

DKG Maryland State News

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U.S. Forum Committee Offers Leadership Opportunity

Patty Simon, Mu

DKG offers its members opportunities to take on leadership roles and make a difference in the world. **Liz Tarnier**, former U.S. Forum Committee member and chair, recently shared information from **Karen Walton**, a current U.S. Forum representative, encouraging DKG members to apply for the position of chair or regional representative on the 2022-2024 United States Forum Steering Committee. The committee plans various events and presentations and supports federal issues relating to women, children, and education. As a regional representative, one would help to identify, address, and provide current information about these issues. Although the preferred application date of May 31 has passed, a member can state her interest in being nominated during the Forum session at the 2022 International Convention. More information and the application can be found at www.dkgusforum.com.

Karen Walton also shared information about the National Legislative Seminar, which is one of the events that the U.S. Forum Steering Committee plans. The seminar, which was held in March, hosted the following excellent speakers who spoke about very relevant topics:

Lucy Gettman (Principal of G & S Consulting)—Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act

Alicia Guerri (League of Women Voters)—voter mobilization and the Democracy Defense Fund

Brandon Graham (Director of Advocacy from the National Alliance on Mental Illness)—mental health crisis

Brad Fitch (CEO of Congressional Foundation)—protocol for speaking to congressmen

Laura Peralta-Shulte (Network: Build a New Program)—four cornerstone projects for racial justice

Mark Egan (Director of Government Relations for the NEA)—statistics about teachers

In addition, **Becky Sadowski**, DKG International President, and **Nita Scott**, DKG Executive Director, explained why DKG as a society cannot speak for members around the world, but how individual members can advocate for a need. During her keynote address, **Lisa Maatz** from the Ohio Citizen Organization also spoke about advocacy, encouraging members to write letters to newspaper editors.

The U.S. Forum Steering Committee members work hard to make a difference in the lives of others. Consider becoming a member of this worthwhile group.



President's Message

Dr. Marilyn Keane, Upsilon, DKG MD State President

It is hard to believe that the first year of my biennium is almost over! Looking back upon this first year and what was accomplished, I began to reflect on DKG, our state's members, activities, international activities, and what I have learned. I learned how truly dedicated our members are with their time, their drive to plan fun and engaging chapter activities, their commitment to help within their communities, their efforts to keep in touch and ensure that all members within their chapters are able to stay active, and their generosity and warm welcome when inviting me to their chapter meetings and activities.

Another piece I learned is the hard work and perseverance of our committee chairs and committee members at the chapter and state levels. As I attended chapter meetings around the state, the activities of the committees at the chapter level are commendable and emulate DKG's seven purposes. At the state level, I thank the committee chairs and members who organize, plan, and move forward our organization in order for DKG to function and to help me, the state president, to run an efficient organization.

I would like to thank and congratulate the members of Epsilon Chapter (presidents **Jackie Gray** and **Susan Gagliardi**) on celebrating the chapter's **75th Anniversary**. Chapter members put together school supply baskets, decorated hats, conducted a business meeting, and enjoyed each other's company over lunch—great

activities and fun treats!! I was also provided the opportunity to visit Omicron's chapter (president **Jo Anne Stevens**) meeting and hear their speaker this spring. I enjoyed listening to the guest speaker and observing how Omicron's committee functioned within the chapter.

This past weekend, we wrapped up the Leadership Development Conference and Presidents' Training. This was the first event we held in person in over two years! The energy in the room, the dynamic speakers, and the camaraderie were truly energizing. Zoom meetings can be convenient and useful, but the ability to move around the room, talk to a host of individuals, have a conversation over lunch, and learn and interact with each other is priceless. I know in the future we will continue to utilize what we learned over the past two years (Zoom), but we will also plan and engage in in-person events to strengthen our relationships and organization.

I do not want to go into too much detail about the conference, but if you were unable to attend, this newsletter contains information about each talk, including **Suzi Plaut's**, Alpha Gamma, *The Energy Bus* and **Laurie Ellington's**, Brain-Based Leadership: The Neuroscience of Creating a Culture of Engagement and Trust. Also, next year's convention is less than a year away, April 14 - 16, at the College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. We look forward to a good turnout.

Conference Speakers Emphasize Connectivity, Compassion, and Purpose

Patty Simon, Mu

Those who attended the May 14th DKG MD State Conference were treated to two dynamic speakers. Canadian **Cynthia Moore**, DKG International Member at Large, and **Laurie Ellington**, founder of Ancient Science, Inc. and Zero Point Leadership, Inc., shared information that was interesting and inspiring.

It is amazing how much these two women have in common. They are both educators. Cynthia has taught at all levels—primary, middle, secondary, and post-secondary. She has taught visual art, drama, and social studies to high school students, and she is an English tutor for middle level, secondary, and post-secondary international students. Laurie is an adjunct faculty member at several universities, where she provides Stress Resilience/Mindfulness programs for federal government leaders with various agencies across the United States. She also teaches meditation, coaching, psychology, ethics, and critical thinking classes. Both women are yoga instructors, and both enjoy outdoor activities. As speakers, both of them are eminently qualified, fascinating, enthusiastic, and sincere.

Thanks to modern technology, Cynthia Moore was able to attend the conference via Zoom. As a representative of DKG, she spoke first, bringing greetings from International and sharing statistics about membership and World Fellowship contributions. Later she spoke on the topic “Leading from the Heart.” Laurie Ellington was able to attend in person. She led a workshop entitled “Brain-Based Leadership: The Neuroscience of Creating a Culture of Engagement and Trust” and later was the keynote speaker, presenting “The Neuroscience of Mindful and Compassionate Leadership.”

In “Leading from the Heart,” Cynthia opened with a yoga exercise, and then divided her presentation into three main topics: the Wild Heart, Wellness, and Connections. With the Wild Heart, she emphasized the importance of listening, working

together, finding the potential in others, respecting others, and showing courage. Then she talked about the different aspects of Wellness: physical, occupational, spiritual, social, environmental, emotional, and intellectual. Thirdly, she spoke about Connections: showing gratitude, sharing stories, doing service for others, and encouraging others. Cynthia left the audience pondering these questions: *What are you and your chapter doing to care for and connect with others? What is your purpose? What is your passion? What do you want your legacy to be?*

Laurie Ellington’s first question was also related to purpose: *What draws you to the work that you do?* She then talked about purpose being compassion driven. Since the world is VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous), people are wired for connection and survival. Laurie emphasized the idea that the brain, the heart, and the gut are all interconnected. She then explained that the nervous system is a social structure, with the vagus nerve being the nerve of compassion. She also defined compassion as a feeling *for*, not *with*, the suffering of another and the desire to alleviate that suffering. In fact, compassion is the foundation of all ethical teaching. Laurie also talked about “Survival of the Kindest” and how Loving Kindness Meditation can cultivate compassion. Just as Cynthia opened with a yoga exercise, Laurie ended her presentation with tips on controlling one’s breathing and the importance of committing ten minutes a day to being calm and mindful.

While the presentations provided different information, they complemented each other with regard to their general messages of connectivity, compassion, and purpose and kept the audience enthralled.



Cynthia Moore, Alberta State Organization
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Member-at-Large, 2020-2024

Brain-Based Leadership: *The Neuroscience of Creating a Culture of Engagement and Trust*

Allison Gradwell, Mu President

Laurie Ellington gave a riveting and timely presentation at this year's Leadership Development Conference. Her research delves into how the brain assesses situations and how people can use that information to become kinder and more compassionate.

I had three main takeaways from her talk. First and foremost, people need to identify and connect to their purpose daily. She began with a simple question: *What draws you to the work you do?* Connecting to their purpose helps people grow, reminds them of what they love to do, and guides their decisions in all that they do. Did you know that connecting to your purpose each day can reduce the probability of dementia by 50%? It can also reduce the incidence of cardio-vascular disease by 50%.

Laurie's research took her back to ancient times. She was curious about what ancient wisdom had to say and if it was at all relevant to today's cultures. It turns out that modern science is verifying what ancient people instinctively knew. For the most part, humans are unaware of what drives them. By practicing mindfulness and connecting to their purpose daily, they can become aware.

The second take away for me is that by being mindful and connecting to their purpose, people's brains will enjoy social and creative

interactions, giving them more happiness and less stress.



The human brain is organized in two ways: to minimize danger (avoid/survive) and to maximize reward (approach/create). People tend to stay in the first mode for the majority of the time as they are hard-wired for survival. It is assessing whether they are welcome or unsafe. It is good to want to survive and not get hurt, but staying too long in the first mode increases the production of the hormone cortisol, which can alter bodily functions over time. Shifting to the maximized reward mode enables people to

relax, socialize, and create. She explained that every social interaction shapes the brain and impacts decisions.

Finally, Laurie compared social pain to physical pain. Using brain imaging scans, scientists have pinpointed the section of the brain that registers physical pain. It turns out that being rejected, bullied, ignored, or subjected to some other type of emotional pain registers in the exact same spot of the brain. Social or emotional pain hurts just as much as physical pain. Rejection leading to isolation is the very worst condition for human brains to experience. It deprives a person of the ability to make good decisions and the ability to create. Everyone has witnessed the social pain of a child being rejected on the playground. That pain can lead to self-isolation, apathy, and, later in life, other more serious consequences.

The human brain is constantly scanning for what Laurie called Psychological Safety:

Self—how one sees oneself and feels about oneself

Esteem—how one compares oneself to others; one's status

Choice—does one have autonomy or freedom; does one have any control?

Understanding—certainty and understanding

Relatedness—trust and safety, connection, friend vs foe

Equity—lack of fairness; a level playing field

Feeling psychologically safe is the starting point for having children be the best they can be. Leading with the brain in mind would change teacher/student relationships. Collaboration sends a message that everyone counts. People need to create mutual goals. Teachers should empathize with their classes or groups by connecting and showing compassion. They also need to offer more options for learning, and they need to be very clear about their expectations.



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I believe a brain-based approach to leadership, whether it be in the classroom or community, will create a culture of trust and engagement.

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

Energy Bus Workshop Energizes

Participants

Patty Simon, Mu

Maryland's very own **Suzi Plaut** conducted a wonderful workshop based on the book *The Energy Bus* by Jon Gordon. Suzi has been a member of Alpha Gamma Chapter of Howard County for over a decade. She has served as chapter president and is currently active on two state committees, the Leadership Development Committee and the Review Committee for the Executive Secretary. Suzi is in her 26th year of teaching middle school in Howard County. She currently teaches 7th and 8th grade math, although she taught reading and was a reading specialist earlier in her career.



Having learned about Jon Gordon's work through professional development at her school in 2016, Suzi was inspired to create this workshop for the May 14th DKG MD Conference. A naturally dynamic teacher, Suzi got everyone engaged from the very beginning of her workshop. Given pieces of blue paper and "fun" colored markers, attendees were instructed to use these items to make lists of "energy vampires," people or things in their lives that suck up their energy. They were then told to crumple up the papers and throw them away.

Then on green pieces of paper, attendees were asked to write what they would say to a friend who was going through a tough time. After standing up and forming a circle, the ladies also crumpled up these papers, but this time they threw them at each other, like a snowball fight. After a couple of minutes, each person picked up a "snowball" and saved it to read aloud to the group at the end of the session.

Upon returning to their seats, the participants then read aloud *The Energy Bus for Kids*, about a little boy who has challenges and the bus driver who helps him face them. The book includes five main rules: 1. create a positive vision; 2. fuel your ride with positive energy; 3. no bullies allowed; 4. love your passengers; and 5. enjoy the ride—all useful advice for children and adults.

Then on pink papers, participants wrote their visions, their next steps, and what they could do successfully. Unlike the other papers, the pink ones were kept.

After once again forming a circle and sharing the advice that had been written earlier on the green papers, Suzi shared some more advice from Jon Gordon. Smile, be thankful, and think of something good that happened today. Adversity gives people choices. They can choose the negative path and

face failure, or they can choose the positive path to their goals and dreams. People shouldn't let the world create them; they should create their world.

With all of the excellent advice and information and the interactive format, everyone left Suzi's workshop with a positive outlook and plenty of energy.

Committee News

Leadership Development Committee Plans Successful Conference

Dr. Marilyn Keane, Upsilon, DKG MD State President

The Leadership Development Committee just wrapped up planning the Leadership Development Conference and Presidents' Training. I hope everyone enjoyed **Suzi Plaut's**, Alpha Gamma, presentation of *The Energy Bus* and **Laurie Ellington's** presentation on "Brain-Based and Compassionate Leadership," as well as the activities and interactions throughout the day. One activity included the "Human Treasure Hunt." For this activity, I learned which chapter member(s) do not like chocolate, who has ridden in a hot air balloon, and who was raised on a farm. The committee looks for exciting learning opportunities for our members. If you know of a great speaker for the November Society Workshop or the convention, please pass along the information. We are always on the lookout for great ideas and speakers.

In June, the committee will begin planning the Leadership Development Moment for the September Executive Board Meeting as well as planning the training for the next Executive Leadership Board and committee training to be conducted next spring. If you have an idea for a Leadership Development Moment, please contact me with your idea(s). We plan to meet in person in September!

I would like to thank the Leadership Development Committee for the planning and organization of the Leadership Development Conference and Presidents' Training. The committee members are: **Sally Nazelrod**, XI; **Janey Snyder**, Alpha; **Dr. Terri Showers**, Lambda; **Gwen Cooley**, Delta; **Mary Lee Makinen**, Alpha Delta; **Weezie Carey**, Alpha Delta; **Patty Simon**, Mu; **Erin Meyers**, Pi; and **Suzi Plaut**, Alpha Gamma. We were able to bring it all together with fantastic speakers, camaraderie, and training. With the help of all our DKG members, we will continue to find great learning experiences and speakers for our members.



Scholarship Committee Gives Awards at Conference

Three amazing women were awarded scholarships at the DKG Maryland State Conference on May 14th. **Erica Bates**, Theta, received the Dr. Fern D. Schneider Scholarship, **Dorothy Clowers**, Theta, received the Dr. Anne H. Matthew Scholarship, and **Yvette Eve Dodson**, Alpha Beta, received the Ester J. Crooks Scholarship. Congratulations, ladies!



Dorothy Clowers, Theta, *Erica Bates*, Theta, and *Yvette Dodson*, Alpha Beta, receive their scholarships.

Scholarship Fulfills Dream

Erica Bates, Theta

Langston Hughes reminds me to always, “Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die life is a broken-winged bird, that cannot fly.” As we face challenges, changes, and loss, we are tasked to hold on to our dreams. My dream is to complete my doctoral work with a specialization in curriculum and development. With the support of the Maryland State Scholarship, I can move forward in achieving this goal. Through completing educational courses and research at Liberty University, I am one step closer to my

doctorate degree. My next courses will allow me to conduct original research on the impact of teacher’s efficacy and math development skills for students in elementary school.

My hope is to impact the educational community through my research on teacher-student relationships and anxiety in children. Research in this area is vital to bring awareness to the needs of the teachers and to support students as they move from a place of anxiety to a place of competence, social emotional development, and success. I am committed to inspire others to hold fast to their dreams of supporting the next generation to be successful in every aspect of their lives, and to encourage both educators and students to persevere through the academic and social emotional challenges until they grow closer to achieving their dreams.

Scholarship Defrays Cost of Dissertation

Jean Marie Hofstetter, Omega, Scholarship Committee Chair

Congratulations to **Dorothy Clowers**, Theta, for being awarded the Dr. Anne H. Matthew Scholarship totaling \$1,500. It was with tremendous pride that the Scholarship Committee nominated her for this financial award due to her 14-year involvement with this committee. Now, Dorothy is on the receiving end of the work of this committee.

Since July 2003, Dorothy has devoted her professional life as principal of William Paca Elementary School in Prince George’s County. During the shutdown of the past two years, she has kept the focus on academic achievement while working seven days a week to keep

students, teachers, and the community not only safe, but well. It will not surprise all who know her to hear that she has substituted for teachers, worked in the health room, and completed contact tracing herself. Her focus on coaching teachers in her ideals that ALL students can learn, parents are our partners, and “Teamwork makes the dream work” was highlighted in her recommendation by her longtime colleague, **Melissa Bates**. Her Theta Sister **Denise Bishop-Edwards** knows Dorothy has a passion for both student and staff learning.

For fifty years, Dorothy served the Mississippi and Prince George’s Public School Districts as classroom teacher, assistant principal, and principal. Enrolled in Bowie State’s Doctoral Program, she applied for this scholarship to defray the cost of her spring course for the Dissertation Proposal. In her application, she declared, “Without a doubt, this new knowledge I gained in last year’s course provided an opportunity for me to learn new knowledge and assist in preparing me to face the struggles of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Scholarship Recipient Explains Goals

Yvette Eve Dodson, Alpha Beta

I have been an educator for 32 years. It is a privilege to belong to Delta Kappa Gamma Alpha Beta Chapter. My sisters have inspired and encouraged me in becoming a key woman educator. I am pursuing an Ed. D in Second Language Instruction with a focus in Online Learning at the American College of Education to seek out evidence-based practice for my current position as an ESOL teacher at Calvert High in Calvert County, Maryland. To be an

effective high school ESOL teacher, it is important that I immerse myself in the current research on pedagogy, policy, and administration of teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages to support my English language learners in their life journey. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of students who have limited and interrupted formal schooling (SLIFE). My students are entering high school at age 17, but have not attended formal schooling since second or third grade. It is crucial to implement effective systematic instruction that targets fundamental skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and math while also providing access to the age-appropriate high school curriculum to complete graduation requirements.

The knowledge and research that I will gain from an Ed. D in Second Language Instruction at the American College of Education will give me the tools I need to be effective and supportive of my students and their families. It will help me to support my co-workers and administrators in research-based practice and be able to effectively advocate for sensible policies, curriculum design, and administration of quality educational programs for English language learners. Ultimately, with a Second Language Instruction Ed. D, it would be a privilege to assist in the development and education of preservice teachers in colleges and universities and to facilitate reflective teaching practices and contribute authentic research in the field of education. As I read the course descriptions for this degree, I am looking forward to beginning this educational journey.

Chapter News

Committee Activities and Scholarships Keep Alpha Beta Busy

Carol Howard, Alpha Beta President

Alpha Beta Chapter met at Hollywood Elementary School on March 21st where they received updates from several committees including Scholarship (the committee is reviewing candidates from Calvert and St. Mary's for the Francis Lancaster Recruitment Grant given annually to a graduating senior), Membership (they will be extending membership to three prospective new members!), World Fellowship, and Educational Excellence (Reading Camp Calvert will be receiving their Literacy Grant to help purchase books and supplies for their two weekly camps this upcoming summer). They received an update on books that were donated by members and purchased from last year's service project to supply their Little Free Libraries and discussed this year's service project which will be to collect and purchase supplies and provide small tokens of encouragement for early career educators in the fall.

They are very happy to recognize **Eve Dodson**, who will be awarded one of the state scholarships at the upcoming Leadership Development Conference, and **Deb Faller**, who was awarded one of the state mini grants! Their corresponding secretary, **Kristin Halstead**, keeps them all in the loop to support each other when members have concerns or special recognitions. They have attempted to keep in touch via snail mail by sending Galentine/Valentine cards in February and Teacher Appreciation cards the first week of May as well as monthly electronic newsletters. They are looking forward to their last meeting of the year scheduled for later in May where they hope many members who have been leery to attend

other events due to COVID concerns will be able to attend.

The Early Days of Alpha Beta Chapter

Maureen Lawson Sengstack, Alpha Beta

As a social studies teacher at Calvert High School in the winter of 1978, I often spent time in the Media Center. A lovely, gentle, soft-spoken woman named **Mary de Kok** always had a kind word for me. One day, she pulled me aside and asked if I had ever heard of Delta Kappa Gamma. I had not. She explained that it was a society of women educators that was started in 1929. This society had seven purposes, which she shared. She then asked if I might be interested in joining one of the Society's local chapters in Maryland. Sure, why not! At the time, I thought that I would be joining Mary's chapter – Chi. Little did I know that I would be helping to start a new sister-chapter – Alpha Beta! On April 1, 1978, I was inducted, along with other educators from Calvert and St. Mary's counties. Fortunately, a group of women from Chi Chapter had agreed to spearhead this new venture. Thus, **Jane Mays** became our first president, **Mary (Pinky) Morgan** was first vice-president, **Frances Lancaster** was secretary, and **Rita Richter** was treasurer. Under their knowledgeable leadership, we got off to a smooth beginning. In the '70s and '80s, membership in Delta Kappa Gamma was fairly secretive, not because we had anything to hide, but because we did not want women educators who had not been selected for membership to feel bad. Also, the guidelines for attendance at meetings were fairly strict. Members were expected to attend at least three of the five meetings. If a member was unable to attend a meeting, she was required to explain in writing why she could not be present. In addition, fines were levied for various infractions. I can remember one such instance when the meeting was being held at the Scientists' Cliffs Community House, up the road and around the

corner from where I lived at the time. I had planned to attend the meeting, but after a hectic week at school, the meeting completely slipped my mind. Instead, my two-year-old daughter, Kim, and I went out for a Saturday morning walk around the community. She wanted to go into the “Comm House,” but I admonished her that someone was using the building, so we could not enter. Well, you can imagine my chagrin when I received a hand-written note from Pinky informing me that I needed to pay a \$2 fine for missing Saturday’s meeting! One guideline that was established and still exists today is the rotation of presidents every two years from one side of the Patuxent River to the other. After **Jane Mays** (SM), **Pinky Morgan** (SM) served, followed by **Ruth Showalter** (C) and **Jayne Sullivan** (SM), but who would serve next from the Calvert side? Why, me, of course! I still felt like a “newbie,” but Jayne and Ruth both provided sage advice, and people like **Pam Enrico** (C) stepped up to serve in leadership roles. Somehow I survived! My favorite meeting of the year, even then, was the Christmas auction. It was held the first week in December at Jayne Sullivan’s home. Jayne had a huge back room that would hold all of our members. The committee in charge of accommodations usually provided home-baked goods for refreshments, and the items up for auction were often handmade. I still have four pillows designed and stitched by **Marion Chesley**. The proceeds were used to establish and fund our first recruitment grant(s). In 1983, when we learned that our dear friend and colleague, **Frances Lancaster**, had passed away, we named our future recruitment grants in her memory. Over the years, our chapter Standing Rules have been amended, and new rules have been added to reflect the changing times in which we live. Our numbers have swelled and waned, depending on our members’ busy lives and other commitments. However, 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. *Kudos to you, Alpha Beta, Kudos to you!*

Delta’s Day Trip to Hillwood Estate Museum & Gardens

Diane Straub, Delta



On Saturday, April 23rd, **Gwen Cooley**, **Joyce Conway**, and **Diane Straub** finally made it to Hillwood Estate Museum and Gardens for their Delta outing. It was a beautiful day, with temperatures in the mid 80’s. After lunch in the cafe, they made their way to the mansion. Purchased in 1955, Marjorie Merriweather Post made Hillwood her spring and fall residence. Ms. Post was heir to the Postum Cereal Company, later General Foods. She was an avid collector of 18th century French art as well as Russian imperial art. The home was filled with room after room of elegant furnishings, paintings, porcelain, jewelry, and Faberge eggs. In addition to the many gardens, there was a greenhouse with exquisite orchids and tropical plants.

Gwen, Joyce, and Diane were on the property for nearly three hours and barely made a dent in

the 25 acres. This is a destination that can be visited many times over the years, and one could always find another garden or room to see.

Take a look at the website: <https://hillwoodmuseum.org>. Information from the Hillwood Visitor Guide.

Xi Chapter Supports St. Vincent's and Villa Maria

Sally Nazelrod, Xi President, DKG MD 1st Vice President

Xi Chapter visited and presented a check to St. Vincent's Villa and Villa Maria School to support and provide additional resources for the students who participate in the programs there. Located in Timonium, Maryland (Baltimore County), St. Vincent's Villa provides comprehensive residential treatment for children, ages 5-14, whose behavioral and emotional needs have not responded to community-based interventions and services.

Ezra Buchdahl is the Administrator for Catholic Charities St. Vincent's Villa and Villa Maria School in Maryland, where he oversees the daily operations of the residential diagnostic and treatment program and special education school. The children in this program have mental health and behavioral challenges, often as a result of a history of trauma, including abuse and neglect. Many of these children experience emotional crises during the many ups and downs of their stay.

Carmen is a sweet Lab who will be there to help the children throughout their time at St. Vincent's Villa and Villa Maria School. She will help relieve their fears upon initial admission, help them cope with frightening medical procedures, and give them a positive outlet for their anxieties caused by pending visits with family and court procedures. Ezra and Carmen will work together

to provide unconditional love and understanding to these children, as well as everyone who comes in contact with the facility.

Through this program, children with significant behavioral and emotional needs receive comprehensive evaluations, in partnership with their families, to determine courses of treatment to address the children's needs. These may include placement with the family with a plan for out-patient services, referral for therapeutic foster care or group home, or referral for more intensive residential treatment.



Sally Nazelrod and Cheryl Riisager, Xi, with Ezra Buchdahl, administrator, and Carmen, the therapy dog.

Tau Activities Emphasize Harford County's Reading Program and Birthday

Shari Grim, Tau President, and **Brenda Patterson**,

Tau 1st Vice President

Tau Chapter had a successful year. Here are some of the activities and accomplishments of 2021-22.

The March meeting, held March 16 on Zoom, was led by **Nancy Murray** of the Leadership Team. Using a well-organized powerpoint, **Kelly Murray**, Reading Specialist at Bel Air Elementary, presented a very interesting and informative program about the new reading program in Harford County. Of special interest to the members was the use of trade books and the emphasis on students taking responsibility for their learning from kindergarten through the elementary grades. Thank you to Kelly for taking her time to present.

Their April Luncheon was held at the Whiteford Library on April 30. It was a lovely day. Nine members were able to attend the full luncheon, and one was able to come later. **Arden McCune** gave an interesting presentation about Harford County's 250th birthday celebration in 2023. Members had plenty of time to visit and socialize as they enjoyed the delicious sandwiches, fruit, vegetables, and desserts. In addition, a short business meeting was held. It was a beautiful day and such a joy to see each other in person and just have time to enjoy each other.

Service projects for this year included donations to the Boys' and Girls' Club of Darlington, and a contribution of \$100 to HCEA for the New Teacher Store. At the Spring Luncheon, household items were collected for the Harford Family House. **Shari Grim** and her husband delivered the carload to the agency's office in Aberdeen. They were most appreciative of the contributions. Items included towels, tea towels, clothes baskets, cookie sheets, a small oven, a bedspread, measuring cups, and more! These items will be given to clients moving into their own homes.

Alpha Theta Participates in Community Outreach

Joan Wiggins, Alpha Theta President

Members of the Alpha Theta Chapter participated in a Community Resource Fair on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at Riverside Elementary School in Harford County. The Community Fair was sponsored by Riverside and Joppatowne Elementary Schools to engage the Title One students and their families. It was held outdoors on the grounds of Riverside Elementary School in Joppa, MD. Alpha Theta was proud to be one of the vendors. The chapter decided to discover that creative spirit in the children by having them create their own bookmarks. **Karen Petr**, **Luianne Potter** and **Joan Wiggins** gathered die-cut shapes, glitter, yarn, funny eyes, markers and stickers for the children to use when making their masterpieces.

As the children from the very young (pre-school) to middle school age decorated their bookmarks, their eyes lit up as they proudly viewed their finished products.

In addition to the bookmarks, the chapter created two posters entitled "Riverside Loves to Read" and "Joppatowne Loves to Read." The children were encouraged to sign their school's poster. Each poster was given to the respective school at the event's conclusion. In talking with the adults at the fair, they were able to briefly discuss Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and distribute several DKG brochures.

It was a very hot day, but the members of Alpha Theta were overjoyed by the tremendous time they had participating at this community event.



Luianne Potter and Joan Wiggins at the Community Resource Fair in Harford County

Gertrina Avent, Prince George's County Public Schools Office of Psychological Services

Congratulations to Theta Chapter's **Dorothy Clowers** who was honored at the 21st Annual Dr. Jean Phillips Award Ceremony on Friday, May 6, 2022. This award recognizes outstanding individuals in the Prince George's County Public School System who demonstrate a spirit of cooperation and leadership in the team process by contributing their time, energy, and commitment to the children and families of Prince George's County. Dorothy was nominated by her school psychologist, Dr. Miguel Reyes, for her performance and contributions this past school year as the principal of William Paca Elementary School. *Congratulations, Dorothy!*

Dorothy Clowers Receives Award

Epsilon Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Dr. Marilyn Keane, Upsilon, DKG MD State President



Members of Epsilon celebrate their chapter's 75th Anniversary in style.

Congratulations to members of Epsilon on their chapter's 75th Anniversary! Presidents **Jackie Gray** and **Susan Gagliardi** and chapter members put together school supply baskets, decorated hats, conducted a business meeting, and enjoyed each other's company over lunch. I thank them for inviting me to be a part of these great activities and fun treats. Congratulations on this landmark anniversary.

The 2022 Minority Recognition Award for

Leadership Presented to Mavis Ellis, Lambda

Chapter

Dr. Terri T. Showers, Lambda President, DKG MD
Recording Secretary

Mavis Ellis, Lambda Chapter, was the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA) recipient of the 2022 Minority Recognition Award for Leadership. She received this outstanding award during the 2022 Annual Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast, held virtually on January 15th.

MSEA's Minority Recognition Award is presented to selected people of color who have either supported or provided outstanding leadership in the areas of education, leadership, politics, and community involvement at the national, state, and local levels. The contributions of the awardees must be continuous as opposed to a one-time service.

Mavis spent 50 years serving as an active educator on many levels. She has been a classroom teacher and worked in administration and as a pupil personnel worker. Her career didn't end there, for Mavis served in leadership roles in the Montgomery County Educators Association, the state association (MSEA), and the national association (the National Education Association). She also served as a leader within the Maryland Association of Boards of Education. In 2016, she ran for a seat on the Howard County Board of Education and won, serving in that position until 2020. During her tenure as a board member, she was elected in 2018 to the position of board president and remained as president to the end of her term.

Lambda Chapter is very proud of Mavis for her

outstanding accomplishments in education and appreciates the level of expertise in education she brings to our chapter.



Mavis Ellis, Lambda, receives Minority Recognition Award for Leadership.



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