chapters had already engaged in this project in previous years, so this project was a terrific state unifier!

Each DKG member was asked to donate at least 25 books and despite a pandemic, our total for the state was **14,906 books**! As educators, we all know the power and importance of

reading. This project validates our DKG mission of being a philanthropic society and gives us a chance to put books in kid's hands!

As summary of each chapter:

Alpha 1184

Beta 1170

Gamma 300

Delta 0

Epsilon 1022

Eta 1063

Iota 401

Lambda 519

Mu 628

Nu 4383

Omicron 339

Pi 507

Rho 266

Sigma 1172

Theta 457

Xi 695

Zeta 800

TOTAL 14,906

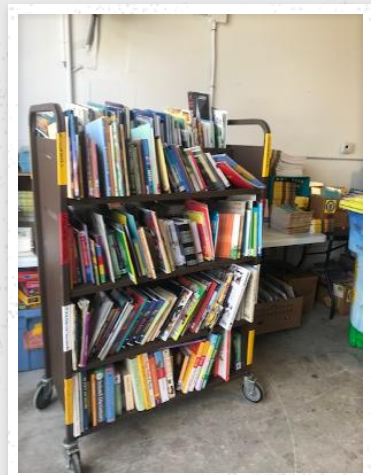
Overall, this is a job well done! So many children will benefit from your efforts. This initiative is a two year project, let's hit the 15,000 mark this year!




**BOOK SMILES
WAREHOUSE -
CHERRY HILL NJ**



**BOOK SMILES
WAREHOUSE -
CHERRY HILL NJ**



**BOOK SMILES
WAREHOUSE -
CHERRY HILL NJ**



*Almost everything
will work again if
you unplug it for a
few minutes...
including you.*

- ANNE LAMOTT



REDPENCILCONSULTING

DKGNJ MEMBERSHIP NEWS: IRENE MASKALY, DKG NJ SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

REFLECT, RETAIN, RECONNECT AND RECHARGE

So here we are, another school year with new challenges, new opportunities and a new norm. For those of us in and out of the classroom, technology has virtually (no pun intended) taken over our lives as a necessity to connect with our friends and loved ones. Impressively, those who considered themselves to be technology challenged have reached out to fellow members to embrace this “new norm” and being the creative, multi-tasking and innovative constant learners that all DKG women are, have succeeded immeasurably. Zoom has proven to be an invaluable tool for us all to not only conduct our Society business but to also to share ideas

with out of state chapters and state organizations. Inviting outside chapter members to share in Zoom meetings and programs has enlightened our scope and range of possibilities for future programs. Kudos to our Leadership Development Team, Dr. Margaret Niemiec and Dr. Jeanne DelColle for organizing an inspiring DKG NJ 2020 Leadership Development Conference this past October 17th.

That said, let us take a moment to reflect and ask ourselves a question. Why did you join The DKG International Society of Key Women Educators? Was it the honor of being recognized by a fellow colleague as an impressive educator? Was it to meet experienced fellow educators who shared your vision of educational excellence? Or was it an opportunity to be a part of an international community of educators who collectively support personal and professional growth of women educators? All of the above options are attractive but, let's think. What makes you stay a member? For the "Jersey Girl's" that's an easy answer. Our ability to connect at chapter and state meetings as well as our State Convention not only gives us the ability to reconnect with old friends but also make new friendships. Most importantly, recharge our resolve to this society of intelligent and committed women educators. Now more than ever it's important to make all members, especially long-time members feel revered for their service and knowledge of our organization, as well as inviting potential inductees. All important in moving our society forward.

IOTA membership chair Sharon Gardner shared most recently that she was delighted to hear from some of our senior members when she sent out requests for updates on the Chapter Member Biographical Data Sheets. Our sisters shared how important their membership means to them, now more than ever as it's their DKG sisters who give them that sense of belonging to a larger community and how proud they are to be a member. That simple act created a synergistic effect as we were recharged to hear their sentiments, sending them cards or a phone call.

Some well thought out tips on connecting and building awareness of our Society are on the DKG International webpage (www.dkg.org). Go to the Publications tab and click on Newsletters. The "Get Connected" newsletter for May/June highlights the topics of "Making Virtual Meetings Meaningful" and "Connecting During a Pandemic". July/August highlights membership strategies, "Create and Build Awareness Through a Marketing Plan" and "Ideas For Using The Plan Template". Don't forget to encourage members to complete or update their membership profile by going to the MyDKG tab >> My Account and clicking on the pencil under the About Me tab. Keeping this information current is important, not only at the international level, but at our state organization level for mailing publications and making contact. 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). Don't forget 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 DKG NJ.org! Finally, 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 all our sisters, be well, continue to be diligent and stay safe.



CHAPTER NEWS

ZETA CHAPTER - JOHANNA MCCAULEY

The new year began at Zeta chapter's January Initiates' Tea. Hosted by Amy Casais, Zeta members enjoyed each other's company as well as welcoming 4 new initiates. Whether it's an experiment to observe, a dance routine to learn, a good ear to listen, or a new strategy for grouping students, Zeta's 4 new initiates are sure to share it with the chapter. Susan George-Horn, a science teacher at Toms River Intermediate South, is a great resource for everything science because science is fun - her motto. Brianne Bates, a language arts teacher at Toms River Intermediate East, is involved in everything that is musical, being the director of the school musical. Molly Schaller, a teacher at Elms Elementary School in Jackson, offers her time as a summer camp counselor. Erinn Byers, an elementary teacher in Lacey Township Schools, knows a lot about grouping students for the best instruction.

Zeta members, Quinn Panagos and Kristin Newmann, were recognized as Teachers of the Year. Quinn is a dedicated, 8th grade language arts teacher at Intermediate South. Kristin is a special education teacher for the preschool handicap program at 1144, in Toms River. Both of these ladies share a sense of compassion that permeates through their classrooms, each and every day.

While we will certainly miss their voices in the hallway, Zeta members are proud to share the retirements of Staci Cornelius, Tami Kozenski, Lucille Zieger, and Mallory Kennedy. Staci was the PTO treasurer for Intermediate South, in Toms River, and her teaching style was 'treasured' by both her colleagues as well as her students. All subject teachers, not just language arts, asked for Staci's advice. Tami was an inclusion teacher at Intermediate East, in Toms River. She started her school's homework club and was deemed, by her colleagues, as the most fashionable in her building. Mallory started her career as a science teacher at Intermediate East, and then moved onto being a supervisor at Hooper Avenue Elementary School, and then a principal at Citta Elementary. Mallory's zest for learning was magnetic, and teachers were inspired by her continuous, positive energy. Lucille taught health and physical education in the Lacey Township Schools, retiring from Cedar Creek Elementary school. For more than 20 years, Lucille was the district's mentoring coordinator. Lucille's kind disposition, coupled with her patience, is a combination that is healthy for all Zeta members to embrace.

Zeta chapter welcomed their new officers. President, Johanna McCauley, organized "For the Love of Books" at local elementary schools. She is always willing to 'book talk' a great new read for any season; Tana Walsh, 1st Vice President, brings such a faithful spirit to her new position. Lisa Andrews, 2nd Vice President, offers a logical and fun-loving personality; Christine Morsch, Recording Secretary, offers great advice; Tami Kozenski, Corresponding Secretary, offers radiant positivity; Lucille Zieger, Treasurer, continues to keep our chapter

currency in check; and JoAnne Applegate, Parliamentarian, who continually encourages the chapter's members to become involved in all aspects of Zeta.

The soon-to-be falling leaves and the crisp outdoor air is a perfect combination for Zeta's autumnal get-together. Hosted at the outdoor pavilion in Gillie Park, in Lacey Township, Zeta chapter will be installing our new officers and welcoming our new initiates. Although the meeting will be outdoors, Zeta members will be kept warm by the comforting blanket of friendship and the warmth of their continuous dedication to education.

ETA CHAPTER - JACQUIE LONG

Our 2020-2022 ETA Executive Board has been busy planning for the new biennium. After four Zoom meetings, we developed four goals to strengthen and to expand our chapter as well as build supportive friendships.

Based on our goals, 2nd Vice President Sherri Miller, designed a "Member Interest Census". The information gathered from this survey will assist the executive board and committees to create interesting programs and activities to engage our intergenerational membership.

To keep our members connected during the pandemic, we had an "ETA in the Park" gathering to socialize and energize the ETA spirit.

Our October Desert Meeting and program "Make a Card and Take a Card", presenter Karen Gamon, is still on as of this time. We will do everything that is necessary to meet the Covid19 restrictions and to insure a safe environment for our members. It will be quite different from years in the past. The most important thing is to gather in sisterhood and have fun.

Historian Chairpersons, Mary Zaccardi and Kandace Bayruns, are in the process of researching our Archives, Biographical Data sheets, and Red Books to complete the DKGNJ Membership Spreadsheet.

I am working with our Strategic Action Plan Chairperson, Julie Schulin to incorporate our ETA goals into our 2020-2022 Strategic Action Plan and have it compliant with the DKGNJ Strategic Action Plan. Since we are new to our perspective positions, this certainly has been a learning experience for us both.

Our ETA sisters continue to collect books for the DKG NJ project "For the Love of Books". As of this time, we have collected 1,153 books, which were distributed between Crossroads, a Willingboro Elementary School, and Book Smiles.

I would be amiss not to mention the ETA Executive Board and Chairpersons that I am privileged to work with this biennium. They are a dynamic group of women who are dedicated, supportive and caring. Always seeking ways to keep ETA functioning and active and to meet the needs of our diverse group of women.

IOTA CHAPTER - SHANNON PIZZUTA & STACEY KASSE


Air hugs and elbow bumps from IOTA, representing Camden County! Even though we have been quarantining and staying safe, that hasn't stopped us from keeping busy! We have held all chapter meetings via Zoom and have continued to support one another through this new way of life. We inducted 6 new members in the spring and have also made an effort to support our working teachers in the remote learning/hybrid world. Our chapter historian, Marguerite Maines, has been very busy organizing and sharing the long history of our chapter and has

even found membership applications from our inaugural year! Our members have been busy outside of our chapter too! IOTA's very own, Irene Maskaly, was invited to serve as a member of the 2020-2024 Arts and Humanities Jury for DKG International, Jamie Auletto Grookett has announced that she is starting her MFA in Creative Writing this fall and will also be teaching writing at Drexel University, and, last but certainly not least, IOTA's Kimberly Dickstein Hughes just finished her role as New Jersey Board of Education's 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year. We thoroughly enjoyed watching her on NJTV everyday in the spring, bringing education into homes across the state!

IOTA FUNDRAISER - MAGNETIC DKG NAME BADGE

Description: Magnetic (please check with your doctor re: wearing with pacemakers, etc.) name badge/ 3w" x 2 ½" H, 2 ¼ inch slot for ribbon (not included), brushed gold plastic w/ black beveled edge.

You can click on the link below to access the order form if you are interested in ordering a badge!

<p>Magnetic DKG Name Badge Orders IOTA Fundraiser</p> <p>Description: Magnetic (please check with your doctor re: wearing with pacemakers, etc.) name badge/ 3w" x 2 ½" H, 2 ¼ inch slot for ribbon (not included), brushed gold plastic w/ black beveled edge.</p>  <p>*Cost: \$15.00 (please make checks payable to: DKG/IOTA) *Please Print: State Organization (e.g. Alpha Zeta State New Jersey)</p>	<p>IOTA Fundraiser</p>	<p>docs.google.com</p>
---	-------------------------------	--



LAMBDA CHAPTER - CATHY FORTUNATO, ANNABELLE BOEHM, AND NOREEN MCHALE

Tornadoes, Hurricanes, Pandemics, and Earthquakes, Oh My! Lambda Strong.

We face all challenges to our positive outlook. Lambda sisters supplied an apartment at Dina's Dwelling for a resident looking for a new beginning. Continuing to support our local community, Lambda sisters will supply the James O. Bryant Food Pantry with funds for food and donations of books for their library. Dr. Nora Pollard wrote an article, "Changing Mindset to Promote Student Success: An Interview with Dr. Manju Banerjee," published in the DKG Bulletin. Carol Boehm was named Teacher of the Year in Red Bank Primary District. Brenda Bradley led two Book Club meetings outdoors while maintaining social distancing and will continue to host monthly meetings. Annabelle Boehm was interviewed virtually by a Chicago college student. She used Annabelle's article on school violence as a basis of her research paper. Susan Muniz, who had been furloughed due to Covid 19, has been reinstated as a

Paraprofessional at Matheny Hospital and Educational Facility as of September 1st. Felicia Querrey updated our Lambda website.

Our sisters learned to teach virtually. Some of us learned how to help grandchildren learn virtually. A few of us helped by tutoring virtually. Our first virtual business meeting was on September 26 with invitations extended to our Epsilon sisters. A Welcome Ceremony planned by Miranda McMahon introduced 5 new sisters during our September meeting. Five relatively new members have joined the Lambda leadership team. In October a virtual program is planned to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment. Lambda sisters designed face masks and visors to support chapter projects including a future educator award and a fund for school children in Africa. Additional fundraisers are forthcoming under the leadership of Joan Stuart. Lambda sisters continue to support our friends and relatives who have suffered sickness or loss to Covid19.

We look forward to a better and brighter tomorrow as Sisters Standing Together.

MU CHAPTER - PJ MADREPERI

We are in the midst of a strange and unusual time. As a Chapter, we have found that virtual meetings have become the norm. It has served our members nicely. Those that would not have been able to attend meetings or activities are joining Zoom meetings. For our first meeting in the new biennium, we were pleased to have our State President, Ingrid Williams, join Mu to discuss the challenges of educators going back to school.

We are so proud of Dawn Flanders who was chosen to present a workshop at the International Convention scheduled in July 2020. Unfortunately, the convention was cancelled. Teresa Cuesta has worked on creating our Chapter website. She is doing an amazing job!

We are exploring new and different ways to combine fun activities with educational experiences through the virtual medium. We are planning to try a virtual painting party as well as have a local author speak to our group. Our members are creative and eager to share ideas about how to make traditional activities fit the current mold.

NU CHAPTER - GAIL GERSIE

I am honored to have been elected to lead Nu Chapter this new biennium following in the footsteps of so many admirable women before me. I thank them for their constant support and encouragement. I am also grateful to my executive board - Vicky Shoemaker, MaryEllen McCloy, Donna Layne, Marianne Cancellieri, Terry Oberg, Nola Tosti and Gail Griffin and all our sisters that have taken on leadership roles within our chapter.

This past Spring we welcomed Maureen McMichael into Nu chapter. Maureen is a math supervisor in the Lenape District in Medford NJ. We had three chapter members attend the CTAUN convention this past winter in New York City. Many of our sisters also enjoyed an informative and successful combined workshop in early March with our sisters of Beta, Epsilon, Eta, Iota and Sigma chapters.

Our fundraising efforts included a successful clothing drive as well as participation in Boscovs's Day. We also had a fun holiday gift exchange during our January general meeting and held dining for dollars events at local restaurants earlier in the year.

Nu chapter has supported many worthy causes. We continued our Doris Garland Project in which our members generously gifted deserving families during the holiday time. We also supported the food bank at our local high school, collected toiletries for the Crossroads Program that helps homeless youths and gathered up over 4,200 books to be donated to Book Smiles. Our President's project gifted five local education foundations \$500.00. We also gifted one local graduate continuing their studies in education a \$1,000.00 dollar scholarship.

OMICRON CHAPTER - DIANE ROBERTS

Omicron President Diane Roberts worked hard to keep all members informed during the height of the pandemic and continues to find creative ways to meet. Although the March and May meetings were canceled, we were able to hold a business meeting lakeside in June in Lacey Township. The budget and audit meeting was also held outdoors at the A. Paul King Park pavilion in Manahawkin and September's Executive Board Meeting took place outside at the Union Market restaurant at the Tuckerton Seaport. We look forward to Omicron's October meeting, which will again be held outdoors on a picturesque lighted pavilion in Beach Haven West.

During the summer, Omicron sisters gathered for an art exhibit entitled "In the Trees" by Cathleen Engelson in Surf City. This outdoor venue promoted social distancing while allowing those in attendance to learn about the area through Cathleen's beautiful paintings. Following the exhibit, Barbara Wheeler hosted an outside luncheon in her back yard.

The ROSES, comprised of Omicron retirees, held their first ever outdoor breakfast on Wednesday, September 23rd at the beautiful waterfront home of MaryLou Le Compte. Both Mary Lou and Michele Contala offered to graciously host the breakfast, serving delicious food and providing the perfect setting for the ROSES' monthly breakfast.

PI CHAPTER - CATHERINE KELLY

Needless to say, the pandemic has proved to be challenging for all of us. However, we were able to award two stipends of \$150 gift cards to deserving members. Prior to the cancellation of all in person events, we were able to hold our annual tea/general membership meeting. It was a lovely Sunday afternoon gathering.

For the 2020-2021 year, executive and general membership meetings are being held virtually. The Pi book club met via Zoom Oct. 1 to discuss the psychological thriller *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides. The fall general membership meeting will be held Oct. 15th. Milestones of continuous years (5, 10, 15 years) of membership will be recognized. Pi is continuing to collect children's books for "The Love of Books" initiative.

All members were encouraged to participate in the electronic leadership workshop "Lens and Language of Leadership" Oct. 17.

As is the tradition of Pi, the retired members known as The Formers prepared Welcome Back to School gifts for our working sisters. Star Bucks gift cards with notes of encouragement, appreciation and well wishes were sent to our sisters returning to work.

The next virtual general membership meeting will be the Holiday Social Dec. 6.

SIGMA CHAPTER - JANE MURPHY

"Hand in hand, our loyal band, forward moving ever!" Sigma met in February for a business meeting, dinner, and a presentation on The Children's March of Birmingham. In May of 1963, , over the course of four days, nearly 4,000 children (ages 8-19) marched peacefully and were arrested. As a result of their efforts, many of the unfair laws in the city were changed. Later in the month, several of us took the train to NYC to attend CTAUN. In March we joined other chapters for lunch at The Riverwinds restaurant, followed by a captivating presentation on the history of the Delaware River. When the shutdown came upon us, we moved to having Zoom meetings, both business and social. For several years we have held a School Supply Give – away. Teachers collect supplies that have been left in desks, we organize them and then give them away. The event had to be cancelled, so Sky McClain, who started the project, organized what she already had collected, then advertised in Free Stuff Moorestown. Parents who are home schooling gratefully took all she had! In September we held a T-Shirt Happy Hour (BYO chair and food!) in Sky's back yard. After the business meeting the Zoom camera was turned on, and we listened to Carol Bastian tell us about her experiences teaching in Japan, South Africa, and China. We were especially interested in hearing how she left China just as the pandemic was closing down the country! With the books donated that night, Sigma has collected 1,063 books so far. In spite of the shutdown, our spirit lives on. We have four members who received their 30 year pins at a visit to their home by Sigma sisters. Each pin was accompanied by a red rose, and there was joy in getting to visit, even if it was with a mask and from 6+ feet away!



Lens & Language of Leadership

A virtual workshop with Dena Breslin, founder at DenaB Coaching on leading and inspiring students to even higher levels, while keeping self care as priority one.



If you have missed this workshop, email Dena ASAP at denab46@comcast.net for the recording, available through 11/7.

CONGRATULATIONS SUZANNE DISZLER!



Suzanne Diszler, Gamma Chapter, was recently notified that she is one of four recipients of a \$10,000 Delta Kappa Gamma International Scholarship to pursue a doctoral degree. Congratulations, Suzanne!

SOCIETY WEBSITE COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

It is time for chapter webmasters to submit the Society Website Compliance Assurance form. This form is to be completed between August 1 – October 31 of even-numbered years. Form 72a is a list of the standards that are required for compliance. You can find Form 72a on the Forms page of the NC DKG site or on the DKG site under Forms, Website. After checking for the required standards, complete the Society Website Compliance Assurance Form 72. NOTE: You MUST be logged into the International Website for this link to work. The form is an online form and is easy to complete, so go ahead and get that checked off your to-do list now!

CHAPTER TREASURER REMINDER TO FILE 990

File your 990 with the IRS by Nov. 15

Reminder: U.S. entities with bank accounts MUST file Form 990 each year by November 15. Entities with less than \$50,000 in cash receipts during the fiscal year of July 1 to June 30 may file Form 990N. File electronically for free through the direct IRS connection on the Society website or at www.irs.gov. Any entity that does not complete successful filing for 3 consecutive years will lose its tax-exempt status and fall from under the umbrella of DKG. Confirmations of filing for chapters and for coordinating council accounts with separate EINs must be sent to the state organization president. All state organizations must send copies or confirmation of state filings to Peggy Jonas at peggyj@dkg.org.

WANTED – DKG NJ STATE UN COMMITTEE CHAIR

Has the Delta Kappa Gamma connection to the United Nations always interested you? Have you ever attended CTAUN? We are in need of someone to finish this biennium as the state UN Committee Chair. Based on the current pandemic situation, it just a matter of forwarding emails from International to the appropriate chapter representatives. Please contact President Williams if you are interested: dkgnj.pres@gmail.com

STATE VIRTUAL MEETING


As Plato once said, "Necessity is the mother of invention." While we didn't invent Zoom, we are finding it a handy and convenient way to continue to move state business forward. On September 12, 2020 for the first time in New Jersey DKG history, we held our state meeting using Zoom. Eighty-one sisters logged on at 9:00 AM to join the meeting. Although we missed the wonderful in-person connection we get when we meet live, we virtually didn't miss a beat (no pun intended).

Chapter committee chairs met with their committees (virtually) before the state meeting in an effort to have updated information to share at the meeting. The chat box provided a format for everyone to ask questions and make motions.

Our next state meeting will be on January 9th at 9 AM. Won't you join us? Bring your own coffee and refreshments!



CONNECT WITH ME

 @HeatherLieberm2

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

 liebermandkg@gmail.com

