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Advancing key women educators in the state of Maryland

# DKG alpha beta STATE NEWS

VOL. 80 NO. 4  
Fall 2018

## President's Message The Value of Attending Conferences

*Sharon Darling, Maryland State President*

More than 12 years ago, I began to attend Northeast Regional Conferences and International Conventions. In the beginning, I wondered why I was going. Was it just to see different parts of the United States? To be honest, maybe that was part of the reason, but I have definitely grown in my reasons as to why. If you attend a convention or conference, you begin to gain a better understanding of the Society. At this past convention, everyone was given the opportunity for voting on International Bylaws and Standing Rules Amendments. Some were passed and some were not. For example, we did not pass changing The Society's name or electing officers by those who attend the convention. We did pass changing the word from "initiated" to "inducted." Now college undergraduates and graduates may become members. There were a lot more. Check the DKG websites to see all the decisions made. Changes are being made. Also, at convention, you get a better understanding of what International Committees do from the reports given. Again, check the website for more information.

There are also many Breakout and Takeaway Sessions where you may gain professional and personal growth. We had three of our own present sessions, *Fran Luther, Alpha, Janet Cornick, Lambda, and Minnie Young, Eta!*

At these meetings, you have the opportunity to hear dynamic speakers. Benjamin Zander and Nadia Lopez both delivered powerful, inspirational messages as our keynoters. (Read the articles later in this newsletter.)

One other reason, for me, is the camaraderie of being with other educators from around our great society. We may not see each other but once every year or every two years, but we always search for each other. It is the opportunity to renew friendships and develop new ones.



28 Maryland State members attended the 2018 DKG International Convention in Austin, TX.

We had 28 sisters (and 4 spouses) from Alpha Beta State to attend the convention this summer. Many of them have written articles for this newsletter. As you read these articles, I hope they will inspire you to attend the Northeast Regional in Mashantucket, CT on July 30-August 1, 2019 and the International Convention in 2020 in Philadelphia (Stay tuned for more information about that convention.)

*"We delight in the beauty of a butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty." - Maya Angelou*

We as a society must continue to work on change to get where our society can soar.

# 2018 International Convention

July 16 - 20, 2018  
Austin, TX

## International Convention Promoted Teaching Peace

Patty Simon, Mu

The International Convention of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, held in Austin, Texas, proved to be a breath of fresh air in an atmosphere that has lately been rife with hostility. The overall messages of peace and tolerance were evident even in the choice of location. While it was certainly appropriate to hold the convention in the birthplace of DKG, Austin proved to be the perfect location for the main themes with colorful paintings promoting peace



Austin - the Birthplace of DKG: Members visited the DKG Headquarters

and love on the sides of buildings.

Inside the convention, the atmosphere also reflected the themes as women from all over the U. S. and over a dozen member countries greeted each other warmly as they came together for a common cause. As a first timer, I was excited to meet women from so many different places, some of which I had visited and others that I had not. Actually, Austin was new to me, as I'm sure it was to many others, and it was fun sampling the western cuisine and seeing western attire. This undoubtedly provided a unique experience for the visitors from other countries.

After arriving on Monday, the first meeting I attended was the one for the

first timers. The first large gathering was **Texas Night**, which gave us an introduction to western fashion and music.



Texas Night

The second large gathering was Tuesday morning's General Meeting, where we learned how to use the voting device.



The Global Awareness Forum

At the Global Forum, we were treated to several excellent speakers. **Joan Wolfe**, Forum Chair from Canada, shared her country's international projects that include rescuing girls from the streets of Nepal and Kenya and helping them get an education. U.S. Forum Chair **Carmela DeMarco** spoke about the importance of teaching children about the Holocaust.

Providing the Latin American per-

spective, **Dr. Cristina Gonzalez Paras** emphasized the importance of compassion and talked about compassionate cities located in fifty-two countries. She urged us to realize that compassion is at the heart of religious, ethical, and moral conditions and that even enemies should be treated with compassion.

The global awareness perspective was shared by **Mansi Mehta**, a representative from UNICEF. She gave wonderful information about how DKG has supported UNICEF since the early 1990s by helping to fund schools for Africa. She spoke of the importance of making schools "Zones of Peace" while also working to strengthen ties between families and communities.

Wednesday we were treated to the wisdom of keynote speaker **Benjamin Zander**, conductor, classical pianist, teacher, and author of **The Art of Possibility**. His positive attitude was infectious as he enthusiastically shared anecdotes about his life and his students. One of the best ideas that he imparted to us was his belief that if a teacher approaches his/her students with the attitude that they will like the subject matter, then that will be the case more often than not. Mr. Zander also looked at problems in a positive way. He said, "You will not learn anything unless you have something at stake." He looked at mistakes in the same positive way, going so far as to say that mistakes should be celebrated by exclaiming, "How fascinating!" He also had an interesting twist on how to react when a student doesn't do what the teacher wants. "If people don't do what you want them to do, apologize for not inspiring them."



He shared many other kernels of wisdom including:

- Music is the language of human beings.
- Don't compare yourself to others.
- Contribute something every day.
- Never say anything that can't stand as the last thing you say to someone.
- Possibility is always only one sentence away.

We left the meeting feeling challenged and inspired.

Thursday's keynote speaker was equally moving. **Nadia Lopez**, author of **Bridge to Brilliance**, touched everyone with her account of her childhood education and how her mother, though not well educated, encouraged her to attend a more academically challenging school with teachers who required her to read every night. With beliefs that education is the key to liberation and that teachers make a difference, Mrs. Lopez decided to open her own school in Brownsville, Brooklyn, an area where the average annual income is \$11,000 and only 32% of the people have high school diplomas. "Who we are can be influenced by the things that we constantly see." When she asked her incoming students what they see, she was told, "rapists, drug addicts, guns, violence, and death." In order to try to break this cycle of violence, Mrs. Lopez knew her school had to be very student centered. She adopted certain statements that guided her interactions with the students, whom she started calling *scholars*. Some of these statements are:

- Make every child feel like he/she counts.
- All children have their own unique stories. Listen so they can feel they are heard.
- It is important to be present and to give each child time.

Four of the goals for her school were to make students globally competitive, to find competent teachers, to celebrate brilliance, and to create partnerships. After years of hard work, her school now has 100% graduation rate. By the time Mrs. Lopez finished telling

about her experiences, there wasn't a dry eye in the audience.



*A Breakout Session*

The convention offered a wide variety of Breakout Sessions and Ten-Minute Takeaways so that there was something for everyone. These included topics relevant to teachers of all grade levels and different fields of study. There were also sessions dealing with various aspects of DKG, personal growth, and global issues.

One Breakout Session I attended was entitled "The Power of Negotiation." **Dr. Patia Rountree, Ms. Amber Hedgpeth, and Dr. LaVonne Kirkpatrick** shared valuable tips on how to be a better negotiator in order to accomplish more. The main idea was the 80/20 Rule: 80% preparing and talking about the other person, and 20% preparing and talking about oneself. As they emphasized, "It's never about you."



*Atsuko Ando*

Another Breakout Session I attended was about the Blue-Eyed Doll Ambassadors. **Atsuko Ando**, with the help of several other Japanese women, told us about Dr. Sidney Lewis, who traveled to Japan after graduating from college and the seminary. He stayed in Japan

for about twenty years and became friends with a Japanese businessman named Viscount Eiichi Shibusawa. Dr. Gulick created the International Friendship Association to promote ties between the U.S. and Japan. The theme of his organization was "World peace begins with children." He had the two countries exchange dolls in 1927. Unfortunately, many of the dolls were destroyed when World War II began. Only a few survived. In 2015, the Peace Education Project was started by DKG in order to tell people about the Ambassador Dolls.



*Live Music at the Marketplace*

The Marketplace had a variety of vendors, including some that promoted fair trade and some that were selling items related to DKG. It was impossible to go away empty handed.

Throughout the convention, there were meetings that involved voting on the Constitutional Amendments. A few amendments were quickly adopted, but most resulted in discussions. The biggest issue was whether or not to change the name of the organization. After much debate, the assembly failed to reach a consensus on a name change, so Delta Kappa Gamma Society International will remain as is.

The International Convention proved to be enjoyable, interesting, and thought-provoking. It's something that all DKG members should experience as often as possible.

## International Convention Keynote Speaker

### Benjamin Zander: Sharing a New Perspective on Leadership

Dr. Terri T. Showers, *Lambda*

**B**enjamin Zander, the renowned conductor of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra and the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, author, and teacher, was one of the outstanding speakers for the 2018 International Convention of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. He enlightened the audience with his perspective on leadership by using several musical metaphors to convey his thoughts on leadership. Zander captivated the audience attention with a presentation that included combining aspects of classical music and a few popular tunes to help transform one's thinking on leadership.

According to Zander, the meaning of leadership has changed over time. To illustrate this point, Zander shared insights about the leadership style of conductor **Arturo Toscanini**. He stated, "Toscanini had an old-style of leadership, top-down" that extended from him, the conductor. Leadership came from the control of music directed by the conductor. Zander now believes leadership comes from what the leader is able to get from the musicians, meaning each musician adds something and it's the conductor who uses it. Hence, during this process, the musicians are strengthened and gain a sense of accomplishment. Leaders must be able to identify problems during these interactions and create the vision so that all the musicians are aligned with that vision for each performance.

Moreover, Zander demonstrated how a seven year-old child begins to play for the first time a piece of classical music. Initially, the child makes many impulses as he plays the music. As the child is coached and practices over time, the child makes fewer impulses until the song is played smoothly and the child feels satisfied. This is a transformation. In another example, Zander showed the audience how singing the birthday song over and over again to Linda, a DKG member, illustrated a transformation. Each time the audience sang happy birthday to Linda, Zander asked



*Zander enlightened the audience with his perspective on leadership by using several musical metaphors to convey his thoughts on leadership.*

the audience to decrease the impulses and as the audience sense of accomplishment increased, a transformation occurred. As a leader, Zander identified the problem in the song and enrolled people to support his vision. Likewise, in education, Zander stated information is not transferred but information is transformed. Leaders are able to transform information into a vision for others to use. Classical music has the same effect of transformation. Zander beautifully performed several lines of Chopin- Prelude in E Minor and each time he played, he reduced the impulses. During his performance, the audience became so attentive waiting for the next impulse. As a result, Zander showed the audience that by listening and understanding Chopin-Prelude in E Minor, your thinking can be transformed.

Zander believes another aspect of leadership is the leader's ability to awaken the unlimited number of possibilities in people. People have to see possibilities and not conclude that the way things appear isn't the way it will always be. By looking into a child's eyes and seeing the shine in their eyes helps the leader to see the child is engaged. This allows the leader to know they have made a connection with the child, thus enabling the child to see possibilities. This is similar to a "conductor who sees themselves as a conduit" for unleashing the unlimited possibilities people can possess. Zander mentioned people have three



*Zander stated information is not transferred but information is transformed. The audience experienced this transformation as they sang Happy Birthday to Linda a few times, each time decreasing impulses and increasing accomplishment..*

choices when confronted with a situation. People can "resign themselves from the situation, become angry about it, or seek the unlimited possibilities" presented in the situation.

Leaders must see the importance in relationships and conversations. If a breakdown in communication occurs, "leaders must understand the breakdown." They must deliberately understand conversations they have with people and the "effect that conversation has on people".

Zander further explained that while Nelson Mandela was in prison, he had a vision and saw the unlimited possibilities for people. Although he was in prison, people continued to believe in his vision and this action is what sustained him during his imprisonment. Hence, it was his vision that led the people.

Most importantly, Zander emphasized leaders need to be able to take "downward spiraling" discussions and circumstances and transform them into "radiating possibilities." Through his vivid examples and participatory opportunities, Zander stressed the importance of "Rule Number 6: Don't take yourself so serious." (Note: Rules 1 through 5 were not shared in this presentation.) He concluded by saying that leaders must go outside the box to know what assumptions are being made and why. Clearly, Benjamin Zander awakened in us a new perspective on understanding leadership.



## International Convention Keynote Speaker Nadia Lopez: Educator Extraordinaire

Sharon Hilty, Delta

In 2010, Nadia began to create and build the Mott Hall Bridges Academy in Brownsville, an area of Brooklyn, New York. She wanted to create a safe, orderly learning environment where each of her “Scholars” matters and has a Voice! Nadia believes that the Very Best Education is their birthright, and she has the passion, determination, work ethic, and faith to make it happen. People who believe in her mission have also helped make her dreams for the scholars possible.

She grew up in this community and her parents sought and fought for her to have the very best education and opportunities available. Nadia demands that her own daughter and the other children in Brownsville receive the same educational experiences and opportunities. She took them to Harvard, the White House, all over New York to open their eyes to some of the possibilities in life.

Her book, *The Bridge to Brilliance: How One Principal in a Tough Community Is Inspiring the World*, has been recognized, awarded and used around the World.

Nadia challenges every DKG Member to:

- Accept No Excuses,
- Have High Expectations
- Find a Way to help students.
- Be the Bridge
- Mentor others
- Have Passion
- Invest in Growth Opportunities for Yourself, and
- Remember Your Purpose for teaching and touching the lives of your students.

“Finding Her Way” is what keeps her going! One day she heard one of her



*Nadia Lopez inspired us to remember our purpose for teaching and touching students' lives.*

students say on a New York Blog, “My principal, Mrs. Lopez, has been the most influential person in my life... (She told us every day that)... we mattered and had a voice. She also told us that, ‘every time a student dropped out of school, a jail cell is built.’”

I encourage you to go online and seek more information about this phenomenal educator and woman. There are many videos to perhaps inspire you as you begin another school year with new lives you can find a way to impact.

International Conventions always provide multi opportunities to hear inspirational, passionate, and encouraging speakers. This time was also special because of the Tour of Headquarters where Annie Blanton and friends began our great International Society.

Austin was another DKG Adventure for me!

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*My convention highlight was the Thursday keynote speaker, **Nadia Lopez**, an African American woman just forty years old who had opened a charter school for middle school students in a dangerous section of Brooklyn, NY. Since that was the city of my birth, I listened to every word of her 90-minute story demonstrating her commitment to these youngsters and their success. Immediately after her session, I began to read her book, “The Bridge to Brilliance” and was mesmerized that night when she stepped into the elevator right next to the two of us from Omega Chapter. The only thing I could think to say was, “You know how to make a room full of 1,000 woman cry!”*

*- Jean Marie Hofstetter, Omega*

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# Reflections on Austin

What an awesome experience to attend my first DKG International Convention! The birthplace and headquarters of DKG, and the vibrant city of Austin, offered many tourist opportunities outside of the convention schedule. The beautiful J.W. Marriott Hotel could easily accommodate our 2,000 members and guests and was ideally located close to downtown yet not far from the airport. It was great to spend more time with fellow ABS members during general business sessions and especially at the enjoyable MD BBQ Night! Plus, it was wonderful to meet DKG members from other states and countries. Hearing the viewpoints of members near and far during the course of voting on amendments was very insightful. There was a wide array of choices for breakout sessions and ten minute “takeaways” that offered much worthwhile information regarding DKG and education worldwide. The keynote speakers were very inspiring!

The convention gave me a much better “overall sense” and appreciation of DKG International. I am looking forward to seeing many Austin attendees in 2020 at the next convention in Philadelphia! - **Sue Capron**, Xi Chapter President



“The best thing about the convention was meeting women from all walks of life... What a conglomerate of women having fellowship with each other!” - **Sheila Owens**, Mu

The 2018 International Convention in Austin, Texas was an eye-opener for a first-timer. This first-timer savored the food, Marketplace vendors, Nadia Lopez and Benjamin Zander, voting on the amendments presented, the break-out sessions, and the hotel itself. The best thing about the convention was meeting women from all walks of life: Japan, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Finland, Hawaii, Quebec and many more. What a CONGLOMERATE of women having fellowship with each other!! - **Sheila Owens**, Mu

Words to express my Austin experience: **Educational**. It was an edifying DKG experience. We were well informed on the structure and meaning of DKG. We were **well-versed** in the business practices of DKG and given **practical** solutions on how to implement all of the goals, programs and purposes of DKG.-**Yvonne Stone**, Theta Chapter Vice President

We went to Austin! Yes, the temperature hit over 100 degrees every day we were there for DKG’s 2018 International Convention in July. A dip in the rooftop pool at the JW Marriott with a view of the city skyline offered relief.



Tourists watch 1.5 million bats fly from underneath Congress Avenue Bridge each evening.

Our evening walk to the bridge overlooking Lady Bird Johnson Lake to view the flight of 1.5 million bats out for their nighttime feed added to the uniqueness of this convention location.

My convention highlight was the Thursday keynote speaker, **Nadia Lopez**, an African American woman just forty years old who had opened a charter school for middle school students in a dangerous section of Brooklyn, NY. Since that was the city of my birth, I listened to every word of her 90-minute story demonstrating her commitment to these youngsters and their success. Immediately after her session, I began to read her book, “The Bridge to Brilliance” and was mesmerized that night when she stepped into the elevator right next to the two of us from Omega Chapter. The only thing I could think to say was, “You know how to make a room full of 1,000 woman cry!”



Three members of Alpha Beta State attended the breakout session, “Transforming Your Dreams to Reality.” Participants of this session were challenged to illustrate one of their dreams by cutting pictures out of magazines to represent steps to achieve your dream. My visual representation depicted the work I need to do over the upcoming months in order to travel to Norway to visit the homes of my grandparents next June.

Don’t we all have too much “stuff” cluttering up our homes? **Bev Johns** referenced this situation in her 10-minute talk entitled “Drinking Water from a Fire Hydrant: Overwhelmed and Don’t Know How to Get Everything Done” and offered 10 hot tips for getting it all done. Each were simple yet broke this commonly overwhelming task down into manageable steps.



Since my professional goal is to learn as much as possible about teaching online college courses, I found a perfect match with Alpha Beta State presenter **Dr. Minnie Young’s** session entitled “Have You Considered Teaching Online?” Minnie shared a myriad of useful resources and asked the pointed question, “Why haven’t you started teaching online?” My direct response was, “My poor computer skills.” Now, I better start augmenting my computer skills so I can start teaching online.

**Dr. Kay Clawson** led us through an interactive session entitled “Transformation of Change.” In pairs, sisters in attendance identified goals and brainstormed strategies to achieve these goals. Everyone left with more strategies to reach their goal than they could have ever generated acting alone.

- **Jean Marie Hofstetter**, Omega



The convention offered two excellent key note speakers. Both speakers appealed to the whole group. They got the audience involved and thinking. I am going to enjoy reading their books. I especially loved **Benjamin Zander**. His combining music with his inspirational talk made everyone in the audience feel uplifted and happy as they walked out of the room. The Breakout sessions I attended were all excellent, also. I especially liked the one on Laughing for the Health of It by **Edna Thayer**. The only sad thing about her excellent talk is that her book is out of print. The time with our Maryland sisters and their families at **Coopers** on Tuesday night was fantastic. I loved talking to the other ladies and getting to know them better. I have had several meetings with many of these ladies. However feel I learned more about them as individuals after this week together. It was fantastic getting to socialize with members from other states and countries. It drives home how far DKG reaches. - **Paula Kuenzle, Zeta Chapter President**



*"The time with our Maryland sisters and their families at Coopers on Tuesday night was fantastic." - Paula Kuenzle, Zeta*

It is always inspiring to participate in DKG events in a larger arena. This is where you really appreciate the scope and impact of what the Society accomplishes and our value throughout the world. Austin was my first International Convention. The atmosphere in a room of nearly 2000 international members was electric. I was able to sit, share and discuss current issues impacting education and women worldwide with sisters in the forefront of the action. I particularly enjoyed talking to Puerto Rico's President **Evelyn** at the luncheon. She shared the immediate assistance the Emergency Fund gave to our DKG sisters in Puerto Rico. It was inspiring. I was able to make new connections and friendships. I feel re-energized and inspired to share my personal experiences and impressions with those from my chapter unable to attend. Until you have the opportunity to be in such a room with so many people dedicated to education and our society, you are missing out on much of what we as a Society have to share. - **Rhonda Wagner, Zeta**

## **2018 International Convention**

*A collage of snapshots of International portrays  
Vivid colors representing seventeen countries,  
Voices expressing joy and pride in many accents,  
International: a tapestry of members, chapters, states.*

*Every day was greeted with anticipation.  
Every day presented challenges and opportunities.  
From Opening Night filled with many sights and sounds  
To the Installation of Officers and Celebration Banquet,*

*The convention presented snapshots of learning,  
Renewal of friendships, the eagerness of first timers,  
The awe of parliamentary procedure,  
The challenges of guest speakers.*

*Beginning with tote bags, handbags, and luggage.  
Challenged by names and rewarded by smiles.  
Anticipating change and exchanging viewpoints.  
Each day led to new beginnings and experiences.*

*Up and down escalators and elevators,  
Searching for just the right Breakout Session  
Each bubbled with energy and explored new ideas,  
Eager to share with members who could not attend.*

*Bluebonnet Texans eager to help:  
Table hostesses, door monitors, pages.  
The behind the scenes scurrying to set up,  
To ease the process and be on the ready.*

*Red, yellow, green and blue:  
What color card do you want?  
Or was it the favorite white clicker  
To speed along the busy agenda?*

*Business sessions clarify and amend.  
Questions and answers enlighten the voter.  
With extensions of time and orderly procession,  
Forty-two pages of amendments were completed.*

*Speakers and Breakout Sessions provide  
Inspiration, sharing, rejuvenation and simplicity.  
Each contributing to a beautiful tapestry, a true vision:  
DKG Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide.*

*---Janye Brainard  
Kappa Chapter, Texas*

## Global Awareness Forum

*Iris Wingert, Omicron Chapter President*

The Global Awareness Forum is a collaborative endeavor of the United States, European, Latin American and Canadian Forums of Delta Kappa Gamma International. It ensures DKG's status as an international organization for global outreach and cooperation and serves as evidence that DKG is "Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide." The theme of the Global Awareness Forum at the 2018 International Convention in Austin, Texas was "Teaching Tolerance and Promoting Peace." Speakers representing the various forums took to the podium and presented information related to the stated theme.

**Carmela De Marco**, the United States Forum Chair, spoke about tolerance and peace in the curriculum. She raised the point that many states have passed legislation requiring programs that teach tolerance and peace through a curriculum concerned with the Holocaust. She added that DKG Connecticut (<https://dkgct.weebly.com/>) has a successful education initiative concerning global peace. Their "Curriculum of Hope" is a standing committee which distributes a newsletter entitled, "Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful Planet." Published three times a year, it provides educators with resources, ideas, and links to information focused on global peace. Additionally, the Southern Poverty Law Center, based in Montgomery, Alabama, is a social justice institution and offers a curriculum entitled, "Teaching Tolerance." This effort promotes inclusiveness and an equitable education for all students. The center offers many resources for teachers including lesson plans, films, professional development seminars and The Teaching Tolerance magazine. Another advocate for tolerance and peace in the classroom is the Peace Foundation. Founded in the 1960s by two Florida teachers, the Peace Foundation emphasizes conflict resolution strategies in the classroom curriculum. This foundation develops training programs for administrators, teachers, counselors, students, and families which include conflict resolution, peer mediation, bullying prevention, and peace-making skills for children. According to the Peace Foundation, it is crucial

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that the teacher model the behaviors of tolerance and peaceful interaction in the classroom; that the teacher welcomes every visitor to the classroom, from the custodian to the principal, with the same amount of respect so that students can observe and absorb these exchanges. Essentially, the teacher must set a tone of tolerance and peace in the classroom so that students are made aware that all viewpoints, no matter how unacceptable or different from their own, may be expressed. Additionally, the teacher must demonstrate how to disagree without confrontation by acknowledging multiple students' viewpoints and thus demonstrating tolerance for others' points of view and the promotion of peaceful resolution of issues and disagreements. Ms. DeMarco went on to give two curricular examples of demonstrating tolerance for opposing viewpoints which included discussing the major conflicts in Harper Lee's novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird" or by discussing the feelings of those who admire the various monuments that honor the leaders on both sides of the Civil War. As Ms. DeMarco exclaimed, "In a tolerant and peaceful classroom, students are treated with respect and encouraged to voice their opinions and feelings by being compassionate, kind and supportive of one another."

Next to speak, representing the Latin American perspective, was **Dr. Cristina Gonzalez Paras**. Dr. Paras described "The Worldwide Meeting of Human Values," a non-profit organization headquartered in Monterrey, Mexico, "where all sectors of society participate to sensitize its audience's hearts and minds." Each year, this organization brings together more than twenty speakers from all over the world including social activists, social transformers, entrepreneurs, change makers, and an interreligious council. They provide a space for dialogue and reflection to share best practices and innovational projects. Their numerous sponsors include government and educational institutions, volunteers, chambers of commerce, and foundations. The global advisory board for the "Encuentro Mundial de Valores" is called "Charter for Compassion." Its message is broadcast in 415 cities and fifty-two countries via Internet, radio and television.

Last to speak at the forum was **Mansi Mehta**, Manager for the Global Cause Partnerships, UNICEF USA. Ms. Mehta



began her presentation with a personal story that happened while she was visiting her grandmother in India. As she was stopped in traffic one day, she looked to her left and saw a young girl around her age sitting by the street scribbling something. Her curiosity got the best of her so she approached the young girl and asked her what she was doing. The young girl replied that she was doing homework from three years ago which was the last time that she was in school before her parents had chosen her brother over her to continue her education. This scenario has stayed with Mansi Mehta giving her the determination to fight for gender equity throughout the world. And she is very grateful for the UNICEF Global Cause Partnerships whose mission is to support, educate and work for the most vulnerable children and not only to help them survive, but to help them to thrive. The UNICEF Organization strives to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to reach their full potential. UNICEF was founded in 1946 to support children in the aftermath of post-World War II. Today it is active in 190 countries and territories which is an incredible network that aims to advocate for children on a global scale. The vision of UNICEF USA is a better world for all children regardless of where they come from, who they are, and whatever disability they may be encountering. It is dedicated to increasing the engagement and awareness of all Americans who care about the wellbeing of children worldwide. Ms. Mehta reports that UNICEF works on a holistic level by ensuring access to health care, education, nutrition, child protection and social inclusion. Part of the tie-in of UNICEF and DKG is the support that DKG provides in its Schools for Africa program ensuring that all children have access to an education within Africa.

For additional information and resources, visit <http://www.dkg.org/dkgmember/globalawareness>.



# Committee News

## It is Election Year! Did You Know?

*Carol Miller-Schultz, Chairperson, Nominating Committee*

**M**aryland State is looking for YOU to join this exciting group of ladies who shape the direction of our state organization. Just a sneak peek at some of the jobs that need to be filled are the Nominations Committee, Recording Secretary and Second Vice President. Join us in September at the Executive Board Meeting for more information!

## Do We Need to Make Any Changes in the Bylaws?

*Holly Hatton, Bylaws/ Standing Rules Committee Chair*

**O**ur September Executive Board Meeting is fast approaching! It is time to think about changes that need to be made to our state bylaws and standing rules. We know that much was done at the International Convention and we must be in compliance with those changes but we also must consider our own. We will look at the ones from 2017 as well as any new ones. If you have any proposals, we will start collecting them at the September Executive Board Meeting. You may also email them to me at [hhatton@wcboe.org](mailto:hhatton@wcboe.org).

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you soon!

## Joan Wiggins Joins International Expansion Committee



**C**ongratulations to our Past Alpha Beta State president, *Joan Wiggins, Alpha Theta*, on being selected to serve on the International Expansion Committee!

We are so proud of you!

## Chapter Achievement Survey

*Dr. Minnie Young, Eta*

**I**t's time to shine! Chapter presidents, please share your chapter achievements by filling up the ABS Chapter Achievement Survey. The link has been sent to you by email. There are three levels: Essential, Excellent, and Exemplary. So please list down your chapter members participation in meetings, state events, regional conferences and international convention. Share also your recruitment plan, succession plan, and community outreach.

For questions related to the online form, please contact Minnie Young at [drminnieyoung@gmail.com](mailto:drminnieyoung@gmail.com). For other inquiries, please contact *Joan Wiggins* at [joan633@comcast.net](mailto:joan633@comcast.net).

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

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## Alpha Beta State News

Volume 80, No. 4  
Fall 2018

An official publication of the  
Delta Kappa Gamma Society  
International for Key Women Educators  
Maryland State

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Convention Photos courtesy of DKG.org,  
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## Chapter News

# The Secret Sauce to Chapter Engagement

Jennifer Hlavka, Alpha Gamma Chapter President

How does a chapter engage their members to come out for events when calendars are full of parent-teacher conferences, children's band concerts, graduate school coursework, family obligations, and the need for an occasional moment to oneself? In direct response to this issue, the Alpha Gamma chapter of Howard County has spent the last several years with a goal of both growing membership and deepening engagement of current members. Why does this matter? We know that in order to advance the mission of Delta Kappa Gamma, we need to build deep and meaningful relationships amongst the accomplished women in our chapter. We have also learned that our membership thrives when relationships grow beyond those you already knew before joining. Our meetings and social events look to grow each person's network throughout the chapter. We know we have met our goal when our membership's biggest challenge is getting the group to come together at the start of a meeting because the membership is so engrossed with catching up with one another.

### Our Approach

To meet our goals, relationships were intentionally and consistently built and deepened with fun and engaging team-based activities at every gathering. Typically, we open our meetings with introductions and a warm welcome to those visiting for the first time. We then dive into mixing the group up so everyone has a chance to meet someone new. The following are tried and true activities that our chapter enjoyed.

**Minute-to-Win-It:** Based on the popular television show, chapter leadership picks several games from the Minute-to-Win-It website and teams compete against one another for points. We use available YouTube videos to set up each challenge and then step back as the competitive spirit takes hold and the laughing cranks up!

**Chop'd:** Also based on a television show, we use a Family and Consumer Science (FACS) teacher's classroom equipped with cooking utensils and basic ingredients. Teams are provided with a last minute "surprise" basket of ingredients which have to be integrated into the final recipe(s) and the timer starts! The best part? We get to eat several amazing dishes and sit down for fellowship together at the end.



Alpha Gamma members worked in teams to prepare a dish from a "surprise" basket of ingredients during a game of Chop'd.

**Family Feud:** Available online, we use an adaptable "Family Feud" PowerPoint template which we populate with questions and a listing of answers. Teams compete for the top-scoring answers and to be the first to ring the buzzer. The bonus of this activity – the PowerPoint comes with authentic Family Feud sound effects!

**Common Ground Matrix:** The group comes up with several topics of interest for personal sharing (ie: favorite vacation spot, dream job, best concert, etc.). They build a matrix and record and discuss each individual's answer. At the end, the group looks for themes of commonality amongst themselves and shares back with the larger membership. The matrix is a great way to learn things you may have never known about others in the room.

How do we know these worked? When we engage in end-of-the-year reflection meetings and ask for the membership to share out their cherished memories, they repeatedly speak to the moments where we connected with one another through fun. As our lives become increasingly busy, additional commitments must offer an assurance that individuals will leave more connected and fulfilled than when they arrived.



Ella Bradley, current Vice President, competing at the winter meeting Minute-to-Win-It "Face the Cookie" challenge.

Best of luck with your own efforts to increase membership engagement from your friends in Howard County!

Have questions or want to connect on any of these ideas? Feel free to contact **Jennifer** at [jennifer\\_hlavka@hcpss.org](mailto:jennifer_hlavka@hcpss.org). Our chapter would love to hear and see how you put any of these ideas into practice!



## Alpha Chapter Soars with Sharon

*Janey Snyder, Alpha Chapter President*

Alpha Chapter would like to officially welcome our new members, **Ele McLaughlin** and **Jean Smiley**, who were initiated at our meeting on May 19th at the Bowman Restaurant. We had good attendance (11 members) along with our special guest, State President **Sharon Darling**, and our incoming initiates. President Darling spoke on her theme **GROW-CHANGE-SOAR**. What she is

hoping continues to happen in Maryland. She gave each member a butterfly magnet, signifying the needed transformation in DKG to make an improved and involved organization. In addition to initiating 2 new members, officers were installed for the 2018-2020 biennium. Alpha Chapter is looking forward to the September meeting where they will be joined by **Sally Nazelrod** of Xi Chapter. Sally will do a



*New members **Ele McLaughlin** and **Jean Smiley** with President **Sharon Darling**.*

short presentation using colors to identify personality traits.

## Alpha Delta Takes on the Project Linus Annual Challenge

*Donna Clark, Lower Eastern Shore*



***Chris Wall**, Alpha Delta, with **Donna Clarke** showing a blanket and a totebag created for the Project Linus Annual Challenge.*

This year Project Linus teamed up with Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) International, Alpha Delta Chapter (thanks to **Chris Wall** and **Coleen Mister**) to have an inspiring and successful Project Linus annual challenge. The theme was “**Read a Book.**” Blankets were quilted or crocheted to depict a certain book or a reading theme and then each blanket is paired with an appropriate book. The ladies of DKG designed and provided a large number of tote-bags so that the blankets will go out to children in a tote-bag that also holds their book. This year I was extremely pleased with the outpouring of creative thought, blanket designs, and of course, the purchase of so many nice books. They will be displayed on Sunday, October

14, at Salem for you to vote on your favorites. This is the major fundraiser that we do in support of Project Linus. Since we had such a wonderful, creative response this year, the display will be in the social hall as well as the sanctuary. Please watch out for this event. I think you will be overwhelmed by the generosity and positive thoughts about blankets and children’s need for reading that went into it. Ultimately, all of these blankets will be given to children hospitalized at A. I. DuPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington. Thank you for your support of Project Linus.

*Reprinted with permission from Sisterhood Gazette, Alpha Delta Chapter September 2018 Newsletter.*

## Delta Chapter Visits Chesapeake Bay Railway Museum

*Diane Straub, Delta Chapter Corresponding Secretary*

We had quite a busy Delta Chapter meeting on May 19 at the home of **Missy Zentz**. After our business meeting and installation of officers for the 2018-2020 biennium, we went on a trip to the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum.

The museum is in the town of Chesapeake Beach, which was developed as a resort town in the late 1800’s. The CB Railway Company completed the railway and had its grand opening on June 9, 1900. Nearby was the Belvedere Hotel where overnight beach visitors would stay, but it was destroyed by a fire in 1923. The train’s “Honeysuckle Route” carried travelers through the rural Southern Maryland countryside to the resort on the Western Shore.

Financial hardship brought on by the Great Depression and the growing popularity of the automobile prompted the end of the railroad. On April 15, 1935 the last train left the station.

A few Delta Chapter members grew up near some of the stops along the line when it traveled through Seat Pleasant and Upper Marlboro. It was fun looking at the map and being able to identify familiar towns. We all had nostalgic moments looking at the additional exhibits of items from the first half of the twentieth century: the old-fashioned cash register, hatpins and lipstick cases. And best of all – **Gwen Cooley** found adorable train socks for her grandson!



*Photo by Mr. TinDC, unaltered, from [https://www.flickr.com/photos/mr\\_t\\_in\\_dc/2817725586/in/photostream/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/mr_t_in_dc/2817725586/in/photostream/)*



## Alpha Beta State News

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### Society Meeting Dates

Come and join us!

#### September 29, 2018

Executive Board Meeting  
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

#### November 3, 2018

Society Workshop  
Ashton United Methodist Church

#### March 2, 2019

Executive Board  
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

#### April 26-28, 2019

Alpha Beta State Convention  
Delta Hotel, Hunt Valley

#### July 30 -August 1, 2019

Northeast Regional Conference  
Mashantucket, CT