

DKG Maryland Convention Meets and Elects Officers

Lorraine Williams Johnson, DKG MD State President



Dr. Marilyn Keane, Upsilon, was elected Maryland State President for 2021-2023.

On the beautiful sunny Saturday morning of April 17th, eighty-five DKG Maryland State Organization members met, via Zoom, and conducted their first virtual state convention. The convention's theme, *Adapting to Change in a Changing Society*, foreshadowed a day that heralded business, tradition, celebration and recognition. It recalled the past and nudged us towards the future. The parade of photos, provided by our chapters and assembled by **Dr. Marilyn Keane, Upsilon,**

and the continuous background music which caused the photos to flow seemingly undisturbed, was the gift of **Betty Hepler, Omega.**

State President **Lorraine W. Johnson** began the business meeting. Annual reports were presented by the officers and committee chairs. A motion was passed that allowed the assembly to institute a term schedule for the Strategic Planning Committee. The election of our incoming officers for 2021 - 2023 also took place. The following officers

were elected by the assembly: President, **Dr. Marilyn Keane, Upsilon**; First Vice-President, **Sally Nazelrod, Xi**; Second Vice-President, **Janey Snyder, Alpha**; and Recording Secretary, **Dr. Terri Showers, Lambda.**

Dr. Debbie LeBlanc, Northeast Regional Director, delivered the keynote address at the noon hour. She spoke about the *Opportunities, Contributions, and Impact of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.*

Dr. Debbie LeBlanc Inspires Audience with Keynote Address

Patty Simon, Mu

Members of DKG MD who were fortunate enough to be able to attend the State Convention were treated to **Dr. Debbie LeBlanc's** wonderful keynote address entitled, *DKG: Opportunities, Contributions, and Impact.*

Dr. LeBlanc, who has been a teacher, principal, special education coordinator, and past DKG State President of Illinois, is the DKG Northeast Regional Director for 2020-2022. On a personal note, she is a wife, mother of five, and grandmother of ten. Her life experiences, both professional and personal, have made her an excellent speaker—one who can determine which information is most important to share and how to connect with her audience in order to share

her information effectively.

The presentation began with **Dr. LeBlanc** conveying greetings from International President **Becky Sadowski** and the 2020-2022 International Administrative Board. That was followed by compliments on the efforts and success of DKG MD, under the leadership of President **Lorraine Johnson**, in maintaining a strong program despite the pandemic. It was obvious that **Dr. LeBlanc** had taken the time to learn about DKG MD because, later in her speech, she highlighted members' achievements and successes, including **Suzi Plaut's** workshop, **Michelle Saville's** presentation, **Dr. Minnie Young's** tutorial, and **Mary Lee Makinen** and **Weezie Carey's** presidents' training.

Throughout her presenta-

tion, **Dr. LeBlanc** also mentioned the challenges of continuing business during this time of COVID-19. She explained that the International Committee was still unsure whether the 2021 International Conferences would be held in person, virtually, or in a hybrid version, the final decision to be made by mid-May.

With DKG having members in 17 countries around the world, **Dr. LeBlanc** impressed upon her audience the importance of being aware of differences in traditions, cultures, and beliefs so as not to offend anyone. It is also imperative that all documents and communications be worded carefully as some English words and phrases do not translate well into other languages.

Dr. LeBlanc then spoke



Dr. Debbie LeBlanc, DKG Northeast Regional Director 2020-2022, spoke on *DKG Opportunities, Contributions and Impact.*

about the DKG Strategic Plan. Since each chapter is unique, the members should select a format that works for them. The Strategic Plan has four major components: SMART Goals, Knowledge, Nimbleness, and Trust. **Dr. LeBlanc** suggested using two or three SMART Goals along with the other components.

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The President Speaks

Springing Forward

As I come to the end of my tenure, I reflect on my long ago past to be fearful and challenging at the same time. It's true. The two don't seem to go together. But, for me, they do.

I was a thin, fragile, little girl who always seemed to catch whatever germ was in the atmosphere and then wage a battle to overcome it. I was also a frequent target of other children's wrath because I was so thin. Thus, I learned early how to avoid trouble, when possible, but reach for things that were out of my grasp.

This brings me to my adventure with stilts. Stilts? Yes. Some of you are too young to know what stilts are. They are definitely not a toy of choice. In fact, my mom told me in plain English, "Lorraine, you will get hurt. Do not even think about getting up on a pair of stilts." Well, she didn't say anything about making my own pair. So, I quietly and carefully created my own stilts. My brothers had them and my friend had them. Why shouldn't I?

I got my materials--two tall poles, two blocks for my feet, nails, and a hammer. When I had finished hammering, I had a wonderful pair of stilts. The only thing that remained was for me to figure out how to get on them without killing myself.

With the help of my brothers, I was able to finally stand up on my stilts. Mission accomplished. I felt really great! That is, until I realized that I was bleeding under my left arm. Bleeding? Yes. Not a whole lot of blood, but it was blood. One of the nails in my stilt had not been completely hammered. I was afraid to scream because I knew I had been disobedient. But my brothers helped me down, and I finally had to confess to my mother that I needed her to patch me up. She washed my wound and bandaged it, shook her finger at me, and forbade me to do such an idiotic thing again. You know, of course, that as soon as I healed, I did learn to walk on stilts.

Stilts reminded me of overcoming challenges and making big strides (steps) ahead. They reminded me of opportunities that might exist if only one were insightful and strong enough to withstand the pain and difficulty of overcoming the challenge.

Pause with me for a moment, and let us reflect on this past year and what it has meant to our illustrious organization. We have spent exactly one year, this March, with the challenge of survival as our goal. And, we have achieved it.

Yes, we have achieved it. We have learned the importance and the value of ONE. We have learned that if each of us will take one step, reach out with one hand, one idea, one kind word, we can accomplish our heart's desire.

DKG Maryland has benefited from our efforts on its behalf. We are stronger, we are united, we are gifted, we are resilient, we are ONE.

Thank you, DKG Maryland, for all that you have done to keep the door open for the next biennium--the one that asks each of us to "Evolve, Rise and Flourish." Today, we stand on the threshold of another beckoning biennium. July 1, 2021 marks that beginning. We have not bowed to challenges, to difficulties, to obstacles, nor to unexpected occurrences. We have held onto each other with encouragement, dedication, empathy and love. And, we stand taller and ready to begin a new biennium. We have adapted to change. We are ONE.

Please accept my thanks and love for all that you have done to assist me in keeping DKG Maryland viable. It has been my sincere pleasure to serve as your president for the 2019-2021 biennium.

*Lorraine Williams Johnson
President
DKG Maryland State Organization*



*Lorraine Williams Johnson
DKG Maryland State President*

Motivation

by Lorraine W. Johnson, Theta
DKG MD State President 2019-2021

It takes just one smile
To melt the heart of a child.

It takes just one hand
To kindly draw another into the band.

It takes just one frown
To keep the disillusioned down.

It takes just one look
To become entangled in love's hook.

It takes just one arm
To deliver us from harm.

It takes just one friend
To bring gloom to an end.

It takes just one thought
For a new idea to be brought.

It takes one voice
To elicit a difficult choice.

It takes just one friend
To usher a dire plight to a pleasant end.

It takes each one of us looking up
To drink from life's full cup.

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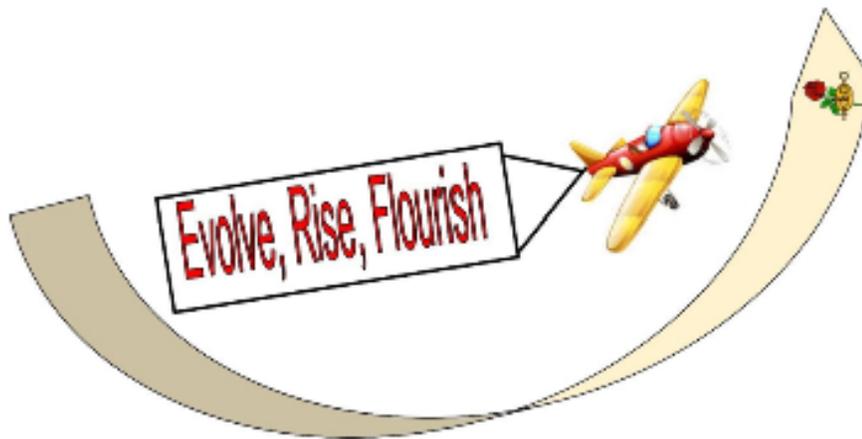
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Incoming President's Message **Evolve, Rise, Flourish!**

Dr. Marilyn Keane, DKG MD First Vice-President, Upsilon Chapter



Challenge and change was the mantra of this past year. With this change, anxiety, wonder, and the unknown of the future weighed heavily on our thoughts both personally and as a member of DKG Maryland. But because of this challenge and change, DKG Maryland evolved to face these challenges by rising to the occasion with the implementation of new processes and presentation formats to ensure our organization provides opportunities for our chapter members to thrive and flourish for years to come. I am honored to be a part of DKG Maryland, for when adversities occur, we are there for each other socially and emotionally, and we reflect upon current and future needs to push through to get the job done. Reflecting upon this past year, on the challenges each person, chapter, and the organization has faced, our ability to adapt and change is evident, and I look forward to being a part of this change over the next biennium.

When faced with adversity, it is also imperative to reflect on why DKG Maryland is important. When asked why I am a member of DKG, I always respond, it's because of the ability to interact, work with, learn, garner ideas, and best of all, have fellowship with teachers who are there for each other. I truly enjoy the opportunity to know teachers from all parts of the state of Maryland and meet fellow teachers throughout the United States and member countries. If you think about it, how many teachers in your building can say, I know another teacher in Washington, Dorchester, Talbot, Harford, Baltimore, and Queen Anne's Counties; or, I know teachers in pre-K, elementary, middle school, high school, college, and professional teaching programs from Canada, Puerto Rico, and England? Probably not many. I find this ability to be a great asset of DKG Maryland.

Looking to the future and reflecting on this past year, it is especially important to evolve our processes, push forth, and rise to challenges in order to flourish as an organization. Personally, I know over the next two years, I will evolve a lot, work to rise to the occasion, and flourish through creating stronger bonds and working with my fellow DKG Maryland chapter sisters. Thank you for the opportunity to be your State President, and remember to continue to "evolve, rise, and flourish."

Continued from page 1.

Dr. LeBlanc Inspires Audience with Keynote Address

In the next segment of her presentation, Dr. LeBlanc talked about international opportunities and contributions which have major impacts. She explained that DKG merged with the International Education Foundation to promote education worldwide and charitable goals. She also shared information about Teach to Lead, in which teams of teachers work on solving a problem using a logic model.

Dr. LeBlanc continued by telling about opportunities that DKG members have to receive scholarships. In addition, she spoke of opportunities to serve, learn, and grow. For example, by contributing financially to the World Fellowship Fund, DKG has an incredible impact on schools in Africa. All of this shows how the components of Dr. LeBlanc's keynote address—Opportunities, Contributions, and Impact—are interrelated.

Most of the remainder of the address focused on leadership. According to Dr. LeBlanc, every good leader should:

Be authentic.

Be passionate.

Lead by example.

Establish powerful and meaningful relationships.

Develop excellent communication skills.

Embrace their fears.

In addition, Dr. LeBlanc believes good leaders should be competent and confident, not arrogant, and they should acknowledge the accomplishments of others. Leadership is not about leaders, but about followers. Therefore, a good leader relates to her followers through trust, stability, compassion, and hope. Last of all, a good leader should encourage her chapter members and help them to build confidence in themselves. She can do this by encouraging them to take on leadership roles, and by filling out the DKG Spotlight form to share their accomplishments.

Dr. Debbie LeBlanc's keynote address was interesting, informative, inspiring, and uplifting. She is the epitome of what leaders, and all DKG members, should be.

Beverly Eanes' Workshop Leaves Them Laughing

Sally Nazelrod, DKG MD Second Vice-President and Xi Chapter President

Trouble knocked on the door, but hearing Laughter, hurried away! This quote by Benjamin Franklin was the recurring theme in **Dr. Beverly Eanes'** workshop, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Your Stress*. She presented research and anecdotes to her audience as she emphasized the importance of laughter and its value in helping us to de-stress. How important is a sense of humor? Very important! And there is research to prove it!

When we laugh, we release the following hormones:

Dopamine, which indicates to the brain that the activity is pleasurable.

Oxytocin, which is a love or bonding hormone, and

Endorphins, which decrease pain and discomfort and increase pleasure and well-being.

There are **so** many positive benefits of laughter:

- It decreases inflammation in the brain that would lead to plaque (beta-amyloid) linked with dementia.
- It stimulates the gamma waves in the brain (seen on an EEG) which lead to creativity.
- Cardio-vascular: Laughter increases average blood flow by 22%. Stress decreases blood flow by 35% (Dr.

Michael Miller).

- It enhances immune response: plentiful, readily available cells to protect against infection and decrease pain (N. Cousins, *Anatomy of an Illness*)

A 10-min. belly laugh = 2 hrs. pain-free sleep. This decreases stress and helps connect people.

She encouraged us to determine “What Brings Us to Life” and “What Enlivens Our Spirit.” She provided us with a sampling of possibilities. They include:

- Humor, Laughter, and Play
- Beautiful Scents and Being in Nature
- Gardening
- Mindfulness and Meditation; Relaxing
- Envisioning New Possibilities
- Music and Movement in Flowing Patterns
- Reading with My Children and Grandchildren
- My Endearing Pets: Penguins, Puffins, and Otters
- Making Love and Cherishing Someone

“We don't laugh because we're happy, we're happy because we laugh.”

The workshop participants laughed a lot, learned a lot, and had fun doing it.

Debbie LeBlanc Shares Top Ten Strategies for a Post Pandemic World

Janey Snyder, Alpha

Debbie LeBlanc, Northeast Regional Director and former Illinois State President (2017-2019), did a PowerPoint presentation on strategies and inspirations for COVID and POST-COVID chapter engagement.

1. A Zoom Coffee might just be the new Starbucks for a small group coffee party.
2. Use the DKG website to find Teacher Resources for a Post Pandemic World; Fine Arts Gallery, DKG Communities, CTAUN, etc.
3. Use Zoom for many online speakers and workshops.
4. Use the website DKG Chat in your DKG member account, an easy way to connect with staff.

5. Connect with International Committee Members.
6. Find a way to make wellness a focus in your Post Pandemic Chapter plans.
7. Revitalize your chapter.
8. Get out of the program rut and use meeting time to celebrate your members.
9. Value your members. Find time to highlight a member each month.
10. Caring and nurturing members is a top priority. Use phone calls, notes, Zoom, Facetime, or other apps to reach out and connect with members.

Janissa Davis Tackles the Online Teaching Challenge

JoAnne Stevens, Omicron Chapter President

Lambda's Janissa Davis, a 2003 Morgan graduate and current Prince Georges' County sixth grade teacher, presented a workshop on "The Challenge of Teaching Online." Although she describes herself as not being tech savvy, Janissa managed to help all of the participants "get into" her workshop to observe the many technological resources that she employs in her language and social studies classes.

Janissa reinforced the importance of communicating clear expectations to her students. Using a program involving emojis and a "draggable" circle, she is able to quickly assess whether they are onboard. After this, she often assigns her students to breakout rooms to complete group projects or to discuss novel-based questions. After the group assignments are complete, students return to the whole class screen to share their group's ideas and answers.

She feels that a hybrid situation in no way inhibits students from sharing what they are thinking or becoming class leaders. Concerning attendance, Janissa advises not to harass, but to find out what is preventing the student from being online. Through emails and phone calls, she manages to keep close contact with parents. She even employs an app, Google Voice, which keeps track of calls made and voicemails delivered.

Realizing that being online continuously may be stressful, Janissa incorporates time for five-minute stretches and also time to enjoy educational computer generated games such as Kahoot.

It was interesting to learn that many tried and true learning strategies are still being utilized, but have definitely been "updated" through technological resources. Concerning new methods of teaching, Janissa advises, "Try a different way. Never give up. Get help."

Joanna Durham Undaunted in Managing COVID-19 Stressors

Dr. Terri Showers, Lambda Chapter President

The Pandemic of 2020, caused by COVID-19, was a major worldwide catastrophic event that affected millions of people. Although COVID-19 still remains now in 2021, there are some positive signs of recovery that can be attributed to the discovery and use of vaccines, and because people are engaging in health practices that will minimize or stop the spread of this deadly virus. However, the pandemic caused many stressors that affected people emotionally, socially, psychologically and physically. The focus of this presentation enabled the participants to identify COVID-19 stressors, gave them tips to help manage the challenges of teaching during COVID-19, and shared strategies to help maintain wellness and well-being. The presenter, **Joanna Durham**, LCSW-C, methodically delivered the presentation, while encouraging the participants to take the necessary actions to minimize or remove stressors encountered in their lives from the pandemic.

Numerous stressors were either caused or exacerbated by COVID-19. Some COVID-19 stressors discussed were loneliness, missing family and friends, family stressors, death of a loved one, change in eating habits, Zoom fatigue, health, and illness. Ms. Durham introduced the COVID-19 stressors by sharing that teachers have many roles in addition to educating students. Some of the roles of teachers include mother, father, detective, counselor, confidante, and psychologist. Often, teachers take on these roles unknowingly, and these roles may also contribute to increasing teacher stressors.

The discussion on the stressors of COVID-19 was enriched when participants were asked to take a deeper look at some of these stressors and to discuss those that personally affected them. One participant remarked, "Keeping kids engaged." This was understandable because of the caring nature of teachers. During another activity, participants were asked to consider their current situations and reflect on how they responded to stress. The majority of participants stated anxiety

was the number one stressor in their lives. Hence, Ms. Durham revealed data from approximately 5,000 individuals who participated in a webinar that occurred March 23-24, 2021. Data revealed that anxiety was also the main stressor in the lives of the participants. It is the combination of all of these stressors caused by COVID-19, those derived from the various roles of teachers, including anxiety, that teachers need to manage.

There are specific coping behaviors to help individuals manage stressors when living with uncertainty. Ms. Durham shared that individuals should:

- Invest in themselves
- Find healthy ways to comfort themselves
- Not believe everything they think
- Find meaning in the chaos. When individuals see chaotic situations, they can help resolve these situations by engaging in practices that will terminate the chaos
- Learn to control the things they can control

Furthermore, Ms. Durham provided the participants with a **Tool Kit for Wellness and a Balanced Life**. Besides having a healthy diet, individuals need to socialize, create time for movement and play, participate in mind stimulating activities, and take time to get proper rest.

Finally, strategies were shared with the participants on how to foster positive mental health in students during instruction.

Ms. Durham's presentation was very informative and gave participants relevant strategies to implement for managing the impact of COVID-19. Managing stressors in one's life is important and helps one to have a balanced life mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically. Her presentation empowered the participants and gave them a safe place to openly discuss stressors that affected them. It was evident the participants were appreciative of the information on managing COVID-19 stressors as classroom teachers and were eager to share what they had learned with others.

DKG MD State Convention: A Virtual Success

Sally Nazelrod, DKG MD Second Vice-President and Xi Chapter President

On Saturday, April 17, DKG Maryland held its first virtual convention. With the theme, *Adapting to Change in a Changing Society*, members attended and participated in the day's events. There was an overwhelming positive response.

Member Photos with Music: Convention Entertainment a Big Hit

Photos of DKG Maryland Members with musical accompaniment provided entertainment to convention attendees during the Zoom sign-in and during the lunch break. **Dr. Marilyn Keane**, Upsilon, First Vice-President, created the photo slideshow and **Betty Hepler**, Omega, provided the musical accompaniment. There were hundreds of photos sent in by chapters which were then featured in the slideshow. You can view the slideshow at the Maryland state website at <https://www.dkgmd.org>.

Celebration of Life: A Beautiful Tribute

Sharon Darling, Nu, Necrology Chair, paid tribute to the sisters who had passed away during the last biennium. Thirteen sisters from nine chapters were acknowledged during a reverent presentation.

Special Ceremonies Highlight the Convention's Closing Program

All chapter presidents were introduced in a special slideshow recognizing their service.

Sharon Darling, Nu, Chapter Support Committee Chair, announced the chapters receiving the Chapter Achievement Awards for 2021.

Scholarship recipients were acknowledged by Chair **Jean Marie Hofstetter**, Omega.

Dr. Janet Cornick, Lambda, Nominations Chair, led the Installation of Officers.

Ann Campbell, Nu, Music Chair, read an outstanding tribute to President **Lorraine Johnson**, Theta, as she finished her term as DKG State President 2019-2021.

President Johnson passed the gavel to our incoming President, Dr. Marilyn Keane, Upsilon.

Convention Evaluation Responses Were Complimentary

The DKG Maryland Leadership and the Convention Planning Committee are grateful for your participation and thank you for your comments regarding our virtual convention. Here are some of the evaluation responses:

Convention went very well. Convention Committee is to be commended for all their time and effort in planning and presenting such a well-run convention, especially in consideration of the extra challenges of a virtual event!!

Fabulous video of sisters singing and slides of chapter presidents.

Dr. Debbie LeBlanc was an excellent choice for keynote speaker. Her message was informative, interesting, and encouraging.

Small group allowed for more personalized conversation.

Learning new information about how teachers are dealing with the virtual world.

Very thoughtful and reverent way to honor sisters who have passed.

I appreciated the recognition that was given for Lorraine's leadership. It is important to let the president know that you appreciated the gift of time and energy that was given to the organization in order to lead. It is not an easy task.

All parts of the Closing Ceremony were well done.

Excellent effort for first virtual convention. Speakers were great. No technology glitches was a blessing.

I thought it went very smoothly considering we have never done anything like this before. Kudos to everyone on the committee!

White Rose



Dr. Adda Clark, Delta

Adda Clark was born on August 20, 1927 in Sonestown, Pennsylvania. She attended Hughesville High School and Bloomsburg State Teachers College in Pennsylvania where she received her B.S. in Secondary Education. She attended George Washington University in Washington, D.C. where she received a Master of Arts degree in Secondary Education, Elementary certification, and Doctor of Education.

In college, Adda majored in Spanish, French, and English, but could not find a job in her major without having to coach a sport. Since she was not athletic, she took the opportunity to teach in Elementary Education. Her first position was in a third grade class with 42 students in Indian Head, Maryland.

She served as a teacher, resource teacher, curriculum developer, and administrator in Montgomery County, Maryland before retiring in 1990. After retiring, Adda volunteered in schools, served on several committees at church, joined several square and round dance clubs, and traveled the U.S. and abroad.

Adda had one daughter, **Linda Barrett**, Delta, a retired physical education teacher in Montgomery County.

Adda's hobbies included traveling, reading, square and round dancing, walking, theater and concerts, crafts, gardening, visiting with family and friends, and giving a helping hand, card, or call to those in need.

On May 1, 1968, Adda was initiated in Delta Chapter. She served on many committees and was always an active supporter until her passing on February 28, 2021.

- Joyce Conway, Delta

Photo courtesy of Linda Barrett, Delta

DKG MD Scholarship Recipients

Founders Scholarship Provides Further Opportunities

LaTanya Eggleston, Rho, State Webmaster



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International's mission is to promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. Think about that: promoting growth. My profession offers the opportunity to unlock the potential of people. Our members are leaders. We shape the future with decisions that positively impact each day. The Maryland Founders Scholarship will support my service to the community to include our organization. As a certified coach with the International Coach Federation, I work with individuals and teams to identify what is important to them for their desired impact. The workplace and our community operate very differently than they did over a year ago. Many organizations had to change the way they conducted business overnight. It left leaders searching for solutions to manage teams and solutions to continue effective operation. There are assessments that people can take to determine what strengths have been activated during these new virtual working times. These assessments explore opportunities to increase effectiveness and productivity with individuals and within groups. One of these assessments is the **Everything DiSC**, which is "a global leader in delivering personalized, soft skills learning experiences that have an immediate and lasting impact on the performance of people and cultures of organizations." What skill or experience helped you the most this past year? Which relationships (professional and personal) would you like to deepen? This funding will offer training that provides awareness to enhance how you want to BE during these times in several areas of life. "It is one's duty to make the most of the best that is in him/her." ~Duncan Stuart

Scholarship Used to Brighten the Future

Erica Bates, Theta



Classrooms might be described as engaging, collaborative, exciting, and productive; however, sometimes students feel anxious, worried, and overwhelmed. Research in this area of childhood anxiety has increased throughout the field of education. As I reflect on my experience as an educator, I have encountered times in which students exhibited feelings of worry, displayed outbursts of anger, or moments of crying when they are challenged with a mathematical problem. During my math class, students have expressed negative thoughts such as, "I can't do it." Or, "This is too hard." One student expressed his anxiety by stating, "If I get these problems wrong, my mom will be very upset with me." Some young children feel internal and external pressures to succeed in mathematics. Teachers are confronted with the task to support and encourage students through math-related activities.

The occurrences of anxiety-based behavior within my classroom and the increasing prevalence of childhood anxiety have sparked my interest to study and research areas of effective educational strategies that will reduce anxiety in children. With the Maryland State Scholarship, I can pursue this area of study through educational courses and research. The next steps in my educational career will provide effective skills in research, writing, and speaking. My ability to design and conduct original research will be honed and developed as I collaborate with my professors. My research on the impact that teachers have on anxiety in first through third grade children will provide additional knowledge to the field of education, administration, teachers, and families. I believe that my research will support educators and students to move from a classroom of frustration and anxiety to a classroom of warmth, laughter, and success.

Anne Matthews Scholarship Helps with Doctoral Degree

Dorothy Clowers, Theta



I am sincerely honored to be selected as the recipient of the Delta Kappa Gamma Maryland State scholarship, given in honor of Anne H. Matthews. This generous scholarship will assist with paying for one of my doctoral classes in educational leadership.

In August of 1990, the University of Maryland at College Park awarded five students with a Doctorate of Philosophy fellowship in the field of Special Education, of which I was one of the recipients. I truly enjoyed learning from the best professors in the country. Subsequently, after completing all of the course work, my grandmother, who was the family's matriarch, transitioned from earth to her eternal rest. Given that I am the oldest in my family, this devastating news forced me to leave school to assist with taking care of my blind and crippled mother. To this day, my advisor's words are still relevant, "Dorothy, if you leave school, you will never finish." Having been taught the importance of family, I articulated Big Mama's wisdom, "Your health is always first. Your family is second. And, your job is last." So, unfortunately, I left the university before completing my program.

Unexpectedly, on July 29, 2019, God dispatched His Angels from Heaven to escort my mother to her everlasting rest. Upon returning from her homegoing celebration, Bowie State University invited me to join a doctoral cohort. In October of 2019, I embarked upon this journey.

Again, it gives me great pleasure to thank the sisters of Delta Kappa Gamma Maryland for providing a scholarship for me to pursue a doctoral degree in educational leadership. The advanced degree will provide an opportunity for me to learn additional best practices that will further impact my ability to serve as the instructional leader. My professional knowledge will also increase parental involvement.

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The Five Funds of DKG International Educators Foundation Explained

Lorraine Williams Johnson, DKG MD State President

DKG International Educators Foundation (DKGIEF) supports programming, leadership, intercultural activities, projects that benefit children and educators, member emergencies, speakers, women authors, scholarships and fellowships. DKG Maryland contributes \$500 annually to five of the funds in the DKGIEF. In addition, we use this opportunity to honor five of our members who have provided significant service in enhancing our organization. These are the five funds DKG Maryland contributes to and the five members we are recognizing.

World Fellowship

Since the inception of the World Fellowship's Program in 1946 in San Francisco when "four German women educators received funds from Delta Kappa Gamma Society to spend eight weeks of study and visitation in Sweden during the spring of 1948," the World Fellowship has taken seriously its initiative to be one of the biggest providers tasked with promoting and providing education for women in other countries.

The history of the World Fellowship is most impressive. It forged an alliance with UNESCO in 1952 and provided special help to Korean women. From that point on, the program, as we know it today, began to structure itself. It formed additional liaisons with the Institute of International Education (IIE), became a standing committee, and in 1974, state organizations and chapter committees became part of the Constitution.

World Fellowship is recognized by the IIE. In 1978, IIE presented it with an award that is currently on display at the DKG Headquarters in Austin, Texas.

Since 1960, almost 1000 women from more than 100 countries have received almost \$4,000,000. Current contributions have exceeded that amount.

DKG Maryland's World Fellowship Committee was initially led by **Sharon Hilty**, Delta Chapter. Our present chair is **Laura McClelland**, Omicron Chapter. Both women are dedicated to the principles of this committee and have worked

passionately to promote its purpose. They continue to foster relationships between DKG Maryland and students in our area universities. An ongoing relationship continues to develop between these students and DKG Maryland. We are encouraged to communicate with these students, remember them at special times, and even invite them to visit with us when attending schools in our area. This program impacts education on a present and continuing basis as we attempt to assist the students who attend universities in our area.

Students desiring to study in the United States must obtain a Fulbright scholarship. Those wishing to study in Canada must apply to the World Fellowship Committee in Alberta, Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. For additional information, please visit the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International website.

DKG Maryland salutes **Laura McClelland**, Omicron, for her work on the World Fellowship Committee.

Emergency Fund

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International instituted the Emergency Fund in 1948 after receiving a request for help following a flood in Vanport, Oregon. Today, members who are affected by natural disasters can request a \$500 donation from the DKG Emergency Fund.

"Am I my sister's keeper?" "Yes!"

Life is not without its benefits, surprises, catastrophes, and other disasters. When these events strike, they are often unexpected and more than likely, unaffordable, too. The mission of the Emergency Fund is to lessen the financial impact of these disasters.

One may qualify for the \$500 donation by informing the chapter president of the circumstances warranting it. The chapter president informs the state organization president with information about the member and the date and nature of the disaster. The state president completes the form about the disaster and submits it to the Executive Director. Once it is approved by the Executive Director, a check is mailed or wired from Society Headquarters to the member. Many members have

expressed their appreciation for this monetary assistance when involved in natural disasters. Read some of the comments from recipients on the website.

DKG Maryland salutes **Joyce Conway**, Delta, for her work with DKG MD.

Golden Gift

The Golden Gift Fund was created in 1974 during the planning of the DKG Golden Anniversary celebration. A one dollar donation per year for the five years preceding the celebration was requested from the members. **Dr. Eula Lee Carter**, Texas, provided a "generous donation" which launched the fund.

The Golden Gift Fund was known as the Leadership Management Seminar until 2019 when it became **DKG Ignite: Leaders Empowering Leaders Program**. The program is conducted in conjunction with the faculty and staff of the McCombs School of Business in Austin, Texas. This one-week program "offers professional life-changing leadership management seminars," every even year to DKG members desiring to hone their leadership skills.

DKG Maryland salutes **Naomi Janette Bell**, Theta, for her work with DKG MD.

Educational Projects

Do you have an educational project that needs funding? Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is ready to help you undertake and complete this project. You may apply for a Project Grant by March 1st of each year. Financial donations from DKG chapter members and friends provide the money for this grant. You do not have to be a member of DKG to apply for project funding.

As of February 2020, \$50,000.00 was awarded to new and renewed projects. The projects must comply with DKG Society's Mission Statement and one or more of its purposes. Please visit the DKG website for eligibility criteria and an application.

DKG Maryland salutes **Jean Marie Hofstetter**, Omega, for her work with DKG MD.

International Speakers Fund

The International Speakers Fund (ISF) “creates friendships across borders and promotes cultural understanding.” The ISF provides a host of opportunities for members as well as state organizations.

If you have a burning desire to meet other DKG members from other countries, develop friendships and learn about cultural diversity, learn a foreign language, even create an international network of members or serve as a DKG ambassador, ISF may offer an opportunity to do so.

Feeling that you have not done all you

can to promote our purposes? The ISF “unites women educators of the world.” Looking for a soulmate who enjoys sharing ideas, research and experiences? ISF is the one for you!

In addition to these wonderful opportunities, you are also able to assist your chapter in promoting ambassadorship.

Invite an ISF speaker to your state organization meeting. This can be accomplished by submitting a request for an ISF speaker to Society Headquarters by November 10th or May 10th. Simply download the form from the Society’s

website.

Chapter members can also become ISF speakers. This is another way to travel and become familiar with a different area of our world. It is also an opportunity to personally share in the culture of another country. Download the Speaker’s Application form from the Society website and return it to the Society with your recommendation, electronically, by September 15. Bon Voyage!

DKG Maryland salutes **Joan Wiggins**, *Alpha Theta*, for her work with DKG MD.

DKG MD Honors Five Members for Their Service through DKGIEF

Lorraine Williams Johnson, DKG MD State President

DKG Maryland State Organization is honoring five of its members for recognition as part of the DKGIEF Fund acknowledgement. The five are well-known and loved because of the energy and devotion they constantly display to the growth, expansion, and recognition of our beloved organization.



Jean Marie Hofstetter, *Omega*, might be called “the Scholarship Lady” because of the time she has invested in the Scholarship Committee as its chair over many years. Jean Marie is dedicated to helping our members promote their personal well-being as well as pursue educational advancement. She and her committee provide constant reminders to DKG Maryland, in various creative ways, about funds that are available and the deadlines for submission.



Naomi Janette Bell, *Theta*, has served tirelessly in many capacities as a member of DKG Maryland State Organization. Janette, a Past State President, 2013 - 2015, has worn many hats and served in several leadership capacities. She is always willing to assist with programming and training. She is the current Parliamentarian for DKG Maryland.



Joyce Conway, *Delta*, is a quiet and strong individual with an affinity for numbers. She has served as treasurer for many groups: Leadership Development, Delta Chapter, and the former Seven Chapter Coordinating Council. In addition to her love for numbers, she is a devoted member of our organization who has served on many committees and who has arranged meeting places for groups. Because of the support she gives to her Chapter activities, she was named **Miss Delta**.



Joan Wiggins, *Alpha Theta*, is a talented and gifted member who is known for her leadership, organizational skills and musical abilities. Joan is currently the chair of our Historical Records Committee. She and her committee are tasked with the responsibility of keeping our state records in order and making them accessible to the membership. She is a hard working, dedicated and devoted member of DKG Maryland State Organization. Joan was DKG Maryland State President from 2015-2017. She is currently the Alpha Theta Chapter President.



Laura McClelland, *Omicron*, takes seriously her responsibility to connect with, encourage, and support college students from other countries, as well as provide funds for the DKG World Fellowship Committee. Laura, with the assistance of her committee, works hard to collect donations from us as well as keep us aware of the young college women in our area who need to connect with us on a regular basis.

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Chapter News

Alpha Beta Highlights Activities and Accomplishments

Carol Howard, Alpha Beta Chapter President

Seventeen sisters were able to gather at Cove Point Park in Lusby on April 25, 2021 to conduct a business meeting and collect for this year's service project, Little Free Libraries. Little Free Libraries (LFL) is a world-wide non-profit organization that increases access to books through the creation of book-sharing boxes which are housed in regional public or private venues. Currently there are 90,000 libraries globally. They boast community involvement with the intention of inspiring readers by providing free reading materials for the community to borrow. Our sisters contributed many boxes of used adult and children's books, and we were able to purchase additional boxes of "bruised" books with the donations that were collected. Southern Maryland Meats built 100 LFL red barns to house the libraries which will be placed in locations around the Southern Maryland area. Their Program Director, Rachel Norris, was able to make the connections so that Alpha Beta is now the steward for two libraries in both St. Mary's and Calvert Counties. We have begun the process of filling our barns.

Some **very** special highlights of our meeting were:

- Our DKG Maryland President, **Lorraine Johnson**, brought greetings and read one of her poems entitled "We Who Wear the Key Make A Difference" at the end of our meeting.
- We had a surprise recorder duet accompaniment of "The Delta Kappa Gamma Song" by two of our own music teachers, **Marci Fleck** and **Janet Gross**.
- Our winner of the Francis Lancaster Recruitment Grant was announced. **Jaran Scott** will be receiving a \$1000 scholarship to begin her studies.
- We also acknowledged our sister, **Deb Fowler**, who was recognized by St. Mary's County for her leadership and work with her non-profit volunteer organization **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**, which builds beds for children ages 3-17.
- Each sister was honored with a card during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 3-7, because all have inspired a student and helped change the world.



Marci and Janet played the DKG song.



Kristin Cluster, Service Project Chair, makes the 1st drop at Calvert Pines Senior Center.

Omicron Introduces Inductees

Iris Wingert, Omicron Ex Officio, and Laura McClelland, Omicron Membership Chair



After more than a year apart, Omicron Chapter sisters finally reconnected and gathered in person under a pavilion at a local park for an outdoor picnic and induction ceremony which were held on May 13, 2021. The weather was lovely. The thirty sisters who attended were thrilled to see each other and to watch six key women educators be inducted into our chapter along with an honorary member who could not attend in person. The inductees were introduced to the audience by their nominating sisters. Membership Chair, **Laura McClelland**, officiated over the event and didn't let the breeze stop the candles from staying lit. (She brought ones that were charged by

batteries.) The new members signed the chapter's membership registry and received their membership pins. President **Jo Anne Stevens** presented their membership certificates and First Vice-President **Maria Shanabarger** gave them long-stemmed red roses. Assisting with the ceremony was **Lisa Macurak** who, as a current middle school Social Studies teacher, provided a brief orientation to the new inductees on the history of Delta Kappa Gamma. Welcomed into Omicron Chapter were **Kathryn Berling**, **Janice Cermatori**, **Annie Martin**, **Stacy Nolan**, **Andrea Rowinski**, **Noreen Strylowski**, and **Peggy Altoff**.



Welcome to Andrea, Kathryn, and Annie.

Kathryn Berling is a media specialist. **Janice Cermatori** retired after 30 years of teaching Pre-K - Grade 4. **Annie Martin** is a media specialist. **Stacy Nolan** teaches high school chemistry and also teaches at the community college. **Andrea Rowinski** is a high school art teacher and the author and illustrator of a book entitled *Wishes*. **Noreen Strylowski** taught English Language Arts for 35 years at West Middle and is now a liaison for interns at McDaniel College. **Peggy Altoff**, honorary member, is a retiree who served as President of the National Council of Social Studies. Peggy also taught Social Studies in the Baltimore City Schools, later worked at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), and became the Social Studies Supervisor in Carroll County Public Schools.

50-Year Member Joins Theta

Lorraine Johnson, Theta, DKG MD President 2019-2021



Mrs. Ethel Adams, Theta.
Photo by Sandra Collins.

Mrs. Ethel Adams moved to Prince George's County from Dayton, Ohio and immediately transferred her membership to Theta Chapter. We are delighted that Mrs. Adams, 100 years young, attended Theta's last meeting of this biennium on Saturday, May 22, 2021.

DKG Maryland welcomes Mrs. Adams.

Theta Shows Power of Generosity

Yvonne Stone, Theta Chapter President

On May 1, 2021, Theta Chapter presented a check for \$2,350.00 to the Shepherd's Cove United Communities Against Poverty, Inc. (UCAP). UCAP assists individuals and families in Prince George's County, MD, who have been adversely impacted by poverty, crime, homelessness, unemployment, and inadequate health services. Shepherd's Cove, which is managed by UCAP, provides those in need with a clean and safe environment that is monitored 24/365 by caring professionals. The funds donated by Theta helped refurbish a room.



Yvonne and Lorraine



The refurbished room by DKG MD Theta Chapter. Photos by Flora Patag, Theta.

From Zoom to First Face-to-Face

Sharon L. Darling, Nu Chapter President

Nu Chapter celebrated its first face-to-face meeting since November 2019 at the home of Sharon L. Darling on May 22, 2021. The social getting-to-know-you activity was a game called *Truth or Dare*. Each member made a statement about something that happened during the pandemic. The members voted as to whether the information was true or false. If the members were fooled, the person who made the statement got a prize. We laughed a lot!

We decided to meet over Zoom on a monthly basis. Four social activities are also planned as well as the continuation of our Little Library Project. New member recruitment activities are also being planned. Nu Chapter congratulates Talbot County member Heather Andrews who has been honored as Maryland Teacher of the Year for Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language (TESOL). Way to go, Heather!

We are looking forward to having a successful year!

Gail Goolsby Engages Audience

Patty Simon, Mu



Gail Goolsby, 2020 DKG Educators Book Awardee, spoke to members of Alpha, Mu and Xi.

Many educators have experienced moving to a new school, and some have even moved to schools in other states with different requirements and rules. Such a change can be very challenging. Now imagine moving to a different country—Afghanistan—with an entirely different culture. That is what Gail Goolsby wrote about in her book, *Unveiled Truth*, which won the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Educators Book Award.

Gail Goolsby is a member of Gamma Chapter in Kansas. She has been a Christian school educator, a counselor, and a Missions Coordinator. Following the attack on 9/11, she studied the Muslim people and religion and went on the Brookdale Church mission trip to Afghanistan. All of this helped to prepare her for the experiences she documented in her book.

On May 8, 2021, members of Alpha, Mu, and Xi Chapters, along with guests, including Lorraine Johnson, Dr. Marilyn Keane, Sharon Darling, and Susan Gray, were treated to a Zoom talk given by Gail Goolsby. Janey Snyder of Alpha organized the gathering after her chapter read *Unveiled Truth*.

From 2005 to 2012, Gail Goolsby was the principal at the International School of Kabul (ISK). The school served to educate children of Afghans and ex-patriots who were trying to rebuild the country. During her time there, the school grew from 190 to almost 400 students in grades K-12. The teachers were well-qualified and taught a college prep curriculum at ISK, which had full accreditation from Middle States.

During her talk, Mrs. Goolsby shared the challenges of setting up the new school in buildings that had to be rented and converted into classrooms. She and her coworkers started with nothing and had to order all of the necessary teaching materials. The greatest challenge, however, was what she called the “crash (not clash) of culture.” So many things were different: the clothing, food, language, heating/air conditioning (lack thereof), and attitude toward females. Because Afghan women were not as well educated as the men, Mrs. Goolsby talked more to the students' fathers because they knew English. In addition, she and her staff had to always dress according to local rules so as not to offend anyone.

Despite the challenges, Gail Goolsby spoke fondly of her time in Afghanistan. She appreciated the courtesy she was shown by many people and the beauty of the mountains surrounding Kabul. In conclusion, she encouraged her audience to do what they can to make the world a better place and to be the best people they can be.



DKG Maryland State News

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DATES TO REMEMBER 2021

June 30 - Chapter treasurers should submit dues to MD State Treasurer
July 7 - 10 - DKG International Conference, Portland, Oregon
July 22 - 24 - DKG International Conference, San Antonio, Texas
July 30 - Aug 1 - DKG State Organization Leadership Training, Atlanta, GA
Aug 15 - Sept 15 - DKG Art Gallery Submissions Deadline
Aug - DKG MD Committee Training
Sept 18 - DKG MD Executive Board Meeting

2022

May 14 - DKG MD Leadership Development Conference
July 12-16 - DKG Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana

2023 - DKG International Conference, Tampere, Finland

2024 - DKG Convention, National Harbor, Gaylord National, D.C. Area

World Fellowship Joins DKGIEF

Laura McClelland, Omicron Membership Chair



Have you seen this symbol on any of the state or international websites, documents, or publications? Do you wonder what it stands for and who receives the benefits? DKG International Educators Foundation (DKGIEF) is an umbrella of funds that are tax-deductible. World Fellowship now falls under this umbrella of funds to which we contribute.

Donations can be made by clicking on the DKGIEF symbol on the International website at <http://www.dkg.org/> Scroll down to World Fellowship. Contributions can continue to be made by check using Form 43. Thanks to our contributions to

the World Fellowship Fund, young women, who are not DKG members and who may not otherwise have the opportunity in their nation, are able to obtain an education in the United States and Canada. One young woman, *Tamoha*, who received an extension to study TESOL at Michigan State University, wrote, "I want to thank you for supporting the World Fellowship Fund. The fellowship truly made my stay here in the U.S. so much more comfortable. I am enjoying my program here at MSU immensely and learning new skills and perspectives at an exponential rate. My teachers and peers in the program are very supportive and it has made the journey very valuable."

Altogether, DKG MD chapters contributed \$4,781.56 to the World Fellowship Fund from July 1, 2019 to May 9, 2021.

Thank you for helping make the dreams of these young women a reality.