

DKG Maryland State News

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Workshop's Opening Session Accentuates the Positive

Patty Simon, Mu

At a time when there is so much negativity, it is refreshing to hear someone speak about positive ways to deal with animosity. **LaTanya Eggleston's** interesting and interactive presentation entitled "Self-Care Super Saturday: Fostering Positivity during Trying Times" provided valuable and relevant information while keeping everyone engaged.

LaTanya's credentials made her the perfect person to share this information. She teaches speech at Anne Arundel Community College, where she encourages her students to research and speak about problems in the community. LaTanya is also involved with mental health awareness, especially with the topics of "How to Support Family Members" and "Caregivers Awareness Month." In addition, she serves as an engagement coach and has a podcast called "Redefining U."

Throughout her presentation, LaTanya asked the audience members a series of questions to get

them thinking about their core values. After each question, she gave everyone time to write a response and then called on people to share their answers. Being the consummate educator, LaTanya validated each response either with verbal praise or by writing the person's answer on the chalkboard.

LaTanya also talked about the challenges of modern day communication and how to overcome these challenges and communicate effectively while staying true to one's core values. In this day and age, there are so many people who have differing opinions about all sorts of subjects. Too often they respond to each other in a hostile manner. LaTanya asked questions and led discussions about how to communicate with someone who has a differing opinion. At one point, LaTanya and an attendee role played an adversarial situation so as to demonstrate how to diffuse it.

By the end of the presentation, the audience had learned more about themselves, what matters most to them, and how to be better communicators. LaTanya concluded by quoting Aristotle: "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." Everyone left feeling better equipped to face adversity with positivity.



President's Message

Dr. Marilyn Keane, Upsilon,
DKG MD State President

Like it or not.....Happy Winter Time! The one thing about winter, people either love it or hate it. I am generally on the line of not liking cold weather, but I do love hearing the words SNOW DAY! Nothing beats being able to sleep in a little, then sitting in my nice, comfortable house watching the snowfall. It's calm and relaxing. On the other hand, I do curse having a two-hour delay and driving in during the traffic, snow and ice. I usually mutter to myself, "How could they put me in such danger?" Well, such are the trials and tribulations of teaching!

This fall it was a pleasure to see everyone at the Executive Board meeting, our first in-person meeting in about two years! The ability to physically move and talk to a variety of people was really fun and engaging. Chapter presidents and participants, please take this information back to your chapter members and please mark your calendar for our next meeting on Saturday, March 4th, at Ashton United Methodist Church. Invite your chapter members.

The Society Workshop, held on the first Saturday of November, had a wide variety of activities and learning experiences including fostering one's positivity, a book talk, presidents' meeting, genealogy, arts and crafts, and table talks. Thank you to **Sally Nazelrod**, Xi, and her committee consisting of **Patty Simon**, Mu; **Dr. Terri Showers**, Lambda; **Bonnie Brose**, Theta; **Dr. Annette Blake**, Theta; and **Karen Yancey**, Omega for serving on the committee and helping to plan the day.

Reflecting upon the Society Workshop, I am in awe with the number of sisters who contributed their talents and time. This is what makes our

organization function and grow. This active participation is the reason DKG can/will *Evolve, Rise, and Flourish*. We can do this by sharing our skills, knowledge, and talents to foster DKG's mission of promoting the professional and personal growth of women educators. We could not do this without our members. Thank you to the speakers who presented throughout the day: **LaTanya Eggleston**, Rho; **Mary Lee Makinen**, Alpha Theta; **Gwen Cooley**, Delta; **Carol Miller-Schultz**, Pi; **JoAnne Dement**, Mu; and **Wendy Happle**, Mu. Thanks also to the people who led the Table Talk discussions about committees: **Patty Simon**, Mu; **Sharon Darling**, Nu; **Laura McClelland**, Omicron; **Iris Wingert**, Omicron; **LaTanya Eggleston**, Rho; and **Sheila Owens** and **Allison Gradwell**, Mu. If you are able to present a topic, or know someone who can present, please send me a message so that we can continue to expand our professional growth and knowledge.

This past October, I had the pleasure of visiting Pi Chapter and attending their meeting. I would like to thank **Erin Myers** and the members of Pi for inviting me to a very informative meeting, lunch, and conversation. I love to see the inner workings of chapters in order to gain new ideas and insights and understand chapter initiatives. One very interesting piece is how Pi seeks out high school seniors for their yearly scholarship. Building connections within our community helps us to foster connections and build DKG's vision of Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide.

As we wind down the year, please mark the following dates on your calendar:

Executive Board Meeting March 4, 2023
at Ashton United Methodist Church
Maryland State Convention April 14 - 16
at College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center.

Genealogy Workshop: Who's Your Cousin?

Allison Gradwell, Mu

Inspirational. Educational. Fun! That is how I would describe the workshop DKG Maryland offered this past November. I was particularly interested in a session called *Who's Your Cousin* presented by **Carol Miller-Schultz**. Family history and genealogy have fascinated me for some time; however, I didn't know how to start.

Carol explained it is important to first establish a plan and to use a research log to organize your research. This should include the date and place of your research as well as your source of information. When verifying your information later, it is easier to find your source if recorded in a log. She suggested collecting information, starting with yourself and working backwards. Use resources you already have such as a family Bible, baptismal and birth records, obituaries, diplomas, and senior members of your family. Seniors often have a wealth of stories that may enrich your research. As you begin your family tree, always include a woman's maiden name and capitalize surnames. Dates should be written day/month/year to be consistent. If you can, scan original documents onto your computer so that they can be added to your tree.

There are numerous genealogy websites that Carol recommended that are free, such as familysearch.org, findagrave.org, usgenweb.com and web.archive.org. Others, such as Family Tree Maker and Ancestry.com require a subscription. She added not to forget local historical societies, genealogical societies, and the library when researching. In addition to all this, Carol will be teaching a 4-week hybrid class called *Tracing Your Family Roots* at Hagerstown Community College this winter. You can find more information at the following link: <https://www.hagerstowncc.edu/genealogy-family-youth-courses>.

I knew genealogical research was not easy, but after listening to Carol's presentation, I now have some basic tools and resources with which to begin. Thank you, Carol, for presenting us with practical steps to finding our cousins!



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Visit our website at

<https://www.dkgmd.org>

DKG MD State Convention, April 14-16, 2023

Janey Snyder, Alpha, DKG MD 2nd Vice President

Are you ready for a fun weekend? Time with DKG sisters, old and new? Lots of activities are planned for the State Convention in April. Many of us have not seen each other for almost three years. The hotel is in Hyattsville, the Conference Center for the University of Maryland. It is beautiful, modern and the place that you want to be in April, 2023. The **State Officers, Committee Chairs** and **Delta, Theta, Iota, Rho,** and **Upsilon** Hostess Chapters are looking forward to greeting you and presenting a great convention for all of our members and their guests.

The Convention Committee invites you to attend the convention for all or part of the weekend. The convention opens Friday night with a fun and entertaining social event. Saturday morning will be the business meeting followed by the luncheon, with a message from International as well as other activities. The committee is planning several workshops for the afternoon. Do you have a topic that you would like to have presented? If so, send a message to **Janey Snyder** at janey Snyder1@gmail.com. A banquet will be held on Saturday evening. New officers will be installed followed by a brief message from our new president for the 2023-2025 biennium. Sunday morning there will be a remembrance service for all members who passed since 2019. (Yes, that includes the previous biennium, 2019-2021 as well as 2021-2023.) Chapter presidents, please make sure that Sharon Darling, Nu, has information about any members of your chapter who have passed since the spring of 2019.

There will be a Women in the Arts exhibit. Any member is free to bring an item for the exhibit: needlework, photographs, arts, crafts, etc. Please begin working now on an exhibit entry. Also, there will be a silent auction. We are asking all chapters and/or individual members to bring an item or a basket for the auction. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Emergency Fund as well DKG MD available funds. More details on both of these will be available soon.

Below is information about the hotel and hotel reservation information. If you prefer to register online, just send a message to Janey Snyder, janey Snyder1@gmail.com, and you will be sent a direct link to the hotel reservation desk. (The link address is too long for this article.)

College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center | 3501 University Blvd E, Hyattsville, MD 20783
For a virtual tour of the hotel: <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=TMH78Kx9pMw>

Hotel Reservation link: **[Reservation for Marriott Hotel](#)** Phone 1-800-228-9290
Rates are from \$149 to \$189, varies for 1 King bed to 2 Queen beds
Book at these rates through **March 16, 2023**. After that time, rates may change.

Committee News

Promotion and Retention

Sharon Darling, Nu

Hope all members of DKG MD are doing well!

At the society workshop as Membership chair, I was asked to be a part of the Table Talk rotations. Many who came to my session asked me to write an article for the newsletter, so here it is. (Not one of my favorite things to do.)

As we all know, our state membership is decreasing. We need ways to promote our society to entice new members.

There is a brochure on the International Website that can be downloaded. A chapter could put this in schools with a contact person's information on it. If a chapter has its own, this could also be shared. There is a template on the International Website.

We also know that in addition to being for those in public schools, private schools, and higher education systems, DKG membership can also be available to firefighter instructors and instructors of first aid and CPR. Other ideas are instructors of photography or master gardening.

Once a chapter has voted on those that could be prospective members, a letter should be sent to each one with information in it about International, State, and your chapter. (There is a sample on the International Website.) If you have an orientation, you might want to include an invitation to that meeting. Chapters that have done this have assigned a buddy for the prospective members. They have shared from the website "Pride in the Big Picture," had a social time, and met in small groups to get to know each other and ask questions. Prospective members can make a commitment then, or let their buddy know or another member know.

Other ideas are to talk with school principals, give a presentation at school, and use that personal touch.

Once you have members, the question becomes how to retain them. First and foremost, keep them involved! They can be involved in projects your chapter has such as fund raising, volunteering efforts, and community initiatives. Engage members to speak about their personal and professional experiences. Try to get them involved at our state and international levels. Encourage them to visit our state and international websites. Be sure to have great communication by email, text, phone calls and even snail mail. Be sure to recognize your members' achievements. Chapters might send birthday cards to their members. Make sure they all feel a part of your chapter.

Other ideas might be to change up your meeting time, keep meetings moving along, and include a time to socialize. Try doing something fun together. Maybe you need a reorientation program. Always be sure to reach out to those members you are not seeing.

There are some great things on the International Website, some of which I shared and lots more. You need your membership number and the default password, which is dkg2014 society. Then hit the 3 lines in the right-hand corner. Check out Videos/PowerPoints/Templates, Brochures/Flyer, Chapter Tools, C&M, which is Communication and Marketing, and all the others topics. There are some great ideas.

Your president and treasurer both have your membership number. If you need help, my email is darlingsh.abs@gmail.com We as a society need to do all we can to promote and retain members. Many thanks for all you do.

Chapter News

Alpha Theta Chapter Supports Community Non-Profits

Heidi Gerard, Alpha Theta Chapter President

The members of the Alpha Theta Chapter have had a very busy fall season planning events and volunteering around the community.

In September, the chapter met at The Grove, located in Darlington, to discuss upcoming events and strategize ways to volunteer and support local nonprofit organizations. During the meeting, while enjoying delicious fall treats made by First Vice President, **Dr. Karen Petr**, a torrential rain blew through and drenched everyone while blowing papers everywhere, causing everyone to find cover. Although some activities were altered, a little rain couldn't stop the ladies from meeting and planning some amazing events to support our community.

On October 29th, **Luianne Potter, Carla Pyfer, Noel Spalding** and **Heidi Gerard** all volunteered for **The Success Project's Annual Trunk or Treat**. The Alpha Theta members were able to provide three vehicles with different themes that children visited and received candy. Everyone had a great time as the children looked adorable in their costumes and were more than happy to receive handfuls of candy from each trunk.



Alpha Theta Chapter members **Carla Pyfer, Noel Spalding, Luianne Potter, and Heidi Gerard** participate in The Success Project's Trunk or Treat.



For the month of December, each member of Alpha Theta Chapter will be providing Christmas Socks filled with gift cards and other goodies for the **Inner County Outreach Residential Group Home** for boys ages 14-20. The Socks will be given to the boys during their annual breakfast, held at the residential facility a week prior to Christmas.

Our Alpha Theta members are continuously supporting our community through partnerships and volunteering. We have so many to recognize for the continuous efforts in their everyday ventures. Thanks to Alpha Theta member, **Bangtam Miller, Girl Scout Troop 2012** will be building and donating an outdoor food pantry to **Inner County Outreach** to assist with food insecurity in the town of Aberdeen.

Master Gardener and First Vice President, Dr. Karen Petr, has been planning and working hard to bring her vision of the **Master Gardener Plants and Literature (PaL) Garden** to life. The PaL Garden will provide children a beautiful natural space to interact with books and plants. The garden is strategically placed between the **Darlington Library** and **The Grove, at the Harford County Agricultural Center** in Street.

Finally, to end a busy yet fantastic year of volunteering, giving and gathering, the Alpha Theta Chapter will celebrate the holidays by hosting a Christmas Secret Santa where the members can relax and enjoy each other's company.



Nu Chapter Visits Harriet Tubman State Park and Visitor Center

Ann O. Campbell, Nu

On Saturday, November 12, 2022, an intrepid group of eight Nu Chapter members drove through many scenic byways and wetlands of Dorchester County in order to visit the **Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center**, operated by the State and National Park Services located at 4068 Golden Hill Road in Church Creek, Maryland. The long but beautiful journey wound around fields and forests bearing barkless trees exposed by the rise in saltwater level and marshlands sprouting enormous cattails and marsh grasses. The lengthy trail leading to our destination could be compared to the grueling and difficult journey of Harriet Tubman as she traveled by foot, wagon and boat to lead more than seventy people to a free land out of harm's way and the bondage of slavery.

We were immediately greeted by a park ranger who gave us an authentic overview of the life of Araminta Ross, Harriet's birth name. She married Mr. John Tubman and changed her first name to Harriet, her mother's name. The inside of the visitor center, which opened on March 10, 2017, told the story of her life in visuals, artwork and bronze. The plan of this magnificent center was very meticulously thought out and boasts state-of-the-art presentations.

As we learned, Harriet had an uncommon strength of body and spirit, which she used to overcome such physical and mental abuse as a child and later in adulthood as she became an abolitionist, a nurse, a soldier and a social activist. The most significant achievement attributed to her would have to be the fact that she was a conductor for the Underground Railroad, a network of safe houses and barns which protected the people she led to freedom over many miles of difficult terrain.

This journey, which transported us back in time to the nineteenth century on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, would definitely be worth anyone's time pursuing. When visiting, you will discover which harrowing event in her young life actually changed the direction and vision for her life.

Oh, did I mention that we ended our day by visiting a nearby restaurant, "Old Salty's" in Fishing Creek, MD? As Willie Nelson's song "On the Road Again" suggests, we began planning our next tour together as we dined on delectable crabs and other succulent seafood. Our expectations for a great day together were far exceeded!

Alpha Beta Chapter Celebrates Members

Jeanette Gionfriddo, Alpha Beta President

Our chapter welcomed three new members, **Dottie Wojciechowski**, **JoAnn Hill**, and **Sarajayne Fraley** at our September meeting. The meeting hosts provided delicious refreshments and a lovely traditional ceremony for this well-attended event. We presented red roses to our new members and set out a white rose in remembrance of **Winnie Heberle** who passed away this year.



Our newest members of DKG Alpha Beta (l to r) JoAnn Hill, Dottie Wojciechowski and Sarajayne Fraley

One of my favorite parts of our meetings is "Celebrate a Member." We draw a name from all attendees, and she wins a gift card. By far, the best part is that we take turns sharing positive things about her. What a great way to get to know our members! Our last celebrant was **Erin Byer**, who was a recipient of our recruitment scholarship and is now a teacher in our chapter. How awesome is that!

Alpha Beta continues to support literacy in our community with our Little Book Houses project with members contributing books and taking time to refill books in several Little Book Houses that we sponsor across the local area.

Tau's Fun October Project

Brenda Patterson, Tau

At Tau Chapter's October gathering, once we had completed our business meeting, we got busy making blankets to be donated to Hart Heritage. **Suzanne Stauffer** had prepared the basic blankets ahead of time and provided yummy snacks for the meeting. We really enjoyed ourselves, gabbing as we knotted the pieces of material together to create the warm and pretty blankets, sort of what one would imagine an old-fashioned quilting bee. As the pictures show, the patterns were really pretty in the five blankets we created.

One can only imagine how much these blankets will warm the bodies and hearts of the residents at Hart Heritage! Thanks so much to Suzanne Stauffer for all of her work in getting the material prepared.



L to R: Ashley Cole, Judy Eagan, and Nancy Eaga



L to R: Shari Grim, Suzanne Stauffer, and Betsy Fleischman

Mu Makes Donations

Carol Hutzley, Mu Chapter President

Mu Chapter has always been very generous to Baltimore area families and to teachers in need. This year is no exception! When presented with three very worthwhile opportunities to help others, Mu Chapter members enthusiastically decided to support all three.

Our Fall 2022 giving program is in support of a new teacher at Logan Elementary School where Baltimore County began a new STEM program this year. While some supplies and support materials come from the county and the school, there were numerous other materials identified by the teacher on her "wish list" for learning activities. Mu members voted to take \$100.00 of their project budget to purchase the books she requested and to individually purchase other consumable items to donate to her classroom.

Members also voted to support the Towson Catholic High School (TCHS) Alumnae project and sponsor a child in their holiday giving program. We were able to help support the Loch Raven High School Honor Society by sponsoring one of the children through personal donations. The TCHS Alumnae program assists local residents who are without family.

In the true spirit of the holidays, Mu Chapter has also agreed to again sponsor a Baltimore Highlands family in need for the holiday season. Members receive the "wish lists" and sizes, etc. in order to purchase and deliver wrapped presents to the family before Christmas.

Mu members truly enjoy making a difference and putting smiles on people's faces!

Omicron Enjoys Giving

Maria Shanabarger, Omicron Chapter President



Members of Delta Kappa Gamma, Omicron held our chapter meeting on Wednesday, November 16. As part of our community service endeavor, we adopted a family through Carroll County Human Services for the holidays. Our chapter membership of 64 is thankful to help a local family of four by donating gifts and other needed items.



White Rose



Elizabeth Parker Dyett

Elizabeth Parker Dyett, long-time member of Alpha Chapter, died in October 2022. Liz was a faithful, active member of the chapter for 35 years. She served as Alpha Chapter president from 1992 to 1996 and Recording Secretary from 2006 to 2008. In addition to these elected offices, Liz assisted with a number of chapter committees including chairmanship of the Membership and Standing Rules Committees. She was a member of the Greater Baltimore Coordinating Council and Personal Growth, Necrology, Historical Records, and Initiation Committees.

Liz retired from an administration position at the central office Business Department of the Baltimore County Public Schools. Members remember her fondness for Franklin High School.

Liz was an avid tennis player and will always be remembered for her stylish, lady-like demeanor. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

- **Carol Schneider**, Alpha



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Congratulations!

Patty Simon, Mu

Congratulations to **Wendy Happel**, Mu, and **Iris Wingert**, Omicron, for having their art work accepted into the DKG Fine Arts Gallery! Wendy submitted a colored pencil drawing of a tiger entitled "Eye of the Tiger." Iris submitted two photographs entitled "Blowin' in the Wind" and "Just Chillin." Viewers will be surprised to see the subject of the latter. Wendy's and Iris' work will be on display for several months.

To view their entries, go to dkg.org, sign in, and scroll down to the Art Gallery, which is depicted by a drawing of an artist's palette. Click on it. When the next screen appears, scroll down to "Categories." To see Wendy's incredible drawing, click on the paint brush. To see Iris' amazing photographs, click on the camera. Please take some time to check out the artwork of these two extremely talented women. They have represented Maryland beautifully!



DKG MD Needs YOU!

Opportunities abound for you to get involved in 2023.

- = President (2-year term)
- = First Vice President (2-year term)
- = Second Vice President (2-year term)
- = Recording Secretary (2-year term)
- = Nominations Committee (2-year term)
- = Review Committee/Executive Secretary (3-year term)
- = Strategic Action Planning Committee (4-year term)
- = Finance Committee (fill 1 open term 2020-2024)

Contact Jane Smith, Nominations Chair (smithjan0926@gmail.com) for more information.



