

President's Message

Sally Nazelrod

DKG MD State President, 2023-2025

I hope that you are having a great summer. Fall is on the way! It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as the DKG Maryland State President.

There are many things to learn, tasks to complete, and so many wonderful women who will join together to share ideas for the upcoming years. It is an exciting time! Our slate of officers is complete, the committees are formed, and we are all ready to **go!** The DKG Maryland 2023-2025 biennium has begun!

In June, I had the opportunity to attend officers' training in Irving, Texas, hosted by DKG International. Together, **Janey Snyder, Sharon Darling, Weezie Carey,** and I represented DKG Maryland, participated in a wide variety of professional learning events, interacted with the other DKG members from countries throughout the world, and gained a current understanding of our organization at the international level. In July, Janey Snyder and I attended the DKG International Conference in Detroit. The sessions presented there were all outstanding and provided various insights into the potential growth of our organization as well as a focus on self-care for our members.

At the Convention banquet this past April, I presented my theme for my next two years as the president:

Celebrate Success!



*Celebrate
Success!*

There are many reasons to celebrate at the state and chapter levels. Many of our chapters and members are already engaged in a wide variety of activities and projects which support the DKG vision and mission.

Vision: Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

Mission: To promote professional and personal growth of women educators.

As we plan our goals, we need to focus on our **Seven Purposes:**

1. To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship
2. To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education
3. To advance the professional interest and position of women in education
4. To initiate, endorse and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators
5. To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators
6. To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action
7. To inform the members of current economic, social, political and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.

As we plan to **Celebrate Success**, let's take a look at the past, present, and future by asking these questions:

1. In what activities, projects, and events is your chapter already involved that are worth repeating?
2. What ideas does your chapter have to add to the current success?
3. What do you foresee as possible future short and/or long-term projects?

Membership

An important topic that we need to address is the retention of our members and the possible addition of new members to our chapters. Statistics indicate the following:

- 74% of the members of DKG International are between the ages of 66 and 75.
- 8% of our members are under 46 years of age.

Based on what I see in my own DKG world, these facts certainly ring true. Can we find ways to increase our membership numbers and attract young people?

Can we find ways to engage our current membership and encourage those members to attend state functions? What I have learned in a few short months is that many of our Maryland members have a whole lot to contribute to the success of our organization, but they do not attend state functions.

Through our continued Diligence, Determination, and Dedication;

Through our continued Knowledge, Keeness, and Kindness; and

Through our continued Generosity, Gratitude, and Goal Setting;

We will make a difference.

I will be visiting all of the Maryland DKG chapters in the next two years. I can't wait to visit with "old" friends and colleagues, and meet many of you whom I haven't had the pleasure to know.

Sincerely,
Sally Nazelrod



Maryland State Organization

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Visit our website at
<https://www.dkgmd.org>



Maryland DKG Members Attend International Training in Texas

Sally Nazelrod, Xi, DKG Maryland State President

This past June, **Weezie Carey**, Alpha Delta; **Sharon Darling**, Nu; **Janey Snyder**, Alpha; and **Sally Nazelrod**, Xi, represented Maryland at a DKG International weekend training session in Irving, Texas. Throughout the weekend, members attended a specific training for their office or committee chair position. (Weezie – Treasurer, Sharon – Membership Committee, Janey – Educational Excellence, Sally – President). All of the professional development learning and activities were presented to highlight current successful practices and reinforce traditions and protocols in these specific areas of the society.

One of the activities that was presented was a goal-setting template entitled “Teach to Lead.” Most of the states selected some facet of membership recruitment and/or retention. In Maryland, our group of four members went through the process using the template to identify a Problem of Practice – Recruiting New Members – and discussed possible Root Causes, a Theory of Action, Inputs, Actions, Outputs, and Outcomes. Membership is a focus throughout our society and in Maryland, due to an overall decrease in membership.

The training provided opportunities for the attendees to network and share ideas with leaders from other states and countries.



Top: **Weezie Carey**, Alpha Delta, **Sharon Darling**, Nu
Bottom: **Sally Nazelrod**, Xi, DKG MD State President,
and **Janey Snyder**, Alpha, DKG MD State 1st VP

Dr. Janet Moye Cornick Presents in Finland

Patty Simon, Mu



DKG USA members in Finland - Dr. Cornick is on the right near the front in a white blouse and black pants.

Congratulations to Lambda's **Dr. Janet Moye Cornick**, who presented her workshop entitled “Nine Tips to Reset Your Life after COVID 19” at the DKG International Conference that was held in Finland this past July.

Here are the Nine Tips:

1. Set aside time every day to reach out to people you love and like.
2. Plan in-person gatherings.
3. Form small support groups.
4. Use tools to help people get to know one another—boost your creativity.
5. When interacting with people, give them your full attention.
6. Find ways to serve.
7. Develop a tracking system to know how individuals are doing.
8. Recognize that remote work has its challenges.
9. Focus on the positives! (Stay grateful you have survived!)

Since COVID 19 adversely impacted people from all over the world, Dr. Cornick's uplifting message and ideas undoubtedly resonated with everyone at the International Conference. Members of DKG Maryland thank you, Dr. Cornick, for representing our state so beautifully!



2023 International Conference in Detroit

Sally Nazelrod, Xi, DKG Maryland State President
Janey Snyder, Alpha, DKG MD 1st Vice-President

There were three DKG International Conferences held this past July: Detroit, Phoenix, and Finland. **Janey Snyder**, First Vice President, and **Sally Nazelrod**, State President, had the opportunity to attend the conference in Detroit.



Janey Snyder and Sally Nazelrod

There were several sessions that stressed servant leadership and positive member engagement. Self-care for members was a focus of one of the keynote speakers who reviewed all of the components of wellness: mental, physical, emotional, social, intellectual, environmental, spiritual, financial, and occupational. All of these dimensions affect our lives every day, and the audience members were encouraged to take the time to make positive changes for better health. Yoga and meditation were promoted to relieve tension and stress. Other sessions included journaling, financial planning, dealing with students who have experienced trauma, and membership promotion. The International staff continued to report membership losses throughout the society and encouraged all participants to make a conscientious effort to brainstorm strategies to increase membership. Throughout the conference, there were many opportunities to socialize, share ideas, and have fun.

Out of Slavery - Session Review

Sally Nazelrod, Xi, DKG Maryland State President

As a Marylander, I chose to attend a session about Harriet Tubman. The author, **Carol Trembath**, shared the adventures, hardships, and successes of Harriet's life in her book, *Out of Slavery*. I always knew that Harriet Tubman was a brave and courageous conductor on the underground railroad. However, this book, as told by Harriet's friends, shares her life as a Union spy during the Civil War and her experiences in the South when the fighting was at its worst. Harriet eventually settled in upstate New York. She continued to advocate for equality and often found herself in conversations with other famous Americans such as Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and William H. Seward. Her kindness and bravery continued throughout her entire life as she helped the unfortunate. She was an amazing woman with a huge, loving heart.

Laughter Workshop - Session Review

Janey Snyder, Alpha, First Vice-President

One of the highlights for me at the conference in Detroit was attending a workshop led by **Edna Thayer** (age 87) entitled "Lighten Up Through Laughter" or "Humor for the Health of It." Most of her material came from a book which she co-authored with Mary Huntley in 2007 entitled *A Mirthful Spirit: Embracing Laughter for Wellness*. The book says, "Mirth is the emotional response to humor; laughter is the physical response. Mirth is joy."

Mrs. Thayer kept the group in stitches during her entire presentation. She is trying to fulfill a goal of making a presentation in each of the 50 states, and she has only a few more to go. Mrs. Thayer says that we need to "recognize that laughter is beneficial, intentionally seek opportunities to laugh, and turn negative situations into positive ones." She says that laughter "alleviates pain, lightens stress, tickles the funny bone, and yields healthful rewards."



Laughter Workshop - continued

With children, Mrs. Thayer says to find ways to “prevent negative teasing by creating opportunities to do good, help children to help themselves, give hugs and smiles, and apply zero-tolerance rules in a thoughtful manner.” Laughter increases alertness, creativity, short-term memory, and the ability to problem solve.

These are just a few of the ideas from her book. Mrs. Thayer is hoping to be at the International Convention next summer, so be sure to include her workshop on your list of must attends at National Harbor in the summer of 2024.



State News

What is EEC?

Janey Snyder, Alpha, DKG MD 1st Vice-President

In June, I went to a training session for EEC, and the big question for me was “What is EEC?” I guess that many think as I do that the Educational Excellence Committee (EEC) plans the program for meetings on the state, chapter, and international levels. Well, you are not wrong, but program planning is only a small piece of the picture.

The International EEC is using the term “Umbrella of EEC” as their theme for this biennium. So what is under this umbrella? Some other items listed (but not limited to this list) are: Supporting Early Career Education, The Arts, Legislation, Professional Development, and Program and Chapter Projects, some of which are discussed below.

UN/CTAUN or Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (New York Conferences at the UN Headquarters) provides resources for use in the classroom. For more information about Teach the UN, check the website: dgc-teachtheun@un.org. Unfortunately, the UN has not scheduled any recent or upcoming conferences, only webinars, Professional Development, and The Arts.

Another project from EEC is the Schools for Africa Project, which donates to the Global Education Fund Pool from the UN. This project supports schools in need worldwide, a recent change by the UN. In the past, these funds were designated for Africa only.

The US Forum of DKG will sponsor the National Legislative Seminar, March 10-13, 2024, in Washington, D.C. The National Legislative Seminar (NLS) is a great opportunity for DKG members to learn about our government, and we are lucky to be close to the seminar. This year’s resolution from the US Forum is to concentrate on Mental Health for Educators. This seminar will offer opportunities to learn advocacy skills, network with other DKG members, discuss important issues, listen to informative speakers, and participate in historic tours. The seminar will be held at the Holiday Inn National Airport Hotel. For more information, please contact Janey Snyder at janey Snyder1@gmail.com, or check out the website: www.dkgusforum.org.

During this biennium, I would like to keep you informed by sharing information from EEC International. Please forward to Janey Snyder the name and email address of the member who chairs the EEC for your chapter. There are many lists with project ideas and information on the NLS. At this time, there is a major emphasis on wellness (especially mental wellness), so I have information that can be shared on this topic.

I hope you have a great start to the 2023-24 school year and a year full of blessings.

Committee Members: Please contact any member with questions or concerns.

Janey Snyder, janey Snyder1@gmail.com

Kathy Bateman, Alpha

Dr. Annette Blake, Theta

Patty Simon, Mu



What Makes a Successful Chapter?

Patty Simon, Mu

What makes a successful chapter? Members of four DKG MD chapters answered that question by sharing their successes during the Leadership Development Moment at the DKG MD State Executive Board Meeting, which was held on Saturday, September 9, 2023.

The first to share was **Jeanette Gionfriddo**, president of Alpha Beta. She believes that there are too many reasons to mention for her chapter's success, so she decided to highlight just two of them. One is that they take the time to celebrate a different member at each meeting. A person's name is drawn, and then the other members say something complimentary about that individual. Another reason for Alpha Beta's success is their interest in doing joint activities with Epsilon, a nearby chapter, thereby getting to know and share experiences with other DKG MD members.

Luianne Potter, the treasurer of Alpha Theta, was the next to share ideas. Alpha Theta is a very small but extremely active chapter. The members support several community programs, including the Community Outreach Literacy Library, the 755 Alliance, the Intercounty Outreach, and the Educational Foundation. Certain members of Alpha Theta are involved in these organizations, and the other chapter members are quick to offer their assistance and support during events and activities.

Then Omega's **Jean Marie Hofstetter**, DKG MD Recording Secretary, offered some other suggestions. Like Alpha Theta, members of Omega are involved in community service at local schools. Jean Marie stressed the importance of getting everyone involved and letting all members participate. In addition, Omega, which recently celebrated fifty years in DKG, is making an effort to reach out to newer, younger members so as to grow in number and be able to continue to thrive for many more years.

The fourth person to report was **Dr. Annette Blake**, Theta's treasurer. Members of Theta feel it is not only important to attract new members, but to retain those already in the chapter. This can be done through reorganization so as to meet the needs of all members. Dr. Blake stressed the importance of helping each other and the community as well as the ways in which DKG can enrich one's life, such as providing opportunities to travel to different states and countries. In addition, Theta members advertise DKG by wearing DKG colors when they attend public events.

Those who attended the DKG MD State Executive Board Meeting on September 9th came away with a number of good ideas as to what makes a successful chapter.



Chapter News

Alpha Chapter Celebrates Mary Benson

Janey Snyder, Alpha, DKG MD 1st Vice-President

In July, Alpha Chapter celebrated one of their members. **Mary Benson** celebrated her 93rd birthday on July 3rd, but more importantly, in late July, the chapter “celebrated success” with her soon-to-be fifty years of membership in Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Mary was inducted into the Society in November 1973. She has been an active member of the chapter until recent years. She served in various offices, committees, and as chapter president from 1988-1990. During the spring of 1988, she was installed as president while **Janey Snyder** was initiated in the organization.

Mary Benson was married for more than fifty years to Edgar Benson, who passed away in 2007. She and her husband lived in their home near the Baltimore City/County line for many years. She recently moved to Oak Crest Village in Parkville. She has been an active member of Towson United Methodist Church for many years.

In Mary’s beginning years as an educator, she taught several years in California before she and her husband returned home to Baltimore, and she began her career there teaching elementary school in Baltimore City. She served as senior teacher for many years before retiring from Baltimore City.

Alpha Chapter wishes her the best and hopes that all DKG Maryland members will join us in honoring our dear member, Mary Benson. Thank you, Mary, for all that you have done for your students and Alpha Chapter. Here’s to the next fifty!



Mary Benson celebrating 50 years in DKG



Dottie Loughlin, Mary Benson, and Chapter President Kathy Bateman



Alpha Beta Has a Lot to Celebrate

Jeanette Gionfriddo, Chapter President, and **Marci Fleck**, Chapter 1st Vice President

During their May meeting, members celebrated 45 years of Alpha Beta Chapter, which was established in 1978. They are thankful to have one founding member, **Maureen Sengstack**, who has shared many stories about the chapter's formation and memories from the past 45 years. Here are some highlights:

- Their recruitment grant is named after one of the founding members, **Frances Lancaster**.
- The annual holiday auction has maintained the same time of year and purpose.
- The original chapter members met in secrecy to save hurt feelings of those teachers not invited.

Maureen said, "I think there are three main reasons why I still belong to Alpha Beta Chapter: the many friendships I have made along the way, the recruitment grants we have been able to provide for would-be women educators, and the service projects we have undertaken to help support the Calvert and St. Mary's communities in which we live."

They end each meeting with a lot of joy. They are thankful to have musicians in their chapter that bring their end-of-meeting sisterhood song to life.



Janet Gross and Marci Fleck



Maureen Sengstack

Literacy Grants

One of their chapter literacy grant recipients has been a local weeklong summer reading camp for elementary students. Special guests at the camp were **Dr. Nocola Williams**, a local teacher and author, sharing her newly released book, *The Legend of the Sleep-Eating Elephant*, and **Dr. Andrae Townsel**, Calvert County Public Schools Superintendent.



Dr. Nocola Williams



Dr. Andrae Townsel, CCPS Superintendent



Alpha Beta - continued

Service Project

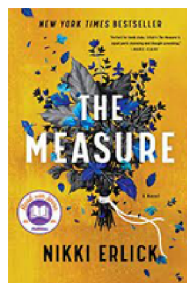
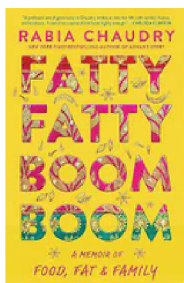
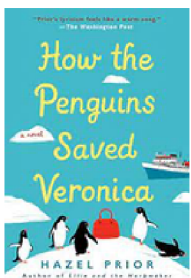
Members of Alpha Beta extended community hospitality by supplying a highlighter to all new teachers in their region and shared a DKG brochure for all new female teachers as well. Here is a portion of their display used to help recruit members. These were part of a recent service project.



Pi Chapter's Picks Summer Reads

Jane Smith, Pi

The Pi Chapter Book Club enjoyed conversations about a variety of genres this summer. Their June book was the heartwarming story entitled *How the Penguins Saved Veronica* by **Hazel Prior**. An 85-year-old woman, her estranged grandson, and a colony of penguins prove it is never too late to be the person you want to be. In July, they discussed a book written by one of **Kathy Thornhill's** former students. *Fatty Fatty Boom Boom: A Memoir of Food, Fat and Family* by **Rabia Chaudry** is a warm, intimate memoir about food, body image, and growing up in a Pakistani immigrant family. Their August selection was a "Read with Jenna" *Today Show* Book Club pick. *The Measure* by **Nikki Erlick** ponders the question: What would you do if you knew the exact number of years that you had to live? The book club gathering makes for an evening of friendship, laughter, and a love of literature.



Tau's School Partner Program

Shari Grim, Chapter President

Tau Chapter's school partner for the coming year will be Darlington Elementary. The school is located in the community of Darlington, which is in the northeast corner of Harford County near the Susquehanna River. It is the smallest school in Harford County. The principal is **Ms. Alberta Porter**, and the assistant principal is **Ms. Danielle O'Neill**. There are approximately 120 students in grades K – 5 and both a primary and intermediate Autism Regional Program. These classes are known as S.T.R.I.V.E - Structured Teaching with Reinforcement in a Visual Environment. Since this is a smaller school, the members of Tau Chapter hope to be able to do more to support the faculty and staff. When Ms. Porter agreed to be their school partner, she immediately sent a list of necessary school supplies. She noted that the school tries to keep their family supply lists reasonable. The Darlington Wish List includes multi-colored 3x3 Post-It notes, dry erase markers, multi-colored or black Crayola markers, baby and/or Clorox wipes, glue sticks, glue, and loose leaf notebook paper. These supplies will be collected at the Tau Chapter meeting on September 19th.



Alpha Delta Celebrates 50 Years

Yvonne Babcock, Chapter President

Xi Chapter's **Sally Nazelrod**, DKG Maryland State President, joined the Alpha Delta Chapter for their June dinner meeting. Years of service and perfect attendance were recognized. Congratulations to **"Buttons" Bassett** on receiving her fifty year pin!



Sally Nazelrod, DKG MD State President, (far right), Alpha Delta President Yvonne Babcock and members of Alpha Delta



"Buttons" Bassett, 50-year member

CapCut Comes to Mu Chapter

Carol Hutzley, Chapter President

"Sharing is caring," so they say. These days there are a number of ways to share one's experiences with others and stay connected online. Mu Chapter learned how to use a great new, safe tool at their August general meeting.

Talented teacher and tech guru, **Jessica Galeano**, led a tutorial for her Mu sisters at their August 5th meeting, sharing how to use the App called "CapCut." Members downloaded the free app on their Smartphones prior to the meeting. Jessica shared a beautiful sample project she had created from her family's summer photos and led participants to create a project, using pictures and videos on their own phones. Then Jessica demonstrated how to include text and add music from a variety of choices from the app's list, which was arranged by style. Members also learned how to edit the music so that it would end with their pictures and videos. When finished, everyone had a wonderful, shareable, multimedia project that could be sent to a friend or family member or even posted online. It was easy, fast and a great tool for staying connected with others!

Mu Chapter sisters love to learn new skills and highlight their talented members. What a great idea for sharing selected photos following a field trip, too! A teacher could also highlight her activities on the school's website. There are so many possibilities for staying connected. Thanks to Jessica for teaching a new skill!

"CapCut" is a free app available in the Apple App Store and on the Google Play Store for all Smart phone formats.



Mu Members Making Glass at McFadden

Jessica Galeano, Mu

Have you ever wondered what it feels like to stand in front of a glory hole, a small opening in a furnace that runs 24/7 and reaches temperatures over 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit? Well, eight ladies from Mu Chapter know how it feels to work in front of one! On Saturday, April 29, 2023, they traveled to McFadden Art Glass to try their hands at making their own glass blown creation.

McFadden Art Glass is a custom glassblowing studio and art gallery in Baltimore, Maryland. Mu member **Wendy Hoppel** arranged a fascinating field trip that included a glass blowing demonstration and one-on-one instruction with a professional. The demonstration introduced members to the equipment and procedure for blowing glass. Members utilized all parts of the hot shop, including the various tools, furnaces, and marver (a steel table to roll glass). The instructors provided guidance along the way and blew into the steel rod to help expertly shape the glass.

The glass blowing tutorial began by choosing a project and up to three colors of glass to include in it. Choosing the colors they wanted for their masterpiece proved to be the most challenging part of the experience. Projects included wine glasses, ornaments, bowls, and starfish. Once the hard part was done, the fun began. Instructors assisted members throughout the entire process from collecting clear glass in the glory hole, to adding the colors, melting them in the glory hole, blowing and shaping the creation using the tools and marver, cutting the glass, and finally placing the creation into the annealer to allow it to cool for two days.

After the projects were made, members toured the gallery which was abounding with beauty. One of the highlights was the intricate and multi-levelled flowered sink made out of glass. Several members purchased pieces made by the staff at McFadden Art Glass. This amazing experience is perfect for any group. McFadden Art Glass also has special holiday projects, such as pumpkins and snowmen. Perhaps the Mu ladies have a future field trip opportunity on the horizon.



Jessica Galeano in front of the glory hole



Sheila Owens selecting her colors



Wendy Hoppel shaping her project





DKG Maryland State News

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DKG Maryland 2023 - 2024

November 4, 2023

DKG MD State Workshop

Ashton United Methodist Church

17314 New Hampshire Ave, Ashton, MD 20861

March 2, 2024

DKG MD Executive Board Meeting

Ashton United Methodist Church

17314 New Hampshire Ave, Ashton, MD 20861

May 4 - 5, 2024

Leadership Development Conference

Bowie Comfort Inn

4500 Crain Hwy, Bowie, MD 20716

July 9 - 13, 2024

2024 DKG International Convention

National Harbor, Maryland

Gaylord Hotel

201 Waterfront St, National Harbor, MD 20745

